Comment:
Use this file for any changes and to do final after August 23 meeting.

Last Approved Date: ~~July 3, 2006~~ January 8, 2007

Title 163 - Nebraska Game and Parks Commission

Chapter 4 - Wildlife Regulations

006 Coots, Ducks, Geese, Crow

The following regulations are prescribed by the Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska in accordance with ~~37-315, 37-501, 37-563, 37-701, R.R.S. 1998, 37-314, 37-508, 37-536, R.R.S. 1999, 37-405, 37-411, 37-428, R.R.S. 2003.~~ Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-314, 37-315, 37-405, 37-411, 37-428, 37-501, 37-508, 37-536, 37-563, 37-701. For purposes of these regulations, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sections 202 through 247 of the Game Law, are used. These regulations are effective following enactment by the Commission, approval by the Attorney General and Governor, and when five days have elapsed since filing with the Secretary of State.

006.01 HUNTING SEASONS

006.01A Ducks and Mergansers (Zone and Management Unit boundaries in 006.01A5).

006.01A1 Open Season:
Low Plains
Zones 1 and 2 (Late): October 15 through October 16, 2005 and October 22 through January 1, 2006.

Zones 3 and 4 (Early): October 1 through December 11, 2005 and December 17 through December 18, 2005.

High Plains
October 1 through December 11, 2005 and December 17, 2005 through January 9, 2006.

006.01A1a Open Season: Canvasbacks and Pintails: To run concurrently with the first 39 days that are open to hunting for other ducks and mergansers (006.01A1) as specified for each unit or zone identified in 006.01A5.

006.01A2 Daily Bag Limit: Conventional System - Six Ducks. May include no more than: Five (5) mallards of which no more than two (2) can be females, one (1) mottled duck, one (1) pintail during the season as noted in

006.01A1a, one (1) canvasback during the season as noted in 006.01A1a, two (2) redheads, two (2) scaup (greater and lesser combined), and two (2) wood ducks.

Mergansers: A daily bag of five (5), only one (1) of which may be a hooded merganser.

006.01A3 Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag.

006.01A4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01A5 Management Unit Boundaries

006.01A5a Low Plains: Eastern part of state: That portion of Nebraska lying east of a line beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy. 183, south on U.S. Hwy. 183 to U.S. Hwy. 20, west on U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 7, south on NE Hwy. 7 to NE Hwy. 91, southwest on NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 2, southeast on NE Hwy. 2 to NE Hwy. 92, west on NE Hwy. 92 to NE Hwy. 40, south on NE Hwy. 40 to NE Hwy. 47, south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23, east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283 and south on U.S. Hwy. 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

006.01A5a(1) Zone 1: That portion of Dixon County west of NE Hwy. 26E Spur and north of NE Hwy. 12; those portions of Cedar County north of NE Hwy. 12; Those portions of Knox County north of NE Hwy. 12 to intersection of Niobrara River; all of Boyd County; Keya Paha County east of U.S. Hwy. 183. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha, Boyd, and Knox counties east of U.S. Hwy. 183 shall be included in Zone 1.

006.01A5a(2) Zone 2: Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the Kansas-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy. 75 to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 136 and the Steamboat

Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to the intersection with the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy. 2; west to U.S. Hwy. 75; north to NE Hwy. 2; west to NE Hwy. 43; north to U.S. Hwy. 34; east to NE Hwy. 63; north and west to U.S. Hwy. 77; north to NE Hwy. 92; west to U.S. Hwy. 81; south to NE Hwy. 66; west to NE Hwy. 14; South to County Road 22 (Hamilton County); West to County Road "M" (Hamilton County); South to County Road 21 (Hamilton County); West to County Road "K" (Hamilton County); south to U.S. Hwy. 34; west to NE Hwy. 2; south to U.S. Hwy. I-80; west to Gunbarrel Rd. (Hall/Hamilton county line); south to Giltner Rd.; west to U.S. Hwy. 281; south to U.S. Hwy. 34; west to NE Hwy. 10; north to County Road "R" (Kearney County) and County Road #742 (Phelps County); west to County Road #438 (Gosper County line); south along County Road #438 (Gosper County line) to County Road #726 (Furnas County line); east to County Road #438 (Harlan County line); south to U.S. Hwy. 34; south and west to U.S. Hwy. 136; east to NE Hwy. 14; south to the Kansas-Nebraska border, west to U.S. Hwy. 283; north to NE Hwy. 23; west to NE Hwy. 47; north to U.S. Hwy. 30; east to NE Hwy. 14; north to NE Hwy. 52; west and north to NE Hwy. 91; to U.S. Hwy. 281; south to NE Hwy. 22; west to NE Hwy. 11; Northwest to NE Hwy. 91; west to Loup County line; east along northern boundaries of Loup, Garfield and Wheeler counties; south on the Wheeler-Antelope county line to NE Hwy. 70; east to NE Hwy. 14; south to NE Hwy. 39; southeast to NE Hwy. 22; east to U.S. Hwy. 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy. 30; east to U.S. Hwy. 75, north to the Washington County line; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border; south along

the Iowa-Nebraska border; to the beginning at U.S. Hwy. 75 at the Kansas-Nebraska border.

006.01A5a(3) Zone 3: Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Holt, Howard, Madison, Pierce, Rock, Sherman, Stanton, Thurston, Valley and Wayne counties; the Low Plains portion of Blaine, Brown, Custer and Dawson counties, excluding that part of Dawson County in Zone 2; plus those portions of Antelope, Boone, Buffalo, Cedar, Colfax, Dixon, Dodge, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Knox, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Platte, Washington and Wheeler counties not included in Zone 1 or 2.

006.01A5a(4) Zone 4: Those parts of Adams, Butler, Cass, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Kearney, Nemaha, Otoe, Phelps, Polk, Richardson and Saunders counties not included in Zone 2, that portion of Furnas County south of U.S. Hwy. 34 and north of U.S. Hwy. 136 together with Clay, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nuckolls, Pawnee, Saline, Seward, Thayer, Webster and York counties.

006.01A5b High Plains: That part of the state which lies west of the boundary line delineated in 006.01A5a above.

006.01A5c Area Open: Within management units as delineated except federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.01B Coot -- Management Unit Boundaries as described in 006.01A5a through 006.01A5c.

006.01B1 Open Season:
Low Plains
Zones 1 and 2: To run concurrent with dates established in 006.01A1.

Zones 3 and 4: To run concurrent with dates established in 006.01A1.

High Plains:

To run concurrent with dates established in 006.01A1.

006.01B2 Daily Bag Limit: Fifteen (15).

006.01B3 Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit (30).

006.01B4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01B5 Area Open: Within management units as delineated except federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.01C Geese

006.01C1 Light Geese (Blue, Snow and Ross' Geese) - Zone boundaries are described in 006.01C1h.

006.01C1a Zone 1

006.01C1a(1) Open Season Dates: October 1, 2005 through January 13, 2006.

006.01C1b Zone 2

006.01C1b(1) Open Season Dates: October 1, 2005 through January 13, 2006.

006.01C1c Zone 3

006.01C1c(1) Open Season Dates: October 1, 2005 through January 13, 2006.

006.01C1d Daily Bag Limit: Twenty (20).

006.01C1e Possession Limit: None.

006.01C1f Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01C1q Area Open: Within management units as delineated except federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.01C1h Management Unit Boundaries

006.01C1h(1) Zone 1: The area contained within and bounded by the intersection of NE Hwy. 92 and NE Hwy. 15, south along NE Hwy. 15 to NE Hwy. 4, west along NE Hwy. 4 to U.S. Hwy. 281, north along U.S. Hwy. 281 to U.S. Hwy. 30, east along U.S. Hwy. 30 to NE Hwy. 92 and east along NE Hwy. 92 to the beginning.

006.01C1h(2) Zone 2: The area contained within and bounded by the intersection of U.S. Hwy. 281 and U.S. Hwy. 30, south along U.S. Hwy. 281 to NE Hwy. 4, west along NE Hwy. 4 to U.S. Hwy. 34, west along U.S. Hwy. 34 to U.S. Hwy. 283, north along U.S. Hwy. 283 to U.S. Hwy. 30, east along U.S. Hwy. 30 to the beginning.

006.01C1h(3) Zone 3: Remainder of the State.

006.01C2 Dark Geese (Canada, Brant and all other goose species except white-fronted geese and those included as light geese) - Unit boundaries are described in 006.01C2a(4), 006.01C2b(4), 006.01C2c(4),006.01C2d(4) and 006.01C2e(4).

006.01C2a Niobrara Unit

006.01C2a(1) Open Season Dates: October 29, 2005 through January 31, 2006.

006.01C2a(2) Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) geese.

006.01C2a(3) Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit.

006.01C2a(4) Management Unit Boundary -- The area contained within and bounded by the intersection of the South Dakota stateline and the Cherry County line, south along the Cherry County line to the Niobrara River, east to the Norden Road, south on the Norden

Road to U.S. Hwy. 20, east along U.S. Hwy. 20 to NE Hwy. 137, north along NE Hwy. 137 to the Niobrara River, east along the Niobrara River to the Boyd County line, north along the Boyd County line to the South Dakota stateline. Where the Niobrara River forms the boundary, both banks of the river shall be included in the Niobrara Unit.

006.01C2b East Unit

006.01C2b(1) Open Season Dates: October 1 through October 2, 2005 and October 22, 2005 through January 22, 2006.

006.01C2b(2) Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) geese.

006.01C2b(3) Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit.

006.01C2b(4) Management Unit Boundary -- The area of the state north and east of U.S. Hwy. 281 beginning at the Nebraska-Kansas border, north to Gunbarrel Road (at Doniphan), east to NE Hwy. 14, north to NE Hwy. 66, east to U.S. Hwy. 81, north to NE Hwy. 22, west to NE Hwy. 14, north to NE Hwy. 91, east to U.S. Hwy. 275, south to U.S. Hwy. 77, south to NE Hwy. 91, east to U.S. Hwy. 30, east to the Nebraska-Iowa border.

006.01C2c Platte River Unit

006.01C2c(1) Open Season Dates: October 29, 2005 through January 31, 2006.

006.01C2c(2) Daily Bag Limit; Three (3) geese.

006.01C2c(3) Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit.

006.01C2c(4) Management Unit Boundary -- All that part of the state north and west of U.S. Hwy. 281 beginning at the Nebraska-Kansas border, north to Giltner Road (at Doniphan), east to NE Hwy. 14, north to NE Hwy. 66, east to U.S. Hwy. 81, north to NE Hwy. 22, west to NE Hwy. 14, north to NE Hwy. 91, west along NE Hwy. 91 to NE Hwy. 11, north to the Garfield/Holt County line, west along the north border of Garfield, Loup, Blaine and Thomas counties to the Hooker County line, south along the Thomas/Hooker county lines to the McPherson County line, east along the south border of Thomas County to the western line of Custer County, south along the Custer/Logan County line to NE Hwy. 92, west to U.S. Hwy. 83, north to NE Hwy. 92, west to NE Hwy. 61, north along NE Hwy. 61 to NE Hwy. 2, west along NE Hwy. 2 to the corner formed by Garden - Grant - Sheridan counties, west along the north border of Garden, Morrill and Scotts Bluff counties to the Wyoming border, excluding the Panhandle Unit as described in 006.01C2e(4).

006.01C2d North Central Unit

006.01C2d(1) Open Season Dates: October 1, 2005 through January 3, 2006.

006.01C2d(2) Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) geese.

006.01C2d(3) Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit.

006.01C2d(4) Management Unit Boundary -- That part of the state north of the Platte River and East units, and excluding that area described in 006.01C2a(4).

006.01C2e Panhandle Unit

006.01C2e(1) Open Season Dates: November 12, 2005 through January 31, 2006.

006.01C2e(2) Daily Bag Limit: Three (3) geese.

006.01C2e(3) Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag limit.

006.01C2e(4) Management Unit Boundary: All of Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, Morrill, Cheyenne and Deuel counties; All of Garden County except that area south and east of NE Hwy. 92 and U.S. Hwy. 26; that portion of Grant County south and west of NE Hwys.2 and 61; that portion of Arthur County west of NE Hwy. 61; that portion of Keith County north and west of NE Hwys. 92 and 61 and south and west of U.S. Hwy. 26 and NE Hwy. 61; Perkins County north and west of NE Hwys. 23 and 61.

006.01C2f Area Open: Within management units as delineated except federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.01C3 White-Fronted Geese

006.01C3a Open Season Dates: October 1 through December 11, 2005.

006.01C3b Daily Bag Limit: Two (2) geese.

006.01C3c Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag.

006.01C3d Area Open: Statewide except federal or state refuges unless otherwise authorized.

006.01C4 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01D Crow

006.01D1 Open Season: October 1 through November 15 and January 20 through April 6.

006.01D2 Hours Open: 30 minutes before sunrise to 60 minutes after sunset except during waterfowl seasons when hours are concurrent with waterfowl shooting hours.

006.01D3 Area Open: Statewide except federal or state refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.01D4 Daily Bag and Possession Limit: No limit.

006.01E Crow - Public Nuisance/Health Hazard Order.

006.01E1 In Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Harlan, Kearney, Lincoln and Phelps counties, the crow is concentrated in such a manner and number as to constitute a public nuisance and a health hazard and may be taken using methods authorized during firearm and archery seasons during the period November 16 through January 19 in addition to the regular hunting season dates. Shooting hours shall be in accordance with the regular crow hunting season as specified in regulations. None of the birds taken pursuant to this section, nor their plumage, shall be sold or offered for sale.

006.01F Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season

006.01F1 Eligibility: Youth 15 years of age or younger. Youth ages 12 through 15 must be accompanied by an adult at least 18 years old. Youth younger than 12 must be accompanied by an adult at least 19 years old who possesses a valid Nebraska Small Game Permit. In neither case, the adult will not be allowed to shoot ducks, mergansers or coots.

006.01F2 Species: Ducks, Geese, Mergansers and Coots.

006.01F3 Season Dates (Open Season): The Saturday and Sunday immediately following the

close of the teal season in the Low Plains Zone (006.01G2a).

006.01F4 Area Open: Statewide except federal or state refuges unless otherwise authorized.

006.01F5 Daily Bag Limit: Same as allowed in regular duck and merganser (006.01A2), coot (006.01B2) and goose (006.01C1, 006.01C2, 006.01C3) seasons.

006.01F6 Possession Limit: Same as allowed in regular duck and merganser (006.01A3), coot (006.01B3) and goose (006.01C1, 006.01C2, 006.01C3) seasons.

006.01F7 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01G Early Teal Season

006.01G1 Species: Blue-winged, Green-winged, and Cinnamon Teal.

006.01G2 Season Dates (Open Season):

006.01G2a Low Plains Zone (described in 006.01G3a). Sixteen (16) consecutive days beginning the Saturday nearest September 10.

006.01G2b High Plains Zone (described in 006.01G3a). Nine (9) consecutive days beginning the Saturday nearest September 10.

006.01G3 Area Open: That portion of the state south and west of a line beginning from the Iowa border west along U.S. Hwy 30, to NE Hwy 61, north to NE Hwy 92 (just north of Kingsley Dam), west to U.S. Hwy 26 to U.S. Hwy. 385, north to NE Hwy. L62A, west to U.S. Hwy. 26, and then west to the Wyoming border, except federal or state refuges unless otherwise authorized.

006.01G3a

Low Plains Zone - That part of the Area Open described above (006.01G3) that lies east of a line which begins at the juncture of U.S. Hwy. 30 and NE Hwy. 47 in Dawson County; south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23, east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283, south on U.S. Hwy. 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

High Plains Zone - That part of the Area Open described above (006.01G3) that lies west of a line which begins at the juncture of U.S. Hwy. 30 and NE Hwy. 47 in Dawson County; south on NE Hwy. 47 to NE Hwy. 23, east on NE Hwy. 23 to U.S. Hwy. 283, south on U.S. Hwy 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

006.01G4 Daily Bag Limit: Four (4) birds singly or in the aggregate of only those species listed in 006.01G1.

006.01G5 Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag.

006.01G6 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.01H Early ~~(Experimental)~~ Canada Goose Season

006.01H1 Species: Canada Geese.

006.01H2 Season Dates (Open Season): September 8-16, 2007 ~~9-19, 2006~~.

006.01H3 Area Open: That portion of the state south and west of a line beginning from the Iowa border west along U.S. Hwy. 30 to U.S. Hwy, 81, south to NE Hwy. 64, east to NE Hwy. 15, south to NE Hwy. 41, east to NE Hwy. 50, north to NE Hwy. 2, east to the Iowa border, except federal or state refuges unless otherwise authorized.

006.01H4 Daily Bag Limit: Five (5) birds.

006.01H5 Possession Limit: Twice the daily bag.

006.01H6 Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.

006.02 Conservation Actions

The Commission may establish conservation orders or similar wildlife management activities for the conservation of migratory bird populations provided such orders and/or actions are approved by the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or an authorized representative under 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 20.

006.02A Geese

006.02A1 Light Geese (Blue, Snow and Ross' Geese) - Zone boundaries are described in 006.01C1h.

006.02A1a Eligibility: Resident persons 16 years of age or older and all nonresidents, regardless of age, participating in a conservation action for the conservation of migratory bird populations shall possess a valid Nebraska Small Game Hunting Permit, valid Nebraska Habitat Stamp, valid Nebraska Migratory Waterfowl Stamp, a Federal Waterfowl Stamp, and shall be registered in Nebraska for the Harvest Information Program (HIP), provided the requirement for the Nebraska Migratory Waterfowl Stamp shall begin January 1, 2006.

006.02A1b Zone 1

006.02A1b(1) Conservation Action Dates: Beginning the first day after the termination date of the Platte River Unit (006.01C2c(1)) dark goose season and through the Sunday nearest April 15.

006.02A1b(2) Beginning on the date specified in 006.02A1b(1), hunting of light geese is permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Beginning on March 24, hunting is permitted on all days until the end of the Conservation Action as specified in 006.02A1b(1).

006.02A1b(3) Hunting of light geese is not permitted on the following

lands owned, controlled or managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Springer WPA; Massie WPA, Hultine WPA, Wilkins WPA, Pintail WMA, Verona WPA, Bluebill WMA, Eckhardt WPA, Nelson WPA, Kirkpatrick North WMA, and Swan Creek WMA.

006.02A1b(4) Hunting of light geese is not permitted within 0.5 mile of an area bounded by the outermost channel with flowing water on the north and south sides of the Platte River from U.S. Hwy. 281 to NE Hwy 14.

006.02A1c Zone 2

006.02A1c(1) Conservation Action Dates: Beginning the first day after the termination date of the Platte River Unit (006.01C2c(1)) dark goose season and through the Sunday nearest April 15.

006.02A1c(2) Beginning on the date specified in 006.02A1c(1), hunting of light geese is permitted only on Saturdays, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Beginning on March 24, hunting is permitted on all days until the end of the Conservation Action as specified in 006.02A1c(1).

006.02A1c(3) Hunting of light geese is not permitted on the following lands owned, controlled or managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Funk WPA, Prairie Dog WPA, Bluestem WPA, Lindau WPA, and Clark WPA.

006.02A1c(4) Hunting of light geese is not permitted within 0.5 mile of an area bounded by the outermost channel with flowing water on the north and south sides of the Platte River. Beginning March 11 through the Sunday nearest April 15, hunting

of light geese is not permitted within 5 miles of an area bounded by the outermost channel with flowing water on the north and south sides of the Platte River.

006.02A1d Zone 3

006.02A1d(1) Conservation Action Dates: Beginning the first day after the termination date of the Platte River Unit (006.01C2c(1)) dark goose season and through the Sunday nearest April 15.

006.02A1e Daily Bag Limit: None.

006.02A1f Possession Limit: None.

006.02A1g Shooting Hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

006.02A1h Area Open: Within management units as delineated except federal or state sanctuaries and refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

006.02A1h(1) Beginning March 11 through the Sunday nearest April 15 within that portion of Zone 3 which is east of U.S. Hwy 283 and west of U.S. Hwy 281, hunting of light geese is not permitted within five (5) miles of an area bounded by the outermost channel of flowing water on the north side of the Platte River.

006.02A1i Use of Recorded or Amplified calls: Permitted only as defined in 001.02A3 and 001.02A3a.

006.02A1j Baiting: Prohibited as described in 001.02A7.

006.02A1k Transporting: Same as defined in 001.02A9.

006.02A1l Live Decoys: Prohibited as described in 001.02A5.

006.02A1m Weapons Permitted: Same as those defined in State Statute 37-536 and prohibited in section 001.02A6. The use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells in magazine and chamber combined: Permitted only as defined in 001.02A4a.

006.02A1n Nontoxic Shot: Same as those defined in 011.01 and 011.02.