

GAME, FISH, AND PARKS COMMISSION ACTION PROPOSAL

Waterfowl Hunting Seasons Chapter 41:06:16

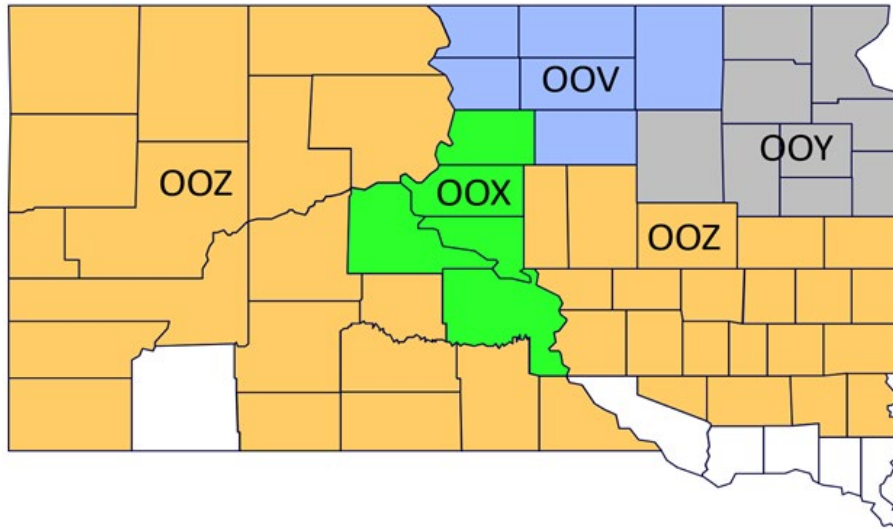
Commission Meeting Dates:	Proposal	March 9-10, 2023	Pierre
	Public Hearing	May 4, 2023	Custer State Park
	Finalization	May 4-5, 2023	Custer State Park

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

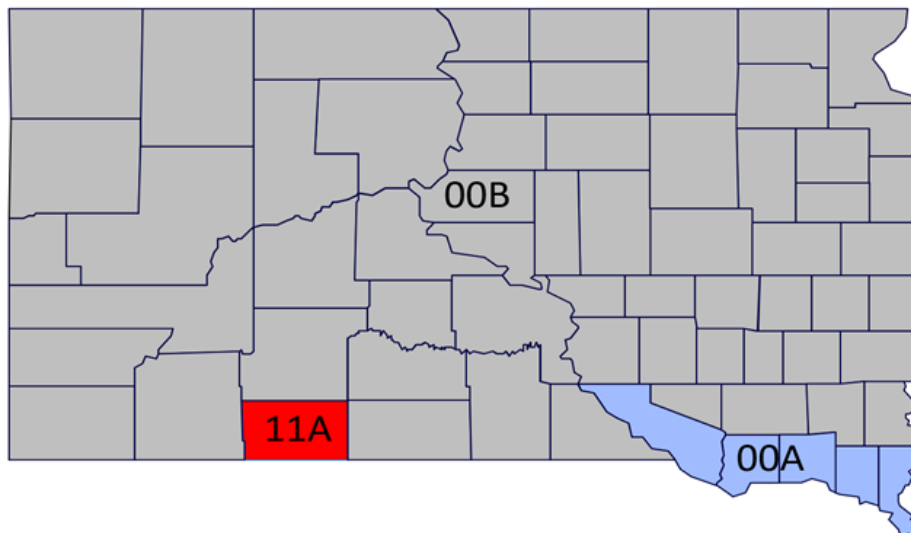
Duration of Recommendation: 2023/2024 waterfowl hunting seasons

Licenses: Nonresidents: Limited in all units and seasons (recommended 6,300)

Current 3-day Nonresident Waterfowl Units



Current 10-day and Season-long Nonresident Waterfowl Units



DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Increase the 2,000 3-day temporary nonresident licenses to 2,100.
2. Increase the 3,750 two 5-day nonresident licenses to 3,950.

Nonresident Waterfowl System

Season/Unit	Private/Public	Length	Description	2022 Licenses	Recommended 2023 Licenses
NRW-00A	Public and Private	Season long	Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Clay and Union counties	250	250
NRW-00B	Public and Private	Two 5-day periods	Statewide except 00A and 11A	3,725	3,925
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	500	550
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	250	300

Total 6,000 6,300

SUPPORTIVE INFORMATION

In the past 17 years, resident migratory bird certificate sales dropped 29% from 33,950 in 2005 to 24,166 in 2022. A 5% license increase to nonresident waterfowl type 86 licenses would result in 300 additional licenses compared to the 9,784 fewer resident migratory bird certificates since 2005. 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 ~~4,000~~ 4,200 special nonresident waterfowl licenses, 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident licenses, ~~2,000~~ 2,100 fall three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses, 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses, and 10,000 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 250 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 ~~3,725~~ 3,925 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(3) Unit NRW-00C: those counties as described in § 41:06:50:02. No more than 2,000 early fall Canada goose temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(4) Unit NRW-11A: Bennett County. No more than 25 special nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued. The season in this unit is open for 65 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 750 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 ~~500~~ 550 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 500 three-day temporary nonresident waterfowl licenses may be issued;

(8) Unit NRW-OOZ: statewide except the counties in Units NRW-OOA, NRW-11A, NRW-OOV, NRW-OOX and NRW-OOY. No more than ~~250~~ 300 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 10,000 spring snow goose temporary nonresident licenses may be issued. The licenses issued pursuant to this subdivision are valid only during a Conservation Order;

(10) Unit NYW-YW1: statewide. No more than 100 nonresident youth waterfowl licenses may be issued for the youth waterfowl season established in Chapter 41:06:49. 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 shall 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 to excellent. Duck harvest increases from the proposed changes to nonresident waterfowl will be minimal. Resident giant Canada goose populations are currently above management objective with increases likely for the foreseeable future. Increased harvest rates will be needed to manage the population at desired levels across the Central Flyway.
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 17 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

There will be an increase in revenue from additional nonresident licenses.