

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16

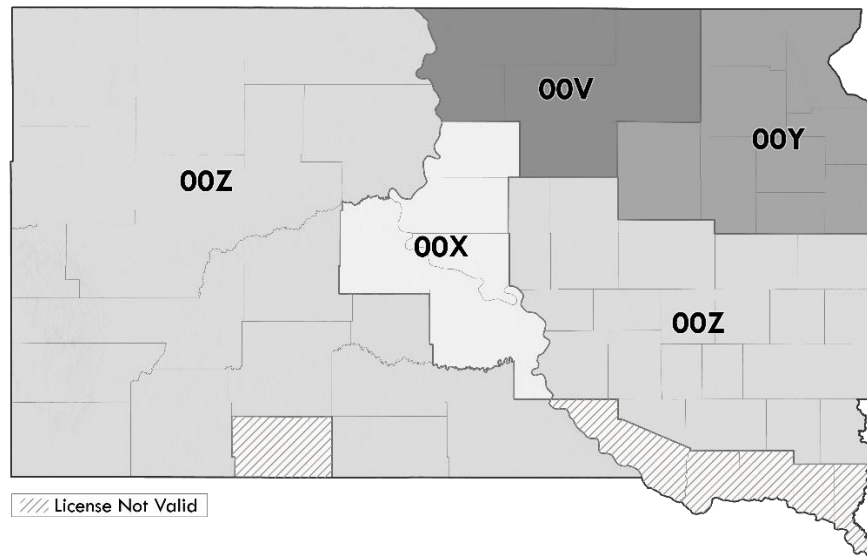
Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	January 11-12, 2024	Pierre
	Public Hearing	April 4, 2024	Pierre
	Finalization	April 4-5, 2024	Pierre

SEASON INFORMATION

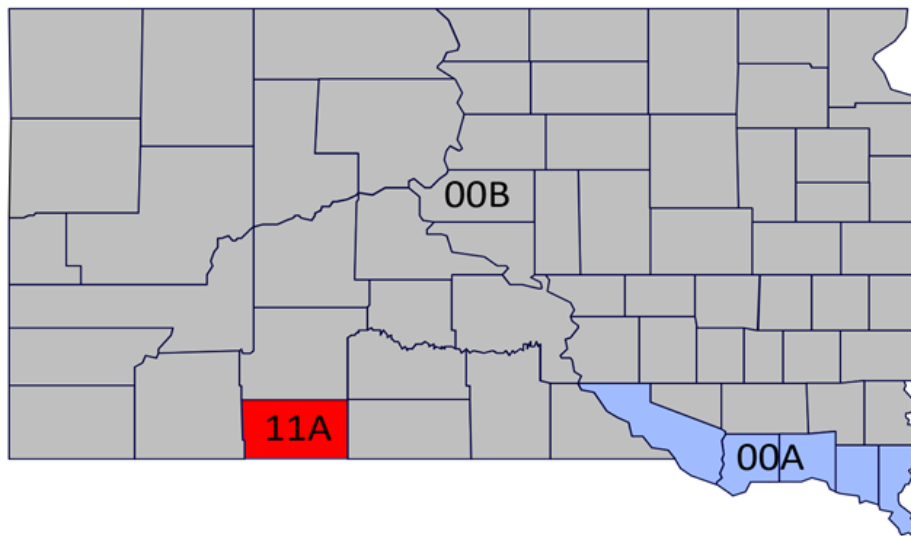
Duration of Proposal: 2024/2025 waterfowl hunting seasons

Licenses: Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons. 6,615 licenses.

Current 3-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Current 10-day and Season-long Nonresident Waterfowl Units



COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Proposed changes from last year:

Increase nonresident waterfowl licenses by 5%. Results in 210 additional two 5-day period licenses and 105 additional temporary, 3-day licenses.

Nonresident Waterfowl System

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2023 Licenses	Recommended 2024 Licenses
NRW-00A	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay, Union, and Yankton counties	250	250
NRW-00B	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,925	4,135
NRW-11A	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Bennett County	25	25
NRW-00V	Private	3 day	Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson and Walworth counties	550	600
NRW-00X	Private	3 day	Hughes, Lyman, Potter, Stanley and Sully counties	750	750
NRW-00Y	Public and Private	3 day	Clark, Codington, Day, Duel, Grant, Hamlin, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties	500	500
NRW-00Z	Private	3 day	Statewide except Unit 00A, 00X, 00V, 00Y and 11A	300	355
Total				6,300	6,615

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

In the past 20 years, waterfowl hunter numbers in South Dakota have dropped 47% from 32,217 in 2003 to 17,042 in 2022. Nearly all of this decrease was the result of fewer resident waterfowl hunters. A 5% license increase to nonresident waterfowl licenses would result in 315 additional licenses compared to the 15,175 fewer waterfowl hunters since 2003. The Nonresident Waterfowl System table above details proposed 5% nonresident license increase across current units. The recommendations will provide more opportunity in areas where it is difficult to draw licenses while still limiting licenses in the highest hunter density areas.

DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE RULE CHANGES

41:06:16:11. Maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses -- Open units -- Dates -- License restrictions. The maximum number of nonresident waterfowl licenses to be issued by lottery is ~~four thousand two hundred~~ four thousand four hundred and ten special nonresident waterfowl licenses, two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~two thousand one hundred~~ two thousand two hundred and five fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses divided for administrative purposes as follows:

(1) Unit NRW-00A: the counties of Union, Clay, Yankton, Bon Homme, and Charles Mix. No more than two hundred and fifty special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(2) Unit NRW-00B: all open counties not in Units NRW-00A or NRW-11A. No more than ~~three thousand, nine hundred and twenty-five~~ four thousand one hundred and thirty five special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(3) Unit NRW-00C: those units as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than two thousand early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than twenty-five special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for sixty-five consecutive days beginning on the third Saturday of October and during any period that Bennett County is open in January as described in subdivision 41:06:16:07(3);

(5) Unit NRW-00X: the counties of Potter, Stanley, Sully, Hughes, and Lyman. No more than seven hundred and fifty fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(6) Unit NRW-OOV: the counties of Brown, Campbell, Edmunds, Faulk, McPherson, and Walworth. No more than ~~five hundred and fifty~~ six hundred fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(7) Unit NRW-00Y: the counties of Spink, Marshall, Roberts, Day, Grant, Clark, Codington, Deuel, and Hamlin. No more than five hundred three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-00A, NRW-11A, NRW-OOV, NRW-OOX and NRW-OOY. No more than ~~three hundred~~ three hundred and fifty five fall three-day, temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only on private property;

(9) Unit NRW-ST1: statewide. No more than ten thousand spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order issued pursuant to 50 CFR § 21.180;

(10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than one hundred nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in § 41:06:49:01. A nonresident youth may also hunt during the youth waterfowl season, with a valid waterfowl hunting license, as provided for in this section.

Licenses issued under this section are valid only in the unit for which they are issued. Licenses for Unit NRW-11A include two tags for Canada geese. Each tag is valid for taking one Canada goose, consistent with the provisions of § 41:06:16:09. Each goose must be tagged immediately upon retrieval.

RESIDENT/NONRESIDENT CRITERIA

1. The Issue

- Why make the change, what are the change alternatives, how will public/stakeholder input be solicited, and how will the change be evaluated if implemented? With the current number of resident hunters participating, increased opportunity for nonresident waterfowl hunting exists without undue impact to hunters or the resource. Standard public input

through the commission process will be solicited regarding these proposed changes. Changes can be evaluated through harvest surveys to gauge participation and satisfaction levels of both resident and nonresident hunters.

2. Historical Considerations NA

3. Biological Considerations

- What is the current and projected status of the population and habitat conditions for these populations? Waterfowl populations are generally strong in South Dakota and the Central Flyway. While breeding conditions across the prairie pothole region are constantly changing, current wetland habitat conditions in South Dakota are expected to be good. Duck and Canada goose harvest increases from the proposed changes to nonresident waterfowl will be minimal.

4. Social Considerations

- The nonresident waterfowl issue is and will continue to be contentious issue, but given the large decrease in resident waterfowl hunter participation in the past 20 years, there is opportunity for nonresidents while still remaining well below hunter numbers in the early 2000s.

5. Financial considerations As with most hunting activities, declining participation threatens funding for conservation, monitoring and management. While increases in financial return will be nominal, increased revenue through license sales is expected. Financial returns of the sporting goods and hospitality industry may also increase through these proposed changes.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, REACTIVATION (R3) CRITERIA

1. Does the regulation or fee inhibit a user's ability to participate? No.
2. Does the regulation increase the opportunity for new and existing users? Yes, it slightly increases the number of licenses available for the season.
3. How does the regulation impact the next generation of hunters, anglers, trappers and outdoor recreationists? This regulation would provide a slight increase in opportunity for current and new waterfowl hunters.
4. Does the regulation enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by getting families outdoors? Yes.

FISCAL IMPACT

Additional revenue may be generated from the sale of increased license availability for nonresidents.

APPROVE _____ MODIFY _____ REJECT _____ NO ACTION _____