

Scoping/Public Participation Report for the Proposed Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Issuance of Annual Regulations for Migratory Bird Hunting

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: On September 8, 2005, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service or we) published a Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (Draft SEIS) under the authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (FR Vol. 70, No. 173, 53376-53379). The Service subsequently announced a total of 12 public meetings to be held across the United States to accept public and agency comment on the scope and relevant issues that should be addressed in the proposed Draft SEIS (FR Vol71, No. 46, 12216-12217). In addition to these public meetings, the Service established a website to receive electronic comments and solicited written comments. The Service also announced that all comments received from the initiation of this process on September 8, 2005, until May 30, 2006, would be considered in the development of the SEIS.

A total of 245 communications (verbal, written or electronic) were received that identified 683 issues from individuals, agencies, and organizations in response to the service's request for input on the scope of the proposed SEIS. The majority of individual comments received concerned falconry regulations, most generally aimed at requesting increased opportunities for falconry take outside the period that hunting with firearms is allowed. Additional comments were received regarding the use of electronic decoys, the majority opposed the use of these devices (26), but several in support of

their continued use (6). Finally, 11 respondents recommended inclusion of annual regulations governing Alaska subsistence, tribal or both of these processes in the proposed SEIS. Most other comments occurred at very low frequencies and are summarized below.

Background: Migratory birds are those bird species so designated in bilateral conventions between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia for the protection and management of these birds. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) and the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 7421), the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to determine when “hunting, taking, capture, killing, possession, sale, purchase, shipment, transportation, carriage, or export of any bird, or any part, nest or egg” of migratory birds can take place, and to adopt regulations for this purpose. These regulations are issued with due regard to “the zones of temperature and the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of migratory flight of such birds” and compatibility with the conventions between the United States and Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia for the protection and management of migratory birds. Most take that has been authorized under these authorities has been limited to the subset of migratory birds designated as game birds by these conventions. This responsibility has been delegated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior as the lead Federal agency for managing and conserving migratory birds in the United States.

The Service currently promulgates regulations allowing and governing the

hunting of migratory birds. Regulations governing seasons and limits are promulgated annually, in part due to considerations such as the abundance of birds, which can change from year to year, and are developed by establishing the frameworks, or outside limits, for earliest opening and latest closing dates, season lengths, limits (daily bag and possession), and areas for migratory bird hunting. These “annual” regulations have been promulgated by the Service each year since 1918. Other regulations, termed “basic” regulations (for example, those governing hunting methods), are promulgated once and changed only when a need to do so arises. All hunting regulations are contained in 50 CFR Parts 20 and 92. The Service provided information on the current process for establishing sport hunting regulations, the tribal regulations process, the Alaska subsistence process, and past NEPA considerations (a 1975 EIS and a 1988 SEIS) (FR Vol. 70, No. 173, 53376-53379).

Issue Identification: The Service sought suggestions and comments regarding the scope and substance of the proposed supplemental EIS, particular issues to be addressed and why, and options or alternatives to be considered. In particular, in regard to the scope and substance of this supplemental EIS, the Service requested comments on the following:

1. Harvest management alternatives for migratory game birds to be considered,
2. Limiting the scope of the assessment to sport hunting (i.e., exclusion of the Alaska migratory bird subsistence process), and
3. Inclusion of basic regulations (methods and means).

Public Scoping Meetings: Twelve public scoping meetings were held on the following dates at the indicated locations and times:

1. March 24, 2006: Columbus, Ohio, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus, 350 North High Street; 1 p.m.
2. March 28, 2006: Memphis, Tennessee, at the Holiday Inn Select Downtown, 160 Union Avenue; 7 p.m.
3. March 30, 2006: Rosenberg, Texas, at the Texas Agricultural Extension Service Education Center, 1402 Band Road, Suite 100, Highway 36; 7 p.m.
4. April 5, 2006: Anchorage, Alaska, at the Howard Johnson Motel, 239 North 4th Avenue; 7 p.m.
5. April 6, 2006: Denver, Colorado, at the Colorado Department of Wildlife, Northeast Region Service Center, Hunter Education Building, 6060 Broadway; 7 p.m.
6. April 10, 2006: Hadley, Massachusetts, at the Northeast Regional Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Westgate Center Drive; 7 p.m.
7. April 12, 2006: Charleston, South Carolina, at the Fort Johnson Marine Laboratory, 217 Fort Johnson Road, James Island; 7 p.m.
8. April 19, 2006: Fargo, North Dakota, at the Best Western Doublewood Inn, 3333 13th Avenue South; 7 p.m.
9. April 20, 2006: Bloomington, Minnesota, at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, 3815 American Boulevard East; 7 p.m.

10. April 24, 2006: Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 1594 West North Temple; 7 p.m.
11. April 26, 2006: Arlington, Virginia, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 200; 1 p.m.
12. April 27, 2006: Sacramento, California, at the California Department of Fish and Game, Auditorium, Resource Building, 1416 Ninth Street; 7 p.m.

A total of 245 communications (verbal, written or electronic) were received that identified 683 issues from individuals, agencies, and organizations. Letters were received from: 17 individuals, 8 non-governmental organizations, 9 public fish and wildlife agencies, and 3 non-agency governmental entities. A total of 43 individuals spoke at the 12 public scoping meetings. Of these, 10 individuals were representatives of a public fish and wildlife agency; 8 represented NGOs; 5 were affiliated with a guiding/outfitter business or a fish/game/falconry club; and 1 was a state legislator. In addition, 188 comments were received by electronic mail at the web site established for this purpose.

Table 1: Agencies and organizations that submitted comments.

Public fish & wildlife agencies	USFWS (Refuges), Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Vermont, Wyoming
NGOs	Animal Welfare Institute, Humane Society of the U.S., Minnesota Waterfowl Association, North American Falconers

	Association, The Ornithological Council, Sea Ducks Unlimited, Sierra Club (Houston chapter), Utah Falconers Association, Utah Waterfowl Association, Virginia Waterfowlers Association, Wood Duck Society
Other	Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, Central Flyway Council, Pacific Flyway Council, South Carolina House of Representatives

Citizens from the following 39 States sent letters/emails or attended meetings:

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Overview of comments: After summarizing the various comments one-by-one (Appendix 1), they were grouped into the following categories (number of comments falling under that category given in parentheses):

- **Scope of SEIS** (71) – comments that mentioned specific items to be included in the SEIS or that referred to the SEIS in some manner
- **Specific species** (39) – comments that mentioned a specific species (e.g., Canada geese, woodcock, pintails, etc.)

- **Falconry** (11) – comments pertaining to some aspect of the sport of falconry (mostly regarding a desire for a longer, and separate, hunting season and the use of raptors for abatement purposes)
- **Regulations and AHM** (12) – comments pertaining to the hunting regulations process or to Adaptive Harvest Management
- **National Wildlife Refuges** (7)
- **Hunting opportunities** (10) – comments having to do with improving hunting opportunities
- **Seasons and bag limits** (26) – comments on desired changes in seasons and bag limits, many being highly localized
- **Methods and technology** (14) – comments related to various technologies (esp. spinning duck decoys) and methods of hunting, baiting, etc.
- **Shot issues** (6)
- **Duck stamps and taxes** (5 comments) – comments related to duck stamp fees and hunting-related taxes
- **Habitat and climate issues** (13 comments) – comments related to habitat conditions and effects of changing weather patterns
- **Public involvement** (3 comments)
- **Avian influenza** (2 comments)
- **Miscellaneous** (18 comments)

Table 2. The most frequent individual comments (all others occurred 5 or fewer times).

Comment	Frequency of occurrence
Need an extended season for falconry waterfowl hunting (i.e., that isn't concurrent with gun hunting)	73
FWS should issue special use permits for falconers to take migratory birds	56
Falconers should be able to hunt for more than 107 days	52
Expand the falconry seasons for all migratory game bird species in all flyways	34
Motorized decoys should be made illegal	26
FWS should evaluate the effects of spinning-winged decoys on waterfowl harvest	14
Falconry should be the method of choice for control of depredating and pest species; FWS should authorize the use of raptors held for falconry purposes to take depredating birds	12
Include tribal hunting regs and AK subsistence harvest in the SEIS	11
CA should be able to shoot more pintails; populations should be better evaluated	11
Falconry season should run later into the year	8
Regulations should be more conservative any time the welfare of duck populations is in question	7
Cost of duck stamp should be raised	6
Bag limits should be more conservative	6
Don't outlaw spinning duck decoys	6

List of Preparers: This report was prepared by Shauna Hanisch, Ron Kokel, and Robert Trost of the Division of Migratory Bird management.

Appendix 1:

Summary of all comments received concerning the proposed supplemental
Environmental Impact Statement on the Issuance of Annual Regulations for
the Hunting of Migratory Birds

#	Comment	Frequency of occurrence
1	Don't outlaw spinning duck decoys	6
2	Bring Canada goose late season back to Massachusetts	3
3	Don't issue depredation permits in areas where hunting is not allowed	1
4	Against the type of "hunting" that the snow goose Conservation Order entails; it's unethical	4
5	Bag limits should be more conservative	6
6	"Wanton waste"/crippling associated with non-toxic shot is worse than lead poisoning	2
7	Notice of intent should've been better publicized	1
8	SEIS should discuss not only harvest but the big picture of challenges that migratory game birds face	1
9	Give states less control	1
10	Don't give preferential treatment to guides/outfitters	3
11	Don't allow one-bird limits; if populations are that low, close the season on that species	1
12	Keep license and shell/hunting supplies tax money to be used for habitat and population improvements	2
13	Give fur trappers an incentive to trap in waterfowl nesting areas to control predators	1
14	Consider an increase in the scaup bag limit	2

15	Need an extended season for falconry waterfowl hunting (i.e., that isn't concurrent with gun hunting)	73
16	Need to look into the flooded field system hunted in the south	1
17	Seasons run too late/last too long	3
18	Don't ban lead shot for dove hunting	3
19	Need more liberal daily possession limits on Canada goose	1
20	Motorized decoys should be made illegal	26
21	Hunters should be required to report annually the # of birds harvested	1
22	Why the liberal bag limits on redheads in Mexico when we are increasingly restricted?	1
23	Falconry should be the method of choice for control of depredating and pest species; FWS should authorize the use of raptors held for falconry purposes to take depredating birds	12
24	Federal falconry permit should be retained and regulations made more simple and sensible	1
25	Law enforcement seems to have an anti-falconry agenda	1
26	Cost of duck stamp should be raised	6
27	Continue research programs and habitat acquisitions to ensure birds and habitat in the future	1
28	SEIS should address population status of wood ducks and mallards in TX	1
29	SEIS should consider whether hunting should continue for mottled duck, black duck and Mexican duck	1
30	SEIS should cover why lesser scaup and pintail are declining, what role hunting plays in this decline, and what FWS and others are doing to reverse the decline	2

31	SEIS should cover the declining snow goose population issue in TX	5
32	Use of unethical methods under light goose Conservation Order may desensitize hunters to such techniques; consider using professionals, not hunters, to reduce these populations	1
33	SEIS should discuss mig bird crippling and how to reduce it while still using non-toxic shot	2
34	Include tribal hunting regs and AK subsistence harvest in the SEIS	11
35	SEIS should address the taking of eggs by tribes and ensure negative population impacts don't occur	5
36	SEIS should address issue of more timely development of hunting regulations	2
37	SEIS should address the use of split dates	2
38	SEIS should address global warming/climate change	3
39	SEIS should list where gaps in population and other data exist and how FWS will take into account these gaps	2
40	SEIS should address conflicts between hunting and other recreational uses and how FWS will minimize these conflicts	3
41	SEIS must address impacts of mig bird hunting on all non-target species (incl. T&E and other sensitive spp.)	2
42	SEIS should address the illegal killing of mig bird species and how this is taken into account in setting bag limits	1
43	SEIS is long overdue since last one was in 1988	1
44	1988 SEIS was legally deficient since analysis was limited to evaluating the merits of the mig bird hunting framework system	1
45	SEIS must be comprehensive and include not just hunting but the entire mig bird management program	1
46	SEIS must evaluate population status and trend, management history, biology, and ecology of each mig bird species subject to management	1

47	SEIS analysis must identify and discuss the direct, indirect, and cumulative threats to each bird species; actions taken to remedy such threats; and the results of such actions	1
48	FWS must not limit its use of scientific literature to only peer-reviewed and published studies	1
49	SEIS must provide a comprehensive review of species-specific habitat needs, habitat trends, and direct, indirect, and cumulative threats to each species habitat	2
50	FWS must disclose and evaluate environmental impacts of actions taken to create or enhance waterfowl habitat	1
51	SEIS must provide a full discussion of the methodologies and processes used annually to delineate early and late-season hunting frameworks	1
52	FWS must explain the limited opportunities for public participation in the framework process and the overall legitimacy of the process	1
53	SEIS must disclose and evaluate the role of special interest groups, state agencies, and federal/state politicians in affecting mig bird management policies and practices	2
54	FWS must provide an objective evaluation of whether mig bird hunting is biologically necessary	1
55	FWS must resist resorting to purely economic arguments to justify mig bird hunting	1
56	SEIS must include an alternative prohibiting mig bird hunting altogether	1
57	SEIS must evaluate pain and suffering on individual birds	2
58	SEIS must address impacts of mig bird hunting on each species, including whether hunting mortality is additive or compensatory	1
59	FWS must consider economic harm or costs assoc. with mig bird hunting	1
60	FWS must ensure the SEIS is transparent and the public has easy and timely access to information used or relied on by FWS in developing the SEIS	2
61	SEIS must include an evaluation of the impacts of its changes in mig bird baiting regulations	1
62	FWS should consider establishing a page on its website that is dedicated to the SEIS process	1

63	Role of AHM in establishing season length and bag limits during periods of declining populations should be examined	3
64	Regulations should be more conservative any time the welfare of duck populations is in question	7
65	Wood ducks may have been impacted by recent liberal bag limits	1
66	Female ducks should get maximum protection	2
67	SEIS should address all regulated hunting of mig birds (tribal, subsistence and recreational)	3
68	Consider "EIS for Hunting of Migratory Birds in the United States" as the title (i.e., take out the word "sport")	3
69	FWS should evaluate the effects of spinning-winged decoys on waterfowl harvest	14
70	Harvest management alternatives to the existing annual process developed since the 1988 SEIS should be included in this new SEIS	2
71	Scope of the SEIS should not include the AK mig bird subsistence process	8
72	SEIS should consider the following: annual regulations (50 CFR 20(K)); endangered species considerations; tribal regs; falconry regs (107-day limitation); framework sport harvest regs (outside dates, season length, bag limits, shooting hours); AHM; cooperative flyway mgmt plans for migratory game bird populations; Central Flyway hunter's choice duck bag limit; overabundant species (relationship to Conservation Orders); frequency and timing of regs; management scale (inter-flyway, intra-flyway); special regulations (HMUs, zoning, split seasons, Sept RCG season, Sept teal seasons, crow seasons, experimental seasons); basic regulations (non-toxic shot, definitions, technological advancements, captive-reared mallard regulations, disease, baiting, etc.)	3
73	Landowners should be able to top-sow wheat (or other crops) for dove hunting	2
74	SEIS should include all aspects of the environment that affect population size and distribution (incl. major sources of mortality such as from gill nets)	1
75	SEIS should address what minimal level of monitoring is necessary to adequately assess and protect hunted populations	2

76	FWS should assess condition of ALL mig bird habitat, not just breeding habitat	2
77	FWS should address whether a species of high conservation concern such as woodcock should be hunted	4
78	FWS should determine whether we know enough about certain migratory game species and money could be diverted to conservation of nongame species	1
79	FWS should open Occoquan, Mason Neck, and James River National Wildlife Refuges to waterfowl hunting	1
80	Neither the 1975 nor 1988 EISs on sport hunting of migratory birds were based on sound scientific principles	1
81	SEIS should examine phasing out subsidized hunting while integrating non-consumptive wildlife revenues into FWS's budget, monitoring, and conservation strategies	1
82	SEIS should include a detailed discussion of FWS's policy refusing to solicit a peer-review of the technical data used to form the basis of its mig bird hunting program	1
83	SEIS must address the public safety and environmental concerns that stem from youth hunting recruitment programs	1
84	SEIS should discuss FWS's failure to change hunting hours to begin at sunrise not before	1
85	SEIS must explain why mig birds with known reductions in population numbers are still hunted and should analyze how the continued harvest of such species may influence their fate	2
86	SEIS should include mourning dove population models	2
87	Lead shot should be completely banned for migratory bird hunting	2
88	SEIS must include an assessment of the role of crippling and unretrieved loss on harvest estimates	1
89	SEIS must provide an explanation for the continued practice of mig bird hunting on NWRs	1
90	SEIS should consider the impact of hunting activities on units of the NWR system	2
91	FWS should continue to utilize AHM for the promulgation of duck hunting regulations	4

92	SEIS should address the integration of AHM and the North American Waterfowl Management Plan	2
93	SEIS should evaluate Hunter's Choice bag limit experiment	2
94	SEIS should explore options for controlling resident Canada geese through sport hunting, in addition to the depredation orders	3
95	FWS should consider expanding the AHM approach to include other mig bird game species	2
96	FWS should establish regulations limiting the use of mig bird hunting technological advances	1
97	FWS should examine non-toxic shot requirements for mig game bird hunting, esp. for doves	2
98	FWS should address the issue of equal hunting opportunity on public hunting lands (esp. that of favoring residents over non-residents)	2
99	We support a return to the framework dates in place when AHM began; SEIS is the most appropriate place to address changes in framework dates	1
100	FWS should consider establishing long-term regulations as one of the SEIS alternatives; also should consider establishing all regs during the early season process	1
101	FWS is encouraged to complete the SEIS in a timely fashion	1
102	FWS is encouraged to release final versions of the light goose and resident CAGO EISs soon	1
103	FWS is encouraged to consider increasing the possession limit for waterfowl to 4x the daily bag limit and a similar increase for other mig game bird species	1
104	FWS is encouraged to complete a national woodcock harvest strategy report	2
105	FWS should review the use of captive-reared mallards for hunting programs	3
106	SEIS should address the issue of special youth hunting opportunities outside the regular hunting season	1
107	FWS should identify the criteria necessary to move eastern mallard AHM from provisional to operational status	1

108	FWS is encouraged to finalize the International Black Duck Strategy with Canada	1
109	Need to better refine harvest assessment and hunting impacts on webless mig game birds	1
110	Establish a 2-year regulations cycle	2
111	The setting of federal regulations for early season hunting occurs too close to the beginning of the season and is difficult for states to accurately publicize	5
112	Regulations for waterfowl hunting should be based on population and habitat trend from prior years (as Canada does)	2
113	Allow other ducks (e.g., whistling ducks) to be taken during the teal season	2
114	Should allow regular season sandhill crane hunting during the Light Goose Conservation Order	3
115	Should exclude Eurasian collared dove, rock pigeons, and other non-native columbids from the federal regulations process	1
116	Should allow eastern whooping cranes to be considered "experimental, non-essential" in the Central Flyway	1
117	Should allow one split in the 93 or 37-day framework length for mid-continent population of sandhill crane hunting	1
118	Should allow offsets in early season dove hunting regs for limits on diurnal shooting hours	1
119	SEIS should include an evaluation of the AHM process and recommended frameworks for duck harvest, with parameters needed to set frameworks for other mig birds	6
120	SEIS should include a section on hunter attitudes regarding mig game bird hunting and how these factor into the regulatory process	2
121	Status of species other than mallards must be considered in the setting of season frameworks	3
122	We don't see the SEIS as an opportunity to examine the annual surveys that support mig game bird hunting regulations	1
123	SEIS should look into providing hunters with feedback to explain why what they saw during the hunting season didn't match up with what the framework predicted; might improve hunter satisfaction	1

124	Don't allow the use of electronic calls	4
125	SEIS should consider allowing baiting	1
126	Duck season in TX should start later (November rather than October)	1
127	SEIS should include discussions of the AK subsistence process and acknowledge the customary and traditional harvest of AK natives and indigenous inhabitants	2
128	A distinction must be made in the SEIS between "subsistence" harvest and recreational and tribal harvest	1
129	Loss of surface water and habitat are affecting waterfowl populations	4
130	Need to better align the boundaries for Canada goose hunting zones (in New England)	1
131	Need to control mute swans	2
132	FWS should examine impact of hunting hens	1
133	SEIS should review basic regulations for mig bird hunting, including means and methods	2
134	FWS needs to examine the baiting issue relative to manipulated agricultural crops	1
135	SEIS should examine the need for and cost of requiring flyways to participate in and evaluate experimental seasons	1
136	SEIS should examine the significance of harvest by falconry and the need for the current falconry regs process	1
137	We support the Central Flyway Council's recommendations	1
138	SEIS should include discussion of what is a possession limit and how it is applied and enforced	1
139	The special Canada goose season is too early	2

140	FWS should evaluate the effects of early season hunts and youth hunts	1
141	SEIS should address hunter retention and hunter recruitment	1
142	CA should be able to shoot more pintails; populations should be better evaluated	11
143	Falconers should be able to hunt for more than 107 days	52
144	FWS should issue special use permits for falconers to take mig birds (i.e., for abatement purposes)	56
145	Western meadowlarks and horned larks should be allowed to be taken by falconry in Colorado	2
146	Falconry mig bird season should run later into the year	8
147	Expand the falconry seasons for all mig game bird species in all flyways	34
148	The mig bird resource should be managed for healthy populations and maximum recreational activity	1
149	Falconers should be able to hunt with wild-taken raptors on any species at any time of year	1
150	The 25-shells-in-the-field rule should be increased	1
151	Federal duck stamp should apply to falconers too	1
152	There should be a law requiring electrical transformers to be insulated (to prevent electrocution of birds)	1
153	Mig bird falconry season should go from 9/15 to 3/31, with the option of splitting the season	3
154	Allow hunting of cowbirds, meadowlarks, and grackles	2
155	Black duck bag limit in MA is impractical; increase to 2 even if it means a shorter season	1

156	Change shooting times to 15 minutes before sunrise/after sunset	1
157	Boundaries and regulations for whitefront need to be changed	1
158	Allow normal bag limits on canvasbacks again	1
159	Need better law enforcement to check on hunters	1
160	States and feds should create more refuges to give birds resting areas	1
161	Need a total bag limit of 7 (3 pintail, 1 hen; 5 mallards, 1 hen)	1
162	Set seasons and bag limits for each flyway separately	2
163	The HIP program is a waste of effort	1
164	Shouldn't ban guns larger than 10 gauge	1
165	Hunting should be banned	5
166	Eliminate all special seasons (e.g., spring white goose and fall dark goose)	1
167	Need to preserve more wetlands and nesting habitat and carry out predator reduction to benefit ducks	1
168	National Wildlife Refuges should manage habitat to benefit a wide range of species, esp. waterfowl	4
169	FWS should limit the number of reserves/refuges in the northern and middle states and allow waterfowl to migrate naturally (i.e., down south)	2
170	Ducks are arriving later; need to adjust split seasons accordingly	1
171	Why is this SEIS being done?	1

172	Need a spring (Feb/Mar) Canada goose hunt in WI (birds are depredating winter wheat)	1
173	Seeing fewer woodcock in New Hampshire	1
174	Black duck limit should be 1 per day	1
175	Need clarification on what is a black duck since they're interbreeding with mallard	1
176	Sea duck limits on NH/MA coast should be reduced	1
177	Fewer ducks in New England because of warmer weather	1
178	There are many retrieving dogs that would be disappointed if mig bird hunting stopped; I speak for them	1
179	Implement limited predator trapping in waterfowl nesting areas	4
180	Limit overall number of hunters at public hunting areas and limit the number of shells that can be taken into the field	1
181	Change the AHM matrix so that liberal seasons occur only under the highest duck and pond count scenarios	1
182	Limit all states to a maximum of 2 zones or 2 splits	1
183	End the practice of leaving unharvested crops on refuges	1
184	Hunters could help with avian flu detection	1
185	Need a website where hunters can report field observations	1
186	Need environmentally-friendly shot shell casings and wads	1
187	All states should have duck stamps (like the federal one)	1

188	Hunting in Padre Island vicinity occurs too close to neighborhoods; don't like hearing it	1
189	Reevaluate population status of CITES-listed waterfowl; perhaps allow bidding on limited take of such species	2
190	Native Americans shouldn't be able to take CITES-listed waterfowl if hunters can't	2
191	Allow limited hunting on refuges	1
192	The later the season the better in Mississippi	2
193	In San Luis valley (CO) realign the opening of the regular goose season to match the opening of the second duck split season (~late Oct/early Nov)	1
194	Kentucky duck and dove season dates need to be changed	2
195	Reduce the daily bag limit for hen mallards to 1	1
196	Don't allow hunting of sandhill cranes	1
197	Don't suspend hunting because of avian flu	2
198	Need an earlier mourning dove season in northern states (~Aug 1)	1
199	Open the season on August 1 in Nebraska	1
200	Last 2 years of hunting have been great (in Utah)	1
201	Goose seasons need to be split up like duck seasons	1
202	Need to get more people involved in hunting and birding	1
203	Fund strategically placed food plots on public lands to spread birds out	1

204	SEIS should address inadvertent harvest of pintails outside of the pintail season	1
205	SEIS should address the effects of lead shot and pollutants on mig birds	1
206	SEIS should address the effects of agricultural practices on wetlands and mig birds	1
207	Interests of non-hunters should be taken into account when setting the length of hunting seasons	1
208	Colorado needs an early season and larger bag limit on resident Canada geese	1
209	All scoping meetings should be held in the evening, not in the middle of the day	1
210	Need better hunting opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges	2
211	Need better access to private lands for hunting	1
212	Increase in leased hunting lands makes it hard for the common citizen to hunt	1
213	Kentucky needs to do more to improve waterfowl hunting	4
214	More responsibility should be shifted to the hunting public and state agencies, not Federal agencies	1
215	Repeal the requirement that a shotgun be limited to only 3 shells (to reduce lost cripples)	1
216	Quail, woodcock, and dove hunting in Maryland is not good	1
217	Non-hunters (e.g., birders) should be paying fees and taxes to contribute to conservation too	1
218	Open the snow goose conservation order season for the entire season and allow more access to National Wildlife Refuges to take snow geese	1
219	Extend the waterfowl season on the Gulf Coast into the 2nd week of Feb	1

220	Gulf Coast National Wildlife Refuges should pump water during drought periods	1
221	Create incentives on NWRs to plant crops that are good for waterfowl	1
222	Maintain the 6 bird bag limit	1
223	Limit the number of hunting guides in the Gulf Coast region	1
224	Continue to explore new shot alternatives	1
225	Continue to get youth involved in hunting	1
226	Give birds days of rest during the season instead of continuous shooting	1
227	FWS should work together with Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl to improve waterfowl habitat and breeding success	1
228	Need more hunting opportunities on Clearwater and Snake Rivers in Idaho	1
229	Hunting should be allowed on Sundays nationwide	1
230	Hunters need more opportunities not less	1
231	Federal lands should be better managed for woodcock habitat	2
232	In Kentucky, reduce the daily bag limit to 4 ducks and extend the season beyond Jan 31	2
233	Falconry should be allowed year-round	1
234	Changing weather patterns seem to be really influencing waterfowl distribution	1
235	Are the northern Canada goose nuisance seasons hurting the southern states?	1

236	Are the flyways shifting? (e.g., AR is losing its ducks to MO, etc.)	1
237	FWS should not make a deliberate distinction between "sport" and "subsistence" hunting; it conveys the message that hunting is, for non-native-Alaskans, merely a pastime and this can be criticized by anti-hunters (i.e., most mig bird hunters eat the birds they kill so it too is a form of subsistence hunting)	1
238	Hunting for food is a basic expression of American freedom	1
239	Wood duck populations may be declining in the Mississippi flyway; need to evaluate this	1
240	Continue monitoring and research on scaup to determine reasons for decline	1
241	SEIS needs to include discussion of the 15 species of sea ducks and their life histories	1
242	Bag limits are too high for sea ducks and they need to be given special attention	1
243	Special sea duck seasons should be eliminated	1
244	More conservative regulations are needed for black scoter, white-winged scoter, surf scoters, long-tail duck, common eider, king eider, harlequin duck, Barrow's goldeneye	1
245	There needs to be more oversight of harvest in Alaska	1
	Total Number of comments received	683