

Do you hunt migratory birds?

If so, then you **NEED** to understand what HIP is and why it's important to you.

HIP is an acronym for Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. HIP is a method by which each state and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are developing more accurate ways to determine the number of migratory birds harvested annually in each state.

Why do states and the USFWS need to know how many migratory birds are harvested annually?

This information is used by biologists to determine season lengths, bag limits, and population monitoring.

If you hunt ducks, coots, geese, brant, swans, doves, band-tailed pigeons, woodcock, rails, snipe, sandhill cranes, or gallinules, in any state then you are **REQUIRED** to participate in the HIP Program.

How does HIP work?

Each year the USFWS randomly selects a sample migratory bird hunters, as determined by HIP certification, and sends them a survey. There are different types of surveys depending on the species of migratory bird. Hunters may be asked what species they hunted, how many they harvested, etc. or they may be asked to send in a wing from each bird harvested. For example, someone that duck hunts may be asked to send in one wing from each duck harvested during the current year's hunting season. This information is then used to determine things like recruitment of young into the population by looking at the ratio of young birds to adult birds in the harvest. Wing data along with harvest data from the surveys, in addition to population surveys, are all used by biologists to determine population levels. This information is then used to set hunting seasons and bag limits.

What does HIP require of hunters?

When you buy your hunting license you must identify yourself as a migratory bird hunter. You must have proof of your HIP certification with you whenever you are hunting migratory birds. You will get this when you purchase your hunting license.

What if I have a lifetime license?

You must still get HIP certified annually. You can do this wherever a hunting license may be purchased.

How do I sign up for HIP?

When you purchase your hunting license tell the sales agent that you need to be HIP certified. No course or test is required.

What is the cost for HIP?

There is not cost for HIP.