

Nevada Department of Wildlife

2008

Upland and Migratory Game Bird, Rabbit and Furbearing Mammals



Harvest Data and Population Status Reports

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ON THE COVER: A few of Nevada’s most prevalent upland game species. From left to right: Gambel’s quail, chukar partridge, blue grouse and cottontail rabbit



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ken Mayer, Director

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Dear Fellow Sportsmen:

Since the late 1950's, the entity responsible for the management of Nevada's wildlife (Nevada Fish and Game Commission and Nevada Department of Wildlife) has published a document on the status and trend of Nevada's upland game, waterfowl and furbearer species. Each year, regional biologists throughout the state spend a great deal of time examining populations of all of these species as staff biologists collect and analyze harvest data as well as other data provided from the field. Staff and regional biologists also work to trap and transplant upland game species such as mountain quail, California quail and ruffed grouse into suitable habitats throughout the Silver State to provide opportunity for sportsmen. This document is a result of that work and I am confident that you will find the contents comprehensive and interesting.

The upcoming season will provide us with both some fairly good and fairly limited opportunities. As many of you already know, Nevada's chukar populations are not what they were three to five years ago; however, there are some areas of the state, particularly in western Nevada, where chukar production is at least fair if not good as indicated by brood surveys and aerial density surveys (reinstated this year). The same can be said for many of our California quail populations. This situation comes on the heels of two relatively poor years of production and will at least provide the sportsmen with the opportunity to harvest some new and "uneducated" birds. Dusky and Sooty grouse (for more on these species please see the Species Profile) hunters should expect to have a fair to good year as these species also experienced decent production. We can thank a few sizeable storms over the Memorial Day weekend and some smaller subsequent storms in early June for essentially saving this season.



Our sage-grouse populations continue to suffer from habitat loss and degradation. Unfortunately, those same late spring rains that helped chukar and quail in northwestern Nevada didn't really help sage-grouse out all that much. Lek counts across the state continue to show population declines. Wildfires, West Nile virus and poor spring moisture patterns have all contributed to the birds decline recently.

Things also do not look so promising in the southern part of the state as extended drought and the lack of any precipitation at key times of the year has resulted in a diminished Gambel's quail population. The same can be said for chukar populations in this part of the state. Southern Nevada sportsmen can find at least some relief by traveling to central Nevada where brood surveys were at least somewhat positive for chukar.

The news for waterfowlers is not all that optimistic either. Climatic conditions did not favor waterfowl hoping to breed in Nevada's drought diminished wetlands. Marshes will be refilling soon but won't come close to the levels we enjoyed just two years ago. However, continental duck numbers, though lower than last year, are still pretty high compared to the long-term average. We may benefit from the migration if we get a quick production of aquatic feed.

As for furbearers, the coyote, gray fox, kit fox, beaver and muskrat harvest remains well above 10-year averages. It's no surprise that bobcat harvest also continues to remain above the 30-year average of about 2,400 animals as bobcat fur prices continue to remain high.

The landscape of Nevada is changing at a rapid pace. Wildfires have consumed just over 6 million acres since 1999 and much of this served as habitat for all wildlife species. I'm sure that many of you have experienced the effects of these landscape scale alterations. For Nevadans, our home state is characterized the sage and the pine which is particularly relevant to upland game species. Unfortunately, we seem to be losing our sagebrush at an alarming rate. In light of this, the Nevada Department of Wildlife is committed to finding opportunities to restore and enhance these important habitats. Specifically we want to determine whether or not particular areas within these burned areas may provide suitable habitats, as they recover, for species like Hungarian partridge and Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse. Additionally we continue to work diligently with federal land management agencies in trying to improve habitat conditions where possible.

I know that these words are not completely what you would like to hear and I wish that there were more positives to report. We are not alone, as other western states have also experienced some declines in many of their upland game populations as well. There are glimmers of hope and as you know, one good winter with the right kind of temperatures and precipitation patterns can turn everything around. I sure hope this winter provides us with that combination of factors. Until then, take advantage of some of the good chukar and quail populations that we do have and take along some of your buddies to save on gas. Also, remember to pick up a Sportsman's Journal at any of our regional offices or at a license agent to help you keep track of your trips and catalog your harvest. It is likely that you will receive an upland game questionnaire in the mail as we now are sampling from a proportion of hunters that purchased an upland game stamp for that season. This provides us with valuable data and allows us to develop an improved product for you. Thank you for your continued support and have a great season!

Kenneth E. Mayer

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2008-2009 HUNTING SEASONS & BAG LIMIT REGULATIONS

CR 07-07

Dates are for the 2008-2009 season, unless otherwise noted.

Adoption on June 23, 2007 with Amendments #1 () and #2 ()

UPLAND GAME

(Units referenced are Game Management Units)

YOUTH CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SPECIES ALLOWED:	Chukar and Hungarian partridge.
SEASON DATES:	September 27 - 28
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 6. Possession limit 12.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate. Open to hunters 15 years of age or younger only. Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old.

YOUTH CALIFORNIA, GAMBEL'S AND SCALED QUAIL HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SPECIES ALLOWED:	California, Gambel's and scaled quail
SEASON DATES:	September 27 - 28
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession Limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate. Open to hunters 15 years of age or younger only. Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old.

RABBIT YOUTH HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SPECIES ALLOWED:	Cottontail, pygmy and white-jackrabbits
SEASON DATES:	September 27 - 28
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession Limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate. Open to hunters 15 years of age or younger only. Youth must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old.

SAGE-GROUSE	
OPEN AREAS:	Unit 184 of Churchill and Lander Counties
SEASON DATES:	October 4 -5
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to nonresidents.
OPEN AREAS:	Humboldt County, except Units 033, 035, 042, 044, 046 and 151 Washoe County, except Units 021, 022, 033, 194 and 196
SEASON DATES:	October 5 – October 14
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 4.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to nonresidents.
OPEN AREAS:	Elko County, except Units 079, 091 and 106 Eureka County Lander County, except Units 151, 183 and 184 Nye County except Units 132, 133, 181, 251 and 252 White Pine County, except Unit 114, 115 and 132
SEASON DATES:	September 25 – October 9
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 (Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge) excluding the Little Sheldon and other areas as posted.
HUNT PERIOD #1	
SEASON DATES:	September 20 - 21
HUNT PERIOD #2	
SEASON DATES:	September 27 - 28
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 Division, 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 1 – December 31
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 3. Possession limit 6.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Limit singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p>Per NAC 503.185, the head or one fully feathered wing must be attached to all blue and ruffed grouse until the carcass reaches the possessor's residence or a commercial facility for its preservation.</p> <p>Persons harvesting blue grouse are requested to deposit one wing from each bird harvested at any Nevada Department of Wildlife office, check station, or with Department employees who contact you in the field.</p> <p>Persons harvesting 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</p>

SNOWCOCK	
OPEN AREAS:	Elko - Management Units 101,102, and 103, and that portion of White Pine County in Unit 103.
SEASON DATES:	September 1 - November 30
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 2.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Limit singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p>Prior to hunting snowcock persons must obtain a snowcock hunting free-use permit from any Nevada Department of Wildlife office. Permits may be faxed to persons planning to hunt snowcock once appropriate information has been collected from the hunter.</p>

CHUKAR AND HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 11, 2008 – February 1, 2009
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 11, 2008 – February 1, 2009
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 2 daily and 4 in possession . Persons who harvest mountain quail are requested to report their harvest to the Nevada Department of Wildlife, 1100 Valley Road, Reno, NV 89512, phone (775) 688-1500.

PHEASANT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	November 1 – November 30.
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 11, 2008 – February 28, 2009
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10. Possession limit 20.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Limit singly or in the aggregate.

WILD TURKEY

WILD TURKEY 2008 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			
	Season	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	Oct. 5 – Oct. 14	10	1
	Oct. 15 – Oct. 24	10	1
	Oct. 25 – Nov. 3	10	1
MOAPA VALLEY OF CLARK COUNTY			
Hunt Periods:	Oct. 5 – Oct. 14	10	1
	Oct. 15 – Oct. 24	10	1

WILD TURKEY 2008 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:	Season	Quota
Lyon County, except the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area	Oct. 5 – Oct. 25	Open*

** Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.*

Turkey continued on next page

WILD TURKEY 2009 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 third Tuesday in February. Release date on the first Friday in March.		
ELKO COUNTY – Unit 102*			
	Seasons	Tag Quota	
		Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresident Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – May 5	25	2
ELKO & WHITE PINE COUNTIES – Unit 103*			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – May 5	15	1
LANDER COUNTY – Unit 151* and 152*			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – May 5	3	-
LINCOLN COUNTY**			
Hunt Periods	April 4 – April 13	30	3
	April 14 – April 23	30	3
	April 24 – May 3	30	3
PERSHING COUNTY*			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – April 13	5	-
	April 14 – May 3	5	-
MASON VALLEY WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA OF LYON COUNTY			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – April 3	15	1
	April 4 – April 13	15	1
	April 14 – April 23	15	1
	April 24 – May 3	15	1
<i>* Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.</i>			
<i>** Applicants are advised that a portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.</i>			

Wild Turkey (continued)

WILD TURKEY 2009 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 third Tuesday in February. Release date on the first Friday in March.		
MOAPA VALLEY OF CLARK COUNTY*			
		Tag Quota	
	Season	Resident Hunt 0131	Nonresiden t Hunt 0132
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – April 3	5	1
	April 4 – April 13	5	1
	April 14 – April 23	5	1
WHITE PINE COUNTY UNIT 114*			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – May 5	3	-
WHITE PINE COUNTY UNIT 115			
Hunt Periods:	March 25 – May 5	8	1
<i>*Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands and permission should be obtained from a landowner before applying for this hunt.</i>			

WILD TURKEY 2009 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 February 19, 2008. Release date on March 7, 2008	
OPEN AREAS:	Season Dates	Quota
Lyon County*, except the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area	March 25 – May 5	Open*
Churchill County*	March 25 – May 5	Open*
<i>* Applicants are advised that a significant portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.</i>		

JUNIOR WILD TURKEY 2009 GENERAL SPRING HUNTS – 0138		
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:	<p>Youth must be 12 prior to the opening of the hunt season indicated and not attain their 17th birthday until after the last day of the hunt season indicated, pursuant to NAC 502.063.</p> <p>Application Deadline is 5:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday in February. Applications for these tags will only be accepted during this period. Results will be available by the first Friday in March.</p> <p>Closed to nonresidents.</p>	
OPEN AREAS:	Season Dates	Quota
Lincoln County**	March 25 – April 3	Open**
** Applicants are advised that a portion of the turkey population occurs on private lands.		

2008 - 2009 APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR RESIDENT AND NONRESIDENT HUNTS:
<p>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.</p> <p>Only one person may apply on an application.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Except for the Junior Wild Turkey Hunts, 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.</p> <p>Only one Wild Turkey tag can be awarded to an individual within a calendar year.</p>

Turkey continued on next page

WILD TURKEY 2009 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:	March 25 – May 5	
QUOTAS:	Resident Hunt 0135	Nonresident Hunt 0137
	Open	Open
<p>SPECIAL REGULATIONS:</p> <p>PARADISE VALLEY OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY APPLICATION REGULATIONS:</p> <p>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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Only one person may apply on an application.</p> <p>Only one Wild Turkey tag per calendar year.</p>		

FURBEARING ANIMALS

BEAVER, MINK AND MUSKRAT	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 1 – March 31, 2009

OTTER	
OPEN AREAS:	Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander and Pershing Counties
SEASON DATES:	October 1 – March 31, 20089
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Carson City, Churchill, Clark, Douglas, Esmeralda, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Storey, Washoe and White Pine counties are closed to otter trapping.</p> <p>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.</p>

KIT AND RED FOX	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	October 1 – February 29, 2009

BOBCAT AND GRAY FOX	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON DATES:	November 1 - February 29, 2009
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Closed to Nonresidents.

MIGRATORY UPLAND GAME BIRDS

AMERICAN CROW	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
FALL SEASON:	September 1 – November 17
SPRING SEASON:	March 1 – April 15, 2009
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 10
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	Shotguns only.
FOOTNOTE: <i>Season closed on ravens</i>	All crows must be retrieved and removed from the field.

Note: pursuant to 50 CFR 20.133 the maximum number of days a state can allow crow hunting is 124 in a calendar year.

MOURNING & WHITE-WINGED DOVE	
OPEN AREAS:	Statewide
SEASON:	September 1 – 30
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.

Note: Federal Framework for dove hunting seasons is published in July each year. Identified dates and season length are subject to change. Should the federal framework require alteration of Commission-approved seasons, then an amendment to CR07-07 shall be submitted for Commission action at their August meeting.

FALCONRY SEASONS FOR UPLAND GAME BIRDS & RABBITS

OPEN AREAS:	Statewide*
SEASON DATES:	September 1 – February 29, 2009
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit 2. Possession limit 2.
SHOOTING HOURS:	Sunrise to sunset daily.
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>All resident upland game birds except turkey and sharp-tailed grouse.</p> <p>Cottontail, pygmy and White-tailed jackrabbits</p> <p>The taking of sage grouse by falconry is only allowed in those units where there is an established open season.</p> <p>Limits singly or in the aggregate</p>

**except per NAC 504.340*

W.M.A. 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-8, 10 and 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. Vacancies will be filled by stand-by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.
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 in 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.
5. No motorized boats are allowed on the area 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 PELT 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 2008-2009 SEASON			
City	Date	Time	Location
Elko	Third Tuesday in January	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NDOW Elko Office
	Second Tuesday in February		
	March 10 th or the Friday preceding the 10 th if the 10 th falls on a weekend		
Ely	Friday following January sealing date in Elko	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	NDOW Ely Office
	Saturday associated with NTA fur sale <i>if a sale is scheduled.</i>	7 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Nevada Trappers Association Ely Fur Sale
	Thursday following February sealing date in Elko	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.	NDOW Ely Office
	First Friday in March		
Eureka	Thursday following January sealing date in Elko	12 p.m. – 5 p.m.	NDOW Eureka Office
	Wednesday following February sealing date in Elko		
	First Thursday in March		
Fallon	Last Monday in January	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	NDOW Fallon Office
	Thursday two weeks prior to Fallon sale		
	Annually scheduled to coincide with the Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings of the NTA Sale	7 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Nevada Trappers Association Fallon Fur Sale
	March 10 th	10 a.m. – 3 p.m.	NDOW Fallon Office
Las Vegas	Second Tuesday in January	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	NDOW Las Vegas Office
	Third Tuesday in February	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	
	March 10 th	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	
Panaca	Third Thursday in February	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Nevada State Parks - NDOW Office, Panaca
	March 10 th	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	
Tonopah	Third Thursday in February	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	NDOW Tonopah Office
	March 10 th	1 p.m. – 5 p.m.	
Winnemucca	Friday two weeks prior to Fallon sale	8 a.m. – 12 p.m.	NDOW Winnemucca Office

**SEASONS, BAG LIMITS, AND SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR
MIGRATORY WATERFOWL**

**CR 07-08
2007-2008**

Adopted on August 11, 2007

Note regarding Zone designations:

NORTHERN ZONE: Carson City, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, Storey, Washoe & White Pine Counties

SOUTHERN ZONE: Lincoln & Clark Counties

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT	
OPEN AREAS:	NORTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	Sept. 27, 2008
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	Jan. 31 & Feb. 1, 2009
LIMITS:	Daily bag limit is the same as that for the general season for ducks, mergansers, geese, coots and moorhens. Canvasback is closed. 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 of age or younger. Youth 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
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 24, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE, except the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 23, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	November 1, 2008 – January 23, 2009
LIMITS (daily / possession)	
General Duck Limits:	7 / 14
Pintail:	1 / 2
Mallard (total/female):	Included within the general duck limit, but not to include more than 2 hen mallards daily and 4 in possession.
Redhead:	2 / 4
SCAUP (Lesser and Greater)	
OPEN AREAS:	NORTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	November 1, 2008 – January 24, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	November 1, 2008 – January 23, 2009
LIMITS (daily/possession):	2 / 4
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents
CANVASBACK	
2008-09 SEASON:	<i>CLOSED</i>

COOTS AND COMMON MOORHENS (Common Gallinules)	
OPEN AREAS:	NORTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 24, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE, except the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 23, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	November 1, 2008 – January 23, 2009
LIMITS (daily/possession):	25 / 25
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

COMMON SNIPE	
OPEN AREAS:	NORTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 24, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE, except the Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 23, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area.
2008-09 SEASON:	November 1, 2008 – January 23, 2009
LIMITS (daily/possession):	8 / 16
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

CANADA AND WHITE-FRONTED GEESE	
Open Areas:	Statewide
2008-09 Season:	October 25, 2008 – January 25, 2009
Limits (daily/possession)	3 / 6
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents

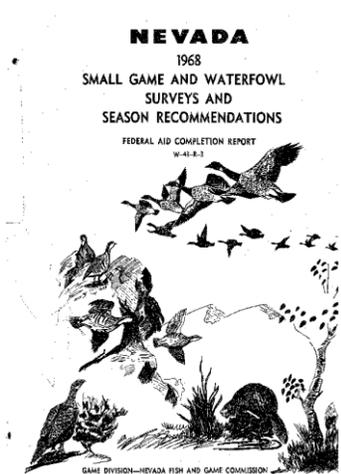
SNOW AND ROSS' GEESE	
Open Areas:	Statewide
2008-09 Season:	October 25, 2008 – January 25, 2009
Limits (daily/possession)	10 / 20
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Open to Nonresidents CLOSED: Ruby Valley within Elko and White Pine Counties

FALCONRY SEASONS FOR MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS	
Open Areas:	NORTHERN ZONE
2008-09 Season:	October 11, 2008 – January 24, 2009
OPEN AREAS:	SOUTHERN ZONE
2008-09 SEASON:	October 11, 2008 – January 23, 2009
Limits (daily/possession)	3 / 6
Shooting hours:	½ before sunrise to sunset
Special Regulations:	Migratory birds allowed for take include: geese, ducks, mergansers, coots, common moorhens and common snipe. Limits for all permitted migratory birds are singly or in the aggregate. Open to Nonresidents.

SWAN	
OPEN AREAS:	Churchill, Lyon and Pershing counties
2008-09 Season:	October 25, 2008 - January 4, 2009
LIMITS:	One swan per swan permit Maximum two swan permits per season One swan per day
SHOOTING HOURS:	½ before sunrise to sunset
SPECIAL REGULATIONS:	<p>Persons may apply for one of the 650 swan 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.</p> <p>Deadline: Applications must be received by 5:00 p.m. by Friday September 19, 2008. No hand delivered applications for the drawing. Results of the initial drawing will be provided by Friday, October 3rd, 2008.</p> <p>Any remaining swan permits will be available on a first come, first served basis online or through the mail up to 7 weekdays before the close of the season or over the counter until the close of the season during normal business hours (M-F 8:00 am – 5:00 pm) at the Wildlife Administrative Services Office, 185 North Main Street, Fallon, Nevada beginning on Monday, October 6, 2008. Applications are available at all Department of Wildlife offices and select license agents. Persons may apply for a second swan permit beginning on Monday, October 6, 2008. Applicants can submit one application per draw period. Applicants that did not apply for the initial drawing period may submit two applications during the first come, first served draw period.</p> <p>Successful swan hunters are required to validate their permit pursuant to NAC 502.380, and 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 the swan permits.</p> <p>If a total harvest of five (5) trumpeter swans is reached, the swan season is closed for the remainder of the season.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

SPECIAL FEATURES

HISTORICAL REVIEW



Forty Years Ago (1968)

Chief of Game Joseph Greenly explains everything in a nutshell in his letter to then Wildlife Commission Chairman, Wayne E. Kirch. “Generally, all small game populations have shown an improvement over 1967, but there are, as usual, some local exceptions. Sage-grouse have shown good production in the northeastern counties, but only fair production in the northwestern and south central counties. Chukars have had a good production year in all areas except southern Washoe County. Quail are good statewide, and exceptionally good in southern Nevada. The pheasant populations in west central Nevada are poor.” In the statewide summary, the report goes on to note that “continued range misuse and drought, with the resultant loss of meadows and waterholes, in conjunction with vegetal control projects appears to be continually reducing the overall quality and quantity of our sage-grouse habitat, and subsequently has lead to a steady decline in overall sage-grouse populations.” Many of these factors are still contributing to sage-grouse habitat degradation today, but have

been surpassed in terms of importance by the effects of present day wildfires that often burn out of control and consume tremendous amounts of habitat.



Twenty-five Years Ago (1983)

“Most small game populations have reversed the general decline that began in 1980. The outlook for upland game production, waterfowl habitat, aquatic furbearer populations and terrestrial furbearer prey populations are excellent,” writes William Molini to Wildlife Commission Chairman Marvin Einerwold in 1983. Harvest declines in sage-grouse are noted from the record harvest of 28,228 in 1979 (an estimated total of 13,105 sage-grouse were harvested during the 1982 hunting season). Habitat conditions in 1982 and 1983 are considered excellent for forage and insect production. Sage-grouse seasons extend from September 10 through the 16th in most counties with only a two day season

in Humboldt and Washoe Counties. Chukar and Hungarian partridge populations are considered stable in western Nevada; however, “major population declines are noted for the eastern, northeastern, southwestern and central portions of the State”. Poor production and severe winter die-offs are identified as the major factors affecting chukar populations in 1981 and 1982. Recommended chukar limits are 7 daily and 14 in possession. The overall outlook for the 1983 chukar season was predicted to be a significant improvement over 1982 and “should be the highest since 1980.” This prophecy proved to be true as 79,222 chukar were harvested in the 1983-84 season, a marked improvement over the 1982 harvest of 55,454 birds.

Ten Years Ago (1998)

Conditions for waterfowl and many upland game species is considered good to excellent across the northern two-thirds of the state. The breeding population of ducks shows a strong recovery from lows experienced during the early 1990's. Many wetlands such as the Humboldt Lakes, Jessup Flat, and Franklin Lake have too much water and have only marginal habitat quality. Long term sage-grouse population trends are continuing to show a downward trend. Additional work is conducted on sage-grouse in order to map the distribution of the species in the state. Over 100 sage-grouse were captured and

outfitted with telemetry equipment to help verify the distribution and movement patterns of the species. The chukar summary recognizes a declining hunter harvest and effort in the face of aerial transect data that indicates the bird is doing well in many areas of the state. This segment of the report also recognizes that wildfire is having a negative effect on chukar habitat and that it may be causing some concentration of hunters in areas of unburned habitat. Southern Nevada gets out of a rather lengthy drought and Gambel's quail numbers are expected to be high.

BIOLOGIST PROFILE

CARL LACKEY, Biologist – Western Region – Gardnerville

The guy has a thing for bears. Pure and simple. End of report, right? Not really. Carl Lackey never set off on a career in wildlife management with the intent to become an expert on the American Black Bear and its ecological role in Nevada. The responsibility was essentially dropped in his lap. For decades, NDOW had given bear management only a modicum of attention; restricting its efforts to solving nuisance complaints, which, for most of that time, were not altogether common. But when Carl accepted the biologist position stationed along the Carson Front, he immediately went about discerning the status of his various game species and prioritizing the management issues. Through this process he quickly realized where gaps in information were and how filling these holes could benefit the species and Nevada's citizens. He also happened to take the job



at a time when the human population from Topaz Lake to Bordertown was increasing at an unprecedented rate. People were occupying every piece of former wildlife habitat available. Deer were decreasing, upland game had retreated to isolated pockets of habitat, but the adaptable species – coyotes, lions, raccoons, skunks and *bears* – all seemed to adjust to the onslaught well, at least from their point of view. The same perspective was not shared by the new human residents and the urbanized apprehension about wildlife in the backyard quickly expanded, creating a greater burden upon NDOW's time. Into this fray stepped Mr. Lackey with a culvert trap and a dart gun.

Carl has been a westerner all his life, as his geologist father moved among the states. He gained his B.S. degree in Wildlife Management from the University of Nevada, Reno in 1990 and began his career with NDOW in 1993. Following a 3-year tour of duty at Kirch WMA, He took the Gardnerville biologist job. Here he flourished, transforming from the guy that handles the bears in the trash can to the biologist who developed a comprehensive understanding of bear biology both in the urban interface and in the wild. Carl worked with other professionals, academics and government to accomplish two important goals: to quantify the relationship between bears and humans where the two come into conflict, and to construct a database of information about black bears throughout Nevada. The first goal has been extremely successful. Through NDOW's *Bear Aware Program*, which Carl originated, people living in bear country learned how to reduce nuisance issues through their own actions. As for the latter, Carl has worked with members of the academic world to understand the distribution and density of urban interface and wildland bruins. These efforts have earned him and Nevada no small measure of notoriety among the bear management world. Between the two goals, Carl has come to be one of the more recognizable faces for NDOW within Northern Nevada media. He has also appeared on the *National Geographic Channel* and on BBC in Europe. Along the way, his Karelian bear dogs – Stryker (pictured) and Rooster – have become perhaps the most famous dogs in Nevada. Partly because of his efforts and the people he has worked with, the 10th Western Black Bear Workshop will be held in Reno next spring. His research will be utilized in his pursuit of a Master's Degree.

And there is more to Carl than just bears. Carl and his bride Heather are the parents of sons Nolan, a sophomore and Tristan, who entered the world this summer. Together the family enjoys hunting, skiing, hiking and camping. He is still in pursuit of a wall-hanger buck with his bow. Carl was heavily involved in Little League Baseball during Nolan's youth – everything from coach to board of directors. He admits that the baseball commitment will likely be repeated when Tristan can pick up a Louisville Slugger. The Lackeys are involved with Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Carson Valley Chukar Club and Carl is a member of the International Bear Association. Wildlife is a family affair as Heather runs her own nuisance wildlife response business and Nolan has volunteered hundreds of hours helping NDOW with sage-grouse management activities, big game captures and, of course, bear captures. It is a pretty good bet that Nolan will be featured on this page in the future, because, like his dad, the kid has a thing about bears.

SPORTSMAN PROFILE

Jeremy Drew – Reno

Motorists traveling through Nevada along I-80 that have only that window to experience the Silver State often consider it a wasteland, desolate and void of wildlife. Jeremy Drew knows better. As a young sportsman in Nevada, Jeremy quickly gained an appreciation for the opportunities that Nevada provides with its wide open spaces and availability and diversity of wildlife species. Jeremy also realized that he had to find a way to ensure that his deep enjoyment of the outdoors was something that future generations would also have an opportunity to experience.



Born and raised in Nevada (4th generation to be exact), Jeremy was introduced to hunting and fishing at a very young age by his grandfather (Lawrence Belli) and uncle (Mike Belli). Through these family experiences, Jeremy found his calling. Over the years, he has been able to introduce many of his own family members and friends to the outdoors and share experiences that have become fond and everlasting memories.

Knowing that wildlife, conservation and the environment were important aspects of his life, Jeremy pursued a degree in Environmental Resource Science. Jeremy fulfilled that goal and more by receiving a Bachelor of Science in that field as well as Civil Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. Jeremy is now a Resource Specialist and Engineer Intern with Resource Concepts Inc. located in Carson City. A career in the natural resource field simply wasn't enough though to satisfy Jeremy and his goals so he became active in several sportsmen's and conservation organizations. Today, he is the President of the Northern Nevada Chapter of Safari Club International and a Board Member for the Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife. Both of these organizations have provided support to the Nevada Department of Wildlife and have played a positive role in ensuring the long-term conservation of Nevada's wildlife species.

When asked if he had any specific ambitions that he wished to fulfill, Jeremy stated, "I want the next generation of Nevadans to have even more opportunity than I did to experience all that is great about this State's outdoor opportunities". As a means to begin fulfilling this goal, Jeremy was instrumental in advocating for a youth only upland game season. This 2-day only season which begins prior to the general hunting season for chukar, quail and rabbit was first held in 2007 and will again be held this year. In order to encourage participation in this unique, family oriented experience, Jeremy developed a photo contest for the hunt and set up a panel of judges to review the photos. This exercise was truly rewarding for youths, parents and judges alike. Just over 130 entries were received and prizes were awarded to the top five photos with an additional five honorable mention contestants receiving gift cards. This is but one strategy to get youth involved in the pastime so cherished by many of us; however, if we are to ensure that the long term conservation of wildlife, particularly game species, is at the forefront in terms of socio-political issues, then it will be these youths that advocate for that and experiences such as this that contribute to it.

Of the many sportsmen that contribute to wildlife conservation, there are only a few that go the extra mile and take personal time out of their lives to attend conservation organization meetings, County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife meetings and Wildlife Commission meetings. With today's busy lifestyles, this cannot be overlooked as it remains a key part of modern wildlife management. If you get the opportunity to see Jeremy at any of these meetings or out in the field, take the time to thank him for his efforts and possibly provide support and assistance to help him achieve his, and our, goal.

SPECIES PROFILE

BLUE GROUSE

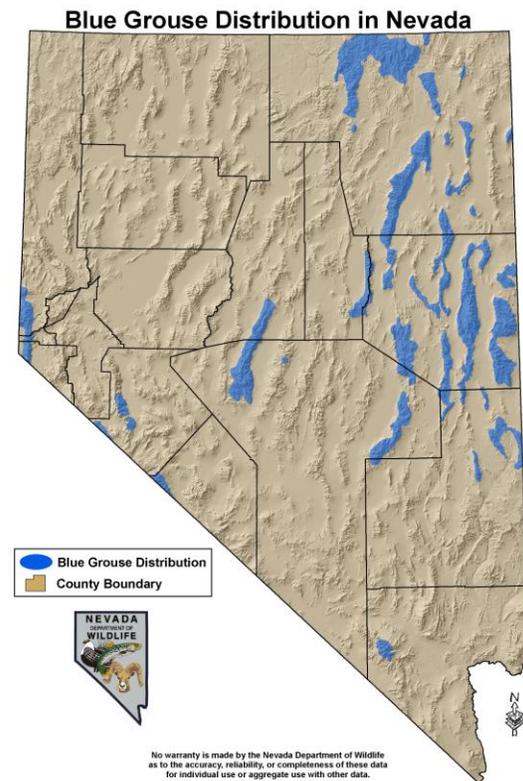


Blue grouse, like many other grouse species, are certainly unique. In fact, we may not know exactly how unique they really are. Researchers have argued over the species and its possible subspecies since the 1930's. In 2006, a fairly major thing changed regarding blue grouse and that was their name itself. There have also been some other interesting findings from research currently ongoing across the species range, including Nevada. However, there is much that still needs to be learned regarding this moderately popular game bird.

The term "blue grouse" is now nothing more than a slang term for the species. The American Ornithologists' Union no longer recognizes "blue grouse" as the official term for this species of grouse. In fact, the species has been split, and the common names for the species are now either Dusky grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) or Sooty grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*).

Both species are thought to currently occupy and are native to portions of Nevada with sooty grouse residing along the western edge of Nevada associated with the Sierra Nevada mountains and the dusky grouse residing in the central and eastern portions of the state. The "dividing line" between the species in Nevada remains somewhat unclear and the dusky grouse association and/or relation with a greater proportion of the population in Utah, Colorado and Wyoming also remains unclear. The most current published study on the phylogenetic structure of "blue grouse" was published in 2004 and did not include samples collected from Nevada (Barrowclough et al. 2004). Since this publication, samples have been collected in Nevada and the preliminary results show some distinctions between different mountain ranges across central and eastern Nevada. In terms of morphological characteristics, the two species differ in several different areas. The most notable being the presence or absence of a distinct tail band. Dusky grouse have little to no tail band while the coastal or Sierra Sooty grouse have a rather large grayish tail band. Additionally, the mating vocalizations and breeding displays of the males are considered different for the two species with sooty grouse producing louder booms or "hoots" while dusky grouse calls are faint in the spring and early summer.

Genetics and relationships aside, there is still much that we do know about the bird. A unique seasonal movement that this species displays is that it often moves up in elevation during the winter months to areas that have conifer trees. This seems to be one of the major limiting factors in central and eastern Nevada mountain ranges. In western Nevada, upper elevation conifer is abundant in areas like the Carson and Sweetwater Ranges. Many studies have documented the importance and the use of



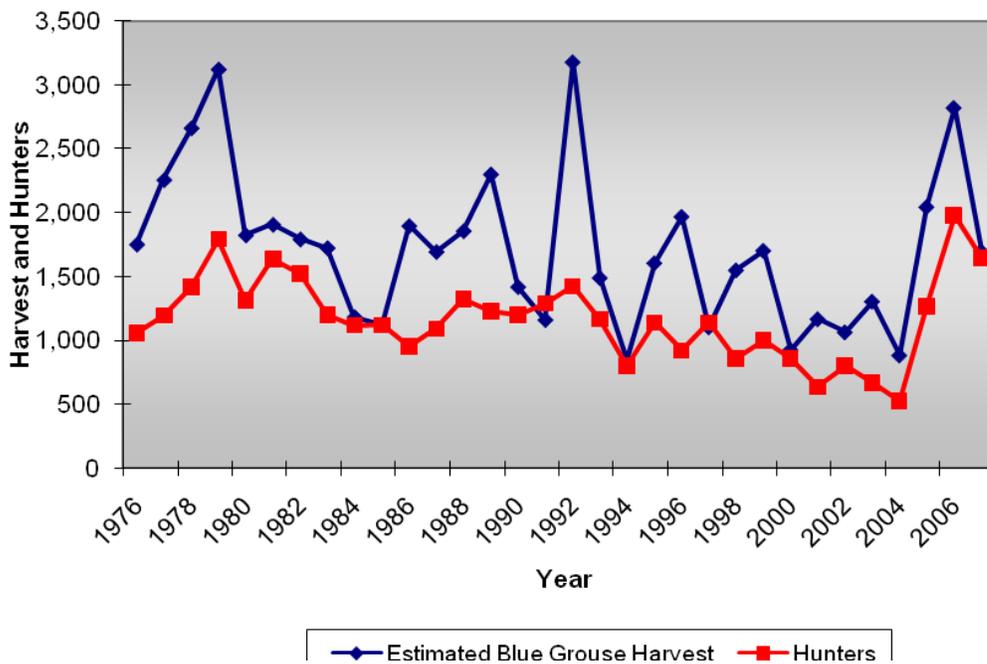
conifer species during the winter including both fir and pine trees. Limber pine was noted as forage in a study by Remington and Hoffman (1996) and this species is one of the more prevalent upper elevation conifer species in central and eastern Nevada. In the spring and summer months, blue grouse mainly feed on leaves, berries, buds and insects.

Measurements taken from sooty grouse have found that males tend to average about 2.8 pounds and females average about 1.8 pounds. The courtship display is rather animated with males showing featherless yellow air sacs on either side of the throat and a distinct orange brow over the eyes while the tail is completely fanned out. During the spring, territorial males spend a significant amount of time hooting throughout the day, much of this is done from the confines of a tree. Females lay between 4 and 9 eggs, but actual recruitment of young into the adult population is much less than that.

Distribution across Nevada is limited to high elevation mountain ranges with a conifer component. There would seem to be a distinct and significant separation between the western and eastern portion of the state if not for the Toiyabe Range in central Nevada. Areas where sooty grouse are more plentiful include the Carson Range and Sweetwater Range. In eastern Nevada, populations of dusky grouse are considered more abundant in the Ruby and Jarbidge Mountains as well as the Schell Creek Range.

Each year, an average of about 1,000 hunters take approximately 1,500 blue grouse annually in Nevada. Most of the harvest consistently comes from White Pine, Elko, Douglas and southern Washoe Counties. The harvest is relatively small when compared to more popular and plentiful upland game birds such as chukar and quail. However, those who hunt the species and are successful know that the quality of the bird in terms of table fare is second to none and that the flush of a blue grouse is one of the most exciting upland game experiences.

Blue Grouse (Dusky and Sooty) Harvest Information



References:

Barrowclough, G.F, J.G. Groth, L.A. Mertz and R.J. Gutierrez. 2004. Phylogenetic structure, gene flow and species status in blue grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*). *Molecular Ecology* 13, 1911-1922.

Remington, Thomas E. and Richard W. Hoffman. 1996. Food habits and preferences of blue grouse during winter. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 60 (4): 808-817.

WEATHER AND HABITAT

CLIMATE REPORT

Below are paragraphs for each part of the state describing how moisture, snow, and temperature affect both vegetation and upland game populations. The majority of data are provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service's National Water and Climate Center. Table 1 summarizes snow pack and water-year precipitation from SNOTEL sites throughout Nevada and the surrounding water basins. The Great Basin has received almost average precipitation from October 1, 2007 through present; however, the timing of the precipitation receipts overall was not conducive to good nesting and reproduction throughout the state. Overall, Nevada fared better than last year in terms of precipitation and overall habitat conditions.

Western and Northwestern Nevada

Pershing County 2008

Average precipitation received during the winter months aided in improving habitat conditions from what was observed in 2007. Late spring moisture receipts encouraged decent native grass and forb growth. In 2008, habitat conditions for upland birds in Pershing County are noted as being good and much improved over last year. Chukar and sage grouse production was good and near their respective 5-year averages. However, lack of summer moisture resulted in withered springs, seeps and vegetation. Moreover, end of summer conditions are thought of as being good with adequate forage and water available for upland game to enter the fall and winter.

Churchill Lyon and Mineral Counties 2008

The precipitation received in the winter months was above average although the actual water content in the accumulated moisture may have been less than desirable. The snow that accumulated though the winter months allowed for improved range conditions with a snow melt lasting well into May and June of 2008. From the valley floor to the higher peaks, leader growth in shrub species was good. Shrub species observed with exceptional leader growth include winterfat, rabbitbrush, and sagebrush. Grasses not usually observed such as needle and thread and Indian rice grass were easily seen from the highway with seed heads present. The spring and summer rains allowed for the rangeland to maintain a high nutritional plane for wildlife well into the hot summer months. Intermittent summer rains in June and early July helped keep vegetation green into mid July. Most small game water developments are still filled well above half capacity. The birds that survived the winter of 2007 were in excellent shape going into the spring and summer months due to the improved habitat conditions. The excellent body condition promoted nesting behavior which allowed for a higher chick to adult ratio. Production will vary from mountain range to mountain range with some ranges producing more than others based on the amount of adults that survived the winter and the amount of precipitation received in the late spring in each particular mountain range.

Central Nevada

According to data published by the Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC), central Nevada suffered below average precipitation receipts from October 2006 through November 2007. Precipitation receipts totaled only 70% of normal for the October through December 2006 period of the 2007 water-year. Conditions did not improve much during early 2007 with the months of January through March remaining very dry. By the end of March 2007, the precipitation total for central Nevada stood at a mere 71% of average for the water-year. Although the dry, mild winter allowed for good carryover of adult animals, impacts to habitat conditions may be long lasting. The spring of 2007 saw little relief and June ended with the water-year precipitation total at 73% of normal. Impacts to the quality and quantity of key forage species during the winter and spring periods, caused by ongoing drought conditions, resulted in poor production for many species of upland game in central Nevada in 2007. Conditions remained dry throughout the summer of 2007, which continued to impact already stressed vegetation and wildlife species throughout central Nevada as well as reducing water availability in the more arid areas of the region. Due to a surprisingly wet September, the 2007 water-year ended at 81% of normal.

Unfortunately, the remainder of the fall of 2007 saw a return to very dry conditions and wildlife entered the 2007/2008-winter period in comparatively poor body condition. December 2007 was the first month in over a year that precipitation reached average levels and fortunately, conditions remained favorable through February of 2008. The early spring period of 2008 saw a return to below average precipitation, however the moisture received over the winter was enough to result in a much better spring green-up than that experienced in 2007. A wet, cold storm system struck central Nevada in late May 2008, and while this may have impacted production of upland game species in some areas, overall the moisture should have a positive impact on stressed habitats. Based upon preliminary chukar brood data, it seems that many birds that may have lost broods during the storm period may have re-nested. Unfortunately, June has seen a return to below average moisture receipts.

The cumulative impacts of over a year of drought conditions negatively affected many wildlife species in central Nevada from late 2006 through 2007. Although the late winter and early spring of 2008 saw a return to more favorable conditions, lingering effects of the past year will likely continue to impact wildlife populations and their habitats for some time. Conditions will need to improve through the late summer period, at the very least, in order for noticeable improvements in animal health and habitat conditions to take place.

Northeastern Nevada

Snow pack levels and moisture content was near the long-term average for the Ruby Mountains and adjacent mountain ranges. Clover Valley rebounded from a very poor precipitation year in 2006-07 and received 105% of normal for 2007-08. The precipitation total for eastern Nevada including White Pine County was again well below average at only 59% of average. As of September 1, 2008, SNOTEL data show that eastern and northeastern Nevada are roughly between 80% and 90% of average in terms of precipitation received.

Spring temperatures were below normal slowing the rate of spring run-off and combined with late May and early June precipitation resulted in better range conditions than expected. Leader growth associated with shrub species such as bitterbrush, sagebrush, serviceberry and snowberry was better in 2008 than last year. Additionally, forb and berry production was excellent in 2008. This has led to a better production year for most species of upland game.

The summer of 2008 saw a drastic reduction in the number of large fires in the northeastern part of Nevada. However, those fires of past years that swept across the landscape in western and northern Elko County have drastically reduced the available habitat for most upland game species. In particular, sage-grouse populations have been reduced because of the loss of habitat. The Murphy Complex and West Basin fires have negatively affected habitat for multiple species of upland game including mountain quail, sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, Columbian sharp-tailed grouse, pygmy rabbit, chukar, Hungarian partridge, blue grouse and white-tailed jackrabbit.

Southeastern Nevada

According to BLM rain data, 26 areas throughout Lincoln County received an average of 56% of the previous ten-year average of precipitation between January and December 2007. According to WRCC/DRI, during 2007 Pioche and Alamo received 60% of average precipitation since 2000, while Caliente received 44% of average precipitation since 2000. Since January 2008, approximately 119% of average precipitation has fallen in Pioche, while Caliente is 86% of normal, and Alamo is 78% of average. Lincoln County was mostly dry and warm during the fall of 2007. Winter precipitation was slightly higher than average throughout Lincoln County. Since that time, little precipitation has been received throughout the area. Timing of precipitation is very important. Southeastern Nevada can receive high amounts of precipitation over short time frames, and then be very dry for months at a time. Under these conditions, wildlife water sources don't get recharged, and forage is in short supply as well as poor conditions. Heavy snowfall totals in February will result in good spring forage growth, but also likely took a toll on wildlife populations.

Overall, weather conditions in southeastern Nevada have probably resulted in lower numbers of young recruited into game populations.

Southern Nevada (Mojave Desert)

The Mojave Desert region in southern Nevada remains in a drought. Based on rain gauge data collected by Clark County Regional Flood Control District in cooperation with United States Geologic Survey and National Weather Service (NWS), Las Vegas and outlying areas in Clark County experienced drier conditions from November 2005 through October 2007.

The recent winter of 2007-08 was wetter than the two preceding winters. Beginning in November 2007 and extending into January 2008, storms produced precipitation generally in brief and localized events. In the short term, vegetative conditions in early 2008 are improved relative to 2006 and 2007.

In Las Vegas, temperature data collected since 1937 by NWS indicate 2007 was the hottest year on record. The seven hottest years on record have occurred within the present decade.

TABLE 1. Water basin climate data from SNOTEL monitoring stations throughout Nevada, southern Idaho and the Sierra Nevada Mountains for total precipitation received from October 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 in inches (Natural Resources Conservation Service). Averages are based on data from 1971 – 2000. Data is considered provisional and subject to revision.

BASIN		Total Precipitation		
Data Site Name	Elev. (ft.)	Current	Average	% of Avg.
NORTHERN GREAT BASIN				94
Cedar Pass	7100	30.3	33.0	92
Dismal Swamp	6500	43.4	46.3	94
Disaster Peak	7000	18.8	18.9	99
Sheldon	5860	7.1	8.2	87
TRUCKEE RIVER				75
LAKE TAHOE				73
Marlette Lake	7880	26.3	31.5	83
Mt Rose Ski Area	8801	42.8	50.1	85
CARSON RIVER				72
WALKER RIVER				81
SALMON FALLS BASIN				103
BRUNEAU BASIN				99
OWYHEE BASIN				96
Jack Creek Upper	7250	25.5	26.6	96
Fawn Creek	7000	30.8	31.8	97
UPPER HUMBOLDT RIVER				92
Corral Canyon	8500	25.2	26.8	94
Dorsey Basin	8100	27.3	29.5	93
Green Mountain	8000	24.7	29.6	83
Lamoille #3	7700	27.3	29.6	92
Draw Creek	7200	18.0	17.6	102
LOWER HUMBOLDT RIVER				93
Big Creek Sum	8695	20.4	25.1	81
Granite Peak	8543	29.0	30.6	95
Buckskin Lower	6915	23.9	24.9	96
Lamance Creek	6000	25.9	26.0	100
CLOVER VALLEY	7900	34.6	31.4	110
EASTERN NEVADA				64
Ward Mountain	9200	11.0	18.6	59
Berry Creek	9100	16.5	22.9	72
Diamond Peak	8033	12.5	21.3	59

WETLAND HABITAT CONDITION REPORT

Western Nevada

Terminal wetlands in Lahontan and Lovelock Valleys experienced poor run-off this year as they did last year. These wetlands are fed by the Carson and Humboldt River drainages, respectively. The mountain ranges that collect the precipitation for these drainages again received lower than average snowfall. Early winter precipitation allowed for some accumulation but late winter and early spring snowfall was dismal as was late spring rainfall. Thus, the late spring river flows were insufficient to support even average breeding habitat. Subsequently, the 2008 summer was hot and almost totally devoid of rainfall which caused these wetlands to diminish far below their brood survival potential.

At Carson Lake and Pasture NDOW and the Green Head Hunting Club (GHC) collaborated on a water management decision to direct all drain water to the Sprig Unit during the summer leaving the remaining units on the area to dry up. A breach in the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District's (TCID) Truckee Canal in January 2008 disrupted the intended diversion of Truckee River water to Lahontan Reservoir. This catastrophe required months to repair and resulted in the lost opportunity to increase the reservoir's capacity to meet spring conservation and agriculture obligations. Once the canal was repaired and the diversion resumed under a court-mandated reduced flow, the reservoir gained enough water through the Truckee Diversion and the Carson River inflow to allow irrigation in Lahontan Valley. However, because the pool was well below average, TCID adjusted water allocations to only 75% of users' water rights, some even less than this. As the summer progressed TCID reevaluated water use and storage and increased the percentage to 80%. NDOW along with GHC decided to start taking prime water in mid-July to freshen the Sprig Unit. NDOW also took deliveries of prime water in August, all of which went into the Sprig Unit bringing that unit to 100% water coverage. NDOW will be taking the last of their allocated prime water in early October. This water will be delivered into the Rice Unit and could possibly fill it by late October.

The situation described above had similar impacts upon the wetlands within the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR). As of this writing in early September, 2,100 acres of wetlands are wet within the hunting area and 3,000 acres are wet in the sanctuary portion. In the hunt area, Tule Lake is at 70% of capacity and has good sago production. Accordingly, ducks will be drawn to this area. The southwestern portion of the SNWR (Lead, Millen and Willow lakes) hold most of the water as of this time. Early October water deliveries will increase surface wetlands by late October.

To summarize for Lahontan Valley, lack of springtime surface acreage affected local production of ducks and other wetland species. The continued lack of water into the summer will mean that the abundance of forage will be less than under normal conditions, thus migrating birds may be dissuaded from prolonged stays in the area.

Humboldt Sink did have some water earlier in the summer - the upper lake was near full and the Toulon Unit possibly at half capacity. However, NDOW's breeding pair surveys resulted in the observation of far fewer pairs than normal indicating that breeding waterfowl selected this area at a much lower rate than normal. NDOW made a decision to manipulate water in order to repair an eroded dike dividing the Toulon units from the remainder of the WMA. Toulon Drain water typically destined for the Toulon Unit was diverted to the Upper Lake in order to dry the land to allow for work to get commence on the levee. The Toulon Unit dried rapidly under the punishing heat and aridity. Similarly the broad, shallow Upper Lake was especially affected by the summer climate and is presently at 5% of normal surface coverage. With the end of the irrigation season and with cooling temperatures, it is expected that the Upper Lake's water level will recover slightly this fall into winter but will not provide the forage sought by migrating birds.

Mason Valley WMA experienced better than expected decree water from the West Walker River this year. Decree rights held out until the 29th of July, giving area personnel the opportunity to bring pond levels up before hot summer temperatures could evaporate much of the eastern waterfowl series ponds, as was the case last year. Conditions this year have also benefitted from water derived from the Fort Churchill Cooling Pond earlier this year. Storage allocations this year are very low, but a minimum of 85%

coverage for the entire eastern pond series is anticipated through deliveries by the area's cooling pond pump and the Redhead pond pump, both put into operation earlier this year. The western Sceirine pond series will remain dry this year due to a lack of storage water. An anticipated aerial application of herbicides is scheduled to occur the first week of September, providing better hunting opportunities on the Scaup and Bufflehead ponds, which have seen tremendous cattail and bulrush growth over the last few months. Cattle have been used to manipulate vegetative cover on the Greenhead and Ruddy ponds this year. The Goldeneye and Upper Pintail pond units will be managed under moist soil conditions this year, which will attract Canada geese.

As for other wetlands in Western Nevada, Alkali Lake WMA continues to remain dry with little change of holding water even if September and October rains should appear. The Fernley WMA experienced a short-term benefit from the Truckee Canal breach but the breeding duck pair total observed nearly five months later was below average, indicating that birds did not take advantage of the situation. The Scripps WMA and the remainder of Washoe Lake are about 75% of normal. Migrating waterfowl will feed upon sago that flourished at Scripps.

Eastern and Southern Nevada

Steptoe Valley WMA - Last winter left the Schell Creek Range with well below normal snow-pack, followed by an extremely dry spring and summer in the Steptoe Valley. As a result Steptoe Creek only offered about a third of its normal flow for the majority of the year. Accordingly, in the late summer Comins Lake measured 24 inches below the indicator of its maximum capacity. However, the lake will still provide waterfowlers with an opportunity for some dabblers and an excellent chance for divers on the south end of the lake. The 13 NAWCA ponds located in the north meadow complex are still under construction with an estimated completion date of November 1st. NDOW is optimistic that a few of the ponds located near the springs will be completed and holding water and ducks later in the season.

Presently the Ruby Lake NWR marsh is 45 percent flooded. The South Marsh is flooded but the water elevation is reduced from last year creating enhanced habitat for dabblers in the hunt zone (north end of unit). More favorable habitat for divers is available in the South Marsh outside of the hunt zone. One unit of the West Marsh units is in drawdown but the other units are flooded. The North Marsh and East Marsh units are dry. The West Marsh, East Marsh, and the North Marsh are closed to hunting. Franklin Lake WMA is dry.

Kirch WMA also languished under a below average precipitation regime. However, in spite of these broad climatic conditions there will be approximately 1800 surface acres of flooded waterfowl habitat available by October 11th. Cold Springs and Haymeadow Reservoirs are currently at maximum levels and will remain so throughout the fall. Tule Reservoir which is typically dry by late August is already flooded and stable at minimum pool. Dacey Reservoir is currently three feet below maximum level which is normal for late August. NDOW will refill this reservoir beginning in mid to late September thus habitat here will be available for the duck opener. Correspondingly, Dacey Slough will receive water once Dacey Reservoir reaches capacity but complete flooding of the slough cannot be anticipated until the end of October after other water obligations are met. Adams-McGill Reservoir was drawn down one foot in late spring consistent with the Kirch WMA Water Management Plan in order to expose the mud flats on the west side of the reservoir. Alkali bulrush was then broadcast on the exposed mud flats to enhance key waterfowl habitat. Adams-McGill Reservoir is currently being refilled and it is expected to continue to be a prime waterfowl hunting area again this year. Overall, duck hunters can expect to experience similar conditions as last year with additional user facilities that have been constructed this year including additional outhouses and informational kiosks.

At Key Pittman WMA, there is currently is still some carryover water in Frenchy but this lake will be very low to dry by the duck opener. The north and middle ponds are in great shape and will be chopped and flooded by the opener. Nesbitt is currently at about 75% but there is a lot of feed and should offer good hunting for the opener. The fields will be harvested and seeded with a cover crop of hairy vetch. Half of the fields will have winter rye in the corn stubble and the other half will have winter wheat. Mid to late hunting in the fields should be very good if the use is similar to last year.

The Overton WMA manager reports that Honeybee and Center Ponds are full while Wilson and Pintail are dry and scheduled to be burned and rehabilitated. All the bulrush checks are dry except for two in the A-1 series. These ponds were dried to be leveled, refilled to saturate the mud bottom and then dried again to seal the bottom. Refilling will commence probably prior to the season opener. The OWMA's fields are in good condition. Most support plantings of Sudan and fields B-1 and B-8 have a grass/alfalfa mix.

Continent¹

Habitat conditions during the 2008 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey were characterized in many areas by a delayed spring in comparison with several preceding years. Drought in parts of the traditional survey area contrasted sharply with record amounts of snow and rainfall in the eastern survey area. The total pond estimate (Prairie Canada and U.S. combined) was 4.4 ± 0.2 million (Table 1, Figure 1). This was 37% below last year's estimate of 7.0 ± 0.3 million ponds and 10% below the long-term average of 4.9 ± 0.03 million ponds. The 2008 estimate of ponds in Prairie Canada was 3.1 ± 0.1 million. This was a 39% decrease from last year's estimate (5.0 ± 0.3 million), and 11% below the 1955-2007 average (3.4 ± 0.03 million). The parklands were drier in 2008 than in 2007, when excess water created much additional waterfowl habitat; still this area was classified as fair to good overall with most seasonal and semi-permanent wetlands full. A late April snowstorm recharged wetlands in some areas of the northern parklands; these were classified as excellent.

The U.S. prairies experienced drought conditions this spring and many semi-permanent wetlands and livestock dugouts were dry. At the time of the survey, habitat in this area was considered fair to poor; exceptions were regions with temporary and seasonal water in southeastern South Dakota, and areas of western South Dakota that received abundant rain and snowfall in early May that were considered good. The 2008 pond estimate for the north-central U.S. (1.4 ± 0.07 million) was 30% below last year's estimate (2.0 ± 0.1 million) and 11% below the long-term average (1.5 ± 0.02 million). Following the completion of the survey the Dakotas and neighboring areas experienced several heavy rainfall events. This eased drought conditions somewhat and may have improved habitat conditions for late nesters and increased the success rate of re-nesting attempts.

In the bush regions of the traditional survey area (Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, northern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan, and western Ontario) spring break-up was later in 2008 than in recent years. Locally variable snowfall and, consequently, variable runoff, resulted in habitat conditions that ranged from fair in the east to good in the west. Most large lakes were still frozen on May 20 in the Northwest Territories; however, warmer temperatures in late May led to habitat conditions suitable for nesting during the survey period. Good conditions were present throughout Alaska, with slightly late spring conditions in some coastal areas.

The boreal forest of the eastern survey area was generally in good condition this spring, although in most areas spring was delayed by 1-2 weeks relative to the early springs of preceding years. Most of the eastern survey area experienced record or near-record winter snowfall and spring precipitation accompanied by average to below-average temperatures. These conditions caused extensive brooding in some parts of Maine and the Maritimes and likely disrupted normal waterfowl nesting chronology. Newfoundland and Labrador also received above-average winter precipitation, but snow melt and breakup was gradual with minimal brooding. The frost seal throughout much of southern Ontario was poor; however, winter snowfall and spring rains led to good to excellent habitat conditions across most of the area with the exception of extreme southwestern Ontario which was characterized as fair. Conditions in western Ontario initially pointed toward a late spring, but higher temperatures and winds provided good melting conditions so habitats were ready for the arrival of breeding pairs. In more northern sections of Ontario, ice persisted on lakes late into May and early June. Conditions in northern Quebec were slightly drier than average, and spring-like conditions came early.

¹ Direct text from: Zimphler, et.al. 2008. Trends in Duck Breeding Populations, 1955-2008. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland, USA.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

WATERFOWL

Harvest

Frameworks established by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for the 2007-08 late hunting seasons allowed for a liberal season with bag limit restrictions for duck species that continue to remain below continental objectives. The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners (Commission) adopted the full number of days (107) allowed for waterfowl hunting in Nevada under this framework. Last season was the 11th consecutive year that the 'liberal' regulations package was allowed under the auspices of Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) which modifies season length and bag limit prescriptions as a reflection of waterfowl abundance and expected productivity in North America. Last year, Nevada's duck hunting season began on October 13th for the entire state and extended to Saturday, January 26th, 2008 in Northern Nevada and the 25th in Southern Nevada. These closures accommodated days set aside for youth waterfowl hunting, which was a single day in the Northern Zone (September 29, 2007) and 2 days in the Southern Zone (February 2nd and 3rd, 2007). Bag limit changes were noted for canvasback (increased to two birds daily) and scaup remained at three birds daily for the third consecutive year. There were no partial seasons imposed for specific species.

In gathering harvest data for the 2007-08 season, the Department of Wildlife (NDOW) utilized its recently-modified Post-season Questionnaire to collect hunter and harvest statistics specifically from hunters that had either indicated a HIP questionnaire for the previous year or those that had electronically purchased an Upland Game Stamp privilege. In this regard, questionnaires were mailed to an unprecedented number of small game hunters thus the return rate and sample sizes were higher than ever. Previously, NDOW had been attempting to contact approximately 10% of all license buyers. The majority of these were not small game hunters thus the returned data was not nearly as statistically robust.

The FWS conducted its *Harvest Information Program* (HIP) survey and published preliminary findings July². This mandatory reporting process requires hunters to indicate their harvest and hunter efforts via telephone or online poll. Table 1 describes harvest and hunter estimates produced through the two methods.

Table 1. Comparisons between HIP and Nevada Post-season Questionnaire estimates.

Year	Estimated Duck Hunters			Estimated Total Duck Harvest		
	HIP ⁽¹⁾	NV Questionnaire ⁽²⁾	% Diff.	HIP	NV Questionnaire	% Diff.
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%
2006	4,000	4,525	-12%	55,402	69,893	-21%
2007	2,900	4,039	-28%	43,800	45,459	-4%

(1) Expressed as "Active Adult Hunters" within the HIP survey. (2) Figures from 2005 are individual hunters – see explanation in next section.

Both processes are expressions of median values and each is accompanied with a range of figures (standard errors), which are not depicted, that are broad or narrow depending upon the statistical power of the collected data. It is interesting to note that both processes produced statistically similar results for most years. There was a wider disparity between the two methods when calculating hunters this year compared to previous years. NDOW will continue to refine the questionnaire process with the intent of developing extremely reliable harvest and hunter estimates with the strongest of confidence intervals.

² Richkus, K.D., et.al. 2008. Migratory bird hunting activity and harvest during the 2006 and 2007 hunting seasons: Preliminary Estimates. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Laurel, Maryland. USA

DUCKS & MERGANSERS

The general limit was seven ducks per day. Species limitations included a single bird daily bag limit for pintail, two-bird limits for hen mallards and redhead and a three bird daily bag limit for scaup. Continental canvasback numbers had risen to historically high levels and this circumstance allowed for a liberalization of the bag limit to two birds daily. Possession limits were double the daily bag. Table 2 describes harvest and effort statistics compiled through Nevada's post-season questionnaire.

Table 2. Statewide duck & merganser harvest - from Post-season Questionnaire.

	STATEWIDE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Ducks & Mergs.	69,893	54,459	64,921	-22.1%	-16.1%
No. of Hunters*	5,909	4,638	5,683	-21.5%	-18.4%
No. of Days	31,413	24,445	33,106	-22.2%	-26.2%
Birds / Hunter	11.83	11.74	11	-0.7%	7.2%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.22	2.23	2	0.1%	17.6%
Individual Hunters*	4,525	4,038	--	10.8%	--

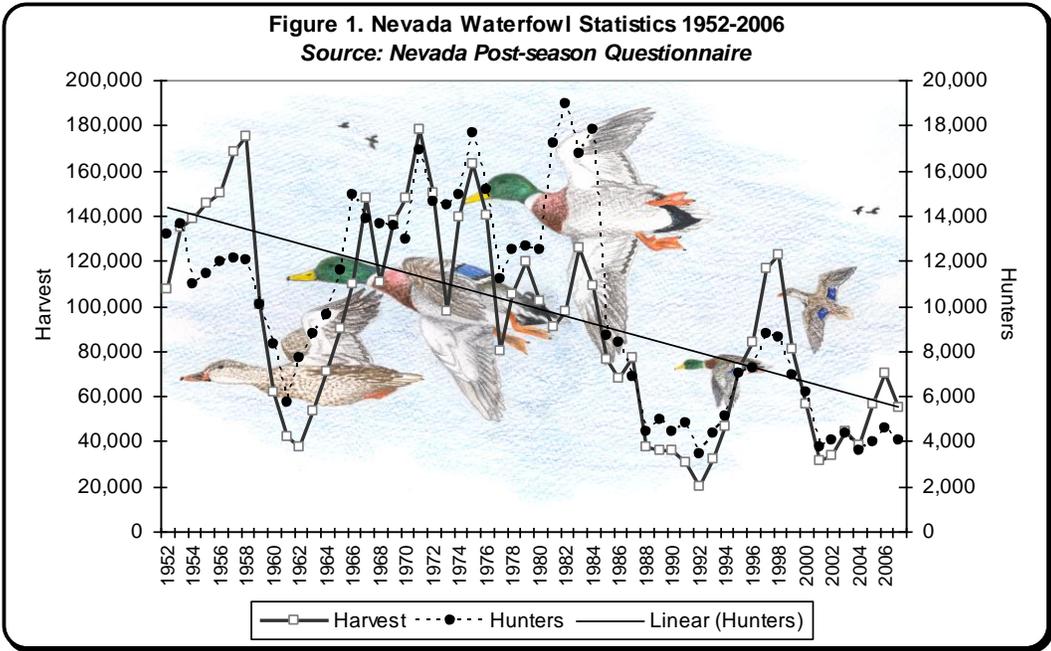
* see explanation below

NDOW's contemporary questionnaire permits managers to analyze unique or individual hunters, or more simply the estimated number of license holders that hunted ducks. Since many waterfowlers participate in more than one of Nevada's 17 counties, NDOW can also evaluate cumulative hunters by county. Both figures are depicted within the appendices (see Section Q). Since past analyses have been incorporating the cumulative values, the 2008 cumulative figure is provided here for comparison to short and long-term averages.

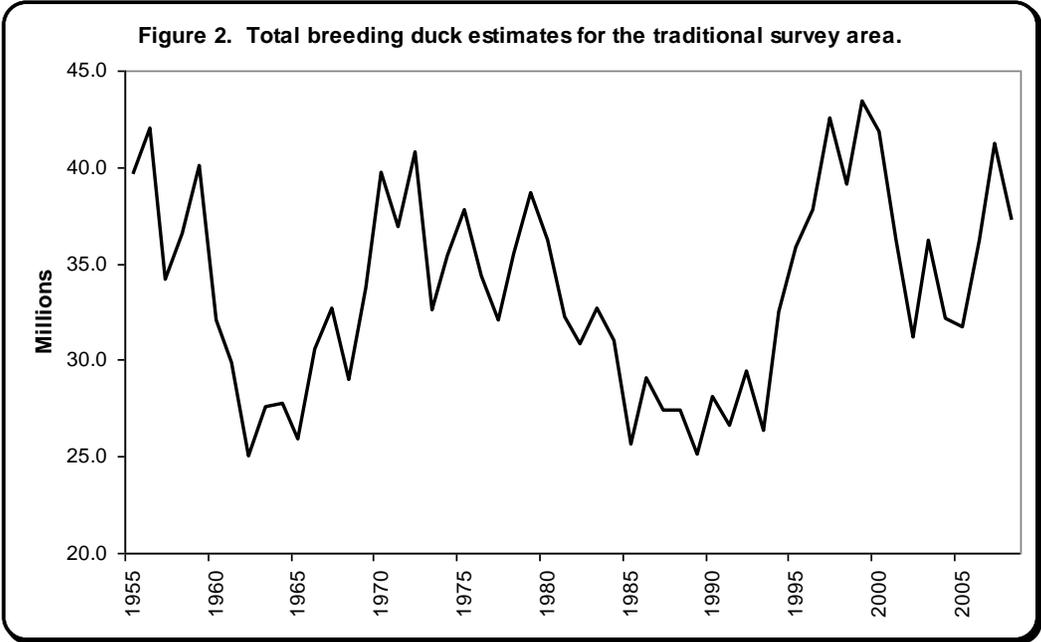
A decline in harvest and commensurate decline in participation was expected for the 2007-08 hunting season. Following a one-year reprieve in annual precipitation, Nevada skies once again retreated into a very dry pattern that stimulated the diminishment of wetlands. Hunters had some success since widespread continental duck production benefited from overall better breeding habitat than did Nevada. However, there must be forage to keep the migrants in place for any extended period and it was likely inadequate to hold large numbers of ducks, geese and swans for extended stopovers.

Waterfowl managers are struggling to determine management coherence between duck population data, habitat conditions and hunter perceptions in an attempt to establish the future directions for habitat and population management. Some managers have expressed concerns about recent trends in hunting season frameworks for specific duck stocks such as pintail, canvasback and scaup. The possible correlation between the complex regulations needed to control harvest on these stocks and the affect such regulations have upon hunter retention and recruitment is an issue that warrants further investigation. In Nevada, NDOW has contended that restrictive pintail regulations are related to declines in hunter participation. It is acknowledged that the species is not as abundant as it had been, but when western Nevada's December skies are filled with pintails and a hunter can only shoot one, the resultant frustration may contribute to an individual's abandonment of waterfowl hunting. The loss of hunters also impacts hunters' contributions to conservation efforts.

Figure 1 describes the trends for duck harvest and hunter numbers in Nevada. This data was derived from Nevada's post-season questionnaires. Clearly, the duck hunter trend continues to diminish with a brief reprise in 2005 and 2006 as a result of an intermittent recovery of western Nevada's wetlands. Managers had expected some spillover effect from upland game hunters who, after experiencing reduced chukar abundance last year, may have been compelled to investigate the marsh for hunting pleasure rather than the hills. Some interviews with hunters verified this happenstance, but the extent of the crossover phenomenon cannot be reliably gauged by examining the individual duck hunter numbers.



Trends depicted above are somewhat aligned with continental breeding duck population tendencies (Figure 2). One keen difference is that periods of recovery reach relatively higher peaks for continental breeding population numbers than do the same recovery descriptors for Nevada's harvest and hunter figures. Of course smaller scale local climatic and precipitation regimes ultimately affect Nevada's harvest and hunter participation statistics, but one cannot deny that the trend in Nevada appears to diminish even as continental duck numbers are exceeding long-term averages. In other words, waterfowl hunter numbers are not corresponding to overall continental duck abundance – hunters left Nevada's marshes in large numbers during the past decade and a half and they haven't come back.



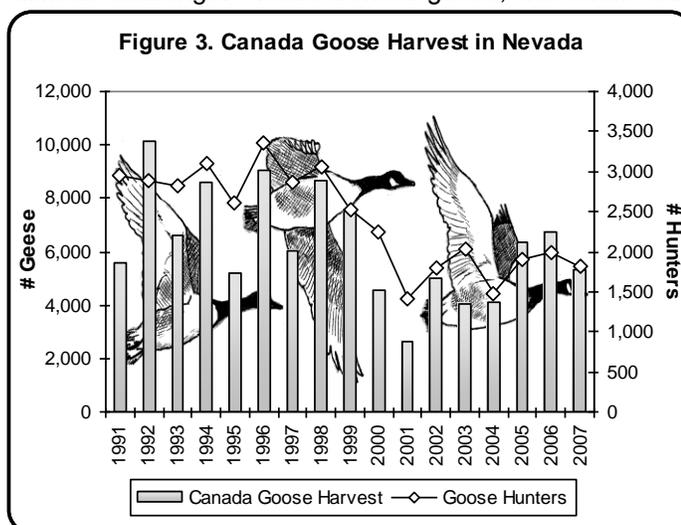
GEESE

Nevada's statewide goose hunting season commenced on October 20, 2007 and concluded on January 27, 2008. Canada and white-fronted geese season limits were three daily, species singly or in the aggregate. White geese (snow and Ross's geese) limits were four daily.

Table 3. Statewide dark and white goose harvest - from Post-season Questionnaire.

	STATEWIDE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10 Yr. Avg.	Prev. Yr.	vs. Avg.
Dark Geese Harvest	6,719	5,339	5,561	-20.5%	-4.0%
No. of Hunters	1,982	1,819	2,130	-8.2%	-14.6%
Light Geese Harvest	848	414	578	-51.1%	-28.3%
No. of Hunters	449	467	806	4.5%	-42.1%
TOTAL GEESE:	7,567	5,753	6,343	-24%	-9.3%

Canada geese numbers have been greatly expanding throughout the Pacific Flyway. Migrating geese that originate from both the relatively sedentary Pacific Population and the more widespread and migratory Rocky Mountain Population contribute to the hunter's bag in Nevada. There are locally produced geese originating from Nevada's wetlands but the numbers pale compared to the annual influx of geese that breed and hatch elsewhere. Western continental climatic and habitat factors play a significant role in the abundance of migrating Canada geese. Local habitat conditions determine the length of stay for these birds and their distribution patterns in Nevada. Accordingly, establishing a stable presence for Canada geese in Nevada is a difficult challenge. White-fronted geese, the other "dark goose" remain an occasional novelty in Western Nevada since their feeding habitats are more grain-dependent compared to the grazing honkers. Most of Nevada's Canada geese harvest occurs in western Nevada (see Section Q) where those counties with large amounts of cultivated fields or pasture support the greatest abundance of geese. For the second consecutive year, Churchill County has led among counties in percent of harvest though Douglas County remains high in kill per hunter and kill per hunter day statistics.



Although white geese numbers are also increasing in the Pacific Flyway, their distribution patterns tend to overlook wetlands in Nevada. As reported last year, record numbers of white geese have been observed in key wintering areas near the Pacific Coast. Over a million lesser snows and Ross' geese were observed in the Flyway's operational goose surveys in 2007. Harvest likewise reached new records for the Flyway, with an estimated 87,738 snows taken. The average for the decade is 56,079 and the long-term average is 53,614. Most of the harvest occurred in Washington and California. Nevada did not get in on the action. From 1970 to 1977, Nevada's harvest averaged over 2,000 white geese annually. Then snows seemed to redistribute themselves possibly in adjustment to changing agricultural practices in Lahontan and Mason Valleys. Numbers returned briefly in the early 1980s, but their presence in western Nevada has been sporadic since then. Last year, hunters harvested far fewer birds than usual (see Table 3.). Season and bag limit frameworks for the Pacific Flyway were greatly liberalized for the 2008-09 season.

TUNDRA SWAN

For a second consecutive year, waterfowlers in Nevada were provided with the opportunity to obtain up to two swan permits within a single season. The permit had been reduced in cost and the name change (from tag to permit) thus allowing nonresidents to hunt swans on a short-term hunt permit rather than a full-term hunting license. It is surmised that these regulation changes resulted in the complete expenditure of Nevada's 650 permit allocation pursuant to guidelines agreed between the Pacific Flyway Council and the FWS. This was the first time that the allocation had been fully utilized since the mid-1980s. Thirty-eight percent of permit sales occurred after November 13th, indicating that a significant proportion of hunter interest is stimulated once the hunting season is under way. It is speculated that some of these later purchases are by hunters that may have been successful prior to November 13th. The swan season began concurrent with goose season on October 20, 2007 and ended on January 6, 2008.

Continuing a flyway commitment to detect trumpeter swan harvest, NDOW required all successful hunters to have their swan and permit validated within five days of the harvest date. Agency personnel inspected swans at specific NDOW offices where they could examine the birds' bills and feather coloration. This scrutiny is necessary to detect occurrence of protected trumpeter swans. In this manner, incidental take can be documented and its impact to the latter species can be assessed. Additionally, tundra swans are considered a primary candidate species for exposure to or infection from the HPAI H5N1 virus. Personnel collected 88 samples from hunter-killed birds.

A total of 135 hunters (21%) purchased a second permit, compared to 24% the previous season. Nonresidents comprised 27% of total permit sales and 32% of these nonresident hunters also purchased a second permit. The harvest was comprised of 126 adults (66%) and 64 juveniles (among all swans that were physically validated). No trumpeter swans were taken in the 2007-08 season.

Table 4. Past ten years of Nevada swan harvest.

Year	Tags / Permits Purchased	Percent Participating	Reported Harvest	Expanded Hunter Days ⁽²⁾
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
2006	605	73%	147	2,014
2007	650	77%	200	1,996
'69-'07 Avg.	443	74%	115	1,252

⁽¹⁾ Includes one poached swan

⁽²⁾ Reported hunter days divided by percent return

Hunters reported taking 72% of swans at Stillwater NWR, higher than the long-term average of 62%. Normally, Lyon County accounts for 7% of the harvest but last year there were only two swans taken in that County, both at Mason Valley WMA. Thirteen swans were harvested at Humboldt WMA in Pershing County.

Population Status

Each year the FWS conducts a continental assessment of the status of waterfowl³. The FWS follows established survey protocols to evaluate bird abundance and habitat conditions within traditional survey areas in the central and northwest portions of North America, known as the Prairie Pothole Region and the Canadian Parkland Region, and in Northwest Canada and Alaska. Service statisticians then incorporate these data into annual or multi-year population models. This summer's breeding duck population (BPOP) estimate within the traditional survey area is 37.3 million birds with a standard error of ± 0.7 . This total is 9% lower than last year's estimate, but is 11% higher than the long-term average (LTA) collected since 1955 (see Figure 2). Mallard abundance is 7.7 million [± 0.3 , -7% v. 2007; + 3% vs. LTA]. The pintail BPOP declined 22% from last year's 3.3 million to 2.6M this year. This compares poorly to the LTA of 4.1M (-36%). Lesser and greater scaup, combined, continue to be among the most abundant waterfowl in North America. However, their BPOP trend has dropped precipitously and is well below the BPOP goal established within the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)⁴. A slight recovery was modeled this year, 3.74M total scaup vs. 3.45M last year, but it remains well below the LTA of 5.12M and the NAWMP goal of 6.3M. Scientists have devoted considerable study to the factors affecting these birds, but a compelling explanation has yet to emerge. Accordingly, harvest regulations will continue to be very conservative into the near future. Redheads reached a record high (1.1M vs. LTA of 637,000) and green-winged teal increased to near record numbers (2.98M vs. LTA of 1.9M).

Nevada's mid-winter waterfowl survey (MWI) resulted in the observation of 105,730 total waterfowl (see appendix), a decline from the previous year but well above average, despite habitat conditions that were below optimal. The mid-winter survey is a coordinated effort to inventory the Pacific Flyway's migrating waterfowl. States conduct the survey simultaneously in early January to avoid double counts between proximal geographic areas. Interestingly, there were 19% fewer ducks but 43% more geese in Nevada. These geese did not linger into the breeding season; however, as will be discussed in the next section. Since a great many factors affect migration on a local, regional and flyway scale, MWI distribution and abundance data has a stronger analytical application on a larger geographic (flyway) scale than on a statewide scale. Nevada's MWI duck numbers reached a zenith in 1996 when 128,520 ducks were observed from the airplane. Goose numbers peaked three years later just short of 34,000.

MWI mallard numbers reached a record high this year. Managers acknowledge that the numbers are more representative than finite, since survey methodology cannot determine actual numbers. It is sufficient to conclude that mallard numbers were higher than usual in January 2008 but this is reflected by the abundance of mallards in the bag (see page A-13). It is possible that migration was later than usual last year because mallards were abundant in the bag in 2006-07. After observing a record number of redheads in last year's MWI survey, the total declined to be more approximate to the short-term average and LTA. Pintail numbers were well above average for the second consecutive year, eclipsing the recent and long-term averages. Scientists will continue to investigate pintail population dynamics to determine if current survey protocols sufficiently detect shifts in pintail distribution within the continent and over to Asia as a result of greatly diminished upland breeding cover in the mid-continent.

Productivity Potential

In the spring of 2008, NDOW personnel observed a total of 7,206 breeding pairs of ducks and 377 estimated non-breeders. Both totals are well below the LTA and the average for the decade. Some of this decline can be attributed to the fact that the full survey could not be completed this year due to weather hazards and mechanical problems. Habitat conditions did not support a high density of nest sites over the entire state, with local conditions more exacerbated in certain areas like the Humboldt River System. Consequently, brood production was likely well below potential. Summer climatic conditions were punishing and led to the evaporation of considerable wetland acreage and the decrease in water quality for much of the remaining volume. It is not expected that brood survival was very high this year.

³ U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. *Waterfowl population status, 2008*. U.S Dept. of the Interior, Washington, D.C. USA. 65pp.

⁴ www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP

Redheads and cinnamon teal continue to be the most common breeding ducks in Nevada. Last year's report had anticipated the observation of a substantial amount of redheads in Nevada's 2008 MWI. This assertion was based upon the previous year's MWI for redheads and the FWS's 2007 continental BPOP estimate. However, this did not come to be either in Nevada or in the Pacific Flyway. This year, ruddy duck numbers increased but the explanation for this is elusive. This species often has unexplained highs and lows and managers speculate that their May abundance is probably correlated with the progression of their migration, rather than a response to habitat conditions.

Table 5. Species composition in Nevada breeding duck pair surveys.

	2007		2008		1959-2007 Avg.	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
Mallard	755	10%	767	10%	723	8%
Gadwall	1,472	20%	1,206	16%	1,679	17%
Pintail	79	1%	58	1%	329	3%
Cinnamon Teal	1,932	27%	1,506	20%	2,592	27%
Shoveler	71	1%	55	1%	167	2%
Redhead	1,821	25%	2,039	28%	2,675	28%
Canvasback	31	0%	144	2%	164	2%
Ruddy	966	13%	1,419	19%	836	9%
Misc. Duck	113	2%	212	3%	415	4%
Est. Total Pairs	7,240		7,406		9,623	

As of this writing, there have been no confirmed major outbreaks of botulism, a natural mortality factor that affects all age classes.

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 and WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Harvest

Nevada's traditional dove season comprised the 30 days of September 2007. The bag and possession limits were 10 and 20, respectively. White-wing dove hunting was limited to Nye and Clark counties only.

Surveys conducted to estimate dove harvest adhere to the same protocols done for all migratory birds managed by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS). Table 1 describes the findings of the two survey approaches, the FWS's *Harvest Information Program* (HIP) survey and NDOW's post-season questionnaire, which reached more hunters this year than in previous years. The FWS's preliminary HIP data published by the FWS indicates a significant decline in the number of participants this year. NDOW's findings also indicate a decline each method's percent decline from the respective estimates for 2006 are fairly similar. The two methods produce noteworthy differences in their respective estimated cumulative hunter effort figures; this following a trend established in the previous two years.

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

Year	Est. Hunter Numbers			Estimated Hunter Days			Estimated Dove Harvest		
	HIP ⁽¹⁾	NV Q	% Diff	HIP	NV Q	% Diff	HIP	NV Q	% Diff
2002	5,200	5,355	-3%	17,800	15,112	+15%	71,300	62,977	+12%
2003	4,700	4,074	+13%	10,800	10,177	+6%	42,100	37,750	+10%
2004	3,800	3,434	+10%	8,800	9,619	-9%	36,500	34,650	+5%
2005	4,100	4,110 ⁽²⁾	--	10,000	14,580	-46%	47,700	50,364	-6%
2006	4,100	4,325 ⁽²⁾	-5%	9,400	13,650	-45%	38,900	53,850	-38%
2007	2,800	3,214⁽²⁾	-15%	9,600	14,135	-47%	38,500	48,629	-26%

(1) Expressed as "Active Adult Hunters" within the HIP survey.

(2) Figures in 2005 - 2007 are *individual* hunters

Dove harvest data obtained through the 2007 Nevada post-season Harvest Questionnaire are as follows:

Table 2. Nevada mourning dove harvest - from Post-season Questionnaire.

	STATE TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	53,851	48,629	46,874	-9.7%	3.7%
No. of Hunters	4,590	4,404	4,433	-4.1%	-0.7%
No. of Days	13,650	14,135	12,753	3.6%	10.8%
Birds / Hunter	11.73	11.04	10.51	-5.9%	5.1%
Birds/Hunter Day	3.95	3.44	3.67	-12.8%	-6.2%

The revised questionnaire allows managers to analyze individual hunters – the estimated number of license holders that hunted doves, as well as cumulative hunters – the total of all the estimated number of persons that hunted in each of the state's 17 counties. Since past analysis incorporated the cumulative value, it is used here for comparison to short and long-term averages. It is obvious that some dove hunters actively hunt in more than one county. Individual hunter total calculations are only estimated for the past two seasons.

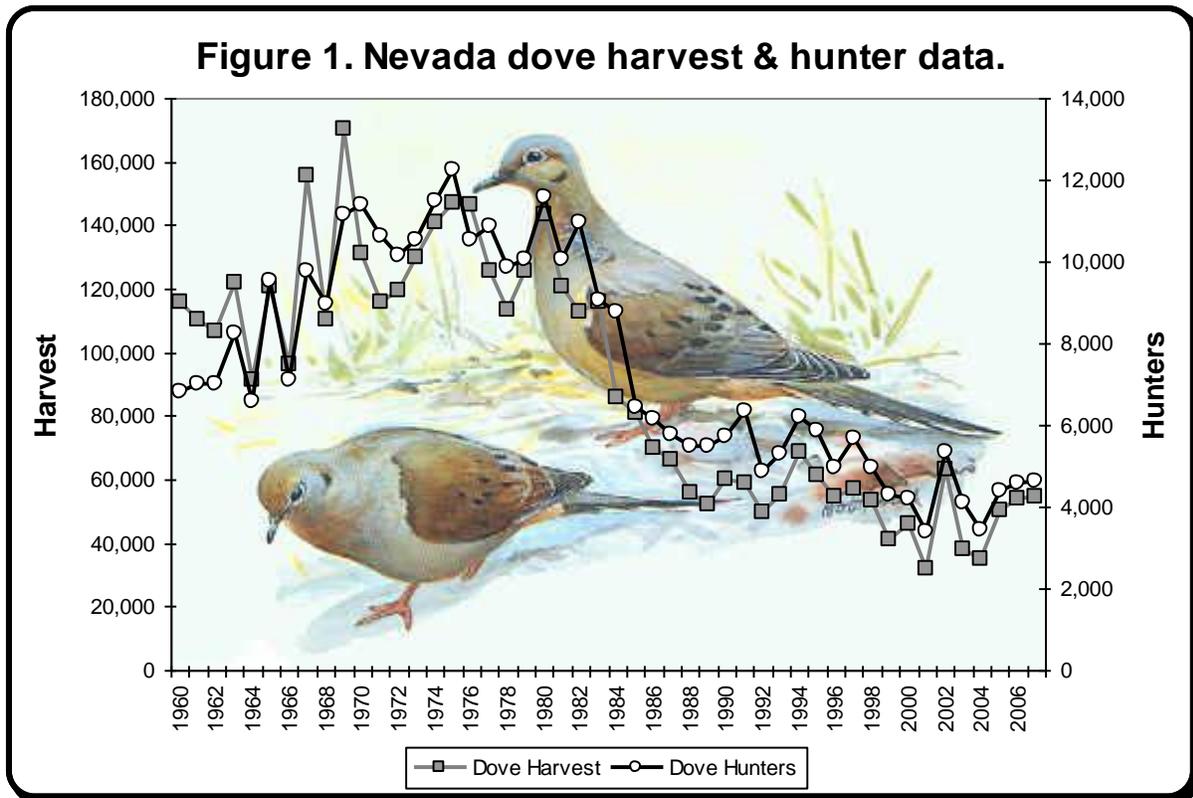
The Western Region continues to support the majority of the state's dove hunters and harvest (see table 3). Speculation continues to focus upon the possible shift in distribution of doves toward higher latitudes due to sanctuary that cities offer throughout the year. Harvest in the Southern Region is divided among Clark, Lincoln and Nye counties, in order of significance. NDOW has long wondered about the relative lack of participation among Southern Nevadans even as the human population grows tremendously. There has been relatively little loss of access to public lands within the Mojave Desert and NDOW has been very active in increasing water distribution through the increased number of guzzlers placed. There has been a significant loss of open land in Las Vegas Valley itself. Some contend that the urbanized valley is acting like a sump to attract doves within a much larger sphere of influence. Hence doves, though possibly higher in abundance, are less available to hunters within surrounding open public lands.

Table 3. Mourning dove harvest by region - from Post-season Questionnaire.

	WESTERN			EASTERN			SOUTHERN		
	2006	2007	AVG.*	2006	2007	AVG.	2006	2007	AVG.
No. of Birds	36,387	41,053	24,411	5,497	2,730	5,830	11,967	10,676	16,633
No. of Hunters	2,981	3,401	2,301	673	388	703	936	849	1,429
No. of Days	8,939	18,512	6,453	1,508	1,545	1,743	3,203	4,388	4,558
Birds / Hunter	12.21	12.07	10.5	8.17	7.04	8.09	12.79	12.57	11.64
Birds/Hunter Day	4.07	2.22	3.8	3.65	1.77	3.39	3.74	2.43	3.67

*average is 1997-2006

Figure 1 depicts long-term dove harvest information from the post-season questionnaire. The trend is clearly down, but managers are not convinced that this is a function of bird abundance.



The state's dove harvest descended to a near record low in 2004, but hunters have bagged increasing numbers of doves during the past three seasons. These values are fairly similar to their respective previous year and the 10-year averages; however, when compared to previous decades, the recent statistics are insubstantial (table 4). This is particularly evident when comparing harvest and days.

Table 4. Statewide dove harvest by decades - from Post-season Questionnaire.

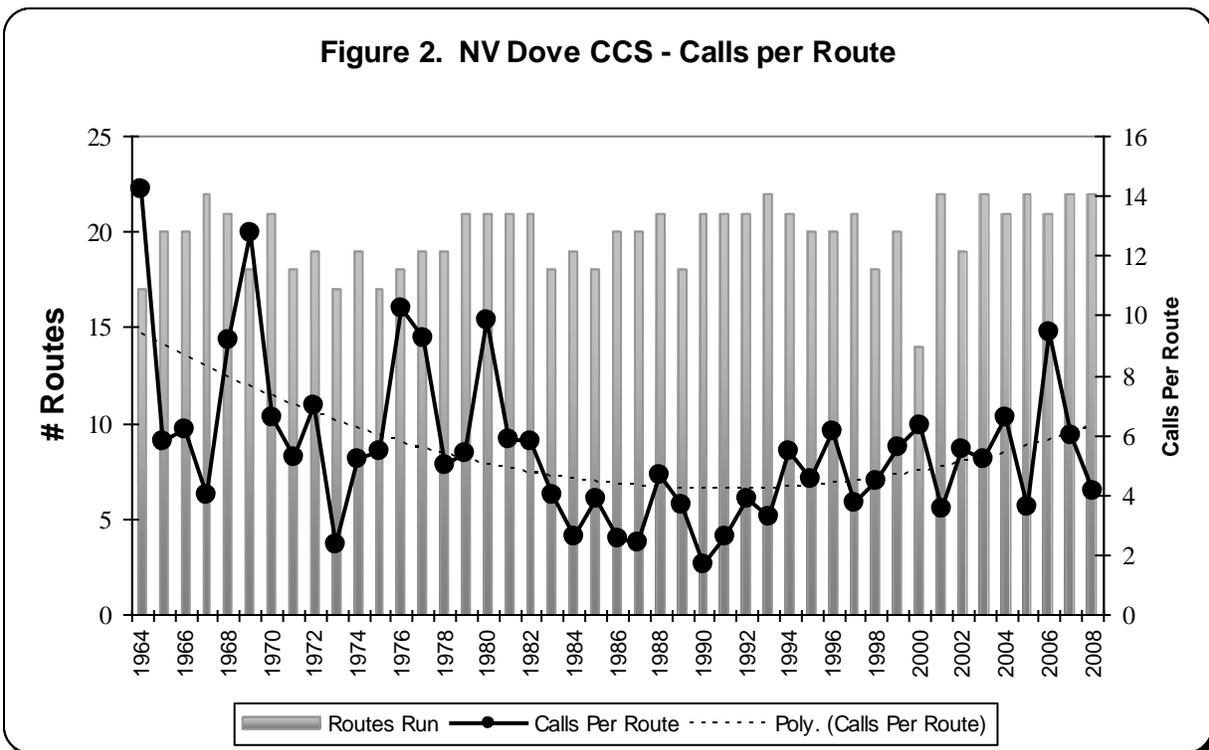
	1960's	1970's	1980's	1990's	2000's
No. of Birds	119,945	129,489	90,248	55,843	46,469
No. of Hunters	8,208	10,765	7,968	5,410	4,256
No. of Days	26,590	34,388	23,333	15,600	13,591
Birds / Hunter	14.61	12.03	11.33	10.32	10.80
Birds/Hunter Day	4.51	3.77	3.87	3.58	3.56

A total of 7,380 questionnaire respondents indicated they hunted upland game. This year there were enough responses to establish an estimated harvest and other hunter statistics. These are described on page Q-7. The questionnaire also indicated a total harvest of 37 white-winged doves by seven hunters within five closed counties. Even though the Questionnaire form does not provide respondents with a space to indicate harvest for any county other than Clark or Nye (the only open counties) NDOW will continue to work hard to refine the questionnaire to reduce respondent errors.

Population Status

The FWS coordinates the Mourning Dove Call-count Survey for the entire nation. This comprehensive effort includes more than 1,000 randomly selected routes distributed within physiographic regions. These migratory game birds are managed within three zones – the Eastern, Central and Western Management Units (MU). Populations within these MUs are considered to be largely independent of one another. 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.

All 22 of Nevada’s survey routes were run this spring by an assortment of state and federal personnel serving as route-runners. A total of 91 calls were documented and runners observed 102 doves. These data compare to long-term averages (LTA) of 110 heard and 173 seen. The call per route average this year was 4.1, compared to the LTA of 5.6. 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. Generally, the dove breeding index trend is downward during the 40-year analysis period, a trend found throughout the WMU. However, calls per route averages have stabilized in Nevada and the WMU for the past ten years. A polynomial trend line is used to indicate that dove population indicators are actually on the rise in Nevada.



BAND-TAILED PIGEON

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

AMERICAN CROW

Harvest

Crow hunting was open statewide with two hunt periods. The fall hunt was September 1 – November 17th, 2007 and the spring hunt commenced on March 1st, 2008 and ended on April 15th. The limit was 10 daily and in possession and hunters were required to retrieve their crows and remove them from the field.

Because of the increased intensity in the Post-Season Questionnaire effort, both in terms of revised questions and the amount of survey forms sent out, NDOW received an unprecedented amount of information relevant to crow hunting. Table 1 below depicts harvest data recorded since 2003, but it is important to note that data for 2003-2006 is raw reported data and is not expanded to represent an estimate. The 2007 data are estimates derived by using specific statistically sound expansion criteria. The full expanded dataset is found on page Q-8. The Questionnaire is mailed out in the spring while the second season is still ongoing. However, there is little anecdotal information that can identify that any amount of spring hunting occurs in Nevada. Managers speculate that the majority of crow occurs in the fall hunt.

Table 1. – Reported American crow harvest in Nevada.

	CH	DO	HU	LY	MN	PE	WA	EL	EU	LA	WP	CL	ES	LN	NY
2003	4	5	--	--	--	--	--	2	17	--	--	1	--	1	--
2004	--	6	36	124	--	4	--	--	32	13	--	42	--	--	18
2005	3	1	4	49	41	2	1	54	1	51	5	--	--	2	10
2006	--	0	9	3	3	15	1	16	--	11	--	--	6	16	1
2007	0	363	68	2	2	77	198	72	0	0	0	363	0	98	30

The 2007 data, which is expanded based upon information provided by a total of 114 Questionnaire respondents, suggests that crow hunting may be more than the novelty previously thought of in these reports. Crow hunter statistics indicate that the hunting of this species is more popular than the hunting of moorhens, snipe and white-winged dove and a few upland game species. The 2007 harvest exceeded the statewide coot harvest and coots are available to almost all waterfowl hunters.

Population Status

Because they are not classified as migratory game birds under federal rule thus the FWS does not regulate the take of American Crows. Accordingly, there are no coordinated efforts within the flyways to determine their population status. NDOW does not conduct any population analysis other than an analysis of harvest data. The species is ubiquitous and since it is lightly hunted within a broad statewide distribution, managers feel that the harvest data is not indicative of crow population trends. The extent of the effects of West Nile Virus is not known, although it is recognized that corvids are particularly susceptible to the disease.



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REGIONAL SPECIES SUMMARIES

SAGE-GROUSE

Statewide Summary: There were basically two separate sage-grouse seasons plus one special limited sage-grouse season in the 2007-08 hunting season. In 2007, there was a 10-day season extending from October 5th through 14th in the Western Region and a 15-day season extending from September 25th through October 9th in the Eastern and Southern Regions. There were two hunt periods on the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge with each season lasting two days and the participation limited to 75 hunters for each hunt period in late September. A grand total of 4,897 sage-grouse were estimated to be harvested across the state in 2007 by approximately 3,197 hunters.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

In Humboldt and Washoe Counties a standardized 10-day hunt was held for sage-grouse from October 5th through the 14th. All units were open to sage grouse harvest in these counties with the exception of units 032, 035, 042, 044, 046, 151, 021, 022, 194 and 196. The Desatoya Range within Churchill and Lander Counties was also open in 2007. Daily bag and possession limits were two and four respectively. Unit 033, the Sheldon National Wildlife Range, offered two special two-day hunts during late September. Participation was limited to 75 hunters per hunt period. Permits to participate in this hunt were awarded by lottery. The daily bag and possession limits for these hunts were three and six, respectively. Table 1 describes the combined harvest results for areas open to hunting within the Western Region.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	1,643	1,835	1,798	11.7%	2.0%
No. of Hunters	837	1,466	877	75.1%	67.2%
No. of Days	1,751	3,143	1,777	79.5%	76.9%
Birds/Hunter	1.96	1.25	2.0	-36.2%	-38.7%
Birds/Hunter Day	.94	0.58	1.0	-37.8%	-41.8%

Harvest information was collected this year from a sample of hunters who purchased upland game stamps rather than the standard 10% hunter harvest questionnaire which sampled a broader range of hunters who may not have participated in upland hunting. This new approach of collecting harvest data will result in sampling more people that actually hunted upland game during the season. Harvest data collected using this new format indicates a 12% increase in sage-grouse harvest over 2006 levels. During 2007 hunter numbers and the number of days they expended in pursuit of sage grouse increased from 2006 levels by over 70%. However, birds per hunter and birds per hunter day decreased from 2006 levels indicating that hunters had a difficult time locating sage-grouse during the 2007 season. Significant snowfall occurred during the first two days of the season which may have impacted the activity of both hunters and sage-grouse. Communications with hunters during the season indicated hunting conditions were difficult with few birds observed.

Population Status

Major factors that have influenced sage-grouse populations in the western region include wildfire, urbanization, improper livestock grazing practices, mining, and pinyon and juniper tree encroachment. Each of these factors have altered vegetative communities to varying degrees. Future pipeline and wind energy projects also have the potential to disturb and fragment existing sage-grouse habitat. Department biologists continue to monitor sage-grouse population trends throughout the region on both hunted and non-hunted populations. Spring lek counts, brood surveys, harvest data and population estimates are completed annually for all population management units within the Western Region.

In November 2007, 580 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	17	42	4	12	75	.38
Buffalo/Skedaddle	0	8	5	3	16	1.0
Total Massacre PMU	41	51	10	19	121	.57
Vya PMU	0	5	5	5	15	2.0
Other Washoe	5	4	4	0	13	1.0
Total WA Co.	63	110	28	39	240	.61
Santa Rosa PMU	46	88	10	24	168	.39
Lone Willow PMU	45	57	28	18	148	.81
Pine Forest PMU	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Rock PMU	8	12	0	4	24	.33
Total HU Co.	99	157	38	46	340	.54
Desatoya	44	68	3	8	123	.16
Total Churchill	44	68	3	8	123	.16
Total Western Region	162	267	66	85	580	.68

Production which is measured by young/hen ratios gathered from hunter harvested wings fell significantly this past year in most of the major population management units within the Western Region. Current production figures are well below levels needed to maintain current population levels. Production values ranged from a high of 2.0 young per hen in the Vya PMU to a low of 0.16 young per hen in the Desatoya Range. Average production levels for the western region fell from 0.91 young per hen measured in 2006 to 0.68 young per hen in 2007. The Santa Rosa and the Lone Willow PMU's have shown dramatic declines in production levels over the last several years.

Lek counts were conducted this spring from both the ground and the air. Ground surveys during this period were difficult due to an average to above average snow pack which made travel difficult. Most PMU's showed declines in lek attendance from what was observed last year. During the spring breeding season of 2008, a total of 3,004 sage-grouse were recorded on leks by NDOW field biologists, volunteers and BLM personnel. A total of 357 leks were visited with 215 leks being active. Comparable leks counts were down 30% to 50% from what was observed during 2007. Counts conducted during the spring of 2007 also showed declines in lek attendance; however, declines were not as significant as what was observed during the previous spring. Radio-marking studies continue throughout the region to monitor both movement patterns as well as use areas.

Productivity Potential

Drought conditions experienced over the last two years have negatively influenced production and recruitment levels of sage-grouse within the Western Region. Declines in lek attendance witnessed over the last two years are a reflection of poor production rates and are a strong indicator of the declining trend of sage-grouse populations in the Western Region. Brood surveys completed this summer indicate relatively good production; however, information gathered from hunter harvested wings is generally a better gauge of production and recruitment.

Fall Prediction

Early brood counts have indicated that there may be a slight improvement in the availability of birds over what was observed by hunters last year. However, with the declines that have occurred over the last two years in overall numbers, hunters can expect bird availability to be well below recent highs. Based on this year's lek surveys, most of the units that were closed last year will remain closed during this hunting season. Unit 032 in Humboldt County has met the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency Guidelines for the last three years and will be open in 2008. Harvest will be monitored closely here to determine the effects on this population.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

For the first time since 1999 the Eastern Region (Elko, Eureka, Lander and White Pine) sage-grouse season was increased from 9 days to 15-days, running from September 25 through October 9, 2007. The 2006 season was 9 days long extending from October 7 – 15, 2007. Bag limits were not changed and remained at 2 daily and 4 in possession. The only exception was for Lander County where Game Management Unit 151 has been closed to sage grouse hunting since 2003 based on low population levels of sage-grouse in the Battle Mountain and Fish Creek Population Management Units (PMU's).

Table 1. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST BY COUNTY
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	COUNTY TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
Elko	829	1,406	1,993	+70%	-15%
Eureka	430	410	325	-5%	+34%
Lander	338	495	294	+46%	+69%
White Pine	238	344	273	+45%	+31%
Eastern Region	1,835	2,655	2,885	+45%	+5%

Table 2. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	1,835	2,655	2,524	+45%	+5%
No. of Hunters	991	1,527	1,433	+54%	-37%
No. of Days	2,211	3,390	3,335	-3%	+7%
Birds / Hunter	1.9	1.7	1.8	-11%	-6%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.8	0.8	0.8	0%	0%

The 2007 sage-grouse harvest increased in 3 of 4 Eastern Region counties and was only down slightly in Eureka County. Although harvest decreased slightly in Eureka County, it was still 34% above the previous 10-year average. Sage-grouse harvest increased 45% overall for the Eastern Region and was 5% above the previous 10-year average.

Population Status

Summer brood survey sample sizes in 2007 remain low for the Eastern Region (table 3.) because effort to collect samples has been reduced.

Table 3. SAGE GROUSE PRODUCTION SUMMARY - EASTERN REGION 2007

County	Bird Totals					Ratios		Total Complete Broods	Tot. Yng. in Comp. Brood	Avg. Brood Size
	Observed	Classified	Adults	Hens	Young	Young/Ad	Young/Hen			
Elko	66	66	36	12	31	0.86	2.58	10	31	3.1
Eureka	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
Lander	69	69	46	30	24	1.92	1.25	6	24	4.0
White Pine	19	14	5	3	9	1.80	3.00	3	9	3.0
Reg. Total:	154	149	87	45	64	0.73	1.42	19	64	3.4

The largest sample was again obtained in Lander County (46% of the Eastern Region's sample) followed closely by Elko County (44%). Lander County has provided the largest sample of sage-grouse since 2004. A total Regional sample of 149 sage-grouse was classified with an average brood size of 3.4, a young/hen ratio of 1.42 and a young/adult ratio of 0.73. The Region's sample size in 2006 was 480 with an average brood size of 4.2, a young/hen ratio of 1.63 and a young/adult ratio of 0.76. The young/hen ratio decreased from 2006 to 2007. Brood sizes decreased in Elko and White Pine counties and increased in Lander County between 2006 and 2007.

Wings collected from hunters in 2007 were assessed to determine male/female ratios and production. Wing data for the Eastern Region are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. EASTERN REGION SAGE GROUSE WING DATA - 2007

County	Total Wings	Adult Males	Adult Females	Juvenile Males	Juvenile Females	Ratios	
						Juv./Ad Hen	Juv./Adult
Elko	450	110	204	62	74	0.67	0.97
Eureka	143	41	66	13	23	0.55	0.34
Lander	141	55	65	7	14	0.32	0.18
White Pine	55	15	24	6	10	0.67	0.41
Reg. Total:	789	221	359	88	121	0.58	0.36

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 the lowest on record. A comparison with brood data shows that 1.42 young/hen observed in July decreased to only 0.58 by October.

Winter survival of birds was good throughout the Eastern Region in 2007-2008. 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 sagebrush areas available for migration of sage-grouse to winter ranges. Strutting ground count data on comparable leks in the Eastern Region for 2008 are summarized as follows: -22% in Elko County, -32% in Eureka County, -40% in Lander County and -29% 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. Following gradual overall increases in lek attendance between 2000 and 2006, a downward trend has been documented since.

Elko County harbors some of the largest sage-grouse populations within Nevada. There are a total of 10 PMUs within this planning area. Four biologists share responsibilities for these 10 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. BLM efforts were directed more towards checking leks for activity associated with burned areas, proposed power line projects 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 2 and 6 times each during March, April and early May of 2008. During the spring of 2008, 366 leks were visited with 177 active, 33 inactive, 146 unknown, 6 new leks confirmed from last year, and 4 potential new leks in eastern Elko County that need to be verified in 2009. In comparison, 412 leks were visited with 199 active leks, 39 inactive leks, 172 unknown status, 4 new leks from the previous year confirmed and 13 possible new leks documented in 2007. As a result of 2008 fieldwork and assessment, a total of 47 leks were removed from the database due to the lack of long-term data or because they were one time counts in questionable habitat (37 leks) or the lek was combined with an existing adjacent lek (five leks) or declared historic (five leks). In 2008 there were 2,469 male sage-grouse observed on 177 leks resulting in an average of 13.9 males/lek compared to 3,552 male sage-grouse on 199 leks for an average of 17.8 males/lek in 2007. There are still a substantial number of leks on the list that need to be evaluated as to whether they were one-time sightings or if they are actual strutting areas. Wildfires burned over 69 leks in 2007 and 52 were monitored in 2008. Eleven of these were found to be active in 2008 after being burned in 2007.

NDOW personnel monitored 14 trend leks in Elko County. They counted 601 males with 43 males/lek and showed a 22% decrease in numbers from 2007. Different than in recent years, phenology seemed to be a few weeks early and many leks peaked in late March and early April rather than late April and early May.

In Eureka County, the number of trend grounds was increased to 10 in 2000 to collect a larger sample for comparison. The peak male attendance on the 10 comparable grounds for 2008 was 189 for an average of 19 males per ground. This resulted in a 31% decrease from 2007 when 275 males were counted for an average of 28 males per ground. The decrease in 2008 followed a decrease the previous year. The 20-year average (1986 to 2005) for comparable grounds was 26 males/lek and the 10-year average (1996-2005) was 24. In addition to trend counts, there were 7 additional active leks surveyed by NDOW, BLM, and UNR graduate students in 2008 for 17 leks to compare. These 17 active leks had 312 males in attendance for an average of 18 males/lek. In 2007, these 17 active leks checked with 376 males yielding an average of 22 males/lek. Using this extended list of leks monitored, a decrease of only 17% in lek attendance was documented. Including all leks counted in Eureka County, a total of 364 males were counted on 20 leks for an average of 18.2 males/lek.

In Lander County 5 trend leks were monitored and 117 males were observed in 2008 for 23 males/lek compared to 195 males and 39 males/lek in 2007. This represented a 41% decrease in lek attendance. A total of 144 males were counted on 14 leks in 2008 for an average of 10 males/lek compared to 12 males/lek in 2007 with 927 males counted on 78 leks.

In White Pine County 23 trend leks were monitored and 270 males were observed in 2008 for 12 males/lek compared to 381 males and 17 males/lek in 2007. This represented a 29% decrease in lek attendance.

Overall in the Eastern Region, 3,247 males were counted on 234 leks (note: some additional leks were counted in White Pine County but all of the lek data were not summarized as of 8-27-08). Last year 597 leks were monitored with 6,067 male sage-grouse documented using those leks for a minimum of 10 males/lek. Lek data indicate sage-grouse populations are still widely distributed throughout the Region in spite of recent wildfire and development challenges in Elko County and White Pine County. Vast areas of burned habitat may have fragmented some sage grouse populations. Most of them still have adjacent

grouse populations that will be able to colonize back into these burns if they recover over the next 15 to 25 years. Additional uncontrolled wildfires in the future could exacerbate the habitat fragmentation problem and threaten the future of sage grouse in significant portions of Elko County. 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 fair for brooding sage-grouse in most of the Eastern Region due to the lack of precipitation. Insect numbers were fair in June with only some parts of the Region experiencing Mormon cricket infestations. Preliminary brood data and sightings suggest sage-grouse were doing better in 2008. A total Regional sample of 234 sage-grouse was classified with an average brood size of 3.8, a young/100 hen ratio of 2.38 and a young/100 adult ratio of 1.51 this summer compared to 149 classified with an average brood size of 3.4 and a young/100 hen ratio of 1.42 and a young/100 adult ratio of 0.73 in 2007. For the first time since 2004, the largest sample size in 2008 was collected in Elko County followed by White Pine County. Large areas north of Interstate 80 in Elko County were negatively impacted where significant wildfires burned hundreds of thousands of acres of sage-grouse habitat in 2007. Combined with acreages from previous wildfires since 1999, more than one million acres of sage grouse habitat has been impacted. Initially, burned areas come back as mostly a grass-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. If these wildfires continue to burn significant acreages of sage-grouse habitat, Elko County will soon be facing significant challenges in terms of supporting the healthy populations it has been known for in the past. As of this writing, a wildfire is burning up the last island of intact habitat located on the Snake River Plain portion of northern Elko County located in Game Management Unit 072 in the Island PMU.

Fall Prediction

Bird availability in the Eastern Region is predicted to be fair where habitat is intact and in some of the recovering burns, but poor in areas of Elko County where large wildfires have 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 poor to fair in most of the Region for 2008.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Currently, northern Nye County is the only county within 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.

Like the Eastern Region, the Southern Region saw a change in sage-grouse season structure for the 2007 season. The 2007 season length was extended from the previous standard of a 9-day season to 15 days, and the season opened nearly two weeks earlier, running from September 25th to October 9th. Daily bag and possession limits remained unchanged at 2 daily and 4 in possession. Harvest data collected for the 2007 sage-grouse season indicate 193 hunters harvested 392 sage-grouse in Nye County. In comparison, harvest data for the 2006 season showed a harvest of 192 sage-grouse by 146 hunters. According to post-season questionnaire data, interest in sage-grouse hunting in Nye County has remained comparatively low for the past 10 years. However, 2007 saw an increase in not only hunter interest, but also in total harvest. One must go back to the 1997 season in order to find similar hunter numbers and total harvest of sage-grouse in Nye County. Not only was there an increase in the number

of hunters in the field during 2007, but birds per hunter and birds per hunter day data indicate that hunters were also more successful locating and harvesting sage-grouse than has been the case in several years. The recent change back to a longer, and more importantly, an earlier sage-grouse season, likely contributed to these results as sage-grouse are generally more closely associated with water in September and early October, particularly during the 2007 season when drought conditions persisted across much of the region.

Questionnaire data also show reported sage-grouse harvest in both Esmeralda and Lincoln counties. Although harvest numbers reported were very low, both counties are closed to sage-grouse hunting. These types of reports should be followed up in order to determine if indeed people are pursuing sage-grouse in these closed areas or if the information provided was simply a mistake or intentionally misleading.

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 1. SOUTHERN REGION (NYE COUNTY) SAGE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data**

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	192	392	169	104%	131%
No. of Hunters	146	193	136	32%	42%
No. of Days	323	428	260	33%	65%
Birds / Hunter	1.3	2.0	1.2	54%	67%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.6	0.9	0.6	50%	50%

Population Status

During late March and continuing through early May 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. Fourteen leks have been identified as trend leks in central Nevada. An attempt is made to conduct a count at each of the fourteen trend leks once per week for five weeks in order to determine peak attendance of male and female sage-grouse.

Not surprisingly, considering the severe drought conditions experienced during 2007 in central Nevada, lek counts were down noticeably in Nye County. In 2008, 11 of the 14 trend leks showed decreases in cock attendance while three showed increases. Overall, 2008 trend lek data indicate that cock attendance was down 24% from 2007, but was nearly identical to the previous 7-year average.

In order to determine male/female harvest ratios, nesting success, and young of the year recruitment rates, NDOW collects wings from hunter harvested sage-grouse each fall in areas with open seasons. Wing data gathered in Nye County during the 2007 season indicate a ratio of 0.67 juveniles per adult hen during the fall time period. Available research suggests that fall ratios above 2.0 juveniles per adult hen are required for stable to increasing sage-grouse populations. Although Central Nevada experienced recruitment rates above 2.0 chicks per hen during 2003, 2005, and 2006, resulting in moderate increases in sage-grouse numbers, the very poor production experienced in 2007 likely negated the recent growth of populations in Nye County. The reliability of wing data is partially dependent upon sample size, and samples are relatively small for Nye County most years. Wing data for central Nevada are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. SOUTHERN REGION SAGE-GROUSE WING DATA

Year	Total Sample	Adults		Juveniles		Young/ Ad Hen
		Males	Females	Males	Females	
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
2006	155	28	40	31	56	2.2
2007	127	30	58	17	22	0.67
Average	85	14	27	20	25	1.87

Owing to a comparatively mild winter, over winter survival of sage grouse should have been good during the 2007-08 winter. Lower elevation sagebrush benches remained open and available to wildlife throughout much of the winter period in central Nevada.

Despite the recent set back due to drought, central Nevada continues to support very healthy populations of sage-grouse.

Productivity Potential

The Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the winter of 2007-2008 was a good one in much of central Nevada. Total accumulated precipitation was reported to be 115% of average at the end of February, 2007. The previous 12 month period, from October 2006-November 2007 saw severe drought conditions throughout central Nevada, and the moisture received during this past winter was critical to wildlife and wildlife habitats in central Nevada. A return to drier conditions occurred during this past March and April, but fortunately May saw an increase in precipitation. While a cold wet period in late May and might have impacted upland game production in some areas, overall the precipitation will likely have a positive impact on stressed range conditions. In order for wildlife habitats to recover significantly from last year's drought, climatic conditions will need to remain favorable for some time to come.

Preliminary brood survey data collected up to the writing of this report indicate an improvement in production in 2008 compared to that observed in 2007. Currently, data indicate a ratio of 3.5 chicks per hen, an obvious increase over the 1.3 chicks per hen observed in 2007. This data is still preliminary and results may change as the survey season progresses. Although brood survey data provides important information to wildlife managers, due to the many factors that can affect chick survival through the summer and early fall, the data is of minimal value in predicting actual recruitment rates. Wings collected in the fall from hunter harvested sage grouse is 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, although snow accumulations were much greater than during the previous winter, periodic warm periods allowed many lower elevation winter habitats to remain open and available to wildlife. The good winter moisture receipts resulted in a noticeably better spring green up than that experienced in 2007 despite the fact that March and April were very dry. Although there should be more young birds available to sportsmen this season than was the case in 2007, sage-grouse numbers overall

will be somewhat lower due to the very poor production and recruitment experienced last year. The 2008 sage-grouse season is expected to be fair to good in central Nevada. 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. Like last year, the earlier opening date of sage-grouse season in late September will likely concentrate birds closer to water and should make them somewhat easier to locate.

FOREST GROUSE

Statewide Summary: The 2007-08 forest grouse (blue & ruffed grouse) hunting season was 91 days long, beginning on September 1 and ending on November 30. Limits were 3 daily and 4 in possession. Last season, an estimated 1643 hunters spent a total of 3,619 days afield pursuing blue grouse harvesting 1,699 birds. A total of 292 ruffed grouse were estimated to be harvested in the State during the 2007-08 hunting season.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007 Forest Grouse (Blue Grouse & Ruffed Grouse) hunting season was 91 days long, beginning on September 1 and ending on November 30. During this period 540 blue grouse were harvested by a total of 712 hunters (Table 1). Blue grouse make up the majority of the forest grouse harvest with only 15 ruffed grouse harvested in the region. The Santa Rosa Range in Humboldt County contains the only known ruffed grouse populations in the region. Limits for forest grouse were three daily and six in possession.

Table 1. Western Region forest grouse harvest

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change:	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	425	540	296	28%	82.3%
No. of Hunters	616	712	286	17.3%	148.8%
No. of Days	1490	1484	661	0.5%	124.6%
Birds / Hunter	.69	0.76	1.1	9.1%	-30.6%
Birds/Hunter Day	.29	0.36	0.5	27.4%	-24.5%

Population Status and Productivity Potential

Forest grouse populations are believed to be stable at moderate levels in most areas. Production and recruitment in 2007 was likely very low (not unlike other upland game species) following 16 months of drought conditions. Forage and escape cover for brood survival in the higher elevations is adequate, even while riparian areas in the lower elevations deteriorate, mostly due to a lack of understory.

There are no formal surveys conducted for forest grouse in the region with the exception of ruffed grouse. Annual drumming surveys continue to be conducted in the Santa Rosa Range. In the spring of 2007, just four individuals were recorded; however, anecdotal information from NDOW's stream survey crew, U.S. Forest Service personnel and others indicate that the ruffed grouse population in the Santa Rosas may be expanding slightly.

NDOWs attempt to recover wing samples from harvested forest grouse has been met with very limited success. However, this activity should continue as it has the potential of providing useful information to the area biologists.

Fall Prediction

Following the drought conditions that persisted throughout 2007, the winter of 2008 was slightly more favorable, with close to average winter precipitation levels occurring in the western part of the state. A week of rainy conditions in late May and cooler temperatures throughout the summer months improved conditions for most species as well. It is predicted that these climatic occurrences will benefit forest

grouse species and increase the recruitment potential for 2008. Populations of forest grouse should remain at moderate levels.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007 blue and ruffed grouse season ran 91 days from September 1 to November 30. Last year's season length was 90 days. Bag limits for forest grouse have been 2 daily and 4 in possession since 1985 and were increased to 3 daily and 6 in possession for the 2007 season. Between 1981 and 1984, bag limits were also 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 (25 estimated in 2006). For the 2007 season the hunter questionnaire was changed to attempt to get a better sample of ruffed grouse hunters and they reported a harvest of 223 birds by 254 hunters. 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 blue grouse harvest in the Eastern Region:

Table 1. EASTERN REGION BLUE GROUSE HARVEST BY COUNTY
Post-season Questionnaire Data

COUNTY	COUNTY TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006*	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
Elko	1,029	525	372	-49%	+41%
Eureka	211	16	50	-92%	-68%
Lander	79	39	46	-51%	-15%
White Pine	1,081	478	662	-56%	-28%
Eastern Region	2,400	1,058	1,130	-56%	-6%

*includes ruffed grouse

Table 2. EASTERN REGION BLUE GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	2,400	1,058	1,130	-56%	-6%
No. of Hunters	1,319	861	651	-35%	+32%
No. of Days	1,265	1,940	1,445	+53%	+26%
Birds / Hunter	1.8	1.2	1.7	-33%	-29%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.8	0.5	0.8	-38%	-38%

Ruffed grouse harvest was separated out from forest grouse harvest for the first time in the Eastern Region. Blue grouse harvest decreased 56% from 2006. Following four consecutive years of White Pine County carrying the highest forest grouse harvest in the Region, Elko County had the highest estimated harvest in the Eastern Region at 50% of the regions harvest. White Pine County was second with 45%. The Eureka County blue grouse harvest decreased from 2006 and was well below average. Lander County's blue grouse harvest also decreased from 2006 and was only a little below average. Harvest data suggest blue grouse populations experienced below average production in the Eastern Region in 2007.

Population Status

A total of 21 blue grouse were classified in the Eastern Region in 2007 including 8 hens and 13 young for an average brood size of 2.2 chicks/hen and a young/hen ratio of 1.62. Ten blue grouse classified in Lander County in 2007 including 4 hens and 6 young for an average brood size of 2 chicks/brood and a young/hen ratio of 1.5. There were 7 blue grouse classified in Elko County in 2007 including 3 hens and 4 young for an average brood size of 2 chicks/brood and a young/hen ratio of 1.3. One hen with 3 chicks was reported from White Pine County in 2007. Only one hen with 6 chicks was reported from the entire Eastern Region from Elko County in 2006 and they were classified in Elko County.

Productivity Potential

The major impact to brooding forest grouse is believed to be the condition of riparian habitat. 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 average and spring moisture for the 2007-08 period was only fair. Nesting and escape cover for early brooding in the Eastern Region was only fair early in the nesting/brooding period but improved later on during the 2008 summer. Brooding habitat was believed to be a little better in 2008 than in 2007 in the Eastern Region.

Fall Prediction

Forest grouse availability in 2008 is predicted to be fair in the Eastern Region. Population levels are predicted to be fair 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 2008 should be fair and may be better than last year.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007 Southern Region forest grouse season remained unchanged at 91 days in length, running from September 1 – November 30. This season structure was identical to that of both the Western and Eastern Regions. Statewide bag and possession limits were increased to 3 daily and 6 in possession, a modest increase over the daily and possession limit of 2 and 4 that had been the standard for many years. For the upcoming 2008 season, an increase in season length has been initiated. The season is set to extend from September 1 – December 31, 2008, for a total of 122 days. Although the forest grouse season is open statewide, within the Southern Region, only Esmeralda, Lincoln, and Nye counties support blue grouse. Blue grouse are the only species of forest grouse that generally occur in the Southern Region at this time, and provide for 100% of the harvest.

Harvest data collected for the 2007 forest grouse season indicate 70 hunters harvested 101 blue grouse in the Southern Region. Although hunter interest was up only slightly compared to the 2006 season, total harvest was well above any recorded since 1995 and nearly four times the 10-year average. In comparison, data for the 2006 season show a harvest of zero blue grouse by 53 hunters.

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. This bias may have inflated the 2007 data, but it is apparent that sportsmen were much more successful in locating and harvesting blue grouse this past season. 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 3. SOUTHERN REGION FOREST GROUSE HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data**

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	0	101	28	N/A	267%
No. of Hunters	53	70	39	32%	79%
No. of Days	79	195	101	146%	93%
Birds / Hunter	0.00	1.4	0.9	N/A	56%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.00	0.52	0.42	N/A	24%

Population Status and Productivity Potential

The Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the winter of 2007-2008 was a good one in much of central Nevada. Total accumulated precipitation was reported to be 115% of average at the end of February, 2007. The previous 12 month period, from October 2006-November 2007 saw severe drought conditions throughout central Nevada, and the moisture received during this past winter was critical to wildlife and wildlife habitats in central Nevada. A return to drier conditions occurred during this past March and April, but fortunately May saw an increase in precipitation. While the cold, wet period in late May might have impacted upland game production in some areas, overall the precipitation will likely have a positive impact on stressed range conditions. In order for wildlife habitats to recover significantly from last year's drought, climatic conditions will need to remain favorable for some time to come.

Over-winter survival of adult blue grouse is expected to have been average during the winter of 2007-2008. Although snow accumulations were greater than during the previous winter, blue grouse have adapted to deal with these conditions very successfully. Blue grouse populations 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 when they move down to breeding areas.

Fall Prediction

With 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 for blue grouse are birds per hunter and birds per hunter day. These data suggest that bird availability was good during the 2007 season, which may have been due to drought conditions concentrating birds near water more than usual. This past winter saw an increase in moisture receipts, and if the trend continues through the summer and fall, it may allow birds to disperse more widely during the upcoming season making them somewhat more difficult to locate, particularly as the season progresses. The blue grouse season in the Southern Region is expected to be fair for 2008. Hunters familiar with the habits of blue grouse should be able to locate birds in their typical haunts, and there should be an increase in the number of young birds this 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 were generally the Saturday nearest September 1. Snowcock seasons were 44 days long in 1995, 46 days long in 1996, and 48 days long in 1997. Beginning in 2001 the snowcock season was extended until November 15th. Since 2003, seasons were extended until November 30th. The 2007 season ran from September 1 through November 30. Lengthening the season allowed increased hunter opportunity but didn't result in greater harvest. There were daily and possession limits of one bird beginning with the first season held in 1980 until 2000. Beginning in 2001, the daily and possession limits were 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 snowcock in 1996. The free hunt permit system, in place since 1997, is intended to track hunter participation and harvest. Several methods were 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 ranged between 33% for voluntary return to 47% for questionnaires with pre-addressed returns. In 2005, only 7 "mandatory" questionnaires were received and prompted yet another change in the issuance of permits. Due to the extremely low compliance rate of hunters who could easily and without expense download "free-use permits" from the internet, the Elko office staff began to collect contact information from hunters who obtained permits in person. Post-hunt follow-up calls improved reporting compliance greatly. For the 2007 snowcock hunting season, 96 questionnaires were received from 107 known permits issued (90%). Of those 96 received, 27 indicated that they did not hunt. The 69 hunters who reported spending time in the field, reported harvesting 3 birds (one hunter harvested 2), wounding 0 birds, losing 0 birds, and seeing 399 snowcocks during 139 days of hunting. Reported snowcock harvest has ranged between 2 and 23 birds annually and has averaged eight birds/year since 1980. Minor changes in the permitting and reporting requirements will make further improvements for the 2008 season.

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 were previously conducted in conjunction with helicopter mountain goat/bighorn sheep surveys. Aerial surveys conducted since 1994 indicated good distribution of birds throughout the East Humboldt/Ruby Mountain complex in suitable habitats. Actual numbers counted have varied from the record sample of 217 birds observed in 1994 to only 79 in 1995, 83 in 1996, 73 in 1997, 95 in 1998, 73 in 2000, 68 in 2001, 80 in 2002 and 148 in 2003, and 119 in 2004. Beginning in 2005, bighorn sheep surveys and Rocky Mountain goat surveys were rescheduled to late winter to better assess lamb and kid recruitment. Unfortunately, because snowcock data were collected incidental to helicopter sheep and goat surveys, summer aerial surveys are no longer being conducted. In order to better assess snowcock population and distribution, it would be necessary to formalize the procedure and allocate sufficient helicopter time.

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 2008 breeding and nesting periods, above average snow pack was present and good spring moisture was received, potentially helping nest success and brood survival. The snowcock population appears to be at low to moderate levels at the current time based on limited observations from hunters and helicopter surveys. More intensive survey work would be needed to adequately assess snowcock population condition and trend.

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 to good during the 2008 hunting season and harvest is expected to remain at a low level.

CHUKAR & HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE

Statewide Summary: The 2007-08 chukar and Hungarian partridge hunting season began on October 13th and concluded on February 3rd, 2008. The daily and possession limits were 6 and 18 respectively. An estimated statewide total of 61,153 chukars were harvested by 14,448 hunters who spent 63,121 days afield. The total chukar harvest is down substantially (-41%) from the previous year's harvest of 104,408 birds taken by 11,430 hunters. This was primarily due to spring conditions in 2006 and 2007 that were not conducive to chukar reproduction and recruitment. The majority of harvest in 2007 was comprised of wily adult birds.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

The inaugural Junior Upland Game hunting season began in the fall of 2007. The two-day season was held on the 28th and 29th of September. The hunting season was open to hunters 15 years of age or younger. Daily and possession limits for the young chukar and Hungarian partridge hunters were 6 birds per day and 12 in possession. Quail and rabbits could also be harvested during the two-day season.

The traditional chukar and Hungarian partridge hunting season opened on October 13th and ran thru February 3, 2008. The daily bag limit was 6 birds and 18 birds were allowed in possession. A more liberal possession limit of 18 birds was initiated in 2006-07 to allow hunters the opportunity to spend more time in the field pursuing chukar and Hungarian partridge. Limits were singly or in aggregate for the two species. Hunter questionnaire data provided the following expanded chukar harvest information for the 2007-08 hunting season:

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	75,787	41,749	55,575	-43.9%	-24.9%
No. of Hunters	7,739	9,587	6,740	+27.4%	+42.2%
No. of Days	42,263	41,855	28,300	+1.5%	+47.9%
Birds / Hunter	9.8	4.35	8.0	-56.0%	-45.8%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.8	1.0	1.9	-44.8%	-48.2%

Chukar harvest in the Western Region dropped significantly in 2007-08 when compared with both the previous year and the long-term average. A 44% decrease in the number of birds harvested this past year was expected due to two consecutive years of poor recruitment in 2005 and 2006. However, the total number of hunters who participated in chukar hunting actually increased by over 27% when compared with the 2006 hunting season. Chukar hunters certainly had a more difficult time locating and harvesting birds this past year as is shown by the reduced number of birds per hunter and birds per hunter day categories. The two categories showed a decrease of between 45 and 56 percent when compared with the 2006 hunting season and long-term averages. Many hunters reported switching to hunting other game birds such as ducks or geese that were more readily available during the 2007-08 hunting season.

The highest chukar harvest occurred in Humboldt and Washoe Counties. Hunters who pursued the species in Humboldt and Pershing Counties had the most success as is shown by the 6.8 birds per hunter and 1.3 birds per hunter day for Humboldt County and the 4.3 birds per hunter and 1.1 birds per day averages for Pershing County. All other counties had less than a 4 bird per hunter average.

Remaining counties in the western region had an average of less than one bird harvested per day. In 2006-07, five of the counties exceeded 8.0 birds per hunter and also averaged more than 2.0 birds per hunter day.

An estimated 41,179 birds were harvested within the Western Region in 2007-08 which represented approximately 68% of the total statewide chukar harvest. Sixty-six percent of all chukar hunters in the state hunted within the Western Region this past year. In 2006-07, chukar hunters harvested 73% of the statewide chukar harvest from the northwestern portion of the state. This past year, 91% of the birds harvested in the western Region were harvested from Humboldt, Washoe and Pershing Counties.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
Number of Birds	2,961	1,022	1493	-65.5%	-31.5%
Number of Hunters	1,003	554	501	-44.8%	10.5%
Number of Days	3,918	2,768	1583	-29.4%	74.9%
Birds/Hunter	2.95	1.84	2.9	-37.5%	-36.6%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.76	0.37	1.0	-51.1%	-63.2%

Forty-nine percent of the total statewide Hungarian partridge harvest occurred within Humboldt County. Elko County was second highest in overall harvest with 26%. Other incidental harvest within the Western Region occurs in Washoe and Pershing Counties. A few scattered reports or observations of “Huns” in other counties have been received over the years, but little if any harvest occurs outside the three counties mentioned above. A nearly 66% drop in the total number of Hungarian partridge harvested within the region this past year suggests that hunters had a much more difficult time finding and harvesting the birds. The lower harvest can also be attributed to a sharp reduction in the number of hunters who pursued Hungarian Partridge this past year. Since, hunters usually harvest “Huns” while out pursuing chukar, hunter success trends for the two species can be very similar.

Population Status

Increased moisture received during the winter of 2007-08 improved habitat conditions in northwestern Nevada. Significant moisture was received in many areas of the Western Region from summer thundershowers. However, some areas did not receive as much moisture and remain very dry. Water availability is generally much improved when compared with the previous two years. Some of the areas that are typically much drier may continue to have limited water sources available in late summer and into the fall. Additional moisture during late summer would help provide chukar with a green-up and boost water flows to important water sources. Despite, the improved habitat conditions in most areas of Western Nevada, competition at water sources between wildlife, livestock and horses will continue to be an issue. This is especially true in the drier environments where water sources are limited and habitat conditions remain fair to poor.

Adult base population levels were at moderate to moderately low levels in 2006-07. Recruitment of young birds was poor in both 2005-06 and 2006-07 and resulted in a reduction in adult base population levels. Improved recruitment this summer will help to reverse this trend and is expected to result in a fair increase in overall chukar numbers for the upcoming hunting season. Hunters can expect to see an increase in the number of young birds available for harvest. This should be especially noticeable in the early portion of the hunting season when birds are concentrated on or near water sources. Additional moisture is needed through late summer and into the fall to ensure good survival of young birds and to maintain water flows to springs and seeps.

Productivity Potential

Habitat conditions have improved within the Western Region when compared with the previous two years. However, precipitation totals to date for the 2008-09 water year remain average to below-average for most areas in northwestern Nevada. A few heavy rain showers provided significant moisture in June and the first part of July that have helped to improve habitat conditions this summer. However, some areas did not receive as much moisture and remain fairly dry. Chukar populations in these areas will more than likely have lower production and recruitment values.

Preliminary chukar composition survey data collected by NDOW biologists this past summer have averaged between 6 and 9 chicks per adult. This level of recruitment is considered average to above-average recruitment for this time of year. However, there were a few areas where biologists reported observing large groups of mostly adult birds. This would imply that there are some areas in the region where nest success and recruitment of young birds was not quite as strong. This is indicative of areas where consecutive years of drought have impacted habitat conditions and precipitation receipts over the past year have not been sufficient to improve conditions on the ground. Some of these areas have also been impacted by recent wildfires and do not have good quality cover and nesting habitat. Overall, recruitment of young chukar in the Western Region was much improved when compared with the previous two years. However, due to the current moderate to moderately low adult base population levels, it will take several more years of good production and recruitment for chukar populations to once again reach the levels observed in 2004-05.

Fall Prediction

Improved recruitment that has been observed this year will help to increase overall bird numbers and should result in more young birds being harvested. Early season hunters should enjoy improved hunting due to the increase in the number of young birds available for harvest. However, hunting is expected to become much more difficult when temperatures decrease and precipitation scatters chukar and Hungarian partridge away from early season water sources.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007 chukar and Hungarian partridge season was 114 days in length running from October 13, 2007 through February 3, 2008. Limits were 6 daily and 18 in possession, singly or in aggregate.

The 2007 Eastern-Region harvest of 17,709 chukars was down for the second year and down 30% from the 2006 harvest. It was 19% below the previous ten-year-average. Harvest was down in spite of increased hunting pressure indicating bird availability was at a three year low. The number of birds per hunter and birds/hunter day decreased in 2007.

**Table 1. EASTERN REGION CHUKAR HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data**

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	25,463	17,709	21,876	-30%	-19%
No. of Hunters	2,869	3,270	2,960	+14%	+10%
No. of Days	13,479	14,380	12,067	+7%	+19%
Birds / Hunter	8.9	5.4	7.2	-39%	-25%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.9	1.2	1.8	-37%	-33%

Hungarian partridge harvest decreased again in the Eastern Region. Regional Hun harvest was reported to be 752 birds in 2007 and was 56% below the long-term average. 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.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	1,373	752	1,701	-45%	-56%
No. of Hunters	864	561	564	-35%	-1%
No. of Days	2,684	2,669	1,849	-1%	+44%
Birds / Hunter	1.6	1.3	3.0	-57%	-58%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.5	0.3	1.0	-70%	-72%

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 suggested partridge populations were high in the Region until last year.

The total Eastern Region chukar sample for 2007 was 732 including 32 broods with 241 chicks for 7.5 chicks/brood. A total of 476 adults were observed and only 256 young for a young/100 adult ratio of 54. In Lander County, a total of 710 chukar were classified including 30 broods with 223 chicks for 7.4 chicks/brood and 472 adults and 238 young for a young/100 adult ratio of only 50. Twenty-two chukar were classified in Elko County in 2007 including two broods with 18 chicks for 9 chicks/brood. The young/100 adult ratio was 450. In comparison, there was a total 2006 sample of 728 chukars classified as 383 adults and 345 young with 108 young found in 16 complete broods for 6.8 young/brood in the Eastern Region. The young/100 adult ratio has decreased from 109 in 2005 to 90 in 2006 and 54 in 2007. Chukar harvest decreased because of this poor production in spite of increased hunting pressure. No brood data was reported for Eureka County or White Pine County in 2007. Hungarian partridge base populations have been at low levels throughout the Eastern Region and 2007 harvest decreased from the previous year and was below the past 10-year average (-56%).

Productivity Potential

Above average harvest from 2001 through 2006 indicated chukar populations had recovered throughout most of the Region. The 2007 production year was the poorest on record and this was reflected in bird availability for the 2007 season. It is believed there was good carry-over of adult birds in most of the Eastern Region. Spring green-up was fair and birds entered the nesting season in only fair condition. Early spring precipitation was poor but improved later in the spring and provided fair nesting and brooding habitat for the 2008 summer. Since June the summer has been hot and dry. Chukar and Hun production was expected to be fair but better than last year based on habitat conditions and observations of chukar broods in Lander County. A total of 292 chukars were classified in Lander County in 2008 including 98 chicks in 12 broods for 8.2 chicks/brood and a young/100 adult ratio of 111.

For the first time since 2001 four helicopter chukar density surveys were conducted in the Eastern Region. A total of 720 chukars were observed on these four surveys covering 48.96 square miles for 14.71 chukars/square mile. In comparison to data collected between 1986 and 2001, the 2008 survey resulted in the lowest number of birds surveyed on one survey, the second lowest on another, the third lowest on another and the highest on the fourth. All four survey areas have been completely or partially burned, so no completely "intact" areas were surveyed for comparison in the Eastern Region.

Fall Prediction

Chukar hunters are expected to experience only fair chukar hunting in the Eastern Region in 2008. Hungarian partridge hunting is expected to be fair and mostly incidental to chukar hunting.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007-08 chukar and Hungarian partridge season was 114 days in length, beginning on the 13th of October 2007, and ending on the 3rd of February 2008. Bag limits remained unchanged from the previous season and were 6 daily and 18 in possession.

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 these reports are likely due to misidentification of young of the year chukar. 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 10% questionnaire data for the 1980-07 period. Although the actual numbers can vary greatly year to year, the trend lines in Figure 1 above make it apparent that overall hunter participation and the total number of birds harvested has been increasing over the past 20 years in the Southern Region. The rapid population growth in Clark County is almost certainly the reason behind the increase. Post season questionnaire data for the 2007-08 season indicates a harvest of 1,695 chukar by 1,590 hunters. A total of 6,885 days of effort was expended by sportsmen this past season. Although many more hunters took to the field in 2007-08, and spent noticeably more days afield, the total harvest was less than half the number of chukar that were taken during the 2006-07 season. In comparison, 1,034 hunters harvested a total of 4,472 chukar in 2006-07. Young of the year chukar were nearly nonexistent in the Southern Region during the 2007-08 season due to drought conditions, which made for very difficult hunting in most areas.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	4,472	1,695	3498	-62%	-52%
No. of Hunters	1,034	1,590	1037	54%	53%
No. of Days	3,459	6,885	3707	99%	86%
Birds / Hunter	4.32	1.1	3.32	-75%	-67%
Birds/Hunter Day	1.29	0.25	0.93	-81%	-73%

Population Status

Favorable moisture patterns during the 2004-2006 period resulted in an increase in chukar populations throughout central Nevada for a short time. Unfortunately, very dry conditions returned to central Nevada during the latter part of 2006 and through the summer of 2007. While adult carryover was good due to a mild and dry winter in 2006-07, production during the spring of 2007 was severely hampered by poor range conditions, resulting in a marked decrease in chukar populations in Nye and Esmeralda counties. A return to more favorable moisture patterns during the winter of 2007-08 resulted in a noticeably better spring green up in 2008 than was the case the previous year. Despite a cold and wet period during late May, preliminary chukar brood surveys show much improved production for 2008 which should result in an increase in the chukar population, at least over the short-term.

Chukar populations inhabiting Lincoln County had been doing well for the past few years. Although recent wildfires have increased chukar habitat overall in Lincoln County, production was hampered this spring due to very dry conditions and chukar populations will have to wait for more favorable circumstances to expand into new areas.

Productivity Potential

The Basin-Wide Precipitation Data Summary provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicates that the winter of 2007-2008 was a good one in much of central Nevada. Total accumulated precipitation was reported to be 115% of average at the end of February, 2007. The previous 12 month period, from October 2006-November 2007 saw severe drought conditions throughout central Nevada, and the moisture received during this past winter was critical to wildlife and wildlife habitats in central Nevada. A return to drier conditions occurred during this past March and April, but fortunately May saw an increase in precipitation. While the cold, wet period in late May might have impacted chukar production in some areas, overall the precipitation will likely have a positive impact on stressed range conditions. In order for chukar habitats to recover significantly from last year's drought, climatic conditions will need to remain favorable for some time to come.

Preliminary chukar brood survey data collected in central Nevada indicate an average brood size of 7.8, and a ratio of 530 young/100 adults. In comparison, 2005 brood data indicated an average brood size of 12.8 and a ratio of 850 young/100 adults. So, while production in 2008 was considerably better than that of 2007, climatic conditions will need to remain favorable for some time in order for range conditions to recover fully from the latest drought and allow for significant growth of chukar populations.

Conditions were fair for chukar production in Lincoln County. 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.

Fall Prediction

The number of young of the year chukar available in central Nevada is expected to be much higher during the upcoming season than was the case for the 2007-08 season. While numbers may not be as high as those in 2006, this season should be much improved over that of 2007-08. Chukar hunting in central Nevada is expected to be fair during the 2008-09 season.

In Lincoln County, the outlook is also fair. Production was somewhat better in 2008 than that experienced in 2007, but numbers of chukar still remain below average.

QUAIL

Statewide Summary: The 2007-08 statewide quail hunting season was concurrent with the statewide chukar and Hungarian partridge season. Limits were 10 daily and 20 in possession singly or in the aggregate of Gambel's, California and scaled quail. Specific limits for mountain quail were established at 2 daily and 4 in possession. In northern Nevada, an estimated statewide total of 4,115 hunters pursued California quail in the 2007-08 season harvesting 29,402 birds. This estimate was up approximately 24% from the 10-year average. Gambel's quail hunters spent an estimated 17,526 days afield harvesting 14,783 birds in southern Nevada. This harvest was down almost 14% from the long-term average. Questionnaire data indicated an estimated harvest of 1,016 mountain quail across the Silver State in 2007.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

California and mountain quail seasons in the Western Region opened on October 13th and closed on February 3, 2008. 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	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	19,245	28,975	23,247	50.6%	24.6%
No. of Hunters	1,832	3,873	2,905	111.4%	33.3%
No. of Days	8,620	15,463	10,980	79.4%	40.8%
Birds / Hunter	10.5	7.5	8.1	-28.8%	-8.0%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.2	1.9	2.1	-16.1%	-12.2%

Harvest information was collected this year from a sample of hunters who purchased upland game stamps rather than the standard 10% hunter harvest questionnaire which sampled a broader range of hunters who may not have participated in upland game hunting. This new approach of collecting harvest data will result in sampling more people that actually hunted upland game during the season. Information gathered from hunters using this new method indicates that harvest during the 2007-08 quail season increased from what was reported in 2006-07 by approximately 50 percent. Quail harvest this past year was approximately 25 percent above the long-term trend.

Population Status

Both Mountain and California quail are pursued by upland hunters in the western region. Mountain quail make up a very small portion of the total quail harvest within the Western Region. This past year hunters reported harvesting approximately 845 mountain quail which represented only three percent of the total quail harvest in the western region. However, the western region produces the bulk of the statewide mountain quail harvest opportunity with over 80 percent of the harvest occurring in the north-western portion of the state. Top mountain quail producing areas include portions of Lyon and Douglas Counties however, with recent trapping and transplanting efforts portions of Churchill County are beginning to produce hunttable populations of birds.

California quail are found throughout the region and are typically associated with upland riparian areas or urban interfaces. Populations of California quail, like most other upland species, are greatly influenced by precipitation levels and the timing of weather events over the course of the year. For example, heavy winter snowfall can contribute to above average losses of adults while a lack of timely spring moisture can dramatically reduce production and recruitment rates.

Productivity Potential

This past winter produced average to slightly above average snowfall. Conditions during the early spring months were generally dry however, a series of rain storms in late May produced a second flush of vegetation particularly at the lower elevations. It appears that these late spring rains were helpful in stimulating production. Brood survey information and general observations of quail production near the urban interfaces indicate average to above average production. Quail production in upland areas also appears to be near average with most quail groups having young associated with them.

Fall Prediction

Quail populations within the Western Region are thought to be at moderate levels based on harvest numbers and production and recruitment rates observed this summer. Hunters should find relatively decent numbers of California quail to pursue in the agricultural areas and in areas surrounding the urban interface. California quail numbers in upland areas in most cases should be at or above levels observed last year. Mountain quail will still be available to the hunter in the mountains 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 2007-08 quail season was 114 days in length running from October 13, 2006 through February 3, 2008. It was concurrent with the chukar and Hungarian partridge season. Bag limits of 10 daily and 20 in possession were the same as last year 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.

**Table 1. EASTERN REGION QUAIL HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data**

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	Vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	787	256	370	-67%	-31%
No. of Hunters	49	113	107	+130%	+5%
No. of Days	221	277	325	+25%	-15%
Birds / Hunter	16.0	2.3	4.0	-86%	-43%
Birds/Hunter Day	3.6	0.9	1.3	-75%	-31%

Quail harvest in 2007 decreased significantly 67% over the previous year in the Eastern Region and was 31% below the long-term average. The Eastern Region California quail harvest accounted for less than 1% of the total statewide harvest. Four mountain quail were reported harvested in the Eastern Region from Elko County compared to 6 last year.

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.

Productivity Potential

Precipitation since the 2007-08 winter has been average or below throughout most of the Eastern Region and range conditions were only fair for nesting and brooding habitat in 2008. The productivity potential for quail was estimated to be only fair 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 2008 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 lower than last year in the Eastern Region.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007-2008 quail season began October 13th, 2007 and extended through February 3rd, 2008 (114 days). Limits were ten daily and 20 in possession. Based on hunter questionnaire data for the Southern Region, 3,928 hunters harvested 14,783 quail during the 2007-2008 season. This total represents a 17.2% decrease from the 2006-2007 quail season.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	98-07	PRE. YR.	10 YR.
No. of Birds	17,861	14,783	17,285	-17.2%	-14.5%
No. of Hunters	1,981	3,928	2,274	98.3%	72.7%
No. of Days	7,280	17,526	9,242	140.7%	89.6%
Birds / Hunter	9.02	3.80	8.19	-57.9%	-53.6%
Birds/Hunter Day	2.45	0.80	1.97	-67.3%	-59.5%

Quail harvest, birds per hunter, and birds per hunter day were all down compared to the 2006-07 season. Number of hunters and number of hunter days were both up compared to the 2006-07 season. Number of birds harvested, birds per hunter, and birds per hunter day were below the ten-year average, while numbers of hunters and hunter days were above 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

	2006-2007	2007-08	% Difference
Clark	11,545	11,218	-2.8%
Esmeralda	178	0	-100%
Lincoln	4,157	3,057	-26%
Nye	1,981	508	-74%
Total	17,861	14,783	-17%

Clark County supported the highest percentage of the harvest for the region - 76%. Lincoln County was next with approximately 21% of the Gambel's Quail harvested, followed by Nye at 3.5%. There was no reported harvest of Gambel's Quail from Esmeralda County last year.

Population Status

Drought conditions prevailed throughout much of the year in the Southern Region. Summer precipitation has been scattered with heavy rain falling in some areas while others remain dry. Quail populations are low throughout most of the Southern Region. Quail harvest showed a decrease in the 2007-08 season, likely due to low recruitment due to poor habitat conditions.

Productivity Potential

Brood counts were conducted as part of other jobs in the Southern Region this year. Low quail numbers did not provide enough data for analysis. Very limited brood surveys for mountain quail were conducted in Esmeralda County. While the sample size was not sufficient for formal data analysis, it is apparent that mountain quail production was higher this spring than that in 2007, and the population remains stable.

Fall Prediction

According to the DOE-CEMP, precipitation in southeastern Nevada is 73% of average. This coincides with BLM rain can data that indicate southeastern Nevada is at 72% of average precipitation. Lincoln County experienced a dry winter until February, when heavy snows fell throughout much of the northern portions of the county. Dry spring and early summer conditions likely resulted in a poor year for upland species throughout much of the southern region. Moderate precipitation during the mid-summer of 2008 should result in quail going into fall in good condition. Isolated summer thundershowers should result in areas with moderate to good range conditions that will benefit quail. Gambel's Quail populations are at low levels, with most areas experiencing low to moderate production that will likely lead to low numbers this fall and potential decreases in harvest.

PHEASANT

Statewide Summary: The pheasant season in 2007 was 30 days extending from November 1 through 30, 2008. Limits were two cocks daily and four in possession. The 2007 statewide harvest was estimated at 344 birds. This is a far cry from the statewide record harvest of 22,319 pheasants in 1966; however, this was during a period of time when the Nevada Fish and Game Commission was releasing pheasants before the gun. Natural reproducing populations of pheasants exist in only a few of Nevada's counties.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Post-season questionnaire data indicates that 311 pheasants were harvested last year in the Western Region. It was estimated that 308 hunters went a field with 760 hunter days expended which resulted in 1.0 pheasants/hunter and 0.40 pheasants/hunter day. All 2007 harvest data except hunter participation is significantly below their respective 10-year averages. However, hunter participation has increased every year after experiencing a record low of 272 hunters in 2005. (Table 1)

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Birds	341	311	789	-9%	-61%
No. of Hunters	199	308	575	55%	-46%
No. of Days	442	760	1,188	72%	-36%
Birds / Hunter	1.71	1.01	1.5	-41%	-31%
Birds/Hunter Day	0.77	0.41	0.7	-47%	-40%

Population Status

Overall, the Western Region's pheasant population has continued to decline since the early 2000's. The bulk of the Region's population resides in Humboldt County. This population peaked in 2003, then sharply declined and remained stable at low levels. Recently, Humboldt County's population is again showing signs of a slight decline. 2007 harvest data from Humboldt County indicates that pheasants harvest/hunter was 1.20 and pheasants harvested/hunter day was 0.50. These values are below their respective 10-year averages of 1.71 and 0.74.

The pheasant population that encompasses Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) in Lyon County is currently at low levels and is demonstrating a declining trend. This is verified by long-term pheasant crow call count data, which is recorded on the area in the spring for a six week period. In 2007, average crow counts on MVWMA were averaging 4.1 calls/week. The 2007 figure represents a 74% decline from the long-term average of 16.0 calls/week.

It is apparent that natural reproducing populations of pheasants only exist in a few portions of the counties in the Western Region. Farming practices that are utilized in Humboldt County and on the MVWMA favor pheasant reproductive biology and seasonal habitat requirements. These practices include delayed cutting of alfalfa, leaving vegetation on irrigation canals and not removing large stands of buffalo berry that provide escape and thermal cover. It is thought that these and other farming practices have enabled pheasants to continue to exist in these areas.

Productivity Potential

Habitat that supports pheasant propagation has remained in good condition due to these agricultural areas either having allocated water rights or utilizing the center pivot method for irrigation. Although no formal pheasant brood surveys are conducted, biologists in Humboldt County and MVWMA have observed several broods this year.

Fall Prediction

In recent years Humboldt County has produced the most consistent harvest of pheasants. This past year 193 birds were harvested in Humboldt County which accounted for 56% of the statewide harvest. Other Western Region areas that should provide limited harvest opportunities include MVWMA in Lyon County and Lovelock Valley of Pershing County. Pheasant hunting throughout the rest of the Western Region and in Lyon and Pershing Counties will probably still rely heavily upon pen raised birds for harvest opportunities.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

In 2007, hunter questionnaire data indicated 13 pheasants were harvested by 33 hunters. Collectively, hunters expended 141 days afield. The Southern Region accounted for 4% of the statewide pheasant harvest and 9% of the total number of pheasant hunters.

Population Status

The small pheasant population in Moapa Valley has been impacted by protracted drought conditions, habitat loss and high predation rates. Department personnel on the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA) indicated no pheasants have been observed on the management area thus far in 2008. Presently, there are no data or accounts that would suggest a viable pheasant population exists in Moapa Valley.

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

Pheasant hunting opportunities in Moapa Valley are extremely limited, perhaps nonexistent. 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. Recently, there have been several unsubstantiated reports of pheasants having been released in Pahranaagat Valley, Lincoln County. No releases of pheasants in Lincoln County have been authorized by NDOW.

TURKEY

Harvest data for both fall and spring turkey hunts are now obtained through return cards attached to each turkey tag. These return cards must be returned to Wildlife Administrative Services by a certain date or else hunting privileges for turkey hunting are suspended for one year. The 2007-08 hunting season is the first season that this has been instituted. Accordingly, the harvest information presented within this report represent a fairly accurate representation of actual harvest rather than an estimate of harvest as done for other small game species.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Fall 2007

The Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) had three limited entry hunts for wild turkey in the fall of 2007 with hunts broken up into two nine-day hunt periods and one, ten-day hunt. The first hunt period began on October 5th and the last one concluded on November 3rd. Quotas consisted of 10 resident tags per hunt period, with a drawing for the tags administered by Wildlife Administrative Services. The hunt allowed for the taking of any turkey, tom or hen. Harvest results for the 2007 fall hunt are depicted in Table 1.

Table 1. FALL 2007 TURKEY HARVEST – WESTERN REGION

Area	# Tags Issued	Percent Return	# Turkeys Harvested	% Success Participants*
MVWMA	33	88%	16	64%
Lyon County	37	76%	8	36%

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

The average number of days that hunters expended scouting prior to their hunt declined from 1.0 days per hunter in 2006 to 0.88 days per hunter in 2007. Hunter days in the field increased slightly from 2.38 days reported in 2006 to 2.68 days expended in 2007.

Twenty-eight Lyon County hunters returned questionnaires for a 76% return rate. Of these hunters, six indicated they did not hunt. The 22 participating hunters harvested 8 turkeys consisting of 5 toms and 3 adult females. Questionnaire data indicated that hunters were dissatisfied with their hunt because of poor bird availability.

Spring 2008

The spring 2008 turkey season at the Mason Valley Management Area consisted of five consecutive seasons beginning on March 25th and concluding on May 3rd, 2008. Fifteen resident and one nonresident tag were issued for each hunt period. Churchill and Lyon Counties opened on March 25th and ran until May 5th with an open quota. An open quota system allows any hunter the opportunity to take to the field each season to hunt any bearded turkey.

Humboldt County has an open quota season in Paradise Valley 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 in order to obtain a tag. Harvest results for all spring 2008 hunts are illustrated in Table 2.

Table 2. SPRING 2008 TURKEY HARVEST – WESTERN REGION

Hunt Area		# Tags Issued	#Questionnaires Returned	DNH	Number Successful	Percent Success*
Mason Valley WMA		64	60	2	18	31%
Lovelock Valley		10	8	3	3	60%
Open Quota Areas	Lyon County	274	100	25	10	13%
	Paradise Valley	12	12	2	6	50%
	Churchill County	106	35	5	5	17%
Western Region Totals:		466	215	85	42	34%

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

Turkey hunters in the northwestern portion of the state experienced good success in some areas and less than ideal success in other areas. Hunter success rates on Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area (MVWMA) declined 43% from 2007 levels to an overall success rate of 31%. Drought conditions experienced over the last several years have reduced turkey numbers on the MVWMA making it difficult for hunters to locate and harvest turkeys during this hunt. Paradise Valley hunter success rates showed a decline of 15% from what was reported last year. Paradise Valley landowners issued 12 tags this year compared to 52 tags last year; a decrease of 76%. Lyon County issued 274 tags compared to 243 tags last year; an increase of 13%. These figures demonstrate a significant interest by hunters for the opportunity to hunt wild turkeys in Nevada.

Churchill County hunter success rates for the 2008 spring hunt were 17% and similar to what was reported last year. This open quota spring hunt can be difficult if an individual has little or no opportunity to access private lands.

The 2008 spring turkey season in Pershing County consisted of two hunts which extended for 20 days each with 10 tags issued per season through a draw conducted by Wildlife Administrative Services. Hunter success for the 2008 season was 60% based on hunter returns and was a substantial increase over the 2007 success rate of 32%. Reducing overall hunting pressure along with splitting the season may have aided hunters in accessing private property resulting in an increase in hunter success.

Population Status

Productivity in the summer of 2008 was good on the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area. In Lyon County the average brood size observed was 6. The Rio Grande subspecies is noted for large clutch sizes and large numbers of young when environmental conditions are favorable. Observations made this summer will allow some opportunity for growth. Populations elsewhere within the Western Region continue to exist at low densities based on available habitat. Predation is a major factor affecting wild turkeys populations within their occupied habitats. Agricultural practices also play an important role in hen and brood survival. The conversion of desert shrub to garlic and onion production has had a negative impact on turkey survival.

Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area allows outside farmers to come in and cultivate crops on the management area. Farmers, for the most part, are only allowed to grow crops that are known to be beneficial to wildlife. Crops that are recommended by the department for planting include cereal crops, field corn, and sorghum. During the growing season, these areas provide nesting and brood rearing habitat for young turkey poults. A delayed harvest of the crops allows time for chicks to grow and escape farm equipment. At the onset of harvest, the farmer is required to leave 30% of the crop standing for wildlife food and cover. This allows a hen and its young ample time to mature and become more mobile before harvesting of the crop occurs.

In Churchill County, many hens nest in alfalfa fields on private lands. This decreases the hen's ability to hatch eggs as well as raise a brood. Hen mortality and nest destruction is thought to occur in agricultural fields where cover at the time of nesting is adequate, but is removed during harvest. The reluctance of the hen to move off the nest coupled with the modern day speed of combines and swathers is a factor in hen mortality annually. The Churchill County turkey population is believed to be stable at low numbers that are spread out across a large geographic area and distributed in a few small flocks. The distribution and small size of the flocks can sometimes limit the hunter's ability to find turkeys during the hunting season.

Populations of turkeys that inhabit the Lovelock Valley of Pershing County occur on private land where alfalfa is the main crop raised. Large cottonwood trees form a perimeter around the fields along with brush species that provide cover and brood rearing areas. The Lovelock Valley is very similar to Lahontan Valley; the only exception is the thick cover of the Humboldt River to the east of Lovelock that may be the largest contiguous portion of turkey habitat.

The 2008 Paradise Valley spring turkey hunt tag allocation was significantly reduced compared to the 2007 season. A total of 12 tags were issued in 2008 compared to 52 in 2007. This reduction is most likely attributed to the low overall production from drought related activities in 2007. The landowners observed low overall numbers of turkeys and adjusted the amount of turkey hunters for their property. Five out of the six turkeys harvested were toms.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

During the 2008 spring season, the Eastern Region had five turkey hunts. Hunts were held again in Units 102 and 103 in the Ruby Mountains and the first spring turkey hunts were held for recently established populations in Units 114 and 115 of White Pine County and Unit 151 and 152 of Lander County along the Humboldt River.

Unit 102 (Lamoille) had 27 turkey tags and 24 hunters reported spending 38 days scouting and 96 days hunting. Ten turkeys were harvested (42% success) including 8 toms and 2 jakes and three birds were reported lost during the hunt in Unit 102. The Unit 103 hunt (South Ruby) in Elko and White Pine Counties had 16 turkey tags and 12 hunters reported spending 9 days scouting and 51 days hunting. Two tag-holders reported not hunting. Only one turkey was harvested (10% success) and it was a jake. Three tags were issued for the new hunt in Lander County and all three hunters were successful reporting 9 days scouted and 10 days hunted. All 3 hunters harvested toms. Three tags were issued for the new hunt in Unit 114 in White Pine County and only 1 of the 3 was successful. The 3 hunters reported 9 days of scouting and 14 days of hunting. Four tags were issued for the new hunt in Unit 115 in White Pine County and 3 of the 4 hunters were successful. All 3 reported harvesting a tom. The number of days spent per hunter (5.1 days/hunter) in Unit 103 was the highest in the state. Days spent per hunter were higher than the statewide average (3.8 days/hunter) in all of the Eastern Region units except for Lander County where it was 3.3 days/hunter.

Hunter success decreased in Unit 102 from 65% in 2007 to 42% in 2008. Success in Unit 103 likewise decreased from 43% in 2007 to 10% in 2008. Success for both hunts decreased significantly in 2008 following increases in 2007. It is suspected that the late winter weather made a difference with more snow, wind and cool temperatures than the previous spring. Persistent snow cover kept birds at the lower elevations mostly on private land thereby limiting hunter accessibility.

Population Status

No turkeys were released in the Eastern Region during 2007. The 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 from 2004 through 2008 and both 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 gradually spreading along available habitat in Clover Valley and turkeys have been documented in North Ruby Valley. The documentation of 10 turkeys on Horse Creek in North Ruby Valley represents a movement of 15 miles southwest of the initial release site in Clover Valley and over the crest of the East Humboldt Range.

In 2006, the Utah Division of Wildlife released Rio Grande Turkeys on the Utah (East) side of Pilot Peak. Surveys of turkey habitat along the Nevada side have documented use by turkeys. During the winter of 2007-2008 a turkey depredation call was received from a private landowner in Pilot Valley with 30+ birds observed on the property. Additionally, birds have been seen utilizing habitat on the southeast portion of the Pilot Range.

During the summer of 2007 fires burned much of the areas used by turkeys in the Bruneau River area and the future of that release is uncertain.

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. It is somewhat limited by roosting habitat but turkeys were observed again in 2008.

Productivity Potential

Reported observations of turkeys in the Region indicate that they are expanding from the original release sites. Spring and summer moisture was better than the previous year and broods were reported in most of the turkey areas during the summer.

Fall/Spring Prediction

Turkeys in Units 102 (Lamoille) and 103 (South Rubies) are believed to be stable with good jake populations that will allow spring hunts to continue. Clover Valley, Lander County and White Pine County turkey populations are expanding and a new population may be starting in the Pilot Range. Based on reports of jakes and good brood production during 2008, the outlook for spring 2009 turkey hunts is good.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Fall 2007

In the limited entry hunt, hunters vied for 20 either-sex turkey tags in Moapa Valley of Clark County. Tags were apportioned to one nonresident and 10 residents in each of two consecutive seasons: October 5th through October 14th and October 15th through October 24th. Although two tags were available to nonresidents, no applications were received. Twenty turkey tags were issued to resident hunters.

Based on questionnaire data that included 16 respondents, 13 hunters in Moapa Valley collectively expended 19 days scouting and 35 days hunting. Three tag holders did not hunt. On average, hunters scouted 1.5 days and hunted nearly 3 days. The turkey harvest in Moapa Valley was comprised of one juvenile male and 4 adult males. There was no reported wounding loss. Overall, hunter success was 38%.

Spring 2008

The spring limited entry drawing in Moapa Valley involved three consecutive seasons that were initiated by two 7-day hunts followed by a 9-day hunt: April 14th through April 20th, April 21st through April 27th, and April 28th through May 6th. One nonresident and 5 resident tags were allotted in each of the 3 seasons.

Based on questionnaire data submitted by 17 hunters, 9 adult male turkeys and 2 juvenile male turkeys were harvested. One respondent chose not to hunt. Hunter success among 16 hunters equated to 69%.

Overall, hunters expended 30 days scouting and 52 days hunting. On average, hunters scouted nearly 2 days and hunted slightly more than 3 days.

In Lincoln County, the harvest strategy in initial spring hunts (2001-05) involved limited tag quotas. In 2006 and 2007, the harvest regulation was changed to open quota. In 2008, the harvest strategy was again modified and the Lincoln County spring wild turkey hunt was authorized under the limited entry regulation. The general season was open to resident and nonresident hunters. In 2008, the spring hunt involved two consecutive 20-day seasons: March 25th through April 13th and April 14th through May 3rd. Three nonresident and 40 resident tags were allotted in each season.

Based on questionnaire data, 16 turkeys were harvested among 76 reporting hunters. Hunter success equated to 24% after factoring out 8 hunters that did not participate. Collectively, hunters in Lincoln County expended 81 days scouting and 255 days hunting. On average, hunters scouted slightly more than one day and hunted nearly 4 days. The harvest was comprised of 15 adult males and 1 juvenile male. Reported wounding loss amounted to one turkey.

In 2008, and preceding Lincoln County's general spring wild turkey hunt, the inaugural junior wild turkey hunt was held. The 9-day hunt opened March 15th and closed March 23rd, and was administered under open quota regulation. In the junior hunt, 31 tags were issued for which 23 questionnaires were returned.

Based on questionnaire data, 2 adult male turkeys were harvested. Hunter success equated to 9% after factoring out one hunter that did not participate (Table 1). Junior hunters in Lincoln County expended 29 days scouting and 77 days hunting. On average, hunters scouted 1.3 days and hunted 3.5 days. There was no reported wounding loss.

**TABLE 1. SOUTHERN REGION SPRING 2008 TURKEY HARVEST
Based Upon Post-Season Questionnaires**

Hunt Area	#Tags Issued	# Questionnaires Returned	DNH	Number Successful	Percent Success *
Moapa Valley	18	17	1	11	69%
Lincoln County	86	76	8	16	24%
Lincoln County (Youth)	31	23	1	2	9%
Southern Region Totals:	135	116	10	29	27%

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

Population Status

Moapa Valley

Drought conditions have generally prevailed since November 2005. Overall, vegetative conditions and insect availability have been unfavorable. Observed nesting success and poult survival has appeared low relative to observations in recent years (2003-05) marked by high precipitation receipts.

On June 14, 2007, a turkey production survey yielded a total of 86 birds observed in four areas. The sample was comprised of 9 Toms, 19 Jakes, 49 hens and 9 poults. Brood sizes ranged from 1 to 4 poults. On the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA), a group of turkeys comprised of 5 Toms, 7 Jakes and 33 hens was observed adjacent to housing on OWMA. In July 2008, 8 turkey production surveys confirmed the presence of turkeys in 5 areas. In reviewing the data collected by a seasonal employee, approximately 10 males and 31 females were observed. Less than 40 poults were noted. The majority of the turkeys were observed on the OWMA.

In Moapa Valley, wild turkey habitat exists in a fairly confined, narrow band along the Muddy River. An increasing number of crop fields adjacent to the river are being subdivided and developed for housing and commercial enterprises. It is anticipated that the loss of habitat coupled with an inevitable no-shooting

ordinance will likely result in a reduced turkey population and restriction to hunting in the near future. Wild turkeys tend to concentrate throughout the year in a relatively small area that includes the OWMA and nearby croplands in Overton and Logandale.

Lincoln County

Since 1999, NDOW has accomplished several Rio Grande turkey translocation projects in Lincoln County. Turkey releases have occurred on public and private lands, and in some cases required development of cooperative agreements with landowners. Initially, turkeys were distributed primarily on private lands. Subsequent hunting pressure resulted in turkey movements to adjacent public lands. Presently, wild turkeys are distributed in low densities on public and private lands across a large portion of Lincoln County.

In 2005, lightning-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 months since 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.

No brood surveys were conducted in Lincoln County in 2008. However, based on numerous reports turkeys appear to 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 drought, habitat loss and degradation, predation, harassment, and illegal take. Indications are that the population has declined. Nevertheless, hunters should experience little difficulty in locating turkeys on private lands during the fall either-sex hunt.

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

The 2007-08 rabbit season extended from October 13th through February 28, 2008. The daily and possession limit remained at 10 and 20 respectively. The number of hunters, days hunted and harvest all dropped dramatically from the 2006-07 season, some estimates by as much as 80%. The total estimated statewide harvest for rabbits in 2007-08 was 4,278 compared to the 2006-07 estimate of 38,727. Rabbit populations cycle, but the lack of participation certainly contributed to the decline in harvest.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

Post-season questionnaire data for 2007 indicated that the Western Region experienced its lowest ever harvest of cottontail rabbits (1,606). 2007 harvest levels showed an 80% decrease from the 2006 value and a 69% decrease from the 10-year average harvest of 5,144. Hunter participation was also at a record low with 176 hunters bagging 9.13 rabbits per hunter and 1.46 rabbits harvested per hunter day. Low harvest and low hunter participation is thought to be due to a decreased number of chukar hunters who took to the field last year. (Table 1.)

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	10-Yr Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Rabbits	8,033	1,606	5,144	-80%	-69%
No. of Hunters	903	176	948	-81%	-81%
No. of Days	4,252	1,103	5.78	-74%	-73%
Rabbits / Hunter	8.9	9.13	5.78	3%	58%
Rabbits/Hunter Day	1.89	1.46	1.26	-23%	15%

2007 marks the first year that raw pygmy rabbit harvest data has been able to be expanded to represent total Western Region harvest. This expanded harvest data showed that 34 pygmy rabbits were harvested (17 from Lyon County and 17 from Washoe County) by 25 hunters, which equates to 1.3 pygmy rabbits taken per hunter, 0.3 pygmy rabbits harvested per day with 126 hunter days expended. All other counties in the Western Region showed no harvest.

Population Status and Production Potential

Long-term post-season harvest data suggests that the cottontail rabbit population peaked in 2005 and has continually declined thru 2007. Regionally, the cottontail rabbit population is thought to still be at good to excellent levels. This assumption is supported by long-term harvest data, which indicates that in 2007 rabbits taken per hunter was 9.13 and rabbits taken per hunter day was 1.46. Both of these values are well above their respective 10-year averages of 5.78 rabbits per hunter and 1.26 rabbits per hunter day.

Western Region habitat conditions are much improved over last year, which should be conducive to promote lagomorph production. This year, Western Region game biologists have reported observing young rabbits while conducting sage-grouse and chukar brood surveys.

Fall Prediction

Last year, Lyon County provided the most harvest in the Western Region (657 rabbits) and accounted for 15% of the statewide harvest. Other Western Region counties that provided similar harvest levels were

Churchill, Douglas and Washoe. These counties along with Humboldt County should provide consistent harvest this year for hunters who choose to participate.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007-08 rabbit season was 139 days long, extending from October 13, 2007 to February 28, 2008 compared to 144 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 1. EASTERN REGION RABBIT HARVEST
Post-season Questionnaire Data**

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	Avg.	Prev. yr.	vs. Avg.
No. of Rabbits	19,632	1,187	4,788	-94%	-75%
No. of Hunters	545	95	653	-82%	-85%
No. of Days	2,760	474	2,610	-83%	-82%
Rabbits / Hunter	36.1	12.5	8.1	-65%	+54%
Rabbits /Hunter Day	7.1	2.5	1.9	-65%	+32%

There was a significant decrease in the regional rabbit harvest from the previous year's total (-94%) and harvest was also 75% below the long-term average. The Eastern Region 2007 rabbit harvest was below average following an all time record harvest in 2006. Rabbit harvest decreased significantly in all four Eastern Region counties in 2007. The number of hunters in 2007 was 82% below the previous year and 85% below the long-term-average. Rabbits/hunter (12.5) and rabbits/hunter day (2.5) were both above the long-term average for the region indicating that although fewer hunters participated, those that did were more successful than average.

Population Status

Eastern Region rabbit populations were at good to excellent levels and exhibiting a stable 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 previous four summers and road-killed rabbits were becoming common in many places in the region. There has been a noticeable drop in overall rabbit numbers but sightings are still average.

Productivity Potential

Weather conditions, especially precipitation levels have provided good conditions for rabbits throughout most of the Region for several years. The 2007-08 winter was prolonged into the 2008 spring with average precipitation. Cover and forage for rabbits in the 2008 summer were only fair. The productivity potential remains fair to good throughout most of the Eastern Region in 2008 except where wildfires have occurred.

Fall Prediction

The Eastern Region rabbit population is relatively stable in most of the Eastern Region. Rabbit hunters should experience good hunting during the 2008-09 season and harvest is expected to be similar to last year.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

The 2007-2008 rabbit season extended from October 13, 2007 to February 28, 2008, for a total of 139 days in length. Bag limits were 10 daily and 20 in possession.

Post-season questionnaire data for the 4 Southern Region counties show that 223 hunters harvested a total of 1,485 rabbits during 2,928 days of hunting. The number of rabbits harvested, number of hunters, number of days hunted, rabbits per hunter, and rabbits per hunter day all showed decreases from 2006-07 data. Compared to long-term data the number of rabbits harvested, number of hunters, and number of hunter days, rabbits per hunter, and rabbits per hunter day were all down. The Southern Region accounted for approximately 35% of the statewide rabbit harvest during the 2007-2008 rabbit season.

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

	REGIONAL TOTALS:			Percent Change	
	2006	2007	98-07	PRE. YR.	10 YR.
No. of Rabbits	11,062	1,485	5,446	-86.6%	-72.7%
No. of Hunters	485	223	878	-54.0%	-74.6%
No. of Days	4,252	2,928	4,501	-31.1%	-34.9%
Rabbits / Hunter	22.80	6.70	7.25	-70.6%	-7.5%
Rabbits /Hunter Day	4.00	1.10	1.42	-72.5%	-22.5%

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

	2006-07	2007-08	2007-08 % of harvest	% Difference Short-term
Clark	1,469	875	59%	-40%
Esmeralda	224	0	0%	-100%
Lincoln	2,864	210	14%	-92%
Nye	6,504	400	27%	-94%
Total	11,061	1,485	100%	-87%

Population Status

The Southern Region rabbit population appears to be well below the 10-year- average. Only one vehicle-rabbit transect was conducted in Lincoln County this year. Of the 21 miles driven only 1 rabbit was observed for a total of .05 rabbits per mile. This is down from the 2007 survey which resulted in 0.98 rabbits per mile observed. This was the fourth year that one or both of 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 DOE-CEMP, precipitation in southeastern Nevada is 73% of average. This coincides with BLM rain can data that indicate southeastern Nevada is at 72% of average precipitation. The Southern Region experienced a dry winter until February, when heavy snows fell throughout much of the

northern portions of the region. Dry spring and early summer conditions likely resulted in a poor year for upland species throughout much of the southern region. Dry conditions result in poor forage conditions for rabbits. Isolated areas of agriculture may hold decent numbers of rabbits, and these areas may provide some rabbit hunting opportunities. Rabbit populations are at low levels, with most areas experiencing low production that may lead to lower numbers this fall and potential decreases in harvest.

FURBEARERS

Overall statewide harvest of furbearing animals during the 2007-08 season was slightly below the 30 year average. Bobcat harvest statewide was 2,811. This was a decrease of 43% from the 2006-07 season, but was above the 30 year average of 2,426 cats per season. Coyote harvest increased 12% over the 2006-07 season. The USDA-Wildlife Services reported that coyote numbers were high in many areas of the State in 2007-08. Red fox harvest increased to a record 22 in 2007-08. The sale of trapping license increased 9% from 2006-07 with 937 licenses being sold in 2007-08. This number was above the 30 year average of 686, but below the average numbers through the 1980's of 1,256 trapping license sold. Fur prices were above long term averages with bobcat furs well above average.

Trapping harvest and trapper effort data are obtained through an annual harvest questionnaire which is sent to all trapping license buyers following the conclusion of the trapping season. Prior to the season, the Department sends trappers a log book to facilitate their documentation of trapping effort. Because the questionnaire return rate is not 100% the Department must extrapolate the figures to generate an estimate of harvest and trapper effort. These data have been comparable for decades. The Department also obtains bobcat harvest and trapper effort through a mandatory check-in process. Trappers are required to retain and remit a portion of the lower jaw preserving one or more canine teeth. The canines are later extracted by biologists who can determine the age classification of the animal, either adult or juvenile, based upon tooth characteristics. Cumulative data discloses the age structure of the bobcats harvested for a geographic area.

WESTERN REGION

Harvest

In the Western Region, a total of 9,005 furbearing animals were harvested. Western Region trappers recorded 55% of the state's total fur harvest of over 16,000 animals. Favorable trapping conditions persisted throughout the season up until mid-January when several areas of the state encountered heavy snowfall. Table 1 represents the fur harvest in the Western Region, indicating the seven most sought after species.

TABLE 1. WESTERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST

Species:	2006-07	2007-08	Average 1999-08	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Bobcat	1,668	961	793	-40%	30%
Coyote	1,442	1,875	853	30%	120%
Gray Fox	595	475	185	-20%	157%
Kit Fox	391	457	196	17%	133%
Beaver	519	628	413	21%	52%
Muskrat	5,904	4,059	1,951	-36%	108%
Mink	131	30	38	-77%	-21%

TABLE 2. WESTERN REGION BOBCAT HARVEST

	2006-07	2007-08	Average 1999-08	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Bobcat Harvest	1,668	961	780	-42%	23%
Bobcat Trappers	158	149	90	-6%	66%
Trap Days	324,873	186,253	123,768	-43%	51%
Trap Days / Cat	209	204	155	-2%	32%
Bobcats / Trapper	8.0	6.1	8.5	-24%	-28%
Season Length	120	120	NA	NA	NA
Kitten/Adult Female	.80	.15	0.61	-81%	-75%
Adult Male/ Adult Female	1.38	1.37	1.59	-0.7%	-14%

Bobcat

Bobcat harvest for the Western Region decreased substantially from last year (Table 2). Higher fuel prices, heavy snowfall late in the season and early predictions of lower pelt prices, which were never actually seen at the auctions, are probably some of the reasons for the decline. Furthermore, drought conditions that persisted throughout the 2007 calendar year affected the bobcat production for that year, by limiting available prey sources, which in turn had an effect on the number of cats harvested this trapping season. The resulting kittens/adult female ratio, which drives the production data estimate for the year, was the lowest recorded in the last 10 years and is 75% below the 10-year average.

The ratio of adult males/adult females, at 1.37, was identical to the previous trapping season and is indicative of a healthy bobcat population. The number of licensed trappers did not change significantly and remained well above the long term average. Trapper effort, measured in trap days/bobcat, is similar to last year.

Pelt prices for most species were similar to last year with the exception of bobcats which increased by 124%. A combination of increased demand for buyers coupled with a lack of any leftover stock from last year are the reasons for the higher prices. The fact that wild fur in Nevada brought over \$1.6 million to area trappers is an indication of the popularity in the consumptive use of furbearing animals.

Population Status and Analysis

Furbearer populations in north western Nevada appear healthy and at sufficient numbers to maintain population viability. The extremely dry spring and summer of 2007 had an effect on predator populations as predicted. Climatic conditions have been somewhat more favorable thus far in 2008 which should equate to better production, enhanced survival and therefore improved recruitment for the Regions furbearers. Gray fox and Kit fox populations are unpronounced but stable, based on habitat conditions and harvest figures. 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, based mostly on anecdotal data, although four of these animals were trapped this year in the western part of the state.

Although the rising costs associated with energy and the weakening U.S. dollar will have an effect on overall trapper effort the anticipated pelt prices may seduce more trappers a field than would be expected otherwise. The markets remain active for luxury items, meaning pelt prices for cats especially are predicted to be equivalent or higher than last year. And with the booming economies in Russia and China this trend has a good chance of continuing.

EASTERN REGION

Harvest

During the 2007-08 season 2,864 furbearers were taken in the Eastern Region. The two previous year's furbearer harvest in the Eastern Region was 2,456 and 4,167 respectively. This year represents a 31% decrease over last year's fur harvest in the Eastern Region. The harvest level was above the ten-year average for most species. An improved fur market has resulted in renewed interest from trappers for the past several years. More trappers were a field last year than the previous year. Comparisons of current and historic Eastern Region furbearer and predator harvest for several species are presented in Table 3. For a complete list please see furbearer Tables in the Appendix.

TABLE 3. EASTERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST

Species:	AVERAGE 1996-07	2006-07	2007-08	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Beaver	154	129	258	+ 100%	+ 68%
Muskrat	55	60	10	- 83%	-82%
Coyote	659	1,457	1,313	-10%	+ 99%
Gray Fox	45	203	250	+ 23%	+ 455%
Kit Fox	12	39	89	+ 128%	+ 642%
Red Fox	2	11	14	+ 27%	+ 600%
Otter	8	2	2	No Change	- 75

During the 2007-08 trapping season changes in fur values from last year varied widely. Some species brought higher prices during 2007-08 while others saw a decrease. Trapper interest remained elevated largely due to high bobcat prices. 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. In addition, it is hard to predict how high fuel prices will affect trapping effort.

Population Status

Prey base populations (rodents and lagomorphs) have remained high throughout the Region, especially jackrabbit populations which may be reaching peak levels in some areas.

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

Gray fox harvest increased in 2007-08. Gray fox pelt value decreased 7% during the last season, but prices are still above average which may be stimulating interest. Total gray fox harvest is also related to bobcat pelt values since the species overlap in habitat use. Gray fox have a widespread distribution and it is believed that they have responded favorably to increased prey availability.

Kit fox populations within the Eastern Region are fairly widespread with populations present in most valleys. Kit fox harvest increased during the past season, but, harvest information indicates that trapping interest is still relatively low.

TABLE 4. EASTERN REGION BOBCAT HARVEST

	Average 1998-07	2006-07	2007-08	Percent Change	
				Prev. Year	10 Year Avg.
Bobcat Harvest	652	1,457	855	-41%	+31%
Bobcat Trappers	130	202	218	+8%	+68%
Trap Days	99,567	258,971	133,948	-48%	+35%
Trap Days / Cat	166	182	172	-6%	+4%
Bobcats / Trapper	5.5	7.2	3.6	-50%	-35%
Season Length	118	120	120	0%	+2%

The number of bobcats harvested in the Eastern Region decreased during the 2007-08 season. The number of trap days required to catch a cat decreased from the previous year and was above the long-term average. Weather conditions curtailed much of the trapping activity during the last half of the season. Kitten production was low following four years of very good production. The number of cats per trapper (3.6) indicated bobcats were difficult to trap, which again may be a result of difficult trapping conditions. Bobcat pelt prices rose in 2007-08. Bobcat prices were very high during the 2007-08 season resulting in an increase in the number of trappers.

Coyote harvest decreased slightly during the past season. The average price for coyote pelts decreased by 3% in 2007-08. Prices were below \$30. In addition to sport harvest, Wildlife Services personnel removed coyotes in response to livestock depredation complaints and the Department's predator management program in the Eastern Region.

The 2007-08 Eastern Region beaver harvest increased compared to the previous year. Regional beaver harvest was also 68% above long-term averages. Beaver populations are believed to be at moderate levels. Some higher populations exist in areas with good habitat. Harvest levels are traditionally related to beaver pelt prices, but last year saw an increase in take while prices dipped by more than 20%. Harvest is expected to remain low as long as pelt prices are down.

Regional muskrat harvest continued to be negligible and was well below the previous highs of the 1970-1990 period. The isolated muskrat populations that exist throughout the Region fluctuate annually depending on climatic conditions and local water levels. The only large, stable population of muskrat within the Eastern Region is located at the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Ruby Lake is no longer available for harvest since the Refuge is not allowing muskrat trapping like it had in the past.

The distribution of otter and mink is widespread throughout the major drainages of the Eastern Region. Localized population levels are believed to be low to moderate and stable.

Analysis

Bobcat harvest levels were managed for many years through season length adjustment. Historically, 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 0.34 in 2007-08. Production was 0.93 and 0.86 in 2006-07 and 2005-06, respectively. Production was down for the year but is following four years of high production. Harvest was down largely due to difficult access conditions. Production will be closely monitored to see if the downward trend continues. Other biological parameters measured to evaluate trends in the bobcat population indicate stability. The adult male to adult female ratio was 1.4 in 2006-07. The ratio was 1.4 in 2006-07 and 1.3 in 2005-06. The effort necessary to trap a cat was down from last year, but slightly above the long-term average. With numerous new trappers entering the trapping arena, effort is expected to increase. Bobcat populations are healthy and stable in the Eastern Region.

Beaver harvest increased for the second straight year in 2007-08 in the Eastern Region and was above the long-term average. Beaver populations remain at moderate to high levels and continue to present problems to 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 species and furbearers.

SOUTHERN REGION

Harvest

Based on post-season questionnaires and trapper-submitted bobcat harvest reports, 4,280 animals were harvested in the Southern Region during the 2007-08 trapping year. This figure represents a 3% decrease compared to 4,420 animals harvested in 2006-07. Notable changes relative to last year involved substantially increased harvest of coyote, gray fox, kit fox and beaver. Additionally, the overall harvest in Lincoln County included four red foxes. Current harvest figures as well as short- and long-term perspectives are presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5. SOUTHERN REGION FURBEARER HARVEST

	Average 1997-06	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	%Difference Short-term	%Difference Long-term
Beaver	9.5	1	2	25	1,150%	163%
Muskrat	23.7	0	0	0	0%	--
Coyote	390.9	310	940	1,181	26%	202%
Gray Fox	491.7	537	1,310	1,657	26%	237%
Kit Fox	116.5	189	248	271	9%	133%

Over the long-term, muskrat and beaver harvest has been erratic. Increases in harvest over both short and long term occurred for coyote, gray fox, kit fox and beaver. Relative to last year, commonly sought species associated with lower average valuations included gray fox, coyote and beaver. In contrast, average pelt prices increased for bobcat and kit fox.

Bobcat

In the Southern Region, 989 bobcats were harvested through trapping and shooting during the 2007-08 season, which reflected a 44% decrease relative to the 2006-07 season. However, the recent bobcat harvest closely approximated the harvest in the 2005-06 season. Compared to the long-term average, the bobcat harvest in 2007-08 represented a 36% increase (Table 6).

In the 2007-08 season, more trappers harvested substantially fewer bobcats while expending more time per bobcat compared to trappers in 2006-07. The Southern Region bobcat harvest (trapping and shooting) comprised 35% of the statewide total, which approximated the 36% proportion reported last year. Current trapping figures as well as short- and long-term harvest perspectives are presented in Table 6.

TABLE 6. SOUTHERN REGION BOBCAT HARVEST

	Average 1997-06	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	%Difference Short-term	%Difference Long-term
Bobcat Harvest	728	987	1,775	989	-44%	36%
Bobcat Trappers	110	168	193	201	4%	83%
Trap Days	134,515	156,583	273,447	156,562	-43%	16%
Trap Days/Cat	196	169	160	179	12%	-9%
Bobcats/Trapper	6.2	5.5	8.9	4.4	-51%	-29%
Season Length	114.7	120	120	121	<1%	5%

Population Status

Based on analysis of bobcat tooth data, kitten production in the Southern Region was among the lowest on record. Bobcat harvest data corresponding to the 2007-08 season indicate a kitten per adult female ratio of 0.15, which reflected an 80% decrease relative to the proportion of kittens to adult females noted in the previous year. Viewed against the long-term (1980-05) average ratio of kittens to adult female (0.65), there was a 77% decrease in 2007-08.

The Mojave Desert bobcat population experienced a 79% decrease in the ratio of kittens per adult female from 0.67 in 2006-07 to 0.14. Compared to the long-term (1980-05) average ratio of 0.70 kittens per adult female, the Mojave Desert population experience an 80% decrease in kittens per adult female.

Great Basin bobcat populations experienced a 73% decrease in the ratio of kittens per adult female from 0.83 in 2006-07 to 0.22. Compared to the long-term average (1980-05) ratio of 0.72 kittens per adult female, Great Basin populations experienced a 69% decrease 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.

Kit fox, gray fox and coyote populations in the Southern Region are broadly distributed, and occur in varying densities.

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 Pahrnagat Valley, Lincoln County, and Overton Wildlife Management Area, Clark County.

In 2005 and 2006, lightning 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. Initially, the areas affected by fires offered diminished resources (i.e., food and cover) for many wildlife species. Recently, near normal moisture regimes in late 2007 through August 2008 may have promoted seed germination and plant establishment in fire-impacted areas. Thus, some furbearer habitats profoundly altered by fires may already reflect improvements through initial native plant establishment and increased prey availability.

Fall Prediction

Bobcat harvest levels in the upcoming 2008-09 season are anticipated to vary across areas despite relatively high demand and market prices. Trappers may encounter reduced bobcat abundance in some areas. Availability of bobcats in the upcoming season will likely be influenced by factors witnessed in 2007-08. Last year was marked by high harvest levels superimposed on the impacts of drought and an overall contracting bobcat population. Bobcat densities in some areas may be low due to high harvest pressures and subsequent low immigration rates. Alternately, large areas with moderate to limited trapper access may reflect near normal availability of bobcats, as improved environmental conditions in 2008 may promote immigration of bobcats from areas of no or low harvest pressure to areas frequented by trappers. Bobcat trapper participation is anticipated to remain largely unchanged relative to the 2007-08 season.

Harvest levels of gray fox and kit fox are expected to remain high due to incidental catch among the increased number of trappers in pursuit of bobcats. Higher market prices for gray fox and kit fox since 2006 may also be a contributing factor in the increased harvest levels.

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Small Game Questionnaire Data

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SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE UPLAND GAME HARVEST 1965-2007
From Post-season Questionnaire

Year	Sage Grouse	Hunters	Blue Grouse	Hunters	Chukar Partridge	Hunters	Hungarian Partridge	Hunters
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
2006	3,701	1,981	2,822	1,987	104,408	15,654	4,334	1,866
2007	4,897	3,197	1,699	1,643	61,153	14,448	1,775	1,114

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE UPLAND GAME HARVEST 1965-2007
From Post-season Questionnaire (page 2)

Year	Quail	Hunters	Pheasant	Hunters	Rabbit	Hunters	Dove	Hunters
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
2006	38,557	4,022	388	218	38,727	1932	53,851	4,590
2007	44,185	8,403	344	360	4,278	494	48,629	3,214

TURKEY QUESTIONNAIRE DATA - STATEWIDE TOTALS										SPRING 2008			
Hunt Area	# Tags	# Qstr.	%	Effort					Harvest			Chose Not to Harvest	
	Issued	Rtnd.	Rtn	# Succ.	% Succ.	Hunter Days	Scout	DNH	Tom	Jake	Lost		
Elko Co. - Unit 102	27	24	89%	10	42%	96	38	0	8	2	3	3	
Elko & White Pine - Unit 103	16	12	75%	1	10%	51	9	2	0	1	0	0	
Lander Co. - Units 151 & 152	3	3	100%	3	100%	10	9	0	3	0	0	0	
Lincoln County	86	76	88%	16	24%	255	81	8	15	1	1	8	
Lincoln County (Youth)	31	23	74%	2	9%	77	29	1	2	0	0	0	
Lovelock Valley of Pershing Co.	10	8	80%	3	60%	13	23	3	3	0	0	0	
Mason Valley WMA	64	60	94%	18	31%	205	88	2	17	1	0	4	
Moapa Valley	18	17	94%	11	69%	52	30	1	9	2	0	1	
White Pine Co. - Unit 114	3	3	100%	1	33%	14	9	0	1	0	0	1	
White Pine Co. - Unit 115	4	4	100%	3	75%	18	14	0	3	0	0	0	
Lyon County except MVWMA	274	100	36%	10	13%	303	187	25	10	0	2	6	
Churchill County	106	35	33%	5	17%	133	80	5	5	0	1	6	
Paradise Valley	12	12	100%	6	50%	42	17	0	5	1	0	0	
TOTALS:	654	377	58%	89	27%	1,269	614	47	81	8	7	29	

* expressed as days.

TURKEY QUESTIONNAIRE DATA – FALL 2007 (STATEWIDE TOTALS)																
Hunt Area	# Tags	# Qstr.	%	Effort					Harvest						Comments (#)	
	Issued	Rtnd	Rtn	# Succ.	%Succ.	Hunt	Scout	DNH	Ad. M	Juv. M	Ad. F	Juv. F	Lost	Obsv.	+	-
Mason Valley WMA	33	29	88%	16	64%	67	22	4	5	1	5	5	1	1156	6	1
Moapa Valley	22	16	73%	5	38%	35	19	3	4	1	0	0	0	259	2	3
Churchill Co.				N	O		S	E	A	S	O	N				
Lyon Co.	37	28	76%	8	36%	92	19	6	5	0	3	0	0	543	2	5
TOTALS:	92	73	79	29	48%	194	60	13	14	2	8	5	1	1,958	10	9

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE TURKEY HARVEST 1997-2008						
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	51	440	134	1456	289
2007	171	29	938	92	2371	194
2008	89		654		1269	
TOTALS:	817	257	3109	811	6411	918
AVERAGE:	82	29	311	90	1282	230

Summary of Statewide Fur Harvest from Post-Season Questionnaire 1978- 2008

Year	Trappers	R-T Cat	Weasel	Beaver	Skunk	Otter	Muskrat	Mink	Raccoon	Kit Fox	Gray Fox	Red 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	1	40	1,145	1,071	\$229,284
2002-03	564	16	0	641	73	13	75	40	105	187	554	2	73	2,198	1,340	\$414,808
2003-04	580	19	0	666	184	5	546	29	110	414	967	9	256	2,744	2,726	\$781,849
2004-05	615	7	2	441	74	19	468	45	89	399	536	9	170	2,666	2,003	\$644,688
2005-06	585	17	1	409	91	7	1,280	33	72	442	720	3	152	3,316	1,776	\$1,147,034
2006-07	857	16	11	650	392	2	5,964	142	154	678	2108	17	727	4,911	3,876	\$781,948
2007-08	937	24	4	911	206	2	4,069	38	238	817	2382	22	359	2,811	4,369	\$1,605,198
Average	779	29	4	804	128	12	7,469	92	97	649	808	9	288	2,426	5,065	\$730,461

STATEWIDE FUR HARVEST BY COUNTY 2007-2008

Region	County	Beaver	Muskra t	Coyot e	Bobca t	Gray Fox	Kit Fox	Min k	Otte r	Badge r	Wease l	Raccoo n	Stripe d Skunk	Spotte d Skunk	Ring -Tail Cat	Re d Fox
Western	Carson	10	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	6	0	18	0	0	0	0
	Churchill	107	3722	288	84	33	199	0	0	10	0	21	8	0	0	0
	Douglas	101	41	150	91	129	4	12	0	4	0	53	45	4	0	0
	Humboldt	0	0	528	140	0	10	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Lyon	208	86	105	128	119	14	12	0	4	0	43	39	4	0	0
	Mineral	0	0	88	79	84	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pershing	21	0	169	201	80	191	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Storey	35	175	58	9	14	2	2	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
Washoe	146	35	489	292	12	35	4	0	18	0	51	21	10	0	2	
Total Western Region:		628	4,059	1,875	1,030	475	457	30	0	112	0	204	113	18	0	4
Eastern	Elko	129	8	824	325	16	0	8	2	95	4	10	23	18	6	6
	Eureka	6	2	74	118	51	29	0	0	10	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Lander	123	0	125	68	95	33	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0
	White Pine	0	0	290	178	88	27	0	0	45	0	0	14	0	0	8
Total Eastern Region:		258	10	1,313	689	250	89	8	2	150	4	12	37	20	8	14
Southern	Clark	0	0	456	190	736	138	0	0	6	0	12	2	4	10	0
	Esmeralda	0	0	18	52	78	10	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lincoln	2	0	401	492	520	53	0	0	25	0	10	10	2	6	4
	Nye	23	0	306	358	323	70	0	0	62	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Southern Region:		25	0	1,181	1,092	1,657	271	0	0	97	0	22	12	6	16	4
Statewide Totals:		911	4,069	4,369	2,811	2,382	817	38	2	359	4	238	162	44	24	22

NEVADA TRAPPERS BY SPECIES AND COUNTY 2007-2008

Region	County	Beaver	Muskrat	Coyote	Bobcat	Gray Fox	Kit Fox	Mink	Otter	Badger	Weasel	Raccoon	Striped Skunk	Spotted Skunk	Ring-Tail Cat	Red Fox
Western	Carson	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Churchill	6	10	18	20	10	10	0	0	2	0	4	2	2	0	0
	Douglas	8	2	23	10	18	2	4	0	2	0	10	2	2	0	0
	Humboldt	0	0	37	20	0	4	0	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Lyon	16	6	31	18	21	8	4	0	4	0	6	6	2	0	0
	Mineral	0	0	12	13	12	4	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Pershing	2	0	16	23	12	18	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Storey	2	2	6	8	6	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
	Washoe	14	10	51	38	10	12	2	0	12	0	14	8	6	0	2
	TOTALS:	50	30	194	151	91	60	12	0	50	0	38	18	12	0	4
Eastern	Elko	23	4	84	77	6	0	8	4	21	4	6	8	2	4	4
	Eureka	2	2	21	22	12	6	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0
	Lander	4	0	18	25	14	6	0	0	8	0	2	0	0	2	0
	White Pine	0	0	29	44	18	6	0	0	21	0	0	2	2	0	6
	TOTALS:	29	6	152	168	50	18	8	4	54	4	8	10	6	6	10
Southern	Clark	0	0	82	41	55	23	0	0	4	0	6	2	2	8	0
	Esmeralda	0	0	4	7	6	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Lincoln	2	0	78	53	82	12	0	0	6	0	4	2	2	4	4
	Nye	2	0	53	47	55	23	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	4	0
	TOTALS:	4	0	217	148	198	62	0	0	37	0	10	4	4	16	4
Statewide Totals:	83	36	563	467	339	140	20	4	141	4	56	32	22	22	18	

NEVADA FUR HARVEST VALUE 2007-2008				
Based on Average Price x Harvest				
Species	Total Value of Catch	AVERAGE PRICE		% Increase +
		2007-08	2006-07	% Decrease -
Beaver	\$13,647.00	\$14.98	\$19.08	-21%
Otter	\$110.00	\$55.00	\$0.00	N/A
Muskrat	\$10,254.00	\$2.52	\$3.35	-25%
Mink	\$279.00	\$7.33	\$13.05	-44%
Raccoon	\$3,121.00	\$13.11	\$5.39	143%
Bobcat	\$1,364,544.00	\$485.43	\$217.16	124%
Coyote	\$107,608.00	\$24.63	\$25.48	-3%
Badger	\$6,440.00	\$17.94	\$16.00	12%
Striped Skunk	\$1,035.00	\$6.39	\$6.66	-4%
Ring-tailed Cat	\$144.00	\$6.00	\$15.71	-62%
Kit Fox	\$8,987.00	\$11.00	\$9.64	14%
Gray Fox	\$88,325.00	\$37.08	\$39.91	-7%
Red Fox	\$704.00	\$32.00	\$18.74	71%
Total	\$1,605,198.00			

SUMMARY OF STATEWIDE WATERFOWL HARVEST – 1963-2007
From Post-Season Questionnaire

Year	Duck Stamp Sales		Est'd. NV Htrs	Ducks	Geese			Tundra Swans*	Total Waterfowl
	Federal	Nevada			Dark	White	Total		
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	5,059	188	168,110
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	12,009	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	7,218	196	75,029
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	10,421	29	30,039
1993	7,245	9,162	4,335	32,191	6,593	463	7,056	46	39,293
1994	7,704	8,469	5,112	46,340	8,573	595	9,168	88	55,596
1995	8,347	9,132	6,964	72,259	5,206	863	6,069	72	78,400
1996	7,702	9,127	7,228	83,908	9,028	892	9,920	119	93,947
1997	7,874	11,451	8,752	116,596	6,051	331	6,382	131	123,109
1998	8,331	11,420	8,574	122,092	8,635	819	9,454	185	131,731
1999	8,880	10,898	6,918	80,814	7,575	667	8,242	217	89,273
2000	8,000	10,085	6,159	56,579	4,537	151	4,688	78	61,345
2001	7,293	9,016	3,692	31,203	2,646	281	2,927	58	34,188
2002	6,914	8,460	4,028	33,113	4,980	133	5,113	40	38,266
2003	6,896	8,018	4,298	44,022	4,041	219	4,260	71	48,353
2004	5,991	7,501	3,572	38,305	1,479	1,135	2,614	78	40,997
2005	6,570	7,956	3,960	56,428	4,041	219	4,260	71	60,759
2006	6,704	8,581	4,525	69,893	6,719	848	7,567	147	77,607
2007	6,337	7,863	4,038	54,459	5,339	414	5,753	200	60,412

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

NEVADA MID-WINTER WATERFOWL INVENTORY DATA											
2002 - 2008							Current year compared to:				
SPECIES	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5 Yr Avg.	44 Yr Avg.	HIGH Count	LOW Count	
Mallard	20,145	13,851	17,654	23,061	25,979	28,950	20,136	13,852	28,950	4,321	
Gadwall	6,354	4,465	2,850	9,132	4,551	3,055	3,658	2,947	12,832	550	
Widgeon	1,420	1,750	2,135	3,624	2,414	820	1,943	1,281	4,154	205	
G.W. Teal	10,423	11,765	16,539	17,524	6,222	3,973	14,152	6,617	26,150	540	
B.W. Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	75	0	
Cinn. Teal	40	77	6	10	0	0	42	44	660	0	
Shoveler	3,770	3,830	2,278	4,264	5,321	5,654	3,054	3,326	24,700	224	
Pintail	4,755	4,985	4,890	9,982	11,420	11,360	4,938	6,480	24,765	446	
Wood Duck	10	0	12	30	10	2	6	24	150	0	
Redhead	3,422	2,273	4,524	6,485	13,330	4,171	3,399	2,297	13,330	100	
Canvasback	2,465	2,450	4,581	5,795	7,087	6,484	3,516	2,717	10,475	233	
Scaup	317	240	340	699	989	262	290	237	1,850	10	
Ringneck	2,012	1,826	2,377	2,398	3,316	2,155	2,102	797	3,316	13	
Goldeneye	337	978	715	198	661	528	847	624	2,093	40	
Bufflehead	1,978	893	1,652	2,243	2,300	1,727	1,273	858	2,571	153	
Ruddy	10,540	5,850	5,619	4,126	10,970	5,659	5,735	4,467	22,532	268	
Merganser	2,090	1,425	831	2,317	868	2,149	1,128	1,751	8,806	241	
Miscellaneous	32	19	79	101	127	82	49	44	127	3	
Total Ducks	70,110	56,677	67,082	91,989	95,565	77,031	66,263	48,373	22,532	268	
% Change v. Prev. Yr.	9%	-19%	18%	37%	4%	-19%					
	2008 Observations % change versus Averages:						16%	59%			
Dark Geese	18,634	19,558	17,312	20,842	17,366	24,827	18,770	15,363	35,806	3,457	
Light Geese	255	326	268	1,219	1,075	1,578	722	842	7,678	10	
Total Geese	18,889	19,884	17,580	22,061	18,441	26,405	19,492	16,205	43,484	3,467	
% Change v. Prev. Yr.	8%	5%	-12%	25%	-16%	43%					
	2008 Observations % change versus Averages:						35%	63%			
Trumpeter Swan	37	30	31	28	28	28	29	28	60	10	
Tundra Swan	1,339	1,614	456	2,750	3,803	2,266	1,035	2,310	10,742	31	
Total Waterfowl	90,375	78,205	85,149	116,828	117,869	105,730	86,819	66,916	149,746	22,097	
% Change v. Prev. Yr.	9%	-13%	9%	37%	1%	-10%					
	2008 Observations % change versus Averages:						22%	58%			
Coot	26,097	17,130	34,656	33,261	39,330	17,827	17,130	18,395	65,280	3,926	

STATEWIDE WATERFOWL BREEDING PAIR SURVEY DATA												COMPARISONS TO:		
SPECIES	1998	1999	2000*	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Prev Year	10 Year Avg.	48 Year Avg.
CANADA GOOSE	1214	1448	1687	1930	1269	1278	985	385**	682	1,089	460	-57%	-62%	-55%
MALLARD	1,049	1,152	1,066	979	372	825	865	386	440	755	767	2%	3%	6%
GADWALL	3,006	3,898	3,485	3,071	1,468	2,923	3,467	1,199	964	1,472	1,206	-18%	52%	-28%
PINTAIL	465	525	415	304	77	221	311	107	140	79	58	-27%	78%	-82%
CINN. TEAL	2,495	2,930	2,618	2,305	784	1,811	2,017	1,076	1,758	1,932	1,506	-22%	24%	-42%
SHOVELER	296	685	500	314	107	287	228	98	139	71	55	-23%	80%	-67%
REDHEAD	4,025	3,502	2,924	2,346	1,830	2,667	2,837	1,475	1,854	1,821	2,039	12%	19%	-24%
CANVASBACK	345	460	312	164	70	202	167	131	120	31	144	365%	28%	-12%
RUDDY DUCK	1,244	787	913	1,039	777	935	1,549	629	1,030	966	1,419	47%	-44%	70%
MISC. DUCK	1,017	1,032	803	573	353	680	526	259	66	113	212	88%	61%	-49%
Est. Total Pairs	13,942	14,971	13,033	11,095	5,837	10,551	11,967	5,360	6,511	7,240	7,406	11%	-26%	-25%

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

** No statewide goose pair survey conducted this year

Composition of Nevada Duck Harvest

From U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Parts Collection Survey and Harvest Information Program (from 1990 on)

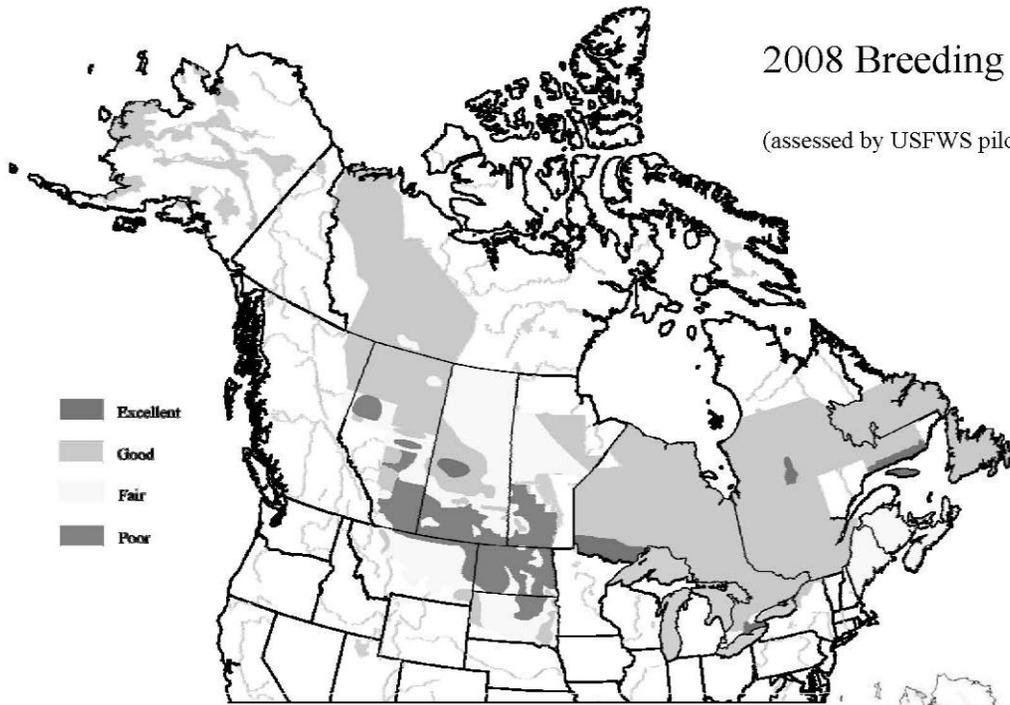
AVERAGES:

	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						
1960'S	24,007	48.9%	6,198	12.6%	4,801	9.8%	12,248	25.0%	2,119	4.3%	7,111	14.5%	11,028	22.5%	225	0.5%
1970's	26,719	39.5%	7,243	10.7%	7,809	11.6%	17,156	25.4%	3,724	5.5%	5,784	8.6%	17,973	26.6%	309	0.5%
1980's	22,031	51.1%	7,383	17.1%	4,007	9.3%	10,777	25.0%	1,575	3.7%	5,565	12.9%	7,729	17.9%	174	0.4%
1990's	21,107	47.6%	7,068	15.9%	3,351	7.6%	11,464	25.9%	1,322	3.0%	3,151	7.1%	4,520	10.2%	484	1.1%
00-07	15,832	34.2%	6,468	14.0%	3,166	6.8%	9,332	20.1%	811	1.7%	4,559	9.8%	2,477	5.3%	307	0.7%
2006	22,099	39.9%	8,137	14.7%	3,093	5.6%	8,778	15.8%	307	0.6%	6,577	11.9%	2,619	4.7%	84	0.2%
2007	12,936	29.5%	5,169	11.8%	3,278	7.5%	8,742	20.0%	532	1.2%	5,818	13.3%	2,983	6.8%	236	0.5%

	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	
1960'S	2,803	5.7%	1,263	2.6%	103	0.2%	339	0.7%	342	0.7%	134	0.3%	342	0.7%	1,036	2.1%	49,066
1970's	3,193	4.7%	2,178	3.2%	43	0.1%	523	0.8%	623	0.9%	442	0.7%	547	0.8%	1,282	1.9%	67,575
1980's	2,482	5.8%	1,650	3.8%	25	0.1%	189	0.4%	774	1.8%	268	0.6%	491	1.1%	1,207	2.8%	43,124
1990's	2,478	5.6%	713	1.6%	12	0.0%	197	0.4%	1,258	2.8%	304	0.7%	379	0.9%	1,182	2.7%	44,317
00-07	801	1.7%	399	0.9%	23	0.0%	180	0.4%	754	1.6%	296	0.6%	429	0.9%	338	0.7%	46,325
2006	1,338	2.4%	307	0.6%	0	0.0%	84	0.2%	1,338	2.4%	223	0.4%	0	0.0%	111	0.2%	55,402
2007	354	0.8%	1,447	3.3%	0	0.0%	236	0.5%	768	1.8%	354	0.8%	0	0.0%	325	0.7%	43,800

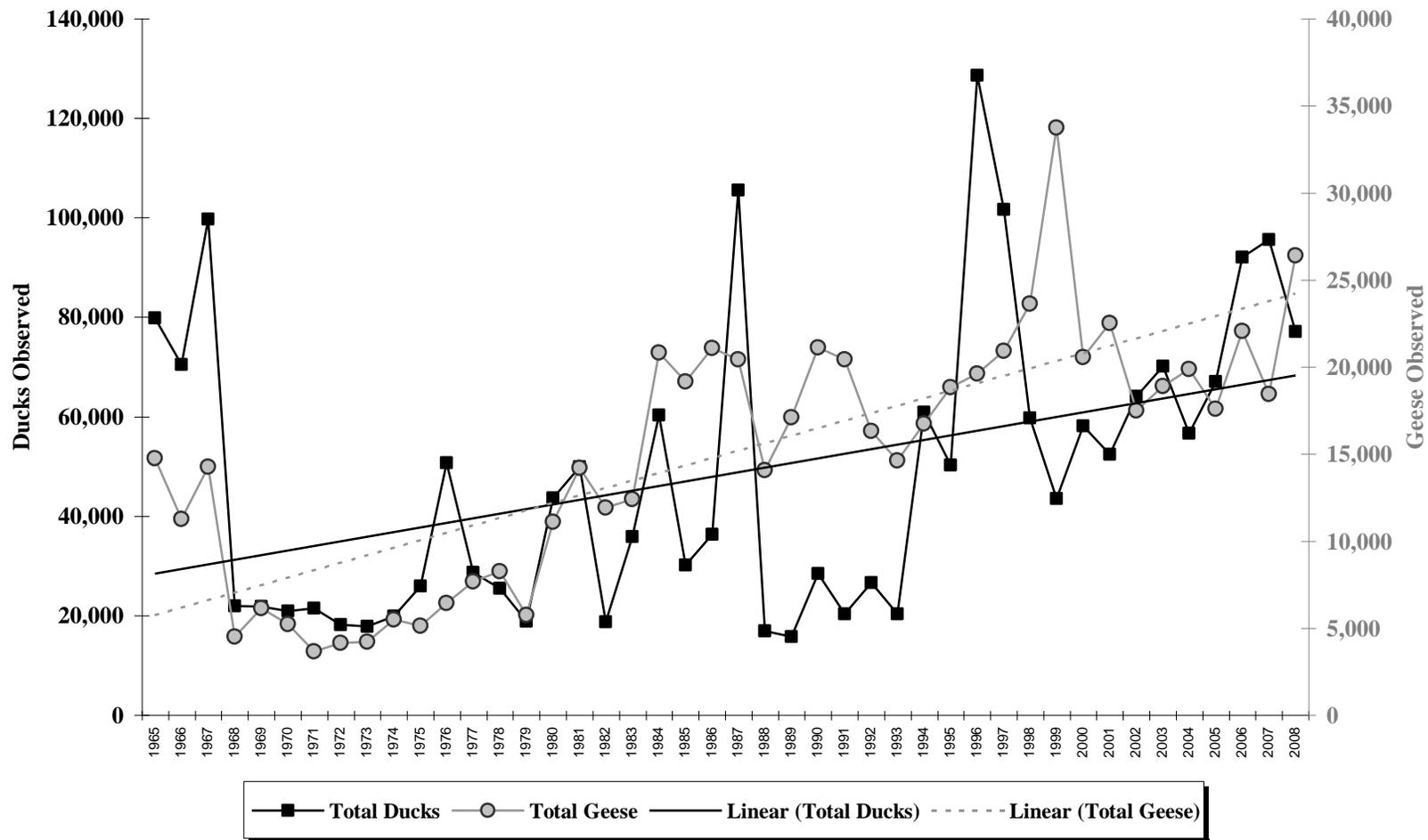
2008 Breeding Waterfowl Habitat Conditions

(assessed by USFWS pilot biologists during waterfowl surveys in May and June)



2007

Midwinter Survey Duck and Goose Observations 1965-2007



A-15

Duck Daily Bag Limit Restrictions History – Page 1.

	General	Mallard		Pintail		Canvas-back	Red-head	Scaup	Wood Duck	Ruddy Duck	Merg.	Notes	Bonus
		Drake	Hen	Drake	Hen								
1953	7	--	--	11 ^(a)		--	--	--	0	--	--		4
1954	7	--	--	10 ^(a)		--	--	--	0	--	--		3
1955	6	--	--	9 ^(a)		--	--	--	1	--	Separate merganser season - 5 daily, but only one hooded merganser.		3
1956	6	--	--	9 ^(a)		--	--	--	1	--			3
1957	5	--	--	8 ^(a)		--	--	--	1	--			3
1958	5	--	--	9 ^(a)		--	--	--	1	--			4
1959	5	--	--	5		2	2	--	1	1		(1)	
1960	4	--	--	4		0	0	--	1	--			
1961	5	--	--	5		0	0	--	1	--			
1962	4	--	--	4		0	0	--	1	--			
1963	4	--	--	4		0	0	--	2	--			
1964	5	--	--	5		2	2	--	2	--		(2)	
1965	4	3		3		2	--	--	2	--		(7)	
1966	6	--	--	--		--	--	--	2	--			
1967	6	--	--	--		2	--	--	--	--			
1968	5	3		--		2	--	--	--	--			
1969	5	--	--	--		2	--	--	--	--			
1970	6	--	--	--		6	--	--	--	--			
1971	6	--	--	--		2	--	--	--	--			
1972	6	--	--	--		0	--	--	--	--			
1973	5	--	--	7 ^(p)		1	2	--	--	--	--	(CH)	2
1974	5	--	--	7 ^(p)		1	2	--	--	--	--	(CH)	2
1975	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1976	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1977	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1978	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1979	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1980	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1981	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1982	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1983	7	--	--	--		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1984	7	--	--	4		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1985	5	3	1	3	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	(2), (6)	
1986	5	4	1	4	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1987	5	4	1	4	1	1	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1988	4	3	1	1		0	2	--	--	--	--		
1989	4	3	1	1		1	2	--	--	--	--	(3)	
1990	4	3	1	1		1	2	--	--	--	--	(3)	
1991	4	3	1	1		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1992	4	3	1	1		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	
1993	4	3	1	1		2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)	

Continued next page

Notations described on next page

Duck Daily Bag Limit Restrictions History – Page 2.													
1994	4	3	1	1	2	2	--	--	--	--	(2)		
1995	6	--	1	2	1	2	--	--	--	--			
1996	7	--	1	2	1	2	--	--	--	--			
1997	7	--	2	3	1	2	--	--	--	--			
1998	7	--	2	1	1	2	--	--	--	--			
1999	7	--	2	1	1	2	4	--	--	--			
2000	7	--	2	1	1	2	4	--	--	--			
2001	7	--	2	1	1	2	4	--	--	--	(4)		
2002	7	--	2	1	0	2	4	--	--	--			
2003	7	--	2	1	1	2	4	--	--	--	(4), (5)		
2004	7	--	2	1	1	2	4	--	--	--	(4), (5)		
2005	7	--	2	1	1	2	3	--	--	--	(4)		
2006	7	--	2	1	1	2	3	--	--	--			
2007	7	--	2	1	2	2	3	--	--	--			
2008	7	--	2	1	0	2	2	--	--	--	(8)		
	General	Mallard		Pintail		Canvas-back	Red-head	Scaup	Wood Duck	Ruddy Duck	Merg.	Notes	Bonus ^(B)
		Drake	Hen	Drake	Hen								

General Notations:	
Symbol "--" indicates that this species has no separate limit restrictions from the general bag limit.	
0 = Season closed for this species	

Bonus Duck Notations:	
(a) Bonus ducks - the indicated number represents the number of pintails or wigeon or the aggregate of both that could be taken in addition to the general bag limit.	
(p) Bonus pintail - the indicated number represents the number of pintails that could be taken in addition to the general bag limit.	

Canvasback & Redhead Daily Bag Limit Notations:	
(1)	hunters could shoot 2 canvasbacks or 2 redheads or 2 ruddy duck or 2 in the aggregate
(2)	hunters could shoot no more than 2 canvasbacks or 2 redheads or one of each
(3)	hunters could shoot no more than 2 redheads, or a redhead and a canvasback

Partial Season Notations:	
(CH)	canvasback closed in CH Co. only
(4)	Partial canvasback season
(5)	Partial pintail season
(8)	Partial scaup season

Other Pintail / Mallard Notations:	
(6)	hunters could shoot 3 mallards or 3 pintails or 5 in the aggregate of which no more than 1 ♀ pintail and 1 ♀ mallard may be taken
(7)	hunters could shoot 3 mallards or 3 pintails or 6 in the aggregate

2007-08 SMALL GAME HARVEST DATA

Derived from Modified Post-season Questionnaire

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
WATERFOWL		Species:		DUCKS			Run date: 8/20/2008	
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	138	19	108	7.3	1.3	0%	0%
	Churchill	25,199	1,787	9,732	14.1	2.6	46%	39%
	Douglas	2,669	202	1,675	13.2	1.6	5%	4%
	Humboldt	423	93	327	4.6	1.3	1%	2%
	Lyon	4,872	482	2,698	10.1	1.8	9%	10%
	Mineral	501	64	223	7.8	2.2	1%	1%
	Pershing	4,184	297	1,488	14.1	2.8	8%	6%
	Storey	955	38	596	25	2	2%	1%
	Washoe	2,112	420	1,666	5.0	1.3	4%	9%
EASTERN	Elko	1,724	246	968	7.0	1.8	3%	5%
	Eureka	488	55	233	8.9	2.1	1%	1%
	Lander	238	42	157	5.7	1.5	0%	1%
	White Pine	280	45	187	6.2	1.5	1%	1%
SOUTHERN	Clark	4,730	310	2,083	15.3	2.3	9%	7%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	3,930	316	1,488	12.4	2.6	7%	7%
	Nye	2,015	223	817	9.0	2.5	4%	5%
TOTALS:		54,459	4,637	24,445	11.7	2.2	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				4,038				

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE - 2007-08 Small Game Post-season Questionnaire
Distribution of Duck Hunters by County of Origin

Origin of Hunter	% of Hunters	Counties Hunted																
		CC	CH	CL	DO	EL	ES	EU	HU	LA	LN	LY	MN	NY	PE	ST	WA	WP
CC	6.8%	3.6%	40.5%	0.6%	9.5%	1.8%			0.6%			13.1%		0.6%	3.6%		25.0%	
CH	6.6%		93.2%			0.6%			0.6%			1.2%		0.6%	3.1%		0.6%	
CL	17.5%	0.2%	0.5%	36.2%		3.0%		0.2%			34.6%	1.6%		22.0%				1.2%
DO	6.5%	1.2%	27.3%		37.3%	0.6%				0.6%		18.6%	2.5%		1.9%		8.1%	
EL	4.4%		3.7%			71.3%		17.6%	0.9%	1.9%		1.9%			0.9%			0.9%
ES	0.0%																	
EU	0.2%					20.0%		40.0%		20.0%								20.0%
HU	2.1%		17.0%			7.5%		1.9%	50.9%	3.8%					15.1%		1.9%	
LA	0.8%					10.5%		10.5%		78.9%								
LN	0.2%										100%							
LY	7.7%		40.7%		0.5%							42.3%	3.2%	0.5%	6.3%		5.8%	
MN	0.5%		7.7%									7.7%	76.9%				7.7%	
NY	1.0%		8.3%								12.5%	20.8%		50.0%	4.2%		4.2%	
PE	0.9%								9.1%						86.4%			
ST	0.1%		33.3%									33.3%				33.3%		
WA	36.6%	0.1%	53.6%	0.1%	1.9%	1.1%		0.2%	1.6%	0.1%	0.1%	10.1%	1.6%	0.1%	10.3%	1.9%	15.8%	0.1%
WP	1.0%					16.0%						4.0%	4.0%		12.0%			64.0%
NR	7.1%		56.3%	3.4%	7.4%	8.0%		1.1%	1.7%		4.5%	6.8%		2.3%	4.5%		4.0%	
%Hunter Dist by County		0%	38%	7%	4%	5%		1%	2%	1%	7%	10%	1%	5%	6%	1%	9%	1%

Blank cells indicate no data.

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
WATERFOWL		Species:		DARK GEESE		Run date: 8/20/2008		
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	2	9	76	0.3	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	1,335	491	2,726	2.7	0.5	25%	27%
	Douglas	944	194	1,322	4.9	0.7	18%	11%
	Humboldt	68	24	116	2.8	0.6	1%	1%
	Lyon	1,319	369	1,367	3.6	1.0	25%	20%
	Mineral	57	22	98	2.6	0.6	1%	1%
	Pershing	260	46	369	5.7	0.7	5%	3%
	Storey	79	24	303	3	0	1%	1%
	Washoe	539	236	1,014	2.3	0.5	10%	13%
EASTERN	Elko	100	65	329	1.5	0.3	2%	4%
	Eureka	52	31	100	1.7	0.5	1%	2%
	Lander	55	31	131	1.8	0.4	1%	2%
	White Pine	79	31	81	2.6	1.0	1%	2%
SOUTHERN	Clark	262	131	1,156	2.0	0.2	5%	7%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	124	72	427	1.7	0.3	2%	4%
	Nye	65	46	203	1.4	0.3	1%	3%
TOTALS:		5,339	1,819	9,819	2.9	0.5	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				1,729				

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
WATERFOWL		Species:		WHITE GEESE			Run date: 8/20/2008	
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	2	7	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	172	153	789	1.1	0.2	42%	33%
	Douglas	63	15	87	4.1	0.7	15%	3%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lyon	46	76	310	0.6	0.1	11%	16%
	Mineral	0	17	79	0.0	0.0	0%	4%
	Pershing	20	11	39	1.8	0.5	5%	2%
	Storey	0	7	181	0	0	0%	1%
	Washoe	13	57	275	0.2	0.0	3%	12%
EASTERN	Elko	2	7	37	0.3	0.1	1%	1%
	Eureka	0	2	4	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	4	17	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
SOUTHERN	Clark	63	70	661	0.9	0.1	15%	15%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	28	33	255	0.9	0.1	7%	7%
	Nye	7	13	37	0.5	0.2	2%	3%
TOTALS:		414	467	2,779	0.9	0.1	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				386				

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
WATERFOWL		Species:		COOT		Run date: 8/20/2008		
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	15	2	31	7.0	0.5	1%	1%
	Churchill	650	94	360	6.9	1.8	61%	37%
	Douglas	2	7	37	0.3	0.1	0%	3%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lyon	76	24	48	3.2	1.6	7%	9%
	Mineral	9	4	7	2.0	1.3	1%	2%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	4	174	0	0	0%	2%
Washoe	20	24	168	0.8	0.1	2%	9%	
EASTERN	Elko	33	15	65	2.1	0.5	3%	6%
	Eureka	0	2	4	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Lander	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
SOUTHERN	Clark	122	44	201	2.8	0.6	11%	17%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	72	13	37	5.5	1.9	7%	5%
	Nye	70	20	26	3.6	2.7	7%	8%
TOTALS:		1,069	253	1,158	4.2	0.9	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				228				

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
MIG. WATERBIRDS			Species:	SNIPE		Run date: 8/20/2008		
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	28	28	79	1.0	0.4	25%	25%
	Douglas	4	7	9	0.7	0.5	4%	6%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lyon	15	11	35	1.4	0.4	14%	10%
	Mineral	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0%	2%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	2	44	0	0	0%	2%
	Washoe	9	20	144	0.4	0.1	8%	18%
EASTERN	Elko	9	9	31	1.0	0.3	8%	8%
	Eureka	0	2	4	0.0	0.0	0%	2%
	Lander	2	2	2	1.0	1.0	2%	2%
	White Pine	4	2	2	2.0	2.0	4%	2%
SOUTHERN	Clark	33	20	157	1.7	0.2	29%	18%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	7	7	7	1.0	1.0	6%	6%
	Nye	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
TOTALS:		111	111	515	1.0	0.2	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				94				

MIG. WATERBIRDS		MOORHEN					
Unexpanded Data (direct survey findings)							
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill							
County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
Churchill	3	1	3	3.0	1.0	50%	33%
Lyon	0	1	3	0.0	0.0	0%	33%
Washoe	3	1	1	3.0	3.0	50%	33%
TOTAL:	6	3	7	2.0	0.9	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
MIGRATORY BIRDS		Species: MOURNING DOVE		Run date: 8/20/2008				
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	346	49	112	7.1	3.1	1%	1%
	Churchill	9,684	584	2,234	16.6	4.3	20%	13%
	Douglas	976	134	330	7.3	3.0	2%	3%
	Humboldt	1,045	169	485	6.2	2.2	2%	4%
	Lyon	7,944	758	2,043	10.5	3.9	16%	17%
	Mineral	207	33	128	6.3	1.6	0%	1%
	Pershing	1,006	112	278	9.0	3.6	2%	3%
	Storey	614	55	194	11.3	3.2	1%	1%
Washoe	8,176	783	2,531	10.4	3.2	17%	18%	
EASTERN	Elko	1,260	191	466	6.6	2.7	3%	4%
	Eureka	300	44	82	6.9	3.7	1%	1%
	Lander	368	60	155	6.1	2.4	1%	1%
	White Pine	420	74	191	5.7	2.2	1%	2%
SOUTHERN	Clark	9,853	766	2,757	12.9	3.6	20%	17%
	Esmeralda	265	19	82	13.9	3.2	1%	0%
	Lincoln	3,180	330	1,045	9.6	3.0	7%	7%
	Nye	2,984	245	1,023	12.2	2.9	6%	6%
TOTALS:		48,629	4,404	14,135	11.0	3.4	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				3,214				

MIGRATORY BIRDS		WHITE-WINGED DOVE			Expanded Data			
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	309	144	593	2.1	0.5	69%	85%	
Nye	139	26	124	5.4	1.1	31%	15%	
TOTAL:	448	170	716	2.6	0.6	100%	100%	

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE								
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire ESTIMATED HARVEST								
MIGRATORY BIRDS			Species: AMERICAN CROW		Run date: 8/20/2008			
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08				Expanded Data				
Survey Type: Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill								
R	County of Harvest	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Churchill	262	22	67	12.1	3.9	15%	11%
	Douglas	363	32	102	11.5	3.6	21%	17%
	Humboldt	68	12	88	5.9	0.8	4%	6%
	Lyon	233	27	57	8.8	4.1	13%	14%
	Mineral	2	3	7	0.5	0.3	0%	2%
	Pershing	77	7	18	11.5	4.2	4%	4%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
EASTERN	Washoe	198	30	113	6.6	1.8	11%	16%
	Elko	72	7	18	10.8	3.9	4%	4%
	Eureka	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
SOUTHERN	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Clark	363	32	102	11.5	3.6	21%	17%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	98	12	57	8.4	1.7	6%	6%
	Nye	30	7	80	4.5	0.4	2%	4%
TOTALS:		1,767	190	710	9.3	2.5	100%	100%
Estimated # of Individual Hunters:				160				

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

SAGE-GROUSE

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	6	6	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	145	78	127	1.8	1.1	3%	2%
	Douglas	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Humboldt	1014	803	1726	1.3	0.6	21%	25%
	Lyon	6	24	42	0.3	0.1	0%	1%
	Mineral	0	12	72	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing*	17	5	10	3.4	1.7	0%	0%
	Storey*	2	1	1	2.0	2.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	652	537	1159	1.2	0.6	13%	17%
	Western Region Subtotals:	1835	1466	3143	1.3	0.6	37%	46%
EASTERN	Elko	1406	748	1786	1.9	0.8	29%	23%
	Eureka	410	205	410	2.0	1.0	8%	6%
	Lander	495	296	609	1.7	0.8	10%	9%
	White Pine	344	278	585	1.2	0.6	7%	9%
		Eastern Region Subtotals:	2655	1527	3391	1.7	0.8	54%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda*	12	6	12	2.0	1.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln*	2	5	8	0.4	0.3	0%	0%
	Nye	392	193	428	2.0	0.9	8%	6%
		Southern Region Subtotals:	406	204	449	2.0	0.9	8%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

BLUE-GROUSE

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp
 Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	70	109	164	0.6	0.4	3%	6%
	Churchill	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Douglas	157	133	391	1.2	0.4	10%	8%
	Humboldt	0	16	16	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Lyon	0	24	70	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Mineral	0	23	109	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	8	8	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Washoe	313	399	726	0.8	0.4	18%	24%
	Western Region Subtotals:	540	712	1484	0.8	0.4	32%	43%
EASTERN	Elko	525	462	1011	1.1	0.5	32%	32%
	Eureka	16	38	132	0.4	0.1	1%	1%
	Lander	39	94	202	0.4	0.2	2%	5%
	White Pine	478	267	595	1.8	0.8	29%	18%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:	1058	861	1940	1.2	0.5	62%	52%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	8	78	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	23	23	54	1.0	0.4	0%	1%
	Nye	78	39	63	2.0	1.3	5%	3%
	Southern Region Subtotals:	101	70	195	1.4	0.5	6%	4%
TOTAL:		1699	1643	3619	1.0	0.5	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

RUFFED GROUSE

Expanded Data

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Douglas	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Humboldt	15	85	146	0.2	0.1	6%	25%
	Lyon	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Western Region Subtotals:	15	85	146	0.2	0.1	6%	25%
EASTERN	Elko	223	254	685	0.9	0.3	94%	75%
	Eureka	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:	223	254	685	0.9	0.3	94%	75%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Nye	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Southern Region Subtotals:	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
TOTAL:	239	339	831	0.7	0.3	100%	100%	

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

CHUKAR

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp
 Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	63	102	307	0.6	0.2	0%	1%
	Churchill	1715	695	2437	2.5	0.7	3%	5%
	Douglas	176	97	296	1.8	0.6	0%	1%
	Humboldt	21264	3112	16201	6.8	1.3	35%	22%
	Lyon	1351	985	3654	1.4	0.4	2%	7%
	Mineral	148	91	290	1.6	0.5	0%	1%
	Pershing	5034	1160	4397	4.3	1.1	8%	8%
	Storey	387	222	495	1.7	0.8	1%	2%
	Washoe	11610	3123	13778	3.7	0.8	19%	22%
	Western Region Subtotals:	41749	9587	41855	4.4	1.0	68%	66%
EASTERN	Elko	9625	1741	8254	5.5	1.2	16%	12%
	Eureka	3459	631	2150	5.5	1.6	6%	4%
	Lander	4420	705	3419	6.3	1.3	7%	5%
	White Pine	205	193	557	1.1	0.4	0%	1%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:	17709	3271	14381	5.4	1.2	29%	23%
SOUTHERN	Clark	597	542	2224	1.1	0.3	1%	4%
	Esmeralda	137	68	245	2.0	0.6	0%	0%
	Lincoln	398	353	1513	1.1	0.3	1%	2%
	Nye	563	627	2903	0.9	0.2	1%	4%
	Southern Region Subtotals:	1695	1590	6885	1.1	0.2	3%	11%
TOTAL:		61153	14448	63121	4.2	1.0	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

HUNGARIAN
PARTRIDGE

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Douglas	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Humboldt	873	483	2378	1.8	0.4	49%	43%
	Lyon	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	114	50	227	2.3	0.5	6%	4%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	35	21	163	1.7	0.2	2%	2%
	Western Region Subtotals:	1022	554	2768	1.8	0.4	58%	50%
EASTERN	Elko	454	348	1860	1.3	0.2	26%	31%
	Eureka	192	114	319	1.7	0.6	11%	10%
	Lander	106	99	490	1.1	0.2	6%	9%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
		Eastern Region Subtotals:	752	561	2669	1.3	0.3	42%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Nye	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
		Southern Region Subtotals:	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
	TOTAL:	1775	1114	5438	1.6	0.3	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

CALIFORNIA QUAIL

Expanded Data

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	463	135	570	3.4	0.8	2%	3%
	Churchill	8080	605	2912	13.4	2.8	27%	15%
	Douglas	2520	242	1253	10.4	2.0	9%	6%
	Humboldt	3310	726	2591	4.6	1.3	11%	18%
	Lyon	6436	890	3752	7.2	1.7	22%	22%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	3773	256	876	14.7	4.3	13%	6%
	Storey	100	43	128	2.3	0.8	0%	1%
	Washoe	4293	975	3382	4.4	1.3	15%	24%
	Western Region Subtotals:	28975	3873	15463	7.5	1.9	99%	94%
EASTERN	Elko	128	64	178	2.0	0.7	0%	2%
	Eureka	57	14	50	4.0	1.1	0%	0%
	Lander	71	21	21	3.4	3.4	0%	1%
	White Pine	0	14	28	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:	256	114	277	2.3	0.9	1%	3%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Nye	171	128	847	1.3	0.2	1%	3%
	Southern Region Subtotals:	171	128	847	1.3	0.2	1%	3%
TOTAL:		29402	4115	16587	7.1	1.8	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

GAMBEL'S QUAIL

Expanded Data

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Douglas	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lyon	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
		Western Region Subtotals:	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
EASTERN	Elko	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Eureka	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lander	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
		Eastern Region Subtotals:	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%
SOUTHERN	Clark	11218	2760	12147	4.1	0.9	76%	70%
	Esmeralda	0	22	94	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Lincoln	3057	814	3585	3.8	0.9	21%	21%
	Nye	508	332	1700	1.5	0.3	3%	8%
		Southern Region Subtotals:	14783	3928	17526	3.8	0.8	100%
	TOTAL:	14783	3928	17526	3.8	0.8	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

MOUNTAIN QUAIL

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	12	8	14	1.5	0.9	1%	3%
	Churchill	119	33	72	3.6	1.7	13%	11%
	Douglas	78	47	167	1.7	0.5	9%	15%
	Humboldt	134	33	132	4.1	1.0	15%	11%
	Lyon	195	70	152	2.8	1.3	22%	22%
	Mineral	4	2	2	2.0	2.0	0%	1%
	Pershing	19	4	8	4.5	2.3	2%	1%
	Storey	35	6	8	5.7	4.3	4%	2%
	Washoe	249	70	278	3.6	0.9	27%	22%
	Western Region Subtotals:	845	274	833	3.1	1.0	93%	88%
EASTERN	Elko	4	8	19	0.5	0.2	0%	3%
	Eureka	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lander	4	6	19	0.7	0.2	0%	2%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:	8	14	37	0.6	0.2	1%	5%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	2	2	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Lincoln	2	6	33	0.3	0.1	0%	2%
	Nye	51	16	84	3.1	0.6	6%	5%
	Southern Region Subtotals:	53	25	119	2.2	0.4	6%	8%
TOTAL:		907	313	989	2.9	0.9	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

PHEASANT

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	3	3	7	1.0	0.5	1%	1%
	Churchill	26	10	10	2.7	2.7	8%	3%
	Douglas	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Humboldt	193	164	403	1.2	0.5	56%	45%
	Lyon	49	75	144	0.7	0.3	14%	21%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	36	49	180	0.7	0.2	10%	14%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	3	7	16	0.5	0.2	1%	2%
	Western Region Subtotals:		311	308	760	1.0	0.4	90%
EASTERN	Elko	0	3	36	0.0	0.0	0%	1%
	Eureka	0	7	13	0.0	0.0	0%	2%
	Lander	20	10	33	2.0	0.6	6%	3%
	White Pine	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:		20	20	82	1.0	0.2	6%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	10	56	0.0	0.0	0%	3%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	10	20	82	0.5	0.1	3%	5%
	Nye	3	3	3	1.0	1.0	1%	1%
	Southern Region Subtotals:		13	33	141	0.4	0.1	4%
TOTAL:		344	360	983	1.0	0.4	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

RABBIT

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Expanded Data
Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/Hunter	Kill/Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	36	7	19	5.1	1.9	1%	1%
	Churchill	257	27	128	9.5	2.0	6%	5%
	Douglas	243	16	164	15.2	1.5	6%	3%
	Humboldt	132	20	68	6.6	1.9	3%	4%
	Lyon	657	28	349	23.5	1.9	15%	6%
	Mineral	4	2	11	2.0	0.4	0%	0%
	Pershing	20	6	22	3.3	0.9	0%	1%
	Storey	2	6	16	0.3	0.1	0%	1%
	Washoe	255	64	326	4.0	0.8	6%	13%
	Western Region Subtotals:		1606	176	1103	9.1	1.5	38%
EASTERN	Elko	717	52	293	13.8	2.4	17%	11%
	Eureka	26	5	18	5.2	1.4	1%	1%
	Lander	124	10	37	12.4	3.4	3%	2%
	White Pine	320	28	126	11.4	2.5	7%	6%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:		1187	95	474	12.5	2.5	28%
SOUTHERN	Clark	875	148	855	5.9	1.0	20%	30%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	210	35	216	6.0	1.0	5%	7%
	Nye	400	40	280	10.0	1.4	9%	8%
	Southern Region Subtotals:		1485	223	1351	6.7	1.1	35%
TOTAL:		4278	494	2928	8.7	1.5	100%	100%

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
Small Game Post-season Questionnaire

UPLAND GAME SURVEY
HUNTING SEASON: 2007-08

PYGMY RABBIT

Expanded Data

Survey Type: Upland Game Stamp Holders

Harvest and Hunting Pressure by County of Kill

R	County of Kill	Total Harvest	# of Hunters	# of Hunter Days	Kill/ Hunter	Kill/ Day	% of total Kill	% of total Hunters
WESTERN	Carson City	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Churchill	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Douglas	0	8	84	0.0	0.0	0%	8%
	Humboldt	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lyon	17	8	8	2.0	2.0	6%	8%
	Mineral	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Pershing	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Storey	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Washoe	17	8	34	2.0	0.5	6%	8%
	Western Region Subtotals:		34	25	126	1.3	0.3	12%
EASTERN	Elko	51	25	59	2.0	0.9	18%	23%
	Eureka	17	8	8	2.0	2.0	6%	8%
	Lander	17	8	8	2.0	2.0	6%	8%
	White Pine	67	25	270	2.7	0.3	24%	23%
	Eastern Region Subtotals:		152	67	345	2.3	0.4	53%
SOUTHERN	Clark	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Esmeralda	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Lincoln	101	17	59	6.0	1.7	35%	15%
	Nye	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0%	0%
	Southern Region Subtotals:		101	17	59	6	1.7	35%
TOTAL:		286	110	531	2.6	0.5	100%	100%