

Comes, Rachel

From: Worth, Calley
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 11:54 AM
To: Comes, Rachel; Kiel, Emily
Subject: RE: Petition for Rule Change Form

Categories: Commission

South Dakota - Game, Fish, and Parks

Petition for Rule Change

A new form was just submitted from the <http://gfp.sd.gov/> website with the following information:

ID: 39
Petitioner Name: Joel Bich
Address: Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
PO Box 246
Lower Brule, SD 57548
Email: joelbichwfr@gmail.com
Phone: 605-473-5313
Rule Identification: SDCL 41:05:02:68 MISSOURI RIVER REFUGES
Describe Change: The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe proposes the removal of the areas on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation from the DeGrey and Joe Creek State water-line Waterfowl Refuges
Reason for Change: The significant changes in waterfowl fall migration patterns have affected the timing and quality of waterfowl hunting along the Missouri River reservoirs. Typically, ducks and geese are arriving later and later in the fall and moving through our area faster and less consistently which results in greatly diminished hunting opportunities. In the past few years, waterfowl staging numbers on the Lake Sharpe downstream from Pierre have gone from hundreds of thousands for several months to the tens of thousands for a few weeks or even days. It is no longer feasible for many goose hunting operations to function; the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's Mni Sho Sho (Clark) goose camp (see map) has been closed since 2016 and converted to a walk-in hunting area. The DeGrey and Joe Creek State Waterfowl refuges are no longer holding large numbers of waterfowl for significant periods of time in the fall. Changes in refuges are necessary to increase hunting opportunity while maintaining refuges that are continuing to provide intended functions. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe desires to improve waterfowl hunting opportunities for tribal members and non-members on the Reservation lands and waters with this proposal. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks have enjoyed a productive, cooperative working relationship for many years; this proposal is another step in the co-management of the natural resources that we share.

Calley Worth | *Digital Content Strategist*
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

From: Comes, Rachel
Sent: Friday, February 02, 2018 11:45 AM
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Thanks!

Proposed Changes to State Waterfowl Refuges on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation

Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation

Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

February 1, 2018

Background

The significant changes in waterfowl fall migration patterns have affected the timing and quality of waterfowl hunting along the Missouri River reservoirs. Typically, ducks and geese are arriving later and later in the fall and moving through our area faster and less consistently which results in greatly diminished hunting opportunities. In the past few years, waterfowl staging numbers on the Lake Sharpe downstream from Pierre have gone from hundreds of thousands for several months to the tens of thousands for a few weeks or even days. It is no longer feasible for many goose hunting operations to function; the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's Mni Sho Sho (Clark) goose camp (see map) has been closed since 2016 and converted to a walk-in hunting area. The DeGrey and Joe Creek State Waterfowl refuges are no longer holding large numbers of waterfowl for significant periods of time in the fall. Changes in refuges are necessary to increase hunting opportunity while maintaining refuges that are continuing to provide intended functions. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe desires to improve waterfowl hunting opportunities for tribal members and non-members on the Reservation lands and waters with this proposal. The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation and the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks have enjoyed a productive, cooperative working relationship for many years; this proposal is another step in the co-management of the natural resources that we share.

Proposal

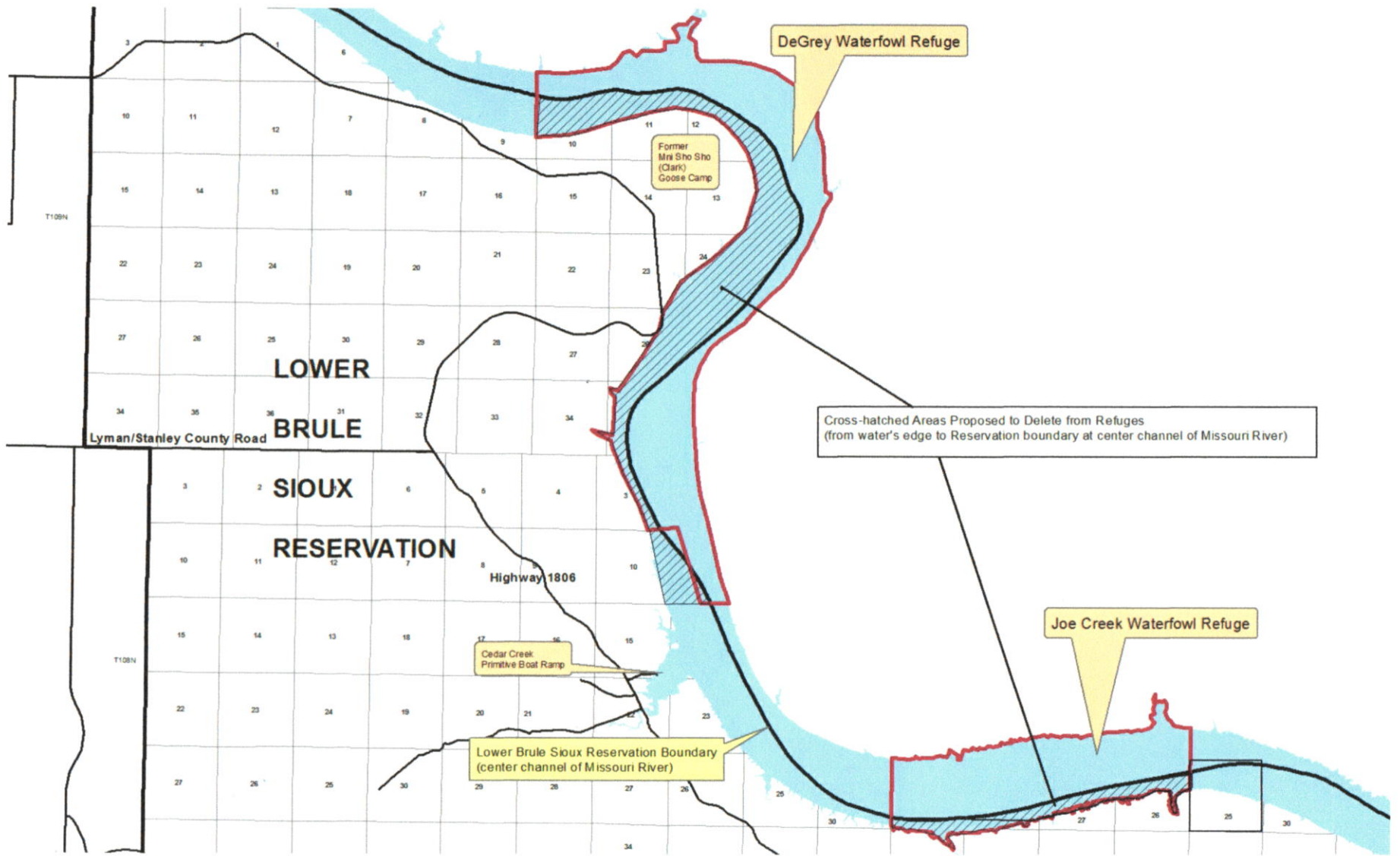
The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe proposes the removal of the areas on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation from the DeGrey and Joe Creek State water-line Waterfowl Refuges (see map below).

Affects of this Change

This change will allow increased waterfowl hunting opportunities from land as well as from boat. While these two refuges currently provide a fraction of the originally intended refuge function, this change will not negatively impact the protection that refuges provide for waterfowl because increased hunting activities will be limited to shoreline areas on the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation; over half the open water areas of the refuges will still be protected. Because of limited boat ramp access in this area, the anticipated minimal increase in boat hunter traffic will not cause significant disturbance to resting waterfowl.

Additional Information

One of the on-going goals of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe's Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation is to provide hunting opportunities for Tribal Members and non-members. Within the last few years, the harvest of geese at the tribally-operated Mni Sho Sho Goose Camp has dramatically declined (see figure below). Since 2014, our department has ceased on-site management of the area and it is now a walk-in area for all hunting including waterfowl. Because of changes in waterfowl migration patterns, hunting opportunity has plummeted.



DeGrey Waterfowl Refuge

Former Mni Sho Sho (Clark) Goose Camp

Cross-hatched Areas Proposed to Delete from Refuges (from water's edge to Reservation boundary at center channel of Missouri River)

Joe Creek Waterfowl Refuge

Cedar Creek Primitive Boat Ramp

Lower Brule Sioux Reservation Boundary (center channel of Missouri River)

LOWER BRULE

SIoux RESERVATION

Highway 1806

Lyman/Stanley County Road

T109N

T108N