

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FISCAL ESTIMATE AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS

Type of Estimate and Analysis

Original     Updated     Corrected

Administrative Rule Chapter, Title and Number

Ch. NR 10, Game and Hunting. Board Order WM-01-17(E) and companion permanent rule WM-02-17

Subject

Establishing migratory bird hunting seasons and regulations.

Fund Sources Affected

GPR     FED     PRO     PRS     SEG SEG-S

Chapter 20, Stats. Appropriations Affected

None

Fiscal Effect of Implementing the Rule

No Fiscal Effect  
 Indeterminate

Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Revenues

Increase Costs  
 Could Absorb Within Agency's Budget  
 Decrease Costs

The Rule Will Impact the Following (Check All That Apply)

State's Economy

Local Government Units

Specific Businesses/Sectors

Public Utility Rate Payers

Would Implementation and Compliance Costs Be Greater Than \$20 million?

Yes     No

Policy Problem Addressed by the Rule

These rules will modify the Canada goose hunting season in the Horicon Canada goose management zone consistent with options available under the federal framework for Wisconsin in 2016. In the past, there have been two permit periods and hunters were required to select one and were limited to hunting in only one of the periods. This served to distribute hunting pressure and improve the quality of hunting opportunities in an era when interest in Horicon area goose hunting was significant and there was a great deal of hunting pressure. The regulation is no longer needed because Canada geese are now distributed much more widely across the state and hunting pressure is no longer focused as heavily in the Horicon area. Eliminating the two permit periods in favor of a single, continuous hunting season will simplify hunting regulations and increase hunting opportunities.

Under the federal framework for duck hunting, the USFWS is allowing Wisconsin no more than one pintail per day in the bag limit. The pintail bag limit was two daily during the previous season.

Summary of Rule's Economic and Fiscal Impact on Specific Businesses, Business Sectors, Public Utility Rate Payers, Local Governmental Units and the State's Economy as a Whole (Include Implementation and Compliance Costs Expected to be Incurred)

Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 50, Section II, this will be a level 3 economic impact analysis. A notice for Solicitation of comments on this analysis will be posted on the department's website in February 2017 and various interest groups may be contacted by email.

No effects on small businesses, their associations, or local governments are anticipated. The department does not anticipate any fiscal impacts as a result of these rules. Following is the department's preliminary analysis.

Economic Impact

Because the hunting season framework proposed in this rule will be very similar to those in place during previous seasons, no economic impacts are anticipated. We do not anticipate that these rules will result in changes in the activities of migratory bird hunters, their expenditures, and the related economic activity. These rules are applicable to individual hunters and impose no compliance or reporting requirements for small business, nor are any design or operational standards contained in the rule.

Fiscal Impact

The department anticipates no fiscal impact resulting from these rules. The department currently annually conducts a number of activities related to migratory bird hunting such as managing department lands, selling licenses, providing law enforcement services, and surveys and related research. The department will continue to conduct the same activities under the season framework proposed in this rule and does not anticipate any new or reduced expenditures.

Benefits of Implementing the Rule and Alternative(s) to Implementing the Rule

By implementing this rule, Wisconsin's migratory bird hunters will continue to enjoy excellent hunting opportunities. The expenditures of migratory bird hunters and the economic impacts resulting from their expenditures will continue to benefit the state's economy.

Long Range Implications of Implementing the Rule

Implementing these rules will have little impact on the public except that they will continue to have good hunting opportunities into the future.

Compare With Approaches Being Used by Federal Government

Migratory game bird hunting is regulated by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), in 50 CFR part 20. Under international treaty and Federal law, migratory game bird seasons are closed unless opened annually through the USFWS regulations process. As part of the federal rule process, the service annually evaluates migratory game bird populations and breeding habitat in cooperation with state provincial agencies and the Canadian Wildlife Service. After considering recommendations from the flyway councils of states and the guidance of cooperatively developed harvest strategies, the USFWS establishes annual frameworks within flyway or bird populations regions. States can then establish hunting seasons within the sideboards for each species and region.

None of the provisions of this rule conflict with the federal framework.

Compare With Approaches Being Used by Neighboring States (Illinois, Iowa, Michigan and Minnesota)

The department establishes migratory game bird hunting seasons based on a federal framework that is presented to Wisconsin by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Because of the federal guidelines, Wisconsin's regulations are similar to those in neighboring states.

Name and Phone Number of Contact Person

Scott Loomans, Wildlife Regulation Policy Specialist, 608-267-2452.