

regulatory alternative in the High Plains Management Unit for this season. The Tribe's proposed season would run from October 4, 2003, through January 8, 2004. The daily bag limit would be six birds, including no more than five mallards (only one of which may be a hen), one pintail, two redheads, two wood ducks, three scaup, and one mottled duck. The canvasback season for nontribal members is closed. The daily bag limit for mergansers would be five, only one of which could be a hooded merganser. The daily bag limit for coots would be 15. Possession limits would be twice the daily bag limits. The Tribe also proposes a youth waterfowl hunt on September 27–28, 2003.

The Tribe's proposed nontribal member Canada goose season would run from October 18, 2003, through January 20, 2004, with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese. The Tribe's proposed nontribal member white-fronted goose season would run from October 18, 2003, through January 11, 2004, with a daily bag limit of two white-fronted geese. The Tribe's proposed nontribal member light goose season would run from October 18, 2003, through January 17, 2004, and February 26 through March 10, 2004. The light goose daily bag limit would be 20. Possession limits would be twice the daily bag limits.

For tribal members, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe proposes a duck, merganser, and coot season from October 4, 2003, through March 9, 2004. The daily bag limit would be six birds, including no more than five mallards (only one of which may be a hen), one pintail, two redheads, one canvasback, two wood ducks, three scaup, and one mottled duck. The daily bag limit for mergansers would be five, only one of which could be a hooded merganser. The daily bag limit for coots would be 15. Possession limits would be twice the daily bag limits. The Tribe also proposes a youth waterfowl hunt on September 27–28, 2003.

The Tribe's proposed Canada goose season for tribal members would run from October 18, 2003, through March 9, 2004, with a daily bag limit of three Canada geese. The Tribe's proposed white-fronted goose tribal season would run from October 18, 2003, through March 9, 2004, with a daily bag limit of two white-fronted geese. The Tribe's proposed light goose tribal season would run from October 18, 2003, through March 9, 2004. The light goose daily bag limit would be 20. Possession limits would be twice the daily bag limits.

In the 2002–03 season, hunters harvested an estimated 1,785 geese and 660 ducks. In the 2002–03 season, duck

harvest species composition was primarily mallard (60 percent), green-winged teal (19 percent), gadwall (10 percent), blue-winged teal (7 percent), and wood duck, scaup, pintail, and wigeon (4 percent collectively). Goose harvest species composition in 2002 at Mni Sho Sho was approximately 86 percent Canada geese, 8 percent snow geese, and 6 percent white-fronted geese. Harvest of geese harvested by other hunters was approximately 96 percent Canada geese, 3 percent snow geese, and 1 percent white-fronted geese. However, typical harvest is 100 percent Canada geese with less than 1 percent snow geese.

The Tribe anticipates a duck harvest similar to the 9-year average (403) and a goose harvest below the target harvest level of 3,000 to 4,000 geese. All basic Federal regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20, including the use of steel shot, Migratory Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Stamp, etc., would be observed by the Tribe's proposed regulations. In addition, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe has an official Conservation Code that was established by Tribal Council Resolution in June 1982 and updated in 1996.

We propose to approve the Tribe's requested regulations for the Lower Brule Reservation.

*(o) Makah Indian Tribe, Neah Bay, Washington (Tribal Members Only)*

The Makah Indian Tribe and the Service have been cooperating to establish special regulations for migratory game birds on the Makah Reservation and traditional hunting land off the Makah Reservation since the 2001–02 hunting season. Lands off the Makah Reservation are those contained within the boundaries of the State of Washington Game Management Units 601–603 and 607.

The Makah Indian Tribe proposes a duck and coot hunting season from September 15, 2003, to January 13, 2004. The daily bag limit is seven ducks including no more than one canvasback and one redhead. The daily bag limit for coots is 25. The Tribe has a year-round closure on wood ducks and harlequin ducks. For geese, the Tribe proposes the season open on September 15, 2003, and close January 13, 2004. The daily bag limit for geese is four. The Tribe notes that there is a year-round closure on Aleutian and Dusky Canada geese. For band-tailed pigeons, the Tribe proposes the season open September 1, 2003, and close October 31, 2003. The daily bag limit for band-tailed pigeons is two. Shooting hours for all species of waterfowl are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

The Tribe anticipates that harvest under this regulation will be relatively low since fewer than 20 hunters are likely to participate at this time. The Tribe expects fewer than 70 ducks and 20 geese are expected to be harvested during the 2003–04 migratory bird hunting season.

All other Federal regulations contained in 50 CFR part 20 would apply. The following restrictions are also proposed by the Tribe: (1) As per Makah Ordinance 44, only shotguns may be used to hunt any species of waterfowl. Additionally, shotguns must not be discharged within 0.25 miles of an occupied area; (2) Hunters must be eligible, enrolled Makah tribal members and must carry their Indian Treaty Fishing and Hunting Identification Card while hunting. No tags or permits are required to hunt waterfowl; (3) The Cape Flattery area is open to waterfowl hunting, except in designated wilderness areas, or within one mile of Cape Flattery Trail, or in any area that is closed to hunting by another ordinance or regulation; (4) The use of live decoys and/or baiting to pursue any species of waterfowl is prohibited; (5) Steel or bismuth shot only for waterfowl is allowed; the use of lead shot is prohibited; (6) The use of dogs is permitted to hunt waterfowl.

We propose to approve the Makah Indian Tribe's requested 2003–04 special migratory bird hunting regulations.

*(p) Navajo Nation, Navajo Indian Reservation, Window Rock, Arizona (Tribal Members and Nontribal Hunters)*

Since 1985, we have established uniform migratory bird hunting regulations for tribal members and nonmembers on the Navajo Indian Reservation (in parts of Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah). The Navajo Nation owns almost all lands on the reservation and has full wildlife management authority.

The Tribe requests special migratory bird hunting regulations on the reservation for both tribal and nontribal members for the 2003–04 hunting season for ducks (including mergansers), Canada geese, coots, band-tailed pigeons, and mourning doves. For ducks, mergansers, Canada geese, and coots, the Navajo Nation requests the earliest opening dates and longest seasons, and the same daily bag and possession limits permitted Pacific Flyway States under final Federal frameworks.

For both mourning dove and band-tailed pigeons, the Navajo Nation proposes seasons of September 1 through 30, 2003, with daily bag limits