

# 2014-2015 Preliminary Upland Game Hunting Recommendations



Fish and Game Commission Meeting  
April 16, 2014



# Major Recommendations

- Replace existing specific permit numbers with ranges of permit numbers for sage-grouse in all zones.
- Re-establish late pheasant archery-only season.
- Increase daily bag limit for mourning and white-winged doves from 10 to 15 in aggregate, of which no more than 10 may be white-winged doves.
- Open Eurasian collared-dove season statewide all-year.

# Minor Recommendations

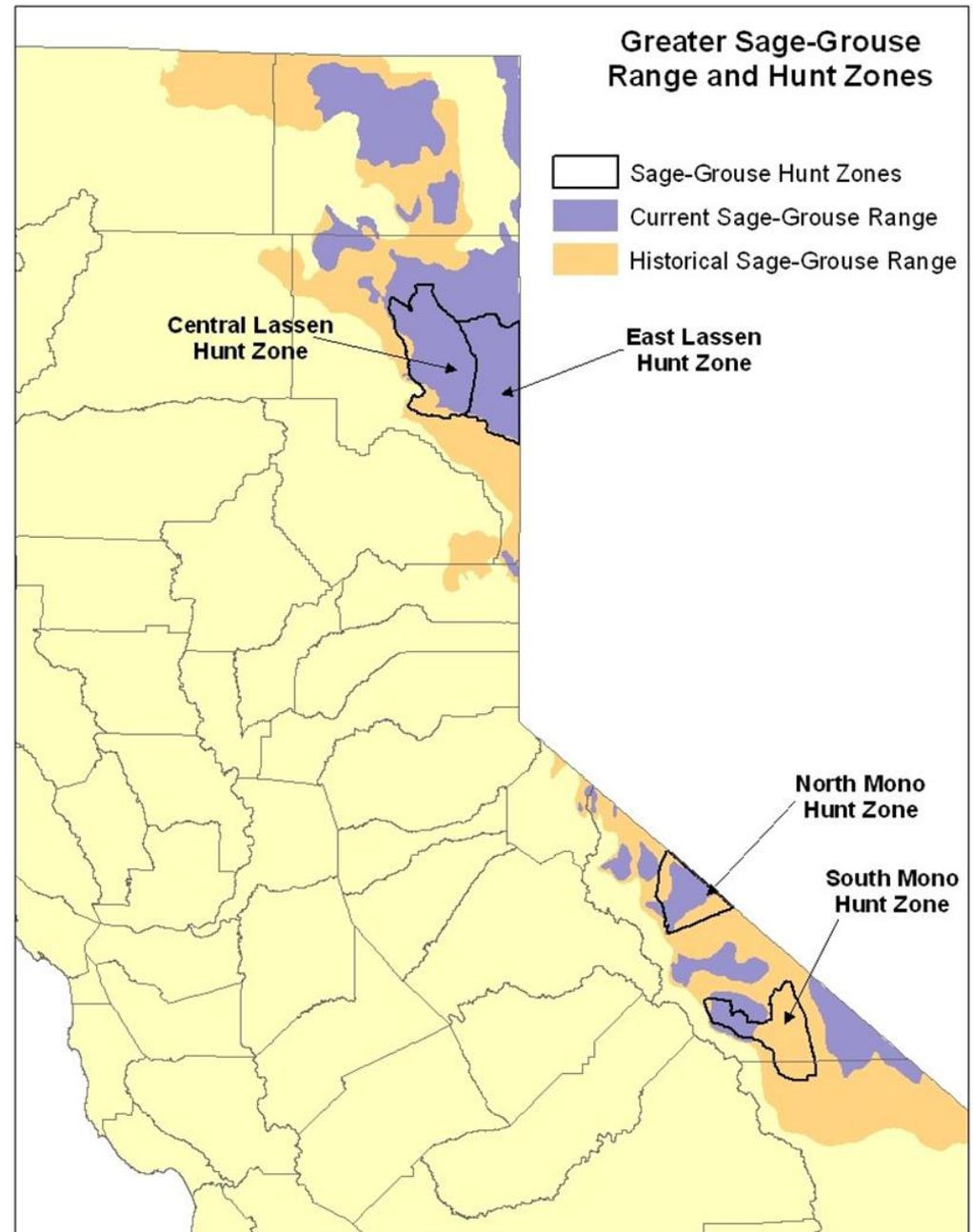
- Administrative change to include application procedures for sage-grouse permits under the Automated Licensing Data System (ALDS).
- Editorial changes to identify Eurasian collared-dove, spotted dove, and ringed turtle-dove as resident game birds.

# Sage-grouse Permits

- **Establish ranges in all 4 hunt zones**
  - East and Central Lassen Zones: 0 - 50 permits (2-bird permits)
  - North and South Mono Zones: 0- 100 permits (1-bird permits)
- **Final permit number recommendations**
  - spring lek counts
  - size and trend of population
  - not to exceed 5% of predicted fall population



# Sage-Grouse Range and Hunt Zones



# Greater Sage-Grouse Federal Endangered Species Act Status:



- **Range-wide candidate species: proposed rule scheduled for 2015**
- **Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS): proposed threatened – final rule scheduled for October, 2014**

# Primary Threats to Sage-Grouse in CA

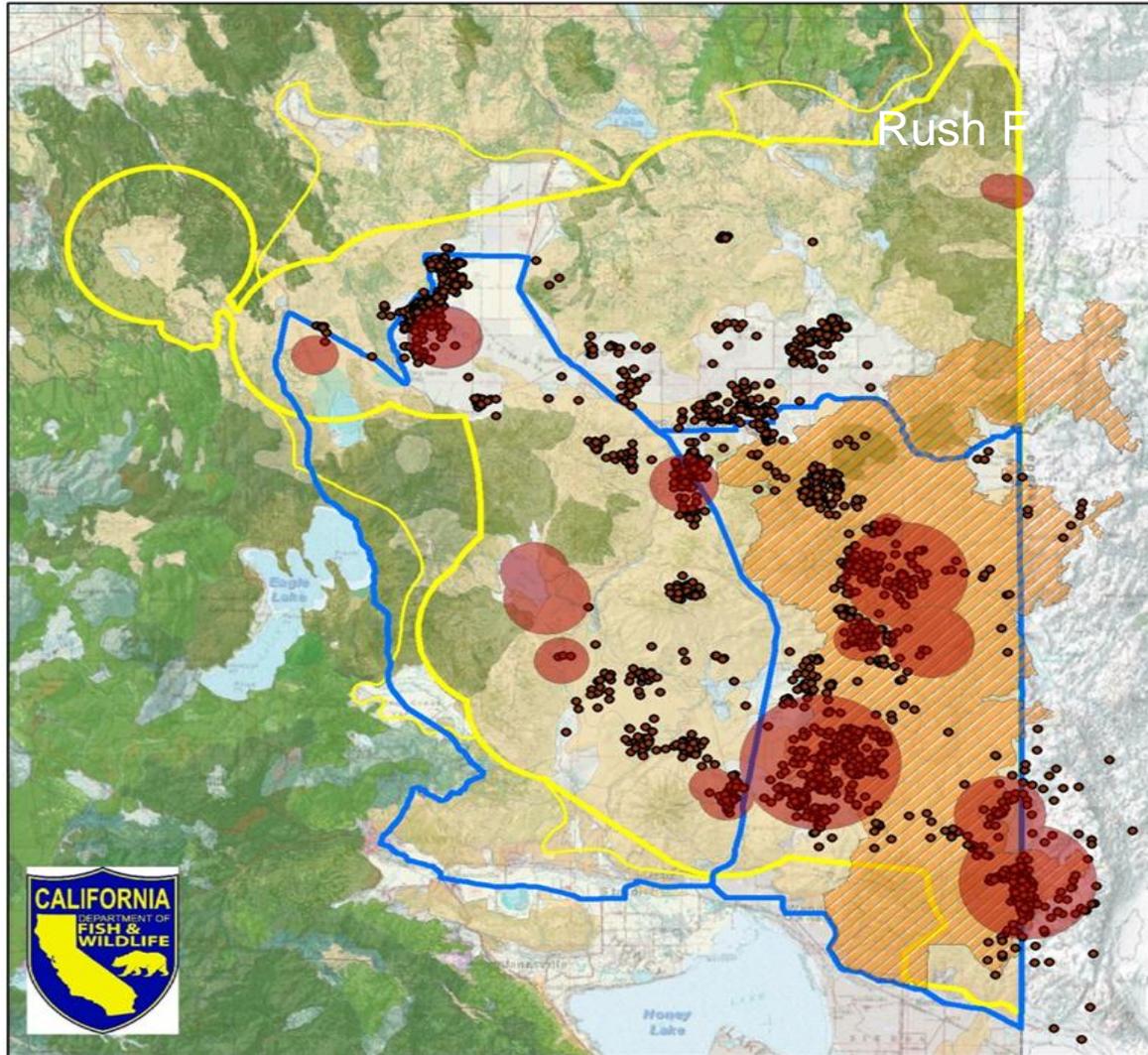


- Wildfire
- Invasive Plants
- Rangeland Development
- Small, Isolated Populations

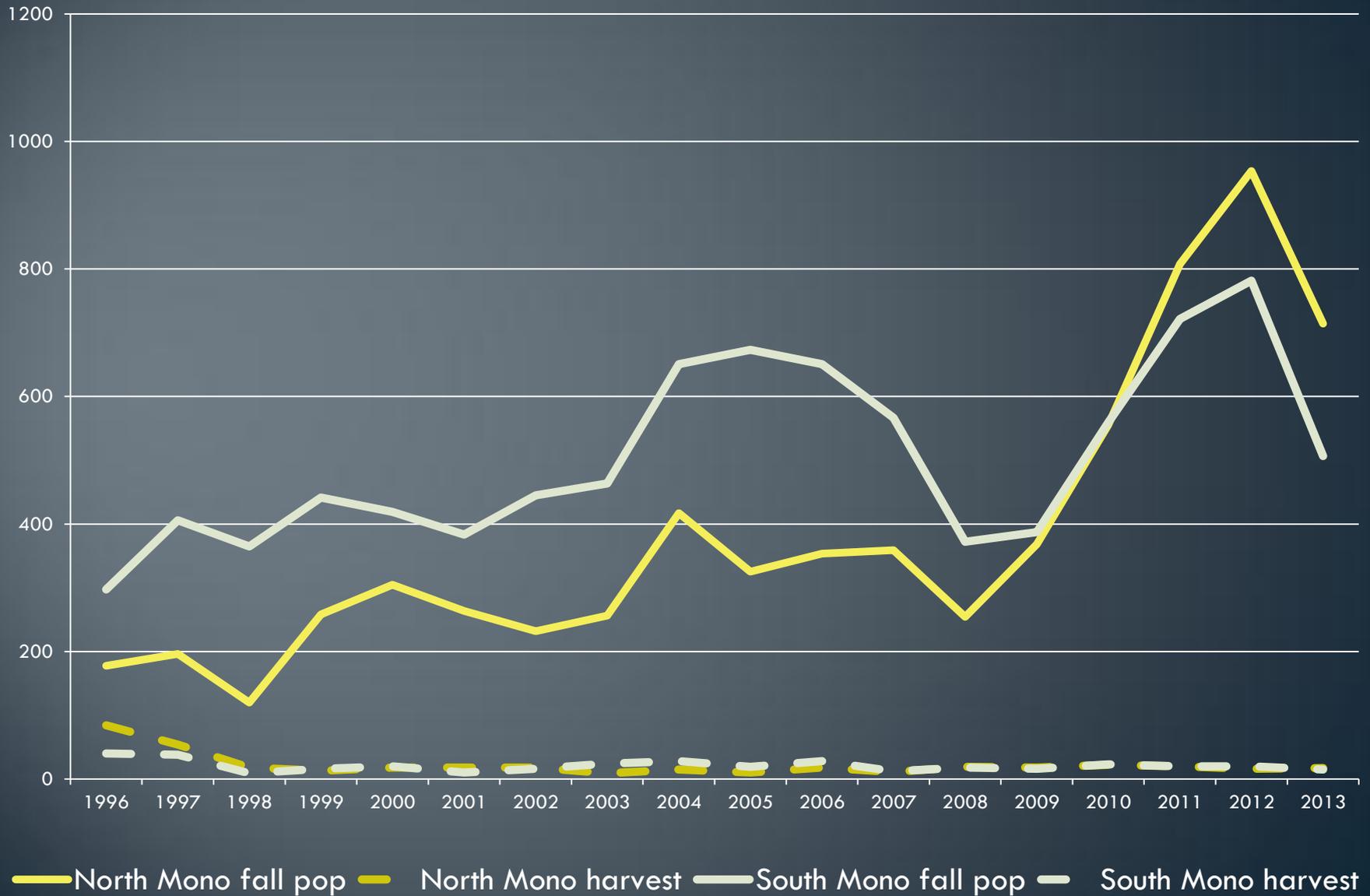
\*Managed hunting is not considered a high risk factor

# Rush Fire in Relation to Sage-Grouse Habitat, Lassen County, CA

\*Draft- Prepared for Fish and Game Commission Meeting (06/26/2013)



# Mono Sage-Grouse Population and Harvest Trends



# Lassen Sage-Grouse Population and Harvest Trends (season closed 2012 – 2013)



# Sage-Grouse Harvest 2013

Hunt Zone	2012 Males	2013 Males	Change %	Low Fall Pop. Est.	Harvest (Permits)
North Mono	510	433	-15%	810	17 (30)
South Mono	418	307	-27%	574	14 (25)
East Lassen	393	221	-44%	413	0
Central Lassen	199	103	-48%	193	0

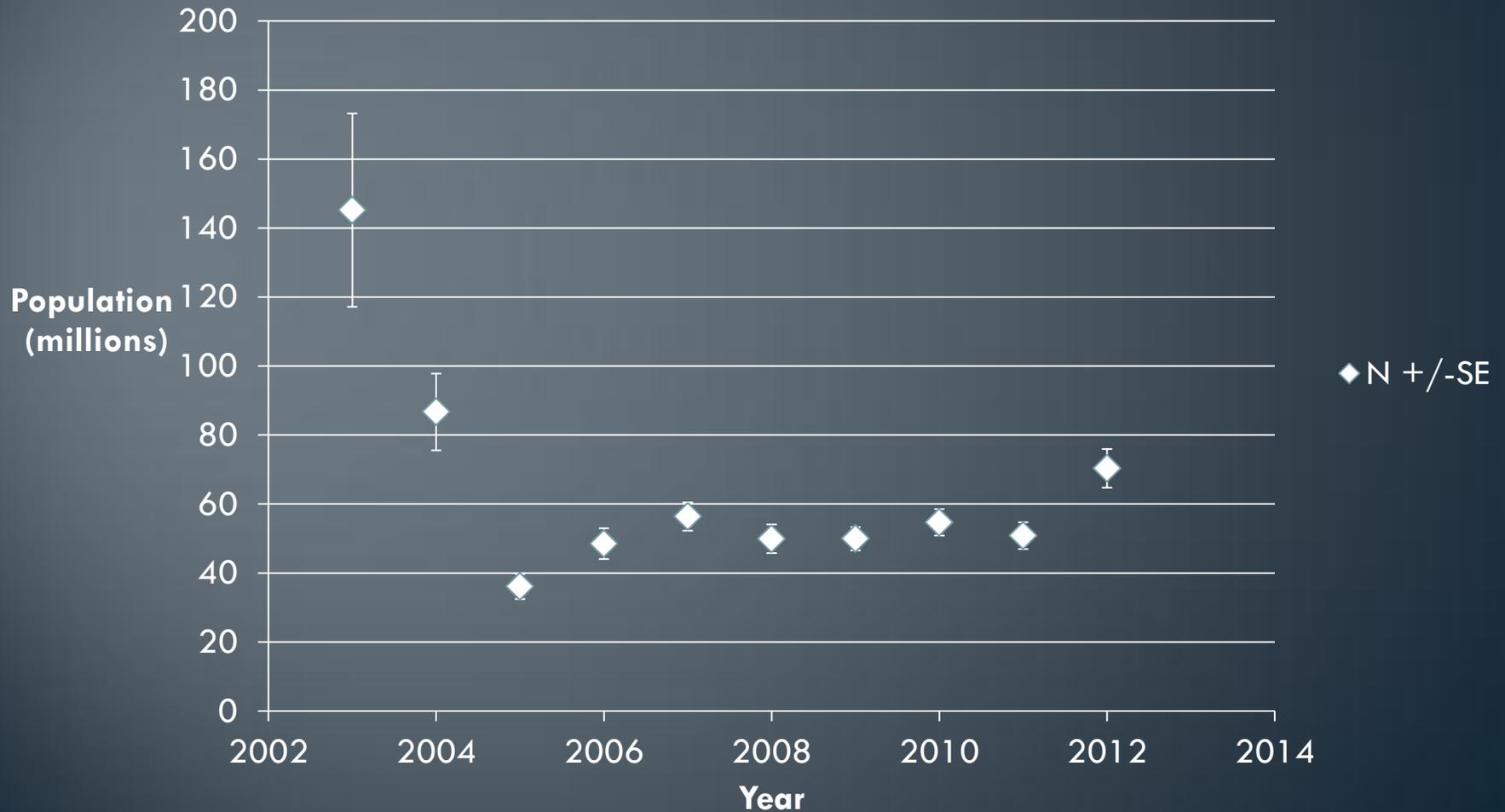
# Re-establish Late Pheasant Archery Season

- Establish 28-day late pheasant archery season following general pheasant season.
- Combined early, general, and proposed late season = 95 days total pheasant archery hunting.
- Archery equipment is not allowed on Type A and B Wildlife Areas during pheasant and waterfowl seasons (Section 551).

# Increase Mourning and White-winged Doves Daily Bag from 10 to 15

- **New harvest strategy**
  - Development began in 2005
  - Endorsed by the Pacific Flyway Council
  - USFWS
- **Contemporary management strategy**
  - Based on banding data and robust population modeling.
- **Proposal for California**
  - Aggregate bag limit for mourning and white-winged doves increased to 15, with no more than 10 white-winged doves

# USFWS Results for Mourning Dove Absolute Abundance



# Mourning Dove Harvest Rates

- 2006-2011 harvest rates, estimated from banding, were 3%-5%: low for an abundant generalist like mourning dove.



# Open Eurasian Collared-dove Season All-Year Statewide

- In 2013 year-round in Imperial County as a trial
  - no adverse issues.
- Majority of dove hunting states have opened the season all-year, and no limit
- No major enforcement concerns.
- Recommend all-year season statewide.



# Questions?



Thanks to Scott Gardner  
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# Mourning Dove Population Data Sources

Current Population Modeling Applies:

- Harvest Information Program (HIP) data
- Wing collections data
- Banding data
- Call Count Surveys
- Breeding Bird Surveys

# **Assessment Framework for Harvest Strategies Include:**

- **Discrete logistic model to estimate and predict population abundance**
- **Critical abundance thresholds**
- **85% confidence predicted abundance exceeds critical threshold**
- **Standard, restrictive and closed regulatory alternatives**

# Mourning Dove Management

- Increasing the daily bag limit to 15 for the Standard season is predicted to maintain harvest rates at population sustainability.
- Annual monitoring of harvest and population is included in the harvest strategy.

