

IDAPA 13 - IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

13.01.09 - RULES GOVERNING THE TAKING OF GAME BIRDS IN THE STATE OF IDAHO

DOCKET NO. 13-0109-1501

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES - NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5220, Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency intends to promulgate rules and desires public comment prior to initiating formal rulemaking procedures. This negotiated rulemaking action is authorized pursuant to Section 36-104(b)(5), Idaho Code.

METHOD OF PARTICIPATION: Interested persons wishing to participate in the negotiated rulemaking must respond to this notice by contacting the undersigned either in writing, by email, or by calling the phone number listed below. To be considered, responses must be received by February 25, 2015.

Should a reasonable number of persons respond to this notice, negotiated meetings will be scheduled and all scheduled meetings shall be posted and made accessible on the agency website at the address listed below.

Failure of interested persons to respond to this notice of intent or the lack of a sufficient number of responses to this notice of intent may result in the discontinuation of further informal proceedings. In either event the agency shall have sole discretion in determining the feasibility of scheduling and conducting informal negotiated rulemaking and may proceed directly to formal rulemaking if proceeding with negotiated rulemaking is deemed infeasible.

Upon the conclusion of the negotiated rulemaking, any unresolved issues, all key issues considered, and conclusions reached during the negotiated rulemaking will be addressed in a written summary and made available on the agency website.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a statement in nontechnical language of the substance and purpose of the intended negotiated rulemaking and the principle issues involved:

Decades ago the Department closed several areas around the state to goose hunting. These closed areas were intended to provide migrating goose populations places to stop over where they wouldn't be hunted. It was also a management objective to keep the migrating geese around longer to provide more hunting opportunities in the areas surrounding the closures. Goose populations at that time were much lower than current populations.

The Department proposes to rescind the goose hunting closure in the Hagerman Valley in Gooding and Twin Falls Counties. The rescission would not affect the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area Waterfowl Closure. This area is and would remain closed to the taking of any waterfowl, including geese and ducks. The area currently closed to goose hunting in the Hagerman Valley is open for duck hunting and has been for decades.

The number of geese migrating through the Hagerman Valley has increased substantially over the past decade. There are now sufficient numbers of geese that migrate through the area that a closure is no longer warranted. Additionally, geese are starting to have a negative impact on agricultural operations within the closed area. Rescinding this closure will increase goose hunting opportunities in the area and provide an effective means of mitigating the negative impact the migrating geese are having on agricultural operations.

The purpose of the proposed rule would be to increase goose hunting opportunities in the Hagerman Valley and to help reduce goose conflicts with agricultural producers.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS, OBTAINING DRAFT COPIES: For assistance on technical questions concerning this negotiated rulemaking or to obtain a copy of the preliminary draft of the text of the proposed rule, contact Toby Boudreau, (208) 324-4359 or visit the agency website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding this negotiated rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before February 25, 2015.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2015.

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