



August 30, 2021

Ms. Martha Williams, Principal Deputy Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1849 C Street, NW, Room 3148  
Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Northern Pintail Adaptive Harvest Management Revision Timeline**

Dear Deputy Director Williams,

Our organizations are writing to reconfirm the USFWS' timeline for completion of the technical work related to the pintail harvest strategy and timely implementation. As you are aware, the issue has been identified as a high priority amongst the states, flyways and other key stakeholders for quite some time, and has a significant impact on waterfowl hunting opportunities for the public.

Consistent with the established USFWS scientific process for continued model improvement, the pintail harvest strategy is based on the framework of adaptive harvest management (AHM) and requires periodic review. The pintail strategy was last evaluated in 2010 and has since been used to establish the annual framework for hunting seasons and bag limits based on certain objectives, regulatory alternatives and current population models, and their relative weights.

After years of planning and discussion, we were pleased to hear during this spring's flyway council meetings that the Service has significantly advanced the technical work related to the pintail harvest strategy and has outlined a timeline for completion. Based on reports from Service staff we understand the process to be:

- Integrated population model to be completed early in 2021
- Alternate strategies to be evaluated in the spring of 2021
- Flyway feedback to be solicited in the fall flyway meetings
- Full strategy proposal to be submitted to the Harvest Management Working Group in December 2021
- Flyway Technical Committee review in February 2022
- Flyway Council endorsement in March of 2022
- Implementation of new regulations for 2023 season

We recognize that consultation with the flyways, Harvest Management Working Group and other processes are an essential part of the collaboration and partnership that forms the ongoing foundation

of our shared responsibility to manage North American waterfowl populations and provide sustainable hunting opportunities. We appreciate the Service's progress on this important work, and we recognize COVID and other factors have weighed heavily on the Service, your staff and key contractors.

With this said, to help us more effectively communicate with our supporters and partners, we would appreciate an update on the steps that have been completed to date and respectfully urge that you and your staff continue the recent progress and ensure that appropriate resources are provided to complete the work on the established timelines. Please call on us if we can be of service to you on this or other matters.

Sincerely,

California Waterfowl Association  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Delta Waterfowl  
Ducks Unlimited  
Grassland Water District