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Record Searchlight

Four DFG sage grouse hunts set

By Record Searchlight Staff

TARGET WILD: The Department of Fish and Game will offer four sage grouse hunts for Lassen and Mono counties. Applications are due by Aug. 13.

The Department of Fish and Game is accepting applications for 2007 sage grouse permit hunts. Hunters can submit an application online or by mail; applications must be received by 5 p.m. Aug. 13.

Four hunts are scheduled in Lassen and Mono Counties for Sept. 8-9. In Lassen County, the proposed bag limit is two sage grouse per season. **In Mono County, the proposed bag limit is one grouse per season.** The hunts will be in East Lassen, Central Lassen, North Mono and South Mono zones. Hunters can only apply for one zone.

"Sage grouse are a unique bird," said Tom Blankinship, DFG Game Bird Program Manager. "We are offering limited hunts for an exceptional native western game bird. Hunting the arid sage lands for this hearty bird is a real challenge."

Large portions of sage grouse habitat occurs on U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands offering good public hunting opportunities. Hunters are advised to bring plenty of water, be prepared for rugged terrain, and expect hot, dry conditions.

Sage grouse hunting is by permit only. Permits are issued through a random drawing. All sage grouse hunters are required to have a valid hunting license and an Upland Game Bird Stamp.

Sage grouse permit applications must be received at DFG's License and Revenue Branch in Sacramento by 5 p.m. Aug. 13. Hunters may apply for a sage grouse permit by sending a postcard with the hunter's name, 2007/2008 California hunting license number, residential address and the desired hunt zone to: California Department of Fish and Game, Sage Grouse Permit Drawing, 1740 North Market Blvd., Sacramento, CA, 95834 or online at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing. Select the "2007 Sage Grouse Drawing" link. Incomplete applications and those with invalid hunting license numbers will be disqualified.

Hunters may also apply in parties of up to four people, but each hunter needs to list his or her name, mailing address, and 2007/2008 hunting license number on the application. In addition, each hunter may submit only one application for one hunt area.