

Summary of Regulations during Minnesota's Light Goose Conservation Order – 2009

* **Permit/Licensing:** A Spring Light Goose Permit (or License Code # 521) is required and may be obtained through any of the 1800 ELS Point of Sale (POS) license agents statewide, or the ELS-Telephone and ELS-Internet agent. To obtain a permit via telephone, call toll free 1-888-MNLICENse (1-888-665-4236) or check the DNR Web Page (www.dnr.state.mn.us) for Internet licensing. Customers using the telephone or internet license agents will receive a Temporary Authorization Number (TAN) in lieu of the permit until it can be mailed to the applicant. Although the permits are free there is a \$3.50 application fee to cover the cost of issuing the permit. No other license, stamp, or permit is required to participate. Permits will be available after February 20, 2008.

* **Species Permitted:** Light geese include lesser snow geese (*Anser caeruleescens caeruleescens*) and Ross' geese (*Anser rossii*). Blue geese are the same species as lesser snow geese and may be taken. No other species of waterfowl may be taken.

Do not shoot swans. All swans are protected in Minnesota and penalties for shooting a swan can be severe. Be sure of your target (see diagram on reverse side). In previous years, the majority of light geese passing through Minnesota in the spring have occurred in southwestern and west-central Minnesota, generally west of a line extending from Mankato to Fergus Falls. **CAUTION:** Swans may be found statewide in the spring, and you should become familiar with the identification advice on the reverse side prior to heading out in the field. **There is no excuse for mistaking a swan for a goose!**

* **Dates and Shooting Hours:** Light geese may be taken during 1 March - 30 April, 2009 from ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset (Note: Shooting hours during the fall waterfowl seasons end at sunset each day).

* **Bag Limit:** There are no daily or possession bag limits. One fully feathered wing must remain attached to all light geese while being transported from the field to one's home.

* **Regulations:** All State and Federal restrictions that apply during normal waterfowl hunting seasons are also in effect during the Conservation Order *except* that use of unplugged shotguns and electronic calls is allowed. Details of State and Federal restrictions can be found in the 2008 Waterfowl Hunting Regulations Supplement. Some key points -

- Only approved non-toxic shot may be possessed and used
- Federal baiting regulations apply during the Conservation Order.
- Prohibited methods include use of rifles, pistols, or shotguns larger than 10-gauge, live decoys, or sinkboxes.
- Light geese may not be taken (1) from or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle or aircraft of any kind, (2) from or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been shut off and the sails furled. A craft under power may be used only to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however, the craft may not be used under power to shoot crippled birds, (3) by means or aid of any motor-driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of light geese.
- All refuges closed to normal waterfowl hunting are also closed during the Conservation Order. This includes the Lac qui Parle Game Refuge and duck and goose refuges that are posted with signs as closed during fall waterfowl seasons.
- Participants may not sell or offer for sale light geese or their plumage, but may possess, transport, and otherwise properly use them.

* **Trespass:** State trespass regulations apply during the Conservation Order.

* **Reporting:** All participants will be required to fill out and return a questionnaire after the end of the Conservation Order.