

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

CHAPTER 11

2015 UPLAND GAME BIRD AND SMALL GAME HUNTING SEASONS

Section 1. Authority. This regulation is promulgated by authority of W.S. § 23-1-302 and § 23-2-105(d).

Section 2. Hunting Regulations.

(a) Bag and Possession Limit. Only one (1) daily bag limit of each species of upland game birds and small game may be taken per day regardless of the number of hunt areas hunted in a single day. When hunting more than one (1) hunt area, a person's daily and possession limits shall be equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily and possession limit prescribed for any one (1) of the specified hunt areas in which the hunting and possession occurs.

(b) Evidence of sex and species shall remain naturally attached to the carcass of any upland game bird in the field and during transportation. For pheasant, this shall include the feathered head, feathered wing or foot. For all other upland game bird species, this shall include one fully feathered wing.

(c) Nontoxic shot shall be required for hunting upland game birds and small game with a shotgun on all of the lands in the Springer and Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Areas and on all national wildlife refuges open for hunting. No person shall possess shot shells loaded with shot other than nontoxic shot while hunting upland game birds or small game on all lands in the Springer and Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, and on national wildlife refuges.

(d) Required Clothing. Any person hunting pheasants within the boundaries of any Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Wildlife Habitat Management Area, or on Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal lands bordering and including Glendo State Park, shall wear in a visible manner at least one (1) outer garment of fluorescent orange color which shall include a hat, shirt, jacket, coat, vest or sweater.

Section 3. Upland Game Bird Hunting Seasons.

(a) Sage Grouse Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limits and Limitations.

Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Sep. 19	Sep. 30	2	4	Any sage grouse
2, 3					CLOSED
4	Sep. 19	Sep. 21	2	4	Any sage grouse

(i) Sage Grouse Hunt Area Descriptions.

Area 1. Includes all of Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Sweetwater, Uinta and Washakie counties, as well as that portion of Albany County north of U.S. Highway 30-287 and west of the Fetterman Road (Albany County Road 61), that portion of Converse County south and west of the Balsh Road (U.S.F.S. Road 660), all of Carbon County except that portion east of the Medicine Bow River and South of U.S. Highway 30-287, all of Lincoln and Sublette counties except those portions of the Snake River drainage, and all of Natrona County except that portion east of Interstate Highway 25. Area 1 also excludes that portion of Natrona County south of I-25 in the Muddy Creek drainage.

Area 2. The entire state of Wyoming excluding the lands described in Areas 1, 3 and 4.

Area 3. All lands in the Snake River drainage within Lincoln, Sublette and Teton counties.

Area 4. Beginning at the intersection of the Sheridan-Big Horn County line with the Wyoming-Montana state line; easterly along said state line to the Rocky Point Road in Crook County; southerly along said road to the “D” Road; southerly along said road to Interstate Highway 90; easterly along said highway to U.S. Highway 16 at Moorcroft; southeasterly along said highway to U.S. Highway 85 at Newcastle; southerly along said highway to the Weston-Niobrara-Campbell-Converse-Natrona-Johnson County lines; westerly along said county lines to the Washakie-Johnson-Big-Horn-Sheridan County lines; northerly then northwesterly along said county lines to the Wyoming-Montana state line.

(b) Blue Grouse Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limit and Limitations.

Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Sep. 1	Nov. 30	3	9	Any blue grouse

(i) Blue Grouse Hunt Area Description.

Area 1. The entire state of Wyoming.

(c) Ruffed Grouse Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limits and Limitations.

Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Sep. 1	Nov. 30	3	9	Any ruffed grouse

(i) Ruffed Grouse Hunt Area Description.

Area 1. The entire state of Wyoming.

(d) Partridge Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limit and Limitations.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE					
Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Oct. 1	Jan. 31	5	15	Any chukar partridge

GRAY PARTRIDGE					
Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Oct. 1	Jan. 31	5	15	Any gray partridge

(i) Partridge Hunt Area Description.

Area 1. The entire state of Wyoming.

(e) Sharp-Tailed Grouse Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limit and Limitations.

Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
1	Sep. 1	Dec. 31	3	9	Any sharp-tailed grouse

(i) Sharp-Tailed Grouse Hunt Area Description.

Area 1. That portion of Wyoming east of the Continental Divide.

(f) Pheasant Hunt Areas, Season Dates, Bag Limit and Limitations.

Hunt Area	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations	Shooting Hours	
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession		Start	End
1	Nov. 7	Dec. 31	3	9	Male pheasant only	½ hour before Sunrise	Sunset
2	Nov. 7	Dec. 6	2	6	Any pheasant (Youth Hunt-Refer to Section 7)	Week Days 8:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
						Weekend Days 8:00 a.m.	Sunset
2	Dec. 7	Dec. 31	2	6	Male pheasant only	½ hour before Sunrise	Sunset
5	Nov. 7	Dec. 31	3	9	Male pheasant only except that portion of Area 5 north of the Shoshone River and west of the Yellowtail Reservoir shall be open for any pheasant (Youth Hunt-Refer to Section 7)	Veterans Day (State Observed Holiday), Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Weekend Days ½ hour before Sunrise	Sunset
						Week Days 11:00 a.m.	Sunset
7	Nov. 7	Dec. 31	3	9	Male pheasant only	½ hour before Sunrise Table Mountain WHMA ½ hour before Sunrise	Sunset 4:00 p.m.
8	Oct. 22	Nov. 6	3	Season Limit 3	Any pheasant (Springer permits) Refer to Section 5	8:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
8	Nov. 7	Nov. 20	3	9	Any pheasant	8:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
9	Nov. 7	Dec. 31	3	9	Any pheasant (Glendo permits) Refer to Section 6	8:00 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
11	Nov. 7	Dec. 31	3	9	Any pheasant	½ hour before Sunrise	Sunset

(i) Pheasant Hunt Area Descriptions.

Area 1. All of Fremont County, excluding the Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area, the Mile High Ranch Access Area, and the Sand Mesa Wildlife Habitat Management Area east of the Bass Lake Road. All of Sheridan, Johnson, Park, Washakie and Hot Springs counties, and

all of Big Horn County excluding lands in the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area north of U.S. Highway 14A.

Area 2. All lands in the Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area, the Mile High Ranch Access Area and all lands in the Sand Mesa Wildlife Habitat Management Area east of the Bass Lake Road.

Area 5. All of the lands included in the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area north of U.S. Highway 14A.

Area 7. All of Goshen County excluding Hunt Area 8.

Area 8. All of the lands included in the Springer/Bump-Sullivan Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Area 9. All Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal lands bordering and including Glendo State Park and the adjoining Department Private Lands/Public Wildlife Walk-in Area.

Area 11. The entire State of Wyoming excluding the lands described in Areas 1, 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9.

(ii) Closed Areas.

(A) The Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Fremont County shall be closed during the period of December 15 through March 10 to all human presence within one-half (1/2) mile of the aerator on the ice and as marked by signs on Wyoming Game and Fish Commission lands around the aerator. Wyoming Game and Fish Department administrative access shall be allowed during this period.

(B) The Downar Bird Farm and Springer Headquarters in Goshen County shall be closed to pheasant hunting as marked by signs.

(C) Pond Number 1 and adjacent lands on the Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Goshen County, as marked by colored signs and posts, shall be closed to pheasant hunting after November 20.

(D) The Sheridan Bird Farm in Sheridan County shall be closed to pheasant hunting, except during hunts sponsored and supervised by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Section 4. Pheasant Special Management Permit. A pheasant special management permit shall be required of any person, except those exempted in this section, who participates in the hunting of pheasants in those areas listed in subsection (a) of this section. Owners of lands enrolled in the Private Lands/Public Wildlife Walk-In Access Program, and members of their immediate families (landowner's spouse, parents, grandparents, or lineal descendants and their spouses) are exempt from the requirement to obtain a pheasant special management permit when they are hunting pheasants on the deeded land of the landowner. The pheasant special management permit shall be in possession of any person while hunting pheasants, and shall be immediately produced for inspection upon request from any authorized Department representative. Any person purchasing a pheasant special management permit for the purpose set forth in this section shall validate the permit by signing that person's name in ink across the face of the permit. Hunters who acquire a pheasant special management permit through the Electronic Licensing Service (ELS) shall not be required to meet the signature provision of this section. The permit shall be available at Headquarters, Department Regional Offices and designated license selling agents.

(a) Pheasant Special Management Permit Areas. A pheasant special management permit shall be required to hunt pheasants in the areas listed in this subsection:

- (i) Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Johnson County.
- (ii) Glendo State Park; including all Bureau of Reclamation Withdrawal lands bordering the Park and the adjoining Department Private Lands/Public Wildlife Walk-In Area in Platte County.
- (iii) Ocean Lake Wildlife Habitat Management Area and the Mile High Ranch Access Area in Fremont County.
- (iv) Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Goshen County.
- (v) Table Mountain Wildlife Habitat Management Area in Goshen County.
- (vi) Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area, excluding any private lands included within the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area, in Bighorn County.
- (vii) All lands in the Sand Mesa Wildlife Habitat Management Area east of the Bass Lake Road in Fremont County.
- (viii) All lands opened to the hunting of pheasants that are enrolled in the Department's Private Lands/Public Wildlife Walk-In Access Program, excluding Walk-In Access Areas in Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park and Washakie counties on which pheasants are not released by the Department.
- (ix) All State lands in Johnson and Sheridan counties.
- (x) Welch Ranch Management Area in Sheridan County.

Section 5. Springer Permit Pheasant Season. There shall be a Springer permit pheasant season in Hunt Area 8 beginning October 22 through November 6. In order to participate in this season, a person shall possess and present upon request a valid Springer permit, a valid bird license and conservation stamp (unless otherwise exempted by state statute) and a pheasant special management permit. Persons born on or after January 1, 1966, shall possess and present upon request a hunter safety certificate. The Springer permit shall only be valid for the day printed on the permit by the Department.

(a) Application for Springer Permits. Applications shall be submitted through the Electronic Licensing Service (ELS) beginning August 15 and shall be accepted until 12:00 midnight September 15. A drawing shall be utilized to determine successful applicants. Only youths may apply for Springer permits for youth only hunt days as set forth in Section 5 (c) of this Chapter. A drawing shall be utilized to determine successful applicants. A person shall only submit a single application. Successful applicants shall be notified by mail of their hunting date and furnished a set of special instructions.

(b) Issuance of Springer Permits. A maximum of one hundred twenty (120) permits shall be issued to successful applicants in the drawing for each day of the Springer permit pheasant season. A maximum of one hundred twenty (120) hunters shall be allowed to hunt at any one time during the Springer permit pheasant season. When a hunter checks out of the Springer Check Station, the Department may issue a permit to another person at the check station. If all one hundred twenty (120) permits for a single day have not been issued by the Department, or if the check station attendants are advised that a permitted hunter will not participate, the Department may issue a permit to another person at the check station on a first-come, first-served basis, not to exceed a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) permitted hunters. Permitted hunters may begin hunting at 8:00 a.m. Hunters who are issued permits through the drawing must check in at the check station by 9:00 a.m. on the date their permit is valid. Permits that are unclaimed after 9:00 a.m. shall be issued to other hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.

(c) Youth Only Hunt Days. Only youths shall be allowed to take pheasants on the youth hunt days. Youths under the age of fourteen (14) shall be accompanied by an adult. No adult shall take any pheasant during the youth only hunt days. The youth only hunt days are October 24 and November 1.

(d) Springer Check Station. The Springer Check Station is located one and one-quarter (1-1/4) miles west of U.S. Highway 85 on the south boundary of the Springer Wildlife Habitat Management Area. The hours of operation of the check station shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily during the Springer permit pheasant season. Persons participating in the Springer permit pheasant season shall check in at the check station prior to hunting. Prior to leaving the Springer permit pheasant area, each hunter shall check out at the check station by 4:30 p.m. on the same day that the hunter registered and shall accurately report all harvested pheasants and return all special hunt materials to the check station.

(e) Parking Assignment. Parking lot assignments and tags shall be issued by the Department for each vehicle utilized by hunters. Parking lot tags shall be displayed in a visible manner in each vehicle. All vehicles shall be parked in assigned parking lots.

Section 6. Glendo Permit Pheasant Season. Glendo permits shall be required to hunt pheasants in Hunt Area 9 on each Friday, Saturday and Monday during the open season in November. Glendo permits are not required to hunt pheasants in Hunt Area 9 on other days during the open season. A person shall possess and present upon request a valid Glendo permit (on those days required), a valid bird license, a pheasant special management permit and conservation stamp (unless otherwise exempted by state statute).

(a) Youth Only Hunt Days. Youth only hunt days shall be November 8, 15, 22 and 29. Only youths shall be allowed to take pheasants on youth hunt days. Youths under the age of fourteen (14) shall be accompanied by an adult. No adult shall take any pheasant during the youth only hunt days. No Glendo permit is required for youths to hunt on youth only hunt days.

(b) Application for Glendo Permits. Applications shall be submitted through the ELS beginning August 15 and shall be accepted until 12:00 midnight September 15. A drawing shall be utilized to determine successful applicants. A person shall only submit a single application. No person shall apply for and receive more than one (1) Glendo permit in a calendar year. Successful applicants shall be notified by mail of their hunting date and furnished a set of special instructions.

(c) Issuance of Glendo Permits. A maximum of sixty (60) permits shall be issued in the drawing for each day a permit is required. The Glendo permit shall only be valid for the day printed on the permit by the Department.

Section 7. Sand Mesa and Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Areas Youth Pheasant Hunt. The youth only hunt day is November 21. Only youths shall be allowed to take pheasants on this date. Youths under the age of fourteen (14) shall be accompanied by an adult. No adults shall take any pheasant during the youth only hunt day. The youth hunt shall take place on all lands included in the Sand Mesa Wildlife Habitat Management Area east of the Bass Lake Road, and all lands included in the Yellowtail Wildlife Habitat Management Area north of the Shoshone River.

Section 8. Small Game Hunting Seasons. Small Game Species, Seasons Dates, Bag Limits and Limitations.

Species	Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
Cottontail Rabbit	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	10	20	Any cottontail rabbit
Snowshoe Hare	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	4	8	Any snowshoe hare
Red, Gray and Fox Squirrel	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	10	20	Any red, gray or fox squirrel

(i) Small Game Hunt Area Description.

Area 1. The entire state of Wyoming.

Section 9. Archery Regulations. Upland game birds and small game may be taken with archery equipment in accordance with limitations set forth in this Chapter.

Section 10. Upland Game Bird and Small Game Falconry Seasons.

(a) Upland Game Birds may be taken with falcons in accordance with Section 3 of this Chapter. Persons hunting with falcons may take any pheasant.

(b) The falconry season shall open September 1 and close March 1 in those hunt areas listed in Section 3 of this Chapter and Subsection 10(c) of this Chapter.

(c) Closed Areas.

Pheasant Hunt Area	Limitations
8, 9	Closed to falconry hunting

(d) The daily bag and possession limits for upland game birds other than sage grouse, shall be as set forth in Section 3 of this Chapter. The daily bag limit shall be one (1) sage grouse and the possession limit shall be two (2) sage grouse.

(e) Persons taking sage grouse with falcons shall respond to Wyoming Game and Fish Department surveys requesting harvest information.

(f) Small game animals may be taken with falcons in accordance with the open seasons in the table below.

Species	Falconry Season Dates		Bag Limit		Limitations
	Opens	Closes	Daily	Possession	
Cottontail Rabbit	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	10	20	Any cottontail rabbit
	Mar. 2	Aug. 31	1	2	Any cottontail rabbit
Snowshoe Hare	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	10	20	Any snowshoe hare
	Mar. 2	Aug. 31	1	2	Any snowshoe hare
Red, Gray and Fox Squirrel	Sep. 1	Mar. 1	10	20	Any red, gray or fox squirrel
	Mar. 2	Aug. 31	1	2	Any red, gray or fox squirrel

WYOMING GAME AND FISH COMMISSION

By: Charles C. Price
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