

Protocol for
Importing Wild Sharp Tailed Grouse from Canada, using the Oroville U.S. port of
entry- special import requirements
2019

The sharp tailed grouse is found in the Pacific Northwest of the United States and in central British Columbia, Canada. This species is part of a conservation project whose goal is to recover threatened populations in Washington State by translocating the same species from British Columbia, Canada. There is a concerted effort by three separate agencies. They are: the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Colville Confederated Tribes' Department of Fish and Wildlife, in Canada. The WDFW has approached the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) for waivers to current import requirements to support translocation efforts of this unique species from specific areas within south Central British Columbia to final destination in North Central Washington State.

General requirements:

1.1 USDA's import requirements for poultry (including grouse) from Canada require animals to be accompanied by a health certificate endorsed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and to be subjected to a veterinary inspection by VS at the U.S. port of entry. Current regulations for poultry from Canada which present at a US-Canadian land border port do not stipulate a need for an import permit. However, due to the unique circumstances associated with this particular project, APHIS is requiring that an import permit be obtained (for each shipment). The importer for this effort is the WDFW, with specific WDFW representatives identified as the agency veterinarian and the research scientist involved in the conservation/ relocation project. As noted, the WDFW must obtain an import permit for each import shipment of sharp tailed grouse (not hatching eggs of grouse) as described under this protocol. Restrictions will be specified on the permit.

1.1.1 The WDFW can obtain an import permit as follows:

- a. A Veterinary Services (VS) Form 17-129, "Application for Import or in Transit Permit," along with the instructions, can be obtained by writing to or calling the National Import Export Services at:

[National Import Export Services Unit 39](#)
[4700 River Road](#)
[Riverdale, MD 20737-1231](#)
[301-851-3300, Menu Option 2](#)

Or by downloading the form from the APHIS Web site at:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_animal_health%2Fsa_import_into_us%2Fct_vs_services_forms

Completed applications may be faxed to 301-734-4704, or may be emailed to VS.Live.Animals.Import.Permits@aphis.usda.gov

- 1.1.2 The applicable processing fee must accompany the permit application, and may be submitted by check, money order, credit card or by providing a USDA user fee account. Current fees can be found at the following web link:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/importexport?1dmy&urile=wcm%3apath%3a%2Faphis_content_library%2Fsa_our_focus%2Fsa_business_services%2Fsa_mrpbs_divisions%2Fsa_fmd%2Fsa_user_fees%2Fct_vs_import_export_fees

- 1.1.3 Submissions may be made by mail or fax to the Riverdale office above; 7-10 business days should be allowed for processing applications for importations that are being planned in advance under this protocol.

- 1.1.4 If changes need to be made for a permit after it has been issued, there is an additional fee (See above web link for fees).

- 1.1.5 Permits are valid for 30 days from the stated date of arrival to the U.S.

- 1.2 A current veterinary health certificate, issued by the Canadian veterinarian involved in the project, and endorsed by CFIA; or a health certificate issued and endorsed by CFIA is acceptable.

- 1.3 Other VS forms (such as a Customs Declaration- VS 17-29) may be completed at the port of entry at arrival. The WDFW should make arrangements to meet with the VS port veterinarian upon arrival of the shipment at the U. S. port of entry.

- 1.4. WDFW must contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding any applicable permits or other importation requirements that agency may have in addition to APHIS' requirements.

- 2.0 Use of Oroville U.S. port of entry- only

- 3.0 Issuance of import permit is contingent upon:

- 7-10 days pre-ship date for the submission of the VS 17-129 (import application)
- VS availability at first US port of entry to perform inspection- no shipments will be made on weekends or holidays.

4.0. Health Certifications

Health Certificates must contain statements attesting to the birds comprising the shipment:

- 4.1 Date and location of capture.
- 4.2 Were inspected prior to shipment by the CFIA approved veterinarian issuing the certificate.
- 4.3 Showed no evidence of any clinical disease of poultry.
- 4.4 Were not vaccinated for any reason at capture.
- 4.5 Were shipped in new or appropriately sanitized transport containers.
- 4.6 Did not originate from or transit through a region where highly pathogenic avian influenza or Newcastle Disease is known to exist.

NOTE: It is the understanding of the USDA that these grouse will be captured in the early morning hours and then trucked to the U.S. Oroville port, prior to port closure hours. The WFDW is required to keep the USDA port veterinarian apprised of any delays that may impact arrival at the port of entry.

5.0 Veterinary Port inspection

5.1 The VS veterinary inspection will take place at the Oroville port of entry. If there is a change in ports it will be listed on the import permit. Prior permission to change the port must be obtained from the USDA before arriving at a US port. The WFDW will ensure the VS port veterinarian is available during the approximate hours requested by the importer before issuing the import permit. Health certificate requirements will be listed on the import permit. Arrangements for VS inspection should occur at least 14 days in advance of shipment arrival. VS can be flexible with the amount of lead time received from the importer. However, once the permit has been issued, changes to US port arrival should be addressed directly with the US port veterinarian.

6.0 Additional handling:

6.1 There is no quarantine of the grouse upon arrival in the U.S.

NOTE: The importer is required to communicate import intentions with the USFWS. VS may, at its discretion, inform the local USFWS agent of impending import; however it is the responsibility of the importer to comply with USFWS import requirements.

Questions about this document can be directed to:

Avian Import Specialist
National Import Export Services, Unit 39
4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737-1231
Telephone: (301) 851-3300 option 2

Fax: (301) 734-4704
By email: VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@aphis.usda.gov