

nonmembers since the 1986–87 hunting season. The Tribe owns all lands on the reservation and has recognized full wildlife management authority. In general, the proposed seasons would be more conservative than allowed by the Federal frameworks of last season and by States in the Pacific Flyway.

The Tribe proposed a 2003–04 waterfowl season beginning with the earliest possible opening date in the Pacific Flyway States and a closing date of November 30, 2003. Daily bag and possession limits for waterfowl would be the same as Pacific Flyway States. The Tribe proposes a season on Canada geese with a two-bird daily bag limit. Other regulations specific to the Pacific Flyway guidelines for New Mexico would be in effect.

During the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department's 2002–03 season, estimated duck harvest was 216, which is within the historical harvest range. The species composition in the past has included mainly mallards, gadwall, wigeon, and teal. Northern pintail comprised 3 percent of the total harvest in 2002. The estimated harvest of geese was 13 birds.

The proposed regulations are essentially the same as were established last year. The Tribe anticipates the maximum 2003–04 waterfowl harvest would be around 250–700 ducks and 20–30 geese.

We propose to approve the Tribe's requested 2003–04 hunting seasons.

*(i) Kalispel Tribe, Kalispel Reservation, Usk, Washington (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters)*

The Kalispel Reservation was established by Executive Order in 1914, and currently comprises approximately 4,600 acres. The Tribe owns all Reservation land and has full management authority. The Kalispel Tribe has a fully developed wildlife program with hunting and fishing codes. The Tribe enjoys excellent wildlife management relations with the State. The Tribe and the State have an operational Memorandum of Understanding with emphasis on fisheries but also for wildlife. The nontribal member seasons described below pertain to a 176-acre waterfowl management unit. The Tribe is utilizing this opportunity to rehabilitate an area that needs protection because of past land use practices, as well as to provide additional waterfowl hunting in the area. Beginning in 1996, the requested regulations also included a proposal for Kalispel-member-only migratory bird hunting on Kalispel-ceded lands within Washington, Montana, and Idaho.

For the 2003–04 migratory bird hunting seasons, the Kalispel Tribe

proposed tribal and nontribal member waterfowl seasons. The Tribe requests that both duck and goose seasons open at the earliest possible date and close on the latest date under Federal frameworks. For nontribal members, the Tribe requests that the season for ducks begin September 20, 2003, and end January 26, 2004. In that period, nontribal hunters would be allowed to hunt approximately 101 days. Hunters should obtain further information on specific hunt days from the Kalispel Tribe.

The Tribe also requests the season for geese run from September 4 to September 15, 2003, and from October 1, 2003, to January 26, 2004. Total number of days would not exceed 107. Nontribal members should obtain further information on specific hunt days from the Tribe. Daily bag and possession limits would be the same as those for the State of Washington.

The Tribe reports a 2002–03 nontribal harvest of 55 ducks and 0 geese. Under the proposal, the Tribe expects harvest to be similar to last year and less than 30 geese and 100 ducks.

All other State and Federal regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20, such as use of non-toxic shot and possession of a signed migratory bird hunting stamp, would be required.

For tribal members on Kalispel-ceded lands, the Kalispel propose outside frameworks for ducks and geese of September 1, 2003, through January 26, 2004. The Tribe requests that both duck and goose seasons open at the earliest possible date and close on the latest date under Federal frameworks.

However, during that period, the Tribe proposes that the season run continuously. Daily bag and possession limits would be concurrent with the Federal rule.

The Tribe reports that there was no 2002–03 tribal harvest. Under the proposal, the Tribe expects harvest to be less than 500 birds for the season with less than 200 geese. Tribal members would be required to possess a signed Federal migratory bird stamp and a tribal ceded lands permit.

We propose to approve the regulations requested by the Kalispel Tribe provided that the nontribal seasons conform to Treaty limitations and final Federal frameworks for the Pacific Flyway. For the 2003–04 season, outside Federal frameworks for ducks in the Pacific Flyway under the “moderate” and “liberal” regulatory alternatives are September 20, 2003, through January 26, 2004. For geese, frameworks for special early Canada goose seasons are September 1 through September 15, 2003, while regular

seasons frameworks are September 28, 2003, through January 26, 2004. All seasons for nontribal hunters must conform with the 107-day maximum season length established by the Treaty.

*(j) Klamath Tribe, Chiloquin, Oregon (Tribal Members Only)*

The Klamath Tribe currently has no reservation, per se. However, the Klamath Tribe has reserved hunting, fishing, and gathering rights within its former reservation boundary. This area of former reservation, granted to the Klamaths by the Treaty of 1864, is over 1 million acres. Tribal natural resource management authority is derived from the Treaty of 1864, and carried out cooperatively under the judicially enforced Consent Decree of 1981. The parties to this Consent Decree are the Federal Government, the State of Oregon, and the Klamaths. The Klamath Indian Game Commission sets the seasons. The tribal biological staff and tribal Regulatory Enforcement Officers monitor tribal harvest by frequent bag checks and hunter interviews.

For the 2003–04 season, we have not yet heard from the Tribe regarding this season's proposal. Based on last year, we assume the Tribe would request proposed season dates of October 1, 2003, through January 28, 2004. Daily bag limits would be nine for ducks and six for geese, with possession limits twice the daily bag limit. The daily bag and possession limit for coots would be 25. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Steel shot is required.

Based on the number of birds produced in the Klamath Basin, this year's harvest would be similar to last year's. Information on tribal harvest suggests that more than 70 percent of the annual goose harvest is local birds produced in the Klamath Basin.

We propose to approve the Klamath Tribe's requested 2003–04 special migratory bird hunting regulations upon receipt of their proposal and confirmation that the Tribe would like to have a special season.

*(k) Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Cass Lake, Minnesota (Tribal Members Only)*

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is a federally recognized Tribe located in Cass Lake, Minnesota. The reservation employs conservation officers to enforce conservation regulations. The Service and the Tribe have cooperatively established migratory bird hunting regulations since 2000.

For the 2003–04 season, the Tribe requests a duck season starting on September 13 and ending December 31, 2003. They request a goose season to