

**Nonresident Waterfowl License Work Group (Meeting #3)  
March 2, 2015 Mathews Training Center**

**Members:**

Representative Dick Werner  
Representative Spencer Hawley  
Senator Bill Van Gerpen  
Chuck Dieter  
Chris Hesla  
Norb Barrie  
Larry Steffen  
GFP Commissioner Gary Jensen – called in for the last 30 minutes  
GFP Commissioner Paul Dennert

**GFP Staff:**

Tony Leif  
Tom Kirschenmann  
Scott Lindgren  
Arden Petersen  
Scott Simpson

**Guests: (16)** including GFP Secretary Kelly Hepler, GFP Commission Chair John Cooper, GFP Commission Vice-Chair Cathy Peterson

**Welcome**

Tony Leif welcomed work group and guests.

**Review**

Tony reviewed history of the work group and explained that the Senate Ag and Natural Resources committee chair recommended that a work group be created.

Tony handed out a copy of Attachment #4 which was proposed at the last work group's meeting.

Tony reported back to work group that it would take legislative action to regulate guides and outfitters.

Tom Kirschenmann gave a short Power Point on hunter density (meeting #3 information).

Chuck Dieter suggested that we add another zone to move hunters into an area where there are good numbers of ducks and geese, but few hunters.

Chris Hesla talked about having a duck license and a goose license. He suggested the work group make a recommendation to go to the legislature next year and change licenses to goose or duck license.

Tony reported that this year (2014) 408 3-day licenses sold of the available 1500 five county Missouri River Private Land licenses (00X).

Chuck Dieter and Chris Hesla both said their groups do not support redistributing any 3-day Missouri River Private Lands licenses to other areas of the State.

Dick Werner stated that more licenses are not needed; rather there is a need to redistribute the licenses that we currently have available.

Group discussed having the south boundary of the NESD unit as Highway 28 instead of 212 and the option of keeping it at county boundaries.

Group asked what the nonresident youth demand was for nonresident waterfowl licenses.

Here are the numbers of hunters 18 and younger who held a 2014 NRW license.

- 17 – 00A
- 147-00B
- 11 – 00X
- 32 – 00Y
- 1 – 11A
- 208 – total

Here are the numbers of hunters 16 and younger who held a 2014 NRW license.

- 11 – 00A
- 84 – 00B
- 9 – 00X
- 18 – 00Y
- 1 – 11A
- 123 – total

Group discussed reducing the proposed 100 3-day licenses in the SESD unit from 100 to 50. Senator Van Gerpen said he would support this reduction.

Chuck Dieter suggested no change and leave as is for 5 years and conduct a survey to determine what both resident and nonresident hunters want. Other workgroup members didn't want to wait; they thought some type of adjustment was needed this year.

Dick Werner said at minimum to remove the Bennett County unit and add 50-3 day licenses for the SESD unit.

Larry Steffen suggested 500 3-day licenses be moved out of the central SD unit to an area west of the NESD unit. This area could contain Campbell, Walworth, McPherson, Edmunds and Faulk.

It was suggested to add Spink to the NESD unit so it would be 10 counties and have 6 counties in the new north-central (NCSD) unit which would include Potter. There could be 500 3-day licenses in the new NCSD unit for both public and private land that would come from the central SD unit.

That would leave 950 3-day licenses in the central SD unit.

\*Representative Werner wants to know total number of square miles in the NESD and NCSD units.

Chris Hesla proposed 25 youth nonresident full season licenses in the southeast SD unit and 75 youth nonresident 10-day licenses in the rest of the state.

Norb Barrie said he would now go along with 2,000 10-day licenses in NESD.

Paul Dennert suggested 200 3-day licenses in the NCSD unit and 50 3-day licenses in the SESD unit.

Tony explained the timeline that will be used to bring forward a recommendation to GFP Commission. The work group's process and their proposals will be presented at the April commission meeting. The department will make a recommendation to the commission at the May meeting in Custer State Park. The commission will finalize at the June meeting in Pierre.

The final recommendation of the work group is to:

1. Add Spink County to current 9-county northeast SD NR license unit.
2. Retain the allocation of 500 3-day licenses for the NE SD license unit.
3. Allocate 2,000 10-day licenses for the NE SD license unit.
4. Allocate 1,750 10-day licenses for the unit comprised of that part of the state not included in the NE SD and SE SD license units
5. Remove Potter County from the central SD 3-day license unit.
  - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA)
  - Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
6. Create a new NR license unit in northcentral SD that would include Campbell, Walworth, Potter, Faulk, Edmunds and McPherson counties.
  - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA) unless the license allocation comes from the current license allocation for the NESD unit.
  - Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
7. Allocate 250 3-day licenses to this new unit in north central SD that would be transferred from the central SD hunting unit.
  - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA)
  - Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
8. Reduce the license allocation for the central SD hunting unit to 1200 licenses.
  - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA)
  - Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
9. Transfer 50 3-day licenses from the central SD unit to the existing 5-county unit in southeastern SD along the Missouri River.
  - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA)

- Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
10. Absorb the current Bennett County 10-day license into the unit comprised of that part of the state not included in the NE and SE units.
  11. Remove the restriction in SE SD on NR hunting during the September Canada goose hunting season.
    - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA)
    - Opposed by Hesla (SDWF)
  12. Create 100 NR youth waterfowl licenses (25 season-long licenses in the SE SD unit and 75 10-day licenses valid in the rest of the state).
    - Opposed by Dieter (SDWA) unless the youth license are made valid only for the youth waterfowl hunting season

Chris Hesla said that the SDWF does not support this proposal going forward to GFP Commission. He and SDWF support the youth license proposal going forward as a separate proposal to the Commission.

Chuck Dieter and the SDWA do not support this proposal going forward to the GFP Commission. In addition, Chuck and the SDWA are opposed to the overall proposal and want things to remain the same unless there is a reduction in licenses. SDWA also supports leaving license allocations unchanged for a 5-year period to reduce the yearly consternation for everyone involved.

Attached are the two maps that go with the proposal.



Nonresident  
Waterfowl Workgroup

\*denotes action item