

**Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group (Meeting #2)
February 2, 2015 Ft. Pierre District Office**

Members:

Representative Dick Werner
Representative Spencer Hawley
Senator Bill Van Gerpen
Chuck Dieter
Chris Hesla
Norb Barrie
Larry Steffen
GFP Commissioner Gary Jensen
GFP Commissioner Paul Dennert

GFP Staff:

Tony Leif
Tom Kirschenmann
Scott Lindgren
Arden Petersen

Welcome

Tony Leif welcomed everyone to the meeting. All members were present.

Tom Kirschenmann handed out a packet of information to members that was requested at the previous meeting.

Review & Discussion

Public comments received up to January 27 were provided to members. There were 77 pages of comments. Since January 27th there have been an additional 40 pages of comments. Additional comments will be sent to members.

Groups discussed whether recommendation should be melded with GFP's recommendations or stand alone. Group thought that the work group's

recommendation should not be melded and should stand alone and go to commission separately.

Group agreed that this is a social issue not biological.

Dick Werner asked how the public is being informed about this process. Tony Leif stated there have been a couple of news releases and information is also available on GFP's website. There will be additional news releases and the website will continue to be updated with new information.

Tony Leif reviewed charter again.

Proposed Alternatives for Future License Allocations Discussed by the Working Group Members

Tony Leif reminded members that the 10-day and season long licenses are set in statute. The valid period length of the 3-day licenses is not in statute.

Group discussed different maps including 10-day, season long and 3-day licenses, along with duck zones.

There was a lengthy discussion on the map GFP created per the request of the members and based on the group discussion from the first meeting (attachment #1) and alternative maps presented by Chuck Dieter (attachment #2 and #3).

Currently the northeast unit for temporary licenses (3-day) has 9 counties. They are Brown, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Deuel, Codington, Hamlin and Clark. There was a lot of discussion on having the northeast unit have a boundary of 281 on west and 212 on south and being called unit B. Some of the 10-day and 3-day license would be valid in this unit.

The group liked the idea of the revised area of unit B, except Norb Barrie. Norb believes that 10-day license holders should be able to go anywhere in the state outside of the Lower Missouri unit described in statute.

Bill Van Gerpen suggested 75 3-day licenses be added to the Lower Missouri unit. This unit is called Unit A on attachment #1. Group thought numbers should be

kept more round for initial discussion. Group thought it should change from 75 to 100 to start with for simplicity.

Group suggested to start with 2000 10-day and 500 3-day licenses in Unit B and 250 season long and 100 3-day licenses in Unit A. The number of 10-day licenses was based on the current counties being hunted by these license holders as reported in harvest surveys. Recent surveys indicate 60% of 10-day license holders hunt in the 9 counties in northeast SD. Chuck Dieter believes this is too many licenses for Unit B and suggested instead: 1400 10-day licenses and 250 3-day licenses.

Long discussion on Missouri River Private Land unit, now called Unit C-1 on Attachment #1. The rest of the state would now be called Unit C, which would include Bennett County.

Group agreed Unit C should have 700 3-day licenses and would also be valid in C-1 on private land only. In addition, C-1 would have 700 3-day licenses valid only for private land.

Group discussed how many 10-day licenses for Unit C. With no increase there would be 1750. Group thought this would be a good starting point.

In summary, group left with these numbers on the map (attachment #4) to think about and get input over the next month prior to the third meeting to be held in March.

Unit A: 250 season long and 100 3-day licenses (valid in Unit A only)

Unit B: 2000 10-day and 500 3-day licenses (valid in Unit B only)

Unit C: 1750 10-day (valid in Unit C only, including C-1) and 700 3-day licenses (valid in Unit C only, including C-1, but 3 day licenses used in C-1 are valid on private land only)

Unit C-1: 700 3-day licenses valid on private land only (valid in Unit C-1 only)

There was a long discussion on hunting pressure. Spencer Hawley says it occurs when the mallards are here. Other members agreed. Several members thought that there was less pressure early in the duck season and there would be more room for nonresidents early in the season.

Chuck Dieter talked about limiting nonresident hunters to either before or after November 1. He thought there could be more nonresident licenses if you spread them out during the season. Others thought you could spread them out by area.

Chuck Dieter stated that his group will not support any increase in license numbers and that residents would not be satisfied with the new proposal as there was nothing in the plan that was beneficial to the resident hunter.

Hesla stated that if the 700 3-day licenses are now available in all of C, then it would be a big increase in nonresident opportunity.

There was a short discussion on the 2000 Nonresident Early Fall Canada goose licenses. They are presently valid during the month of September statewide, except for 13 counties in the southeast corner of the State and Canada goose Unit 2. The last few years about 400 of the 2000 licenses available have sold.

It was discussed to allow nonresidents to hunt anywhere the September season is open for residents and to allow them to hunt 3 days during any of the other seasons that are open to Canada goose hunting.

Chuck Dieter talked about the purpose of early fall season was for depredation. He also thought there would be opposition for the 3 days to be used outside September.

There was a little discussion about having some licenses available for nonresident youth that would only be valid for the 2 day youth waterfowl season. The additional licenses could come from the 5% license growth allocation allowed by statute. The group decided to think about this possibility and discuss at the next meeting.

Dick Werner talked about having the flow chart updated. *GFP staff will update flow chart.

There was some discussion on licensing outfitters and guides. Tony Leif thought that this would take legislative action. * GFP will check with legal staff and report back at next meeting.

GFP Commission members Gary Jensen and Paul Dennert stated that it was important for them to not take a position on ideas discussed. But, they welcomed all discussion and ideas.

Next meeting is Monday, March 2 at the Ft. Pierre District Office from 1-4 PM.

*denotes action item