

RESULTS OF THE 2015 KANSAS DUCK HUNTING ZONE SURVEY

PERFORMANCE REPORT STATEWIDE WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND SURVEYS

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RESULTS OF THE 2015 KANSAS DUCK HUNTING ZONE SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

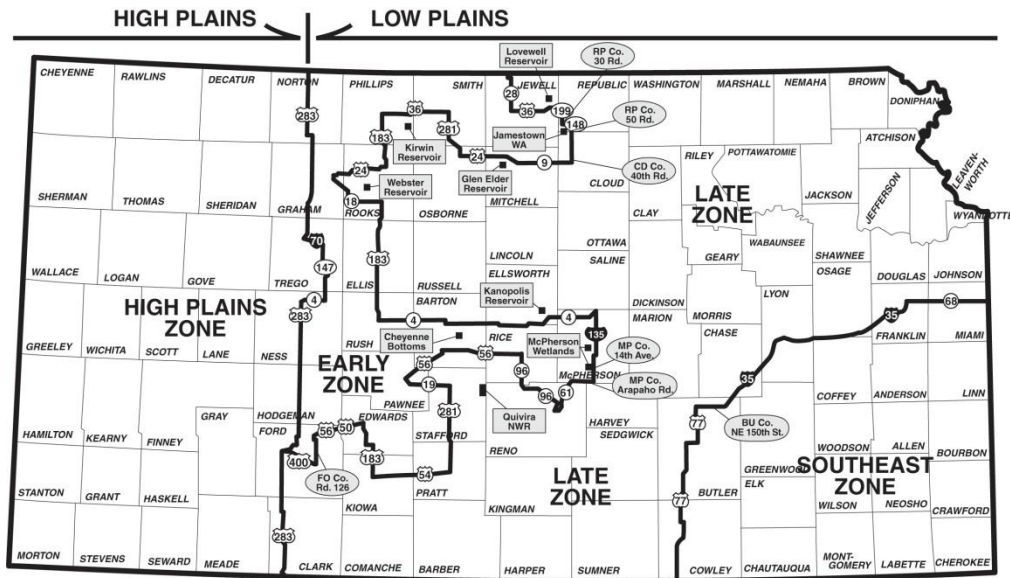
Zoning is the establishment of independent seasons in two or more areas (zones) within a state for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity. Zoning enhances the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters in specific areas. Physiographically diverse states have added difficulty in selecting season dates that will accommodate hunted duck species (i.e. early vs. late migrants) and hunting style preference (i.e. marshes, fields, reservoirs, rivers, etc.). This is especially true for mid-latitude states like Kansas. Zoning adds to regulatory complexity by creating multiple boundaries with varying season dates across a state, but its objective is to create greater hunting and harvest opportunities by enhancing the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters for specific areas.

Kansas waterfowl hunters are as diverse as Kansas waterfowl hunting opportunities. KDWP typically receives strong – and often conflicting – opinions about seasons. Some hunters prefer early seasons while others prefer hunting in later seasons. Zones and splits are tools that help serve a broad constituent base. Zoning effectively increases season length for hunters willing to travel. The benefits of zoning increase under restrictive season length frameworks, as were in place from 1988 through 1992 (39-day total season length).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considers states' requests to change duck zones every five years. In 2010, Kansas modified its duck hunting zone boundaries, creating a 3rd zone in Kansas Low Plains (See Figure 1 for Kansas Duck Hunting Zones). Leading up to and since that change, there has been some contention in the selection of Kansas waterfowl hunting season dates, not only in the newly created zone but for all duck and goose season dates.

To gather waterfowl hunters' preferences, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) conducted waterfowl hunter surveys in 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and in 2015. The primary purpose of the 2015 survey was to garner Kansas duck hunters' preferences for Kansas Low Plains duck hunting zones. This report summarizes the results of the KDWP 2015 Kansas Duck Hunting Zone Survey. In combination with other data streams such as waterfowl migration, waterfowl harvest and hunter participation, and public meetings, this survey will be used to assist KDWP in developing Kansas' duck hunting zones.

Figure 1. Kansas' 2011-2015 Duck Hunting Zones



METHODS

All Kansas hunters who are required to obtain a hunting license must possess an annual Kansas State Waterfowl Stamp before hunting ducks, geese, or mergansers in Kansas (those that are not required to have a Kansas hunting license include people hunting their own land, residents 75 years and older, and residents 15 and younger). The Kansas Waterfowl Stamp provided the sampling base for this survey. A random sample of 10,250 individuals was drawn from the 26,003 Kansas residents who purchased a 2014 Kansas Waterfowl Stamp. A modified Dillman Method was used for survey implementation. A postcard (Appendix A) was mailed at the end of June 2015 informing individuals that they had been selected for this survey and directed them to an online survey. For those who had provided an email in KDWPT KOALS licensing system were sent a reminder email two weeks after initial mailing. Additionally, those that had not responded by the end of June were sent a reminder postcard (Appendix A). The survey was closed September 29, 2015. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix B.

RESULTS

Response Rate

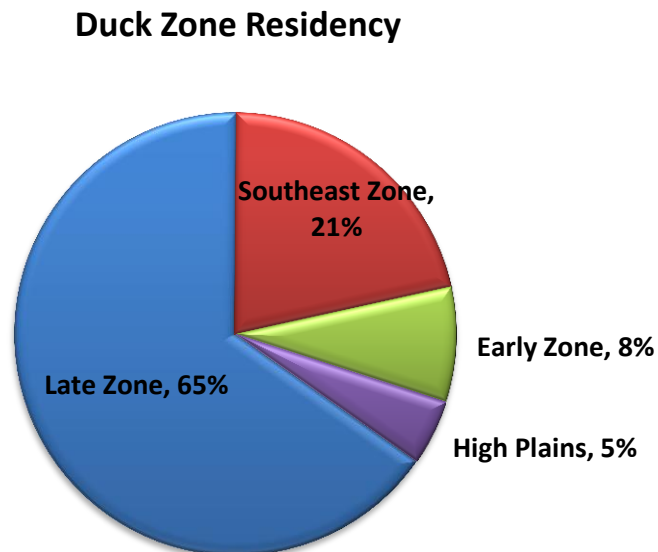
A total of 1,247 useable surveys were submitted by September 29, 2015. This equates to a functional response rate of 12%. While the response rate was statistically adequate (95% CI) to

evaluate attitudes from Kansas resident waterfowl hunters on a statewide basis, it was lower than previous KDWPPT waterfowl hunter surveys - 2011 survey (48%), 2012 survey (60%), 2013 survey (42%), and 2014 survey (30%). Previous waterfowl hunter surveys had the option to either complete it online or via a paper copy. The 2015 survey was web-based only except for 34 participants who unable to complete the online version; a paper survey was mailed or survey was conducted over the phone. Another likely source of lower survey response is that this is the fifth consecutive year KDWPPT has surveyed resident waterfowl hunters, and coupled with the contentious season setting process, there is likely survey and issue fatigue.

Hunter Residency

In order to provide proper management and focus efforts, it is important for KDWPPT to have an understanding of its duck hunters. Participants were asked questions regarding which duck zone they reside in, how often they hunt and which county they primarily hunted for each zone. Respondent's residency is illustrated in Figure 2, where the largest residency is the Late Zone comprising 65% of the respondents. This is similar to the 2014 KDWPPT hunter survey, where 68% of respondents were also from the Late Zone. This is expected because the Late Zone has the largest geographic area of any Kansas duck hunting zones, and it also contains the 10 most populated cities in Kansas. These 10 cities account for 46% of Kansas' total population.

Figure 2. Respondents Duck Zone Residency (Question 3)



Hunter Activity

Respondents were asked to select how often they normally hunted ducks and the county they normally hunt for each of Kansas’s four duck hunting zones. Table 1 displays the most often listed county hunted in each zone by respondents’ residency. Barton County was the most listed county to duck hunt for all respondents (16% of all counties listed). Eighty-seven percent of respondents reported that they do not hunt the High Plains, 35% did not hunt the Early Zone, 9.6% did not hunt the Late Zone, and 32% did not hunt the Southeast Zone. The High Plains was the least hunted zone with 13% of respondents hunting the unit (Table 2). Ford County (9.1%) had the most frequent response for the most commonly hunted county in the High Plains (Table 3). Forty-nine percent reported to hunt the Early Zone (Table 4) with Barton County (44.7%) being the most listed county (Table 5). The Late Zone was the most hunted zone with 83% of respondents listing some activity hunting the zone (Table 6). Sedgwick County was the most reported county with 7% (Table 7). Fifty percent of the respondents reported to hunt the Southeast Zone (Table 8) with Linn County (19.3%) being the most frequent reported (Table 9).

Table 1. Top Kansas counties listed as most frequently duck hunted by zone and residency (Question 4)

Zone	High Plains Resident	Early Zone Resident	Late Zone Resident	Southeast Resident	All Respondents
High Plains Zone	Norton	Trego	Trego	Ford, Meade	Ford
Early Zone	Barton	Barton	Barton	Barton	Barton
Late Zone	Rooks	Stafford	Jefferson	Summer	Sedgwick
Southeast Zone	Butler	Neosho	Linn	Neosho	Linn
Statewide	Norton	Barton	Barton	Barton	Barton

Table 2. High Plains Hunting Activity (Question 4)

How Often Hunt High Plains	Duck Zone Residency				Total
	High Plains	Early Zone	Late Zone	Southeast Zone	
I do NOT hunt this zone	1%	7%	61%	18%	87%
I frequently hunt this zone	2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%	3%
I occasionally hunt this zone	2%	1%	2%	0.2%	5%
I rarely hunt this zone	0%	1%	4%	0.2%	5%

Table 3. High Plains counties listed as most frequently duck hunted (Question 4)

High Plains County					
Ford	9.1%	Finney	2.3%	Thomas	0.8%
Trego	8.3%	Sherman	2.3%	Brown	0.8%
Norton	7.6%	Cheyenne	2.3%	Douglas	0.8%
Kearny	6.1%	Geary	1.5%	Coffey	0.8%
Graham	6.1%	Shawnee	1.5%	Stevens	0.8%
Gove	5.3%	Leavenworth	1.5%	Osborne	0.8%
Ness	3.8%	Sheridan	1.5%	Decatur	0.8%
Sedgwick	3.8%	Hamilton	1.5%	Pawnee	0.8%
Seward	3.8%	Scott	1.5%	Atchison	0.8%
Meade	3.0%	Rawlins	1.5%	Pratt	0.8%
Barton	3.0%	Lane	1.5%	Miami	0.8%
Hodgeman	3.0%	Wichita	1.5%	Franklin	0.8%
Sumner	3.0%			Morton	0.8%
				Saline	0.8%
				Harvey	0.8%
				Crawford	0.8%
				Logan	0.8%
				Marion	0.8%

Table 4. Early Zone Hunting Activity (Question 4)

How Often Hunt Early Zone	Duck Zone Residency				Grand Total
	High Plains	Early Zone	Late Zone	Southeast Zone	
I do NOT hunt this zone	3%	1%	34%	13%	51%
I frequently hunt this zone	1%	6%	10%	0%	17%
I occasionally hunt this zone	1%	3%	13%	3%	20%
I rarely hunt this zone	1%	0%	9%	2%	12%

Table 5. Early Zone counties listed as most frequently duck hunted (Question 4)

Early Zone County							
Barton	44.7%	Rice	1.8%	Hodgeman	0.4%	Sedgwick	0.2%
McPherson	17.0%	Graham	1.5%	Russell	0.4%	Stevens	0.2%
Cloud	5.3%	Mitchell	1.5%	Ness	0.4%	Linn	0.2%
Pratt	2.9%	Rooks	1.3%	Rush	0.4%	Atchison	0.2%
Stafford	2.4%	Ellis	1.3%	Norton	0.4%	Bourbon	0.2%
Republic	2.2%	Ford	1.1%	Smith	0.4%	Morton	0.2%
Phillips	2.2%	Cheyenne	0.9%	Pawnee	0.4%	Shawnee	0.2%
Reno	2.0%	Ellsworth	0.7%	Geary	0.4%	Jefferson	0.2%
Jewell	2.0%			Edwards	0.4%	Butler	0.2%
Trego	2.0%			Dickinson	0.4%	Lincoln	0.2%
						Douglas	0.2%
						Osage	0.2%
						Saline	0.2%

Table 6. Late Zone Hunting Activity (Question 4)

How Often Hunt Late Zone	Duck Zone Residency				Grand Total
	High Plains	Early Zone	Late Zone	Southeast Zone	
I do NOT hunt this zone	3%	2%	4%	9%	18%
I frequently hunt this zone	0%	3%	42%	3%	48%
I occasionally hunt this zone	1%	3%	20%	2%	27%
I rarely hunt this zone	0%	1%	4%	2%	8%

Table 7. Late Zone counties listed as most frequently duck hunted (Question 4)

Q4. Late Zone County							
Sedgwick	7.0%	Phillips	1.8%	Barber	0.9%	Clark	0.2%
Jefferson	6.7%	Dickinson	1.7%	Linn	0.7%	Harper	0.2%
Douglas	5.0%	Atchison	1.7%	Jackson	0.7%	Washington	0.2%
Stafford	4.7%	Leavenworth	1.7%	Cloud	0.6%	Chase	0.2%
Reno	4.5%	Harvey	1.6%	Morris	0.6%	Ford	0.2%
Miami	4.0%	McPherson	1.6%	Jewell	0.5%	Pawnee	0.1%
Shawnee	3.3%	Rooks	1.5%	Republic	0.5%	Ellis	0.1%
Clay	3.2%	Lyon	1.5%	Osborne	0.4%	Kiowa	0.1%
Butler	3.1%	Barton	1.5%	Coffey	0.4%	Morton	0.1%
Osage	3.1%	Ellsworth	1.5%	Ottawa	0.4%	Labette	0.1%
Sumner	2.7%	Russell	1.3%	Nemaha	0.4%	Comanche	0.1%
Geary	2.6%	Brown	1.3%	Doniphan	0.4%	Cheyenne	0.1%
Mitchell	2.6%	Cowley	1.2%				
Riley	2.3%	Marshall	1.2%				
Kingman	2.2%	Pratt	1.1%				
Pottawatomie	2.1%	Wabaunsee	1.1%				
Saline	2.1%	Rice	1.0%				
Johnson	2.0%	Franklin	1.0%				
Marion	2.0%	Lincoln	1.0%				

Table 8. Southeast Zone Hunting Activity (Question 4)

How Often Hunt Southeast Zone	Duck Zone Residency				Grand Total
	High Plains	Early Zone	Late Zone	Southeast Zone	
I do NOT hunt this zone	4%	7%	37%	1%	49%
I frequently hunt this zone	0%	0%	11%	17%	28%
I occasionally hunt this zone	0%	0%	10%	5%	15%
I rarely hunt this zone	0%	0%	6%	1%	7%

Table 9. Southeast Zone counties listed as most frequently duck hunted (Question 4)

Southeast Zone County			
Linn	19.3%	Anderson	2.0%
Neosho	12.1%	Bourbon	2.0%
Butler	9.0%	Wilson	1.8%
Coffey	8.8%	Woodson	1.2%
Cowley	5.7%	Pratt	0.2%
Miami	5.1%	Osage	0.2%
Labette	4.9%	Geary	0.2%
Crawford	4.5%	McPherson	0.2%
Cherokee	4.3%	Sedgwick	0.2%
Montgomery	3.5%	Cheyenne	0.2%
Elk	3.3%	Johnson	0.2%
Greenwood	3.1%	Chautauqua	0.2%
Lyon	2.9%		
Allen	2.5%		
Franklin	2.5%		

Current Hunter Satisfaction with Kansas’s current Low Plains duck zone boundaries

When designating hunting zone and setting season dates, hunter satisfaction is an important component. Question 2 was asked to gauge the current levels of hunters’ satisfaction with Kansas Low Plains duck zone boundaries (Early, Late, and Southeast Zones). Fifty-six percent of the respondents are either satisfied or very satisfied with Kansas Low Plains duck zone boundaries (Figure 3). Only 15% were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied. Figure 4 displays levels of satisfaction by respondents’ duck zone residency with Southeast residents having the greatest level of satisfaction regarding Kansas Low Plains duck hunting zones.

Figure 3. Satisfaction with Kansas’ current Low Plains duck zone boundaries (Question 2)

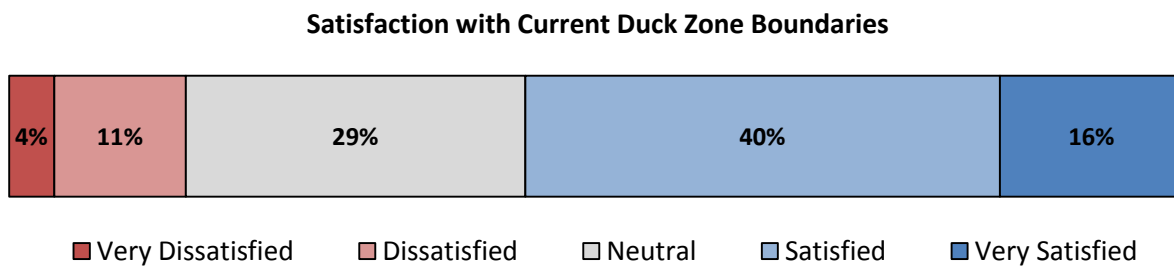
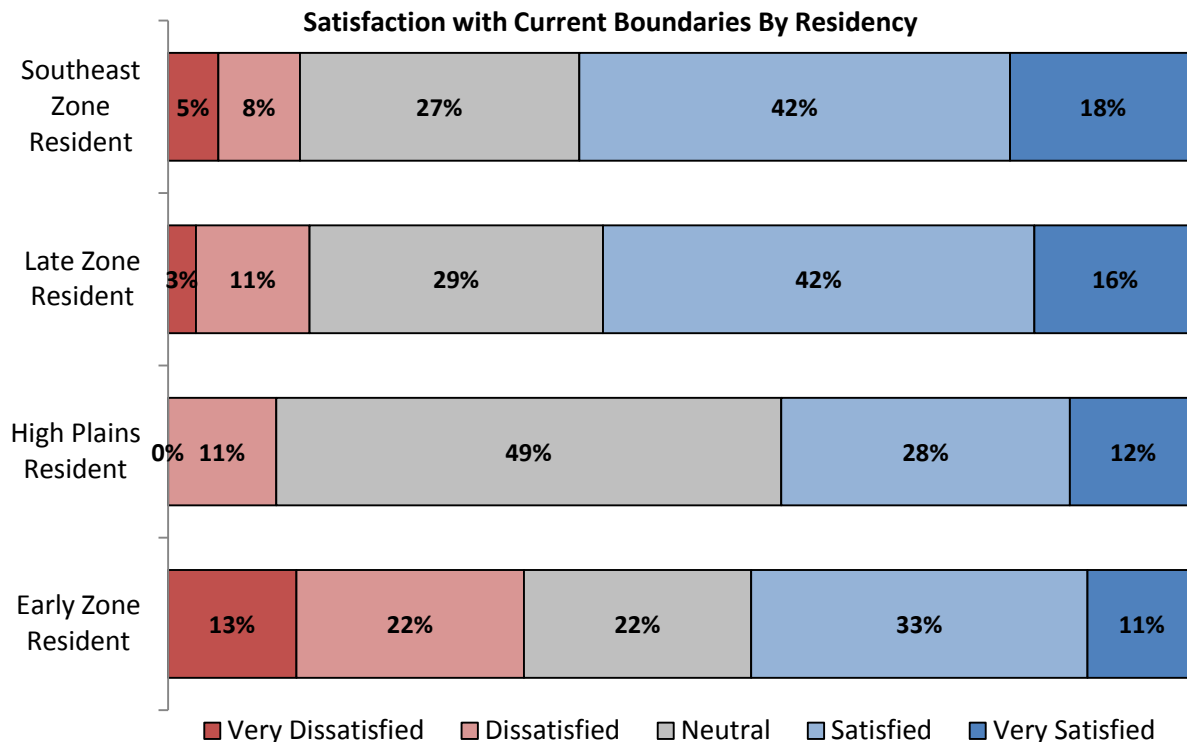


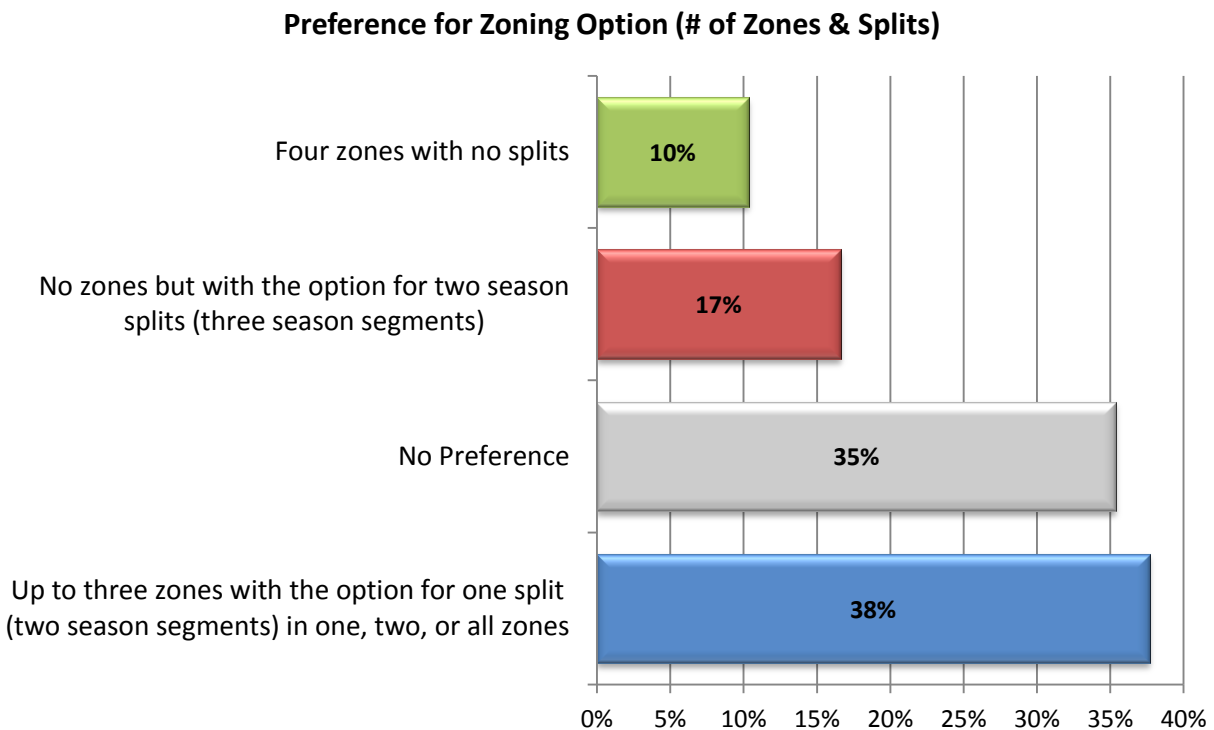
Figure 4. Satisfaction with Kansas’ current Low Plains duck zone boundaries by respondent’s residency (Question 2)



Zone/Split Options

The USFWS sets the guidelines from which states can design their duck zone boundaries. Zones must have a contiguous boundary and only might be selected for the regular duck season. Once a zone/split option is selected, it must remain in place for 5 years. The High Plains Unit is not part of the Low Plains Unit zoning process. States might choose one of the three zone/split options are: 1) four zones with no splits, 2) no zones with the option for two season splits (three season segments), 3) up to three zones with the option for one split (two season segments) in one, two, or all zones. Kansas Low Plains Unit currently has three zones (Early, Late, and Southeast Zones) where each zone has one split. Most hunters preferred the current zone/split configuration (38%) or had no preference (35%) for Kansas zone/split options (Figure 5)

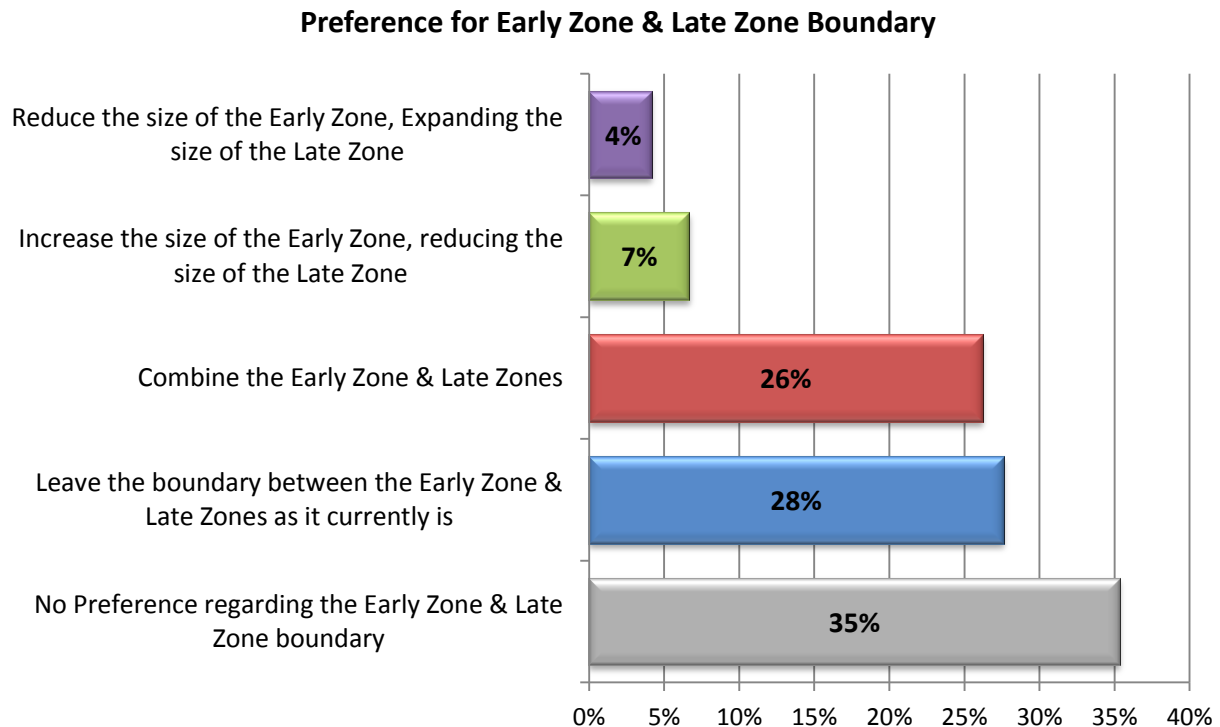
Figure 5. Preference for Kansas duck season zone/split options (Question 5)



Early Zone – Late Zone Boundary

The Early Zone is designed to target early migrants that are attracted to the shallow wetlands like Jamestown Wildlife Area, McPherson Wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms, and the central playas that characterize this zone. The Late Zone was separated from the early zone in 1997 to better align season dates with the migration patterns of waterfowl relative to its rivers and larger water bodies. The late zone covers more than 40% of the land area and contains more than 70% of Kansas resident hunters. Typically, the season is timed later than the Low Plains Early Zone but earlier than the Low Plains Southeast Zone. There are several possible options available to modify the Early Zone and Late Zone boundary. A number of questions were included to gain feedback regarding what possible changes survey participants would support or oppose. Overall preference for the zone boundary is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Preference regarding zone boundary between the Early and Late Zones (Question 6)



Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary - Quivira NWR

Quivira National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located in south central Kansas roughly 30 miles west of Hutchinson and 35 miles southeast of Great Bend. Quivira and the surrounding landscape is comprised of sand prairie, salt and freshwater marshes, and large agricultural fields. The Arkansas River is north of Quivira and the North Fork of the Ninnescah River is to the south. Rattlesnake Creek also runs through Quivira. Currently, this area is in the Late Zone. Participants were asked to provide their preference on which zone Quivira NWR should be placed (figure 7) and their level of support for two options that would place Quivira NWR into the early zone (figure 8). Early Zone was slightly preferred (26%) followed by Late Zone (22%). Of the two options of how Quivira would be incorporated into the Early Zone, Option A had greater support compared to Option B.

Figure 7. Preferred duck zone for Quivira National Wildlife (Question 7)

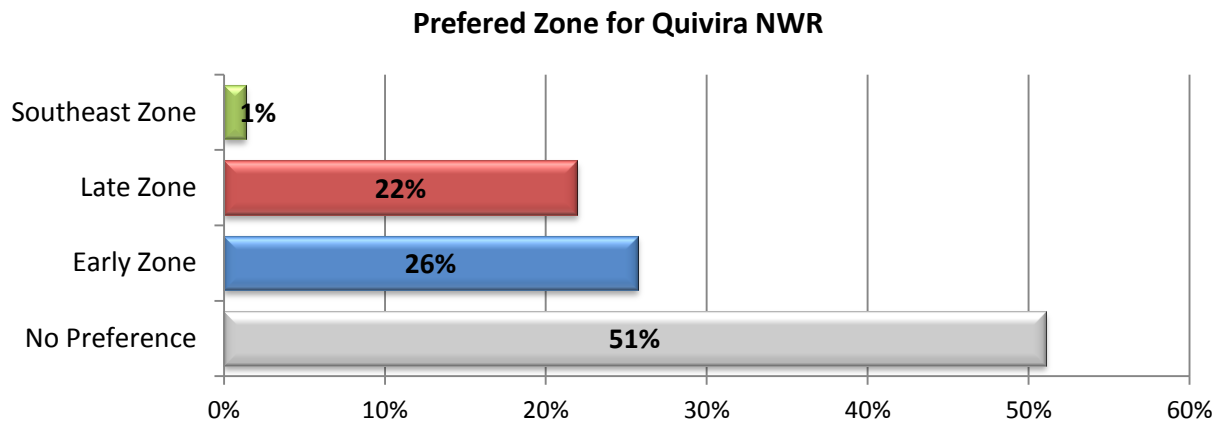
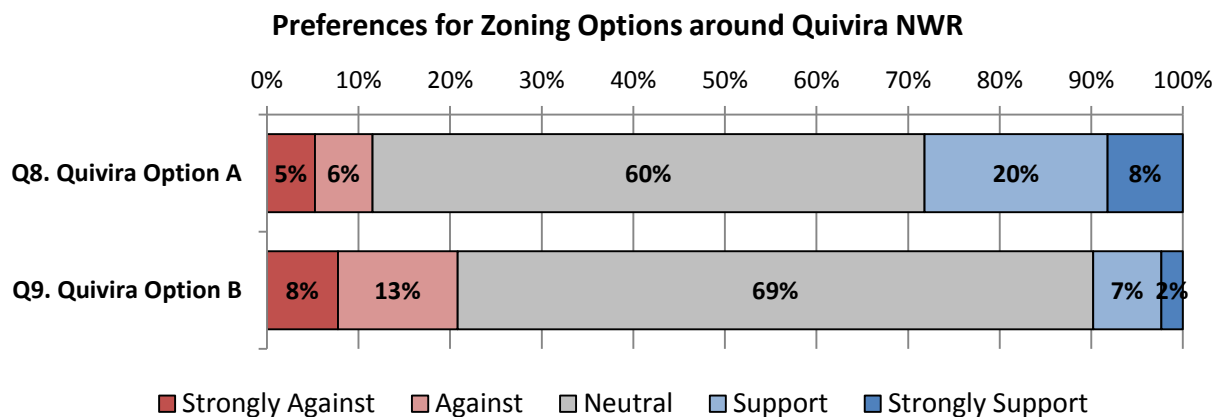


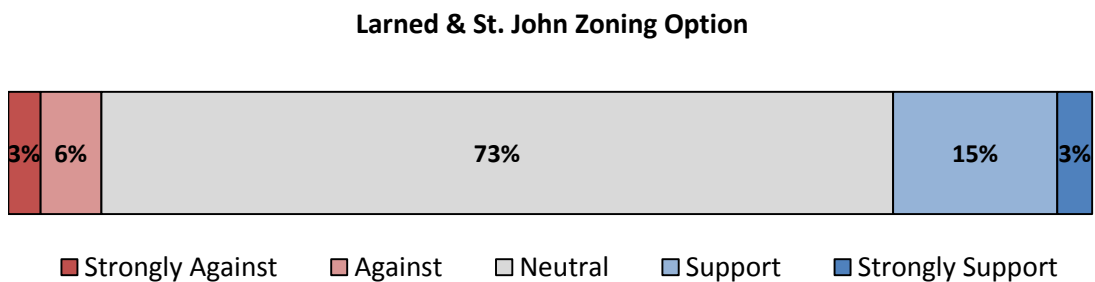
Figure 8. Preferences for duck zone for Quivira National Wildlife (Question 8 & 9)



Early Zone – Late Zone Boundary - Larned / St. John Option

In 2006, there was a small expansion of the Late Zone south of Great Bend and west of Quivira to allow a portion of the Arkansas River, surrounding agricultural fields, and ponds to be included in the Late Zone. Question 10 asked whether another small expansion is warranted to add a portion of Rattlesnake Creek, adjacent ponds and agriculture fields to be placed in the Late Zone. As this was such a small expansion without any public areas, the majority of the respondents (73%) had no preference regarding this option. Of those who had preference, there was greater support (18%) than opposition (9%) (Figure 9).

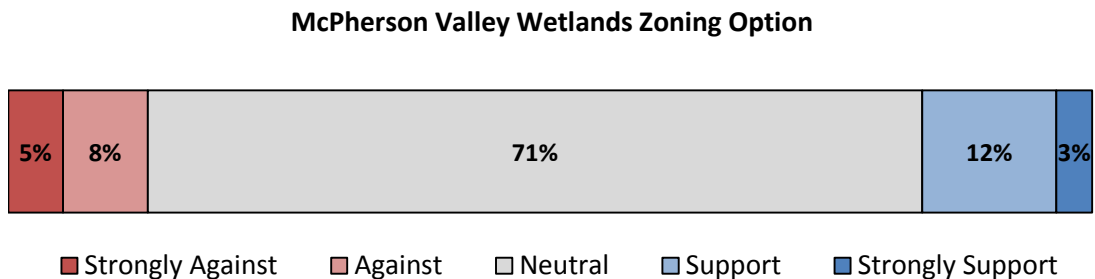
Figure 9. Preference for duck zone for the Larned / St. John Option (Question 10)



Early Zone – Late Zone Boundary– McPherson Valley Wetlands

McPherson Valley Wetlands is located in the eastern portion of the Early Zone. It is comprised of 3 management units. The surrounding area also includes small private wetlands as well as Inman Lake. Prior to 2006, Hwy K-61 was the zone boundary which placed Inman Lake and McPherson's Little Sinkhole marshes in the Late Zone. Participants were asked to indicate their level of support to revert to the 2006 Early Zone boundary near McPherson Valley Wetlands. This option would change the area south of Hwy K-61 (including the southern portion of the McPherson Valley Wetlands and Inman Lake) from the Early Zone to the Late Zone. Similar to other small scale changes in the Early Zone, majority of respondents had no preference (71%). Support and opposition for the options were nearly the same (Figure 10).

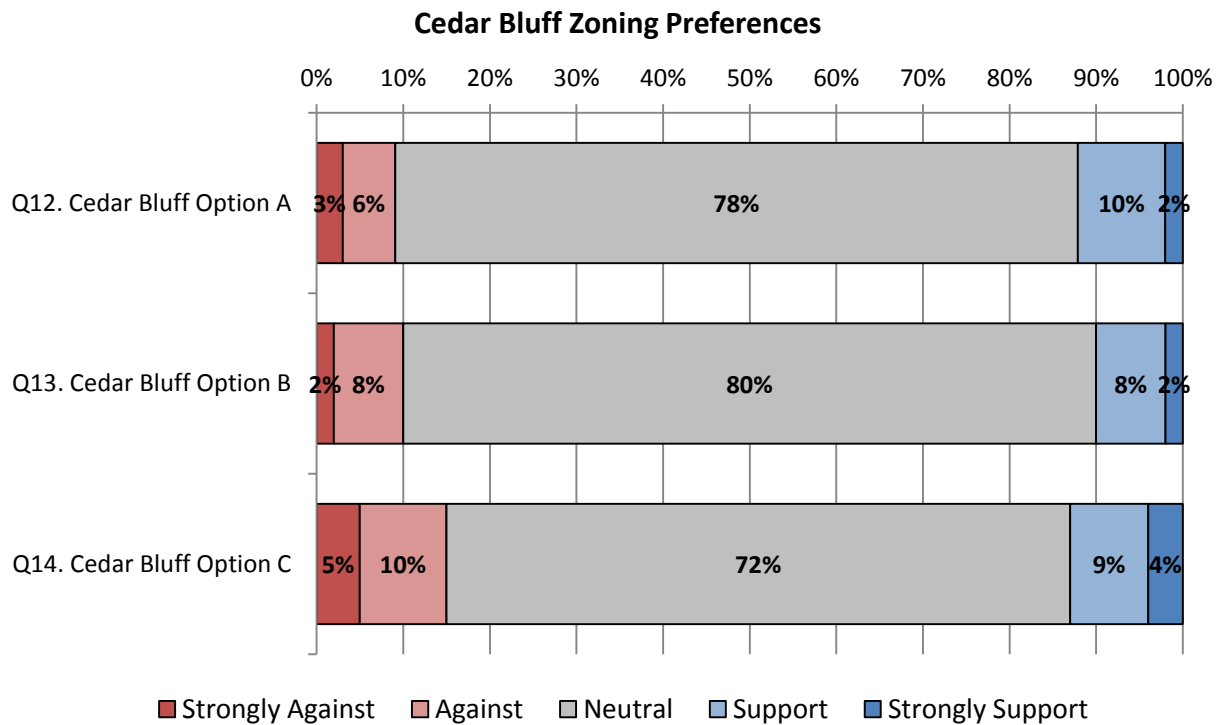
Figure 10. Preference for duck zone option for McPherson Valley Wetland (Question 11)



Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary - Cedar Bluff Reservoir

Cedar Bluff Reservoir is located in west central Kansas about 23 miles southwest of Ellis. It is currently in the Early Zone where as the majority of Kansas’s central reservoirs are in the Late Zone. Participants were asked to provide their preference for three options to reconfigure the Early-Late Zone boundary so that Cedar Bluff would be in the Late Zone similar to other central Kansas reservoirs (Figure 11). Preferences for the 3 options were similar, with most respondents having no preference and near equal amount of support and opposition for each option (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Preference for duck zone options for Cedar Bluff Reservoir (Question 12 - 14)



Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary - Other Options

Participants were asked to describe any other modifications they might have to the Early - Late Zone Boundary in Question 15. See Appendix C.

Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary

The Late Zone was separated from the early zone in 1997 to better align season dates with the migration patterns of waterfowl relative to its rivers and larger water bodies. The late zone covers more than 40% of the land area and contains more than 70% of Kansas resident hunters. Typically, the season is timed later than the Low Plains Early Zone but earlier than the Low Plains Southeast Zone. The Southeast Zone was created in 2011. It was separated from the Late Zone due to unique hunting opportunities, and to satisfy a segment of hunters in this portion of the state that prefer later season dates. Participants were asked to state their preference regarding zone boundaries between the Late Zone and Southeast Zone (figure 12). Participants were asked which modifications (3 options would reduce Southeast Zone and 10 options would expand the Southeast Zone) to the Late Zone and the Southeast Zone boundary they would support (Table 10). In Question 17, participants were only asked to select any option they would favor. They were not asked which ones they would oppose. Participants were also presented with 6 options with maps of specific change that would modify the Late –Southeast Zone Boundary (Figure 13 and 14).

Figure 12. Preferences for duck zone boundary between the Late Zone and Southeast Zone. (Question 16)

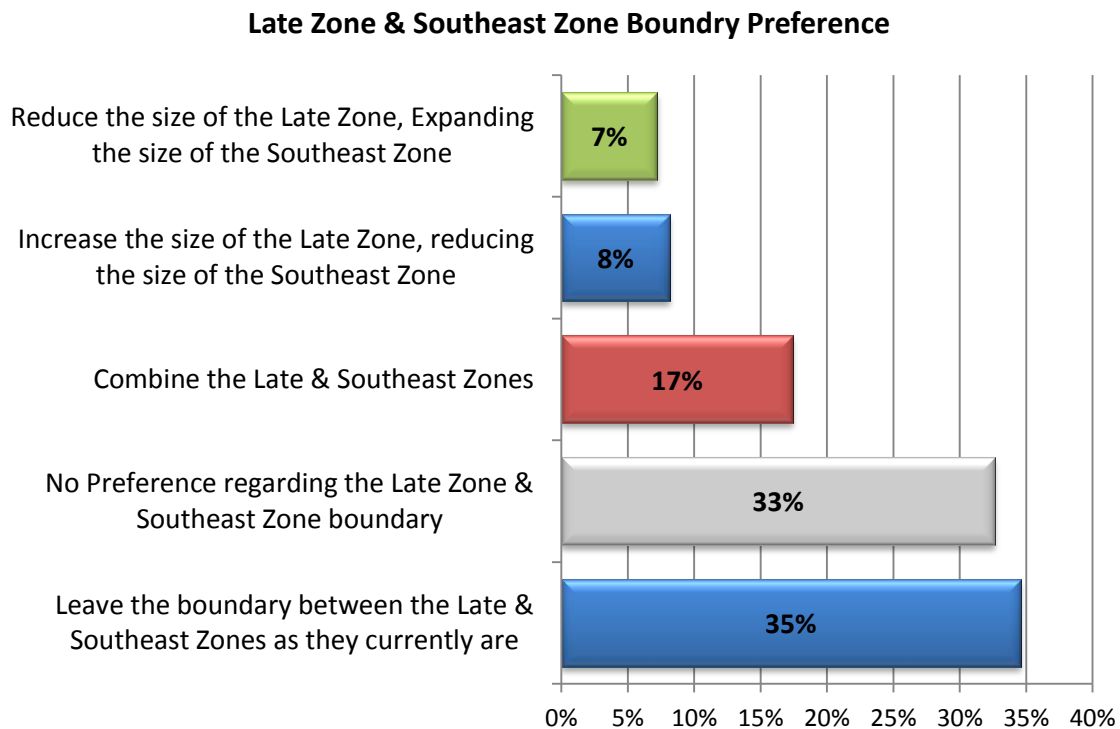


Table 10. Support for modifications to the Late Zone and Southeast Zone boundary (Question 17)

Option	% Support
Reduce the Southeast Zone so Marais des Cygnes WMA will be in the Late Zone	21%
Reduce the Southeast Zone so Flint Hills NNR will be in the Late Zone	14%
Reduce the Late/Southeast Zone Boundary to Hwy 54	10%
Expand Southeast Zone to cover portions of the Kansas River	9%
Expand Southeast Zone to cover portions of the Missouri River	6%
Expand Southeast Zone west to I-35 to cover portions of the lower Arkansas River	10%
Expand Southeast Zone west to include Slate Creek Wildlife Area	5%
Expand Southeast Zone west to include a greater portion of south-central Kansas	8%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Hillsdale Reservoir	8%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Melvern Reservoir	8%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Pomona Reservoir	6%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Council Grove Reservoir	5%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Clinton Reservoir	7%
Expand Southeast Zone north to include Perry Reservoir	7%

Figure 13. Preferences for Late – Southeast duck zone boundary options (Questions 18 -22)

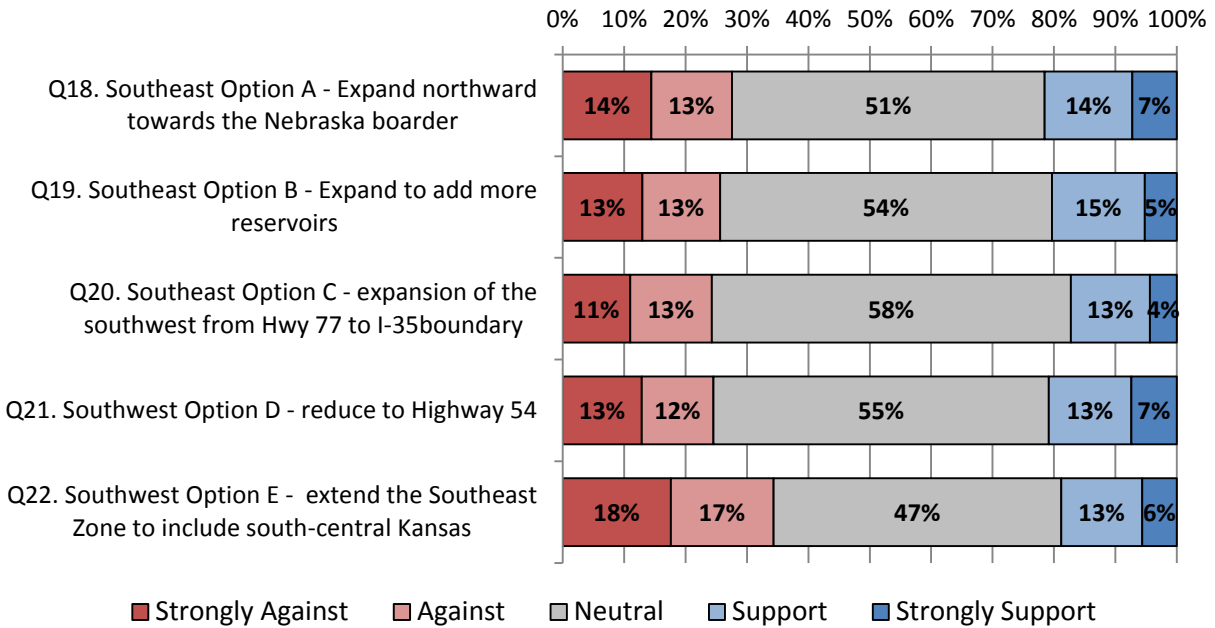
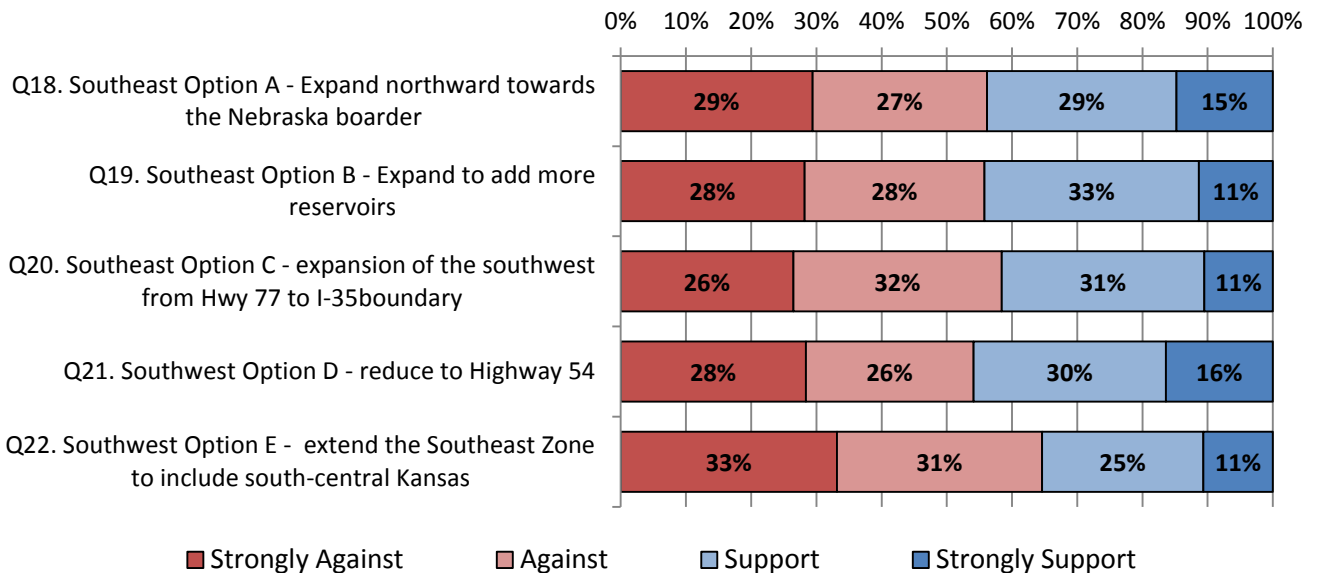


Figure 14. Preferences for Late – Southeast duck zone boundary options with “no preference” removed (Questions 18 -22)



Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary – Maris Des Cygnes

Season dates and zone preferences for Maris Des Cygnes Wildlife Area and surrounding area have been heavily contested. Participants were asked for their level for support of 3 options that would remove varying portions of Maris Des Cygnes Valley from the Southeast Zone (figure 15 and 16). For all 3 options, level of support to remove Maris Des Cygnes from the Southeast Zone was low.

Figure 15. Preference for duck zone options for Maris Des Cygnes (Questions 23 -25)

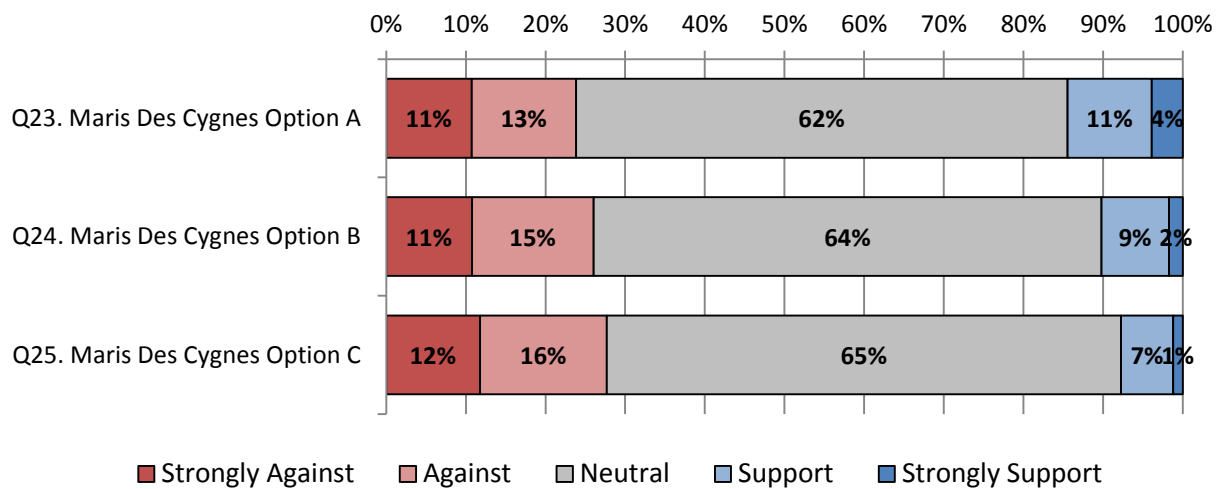
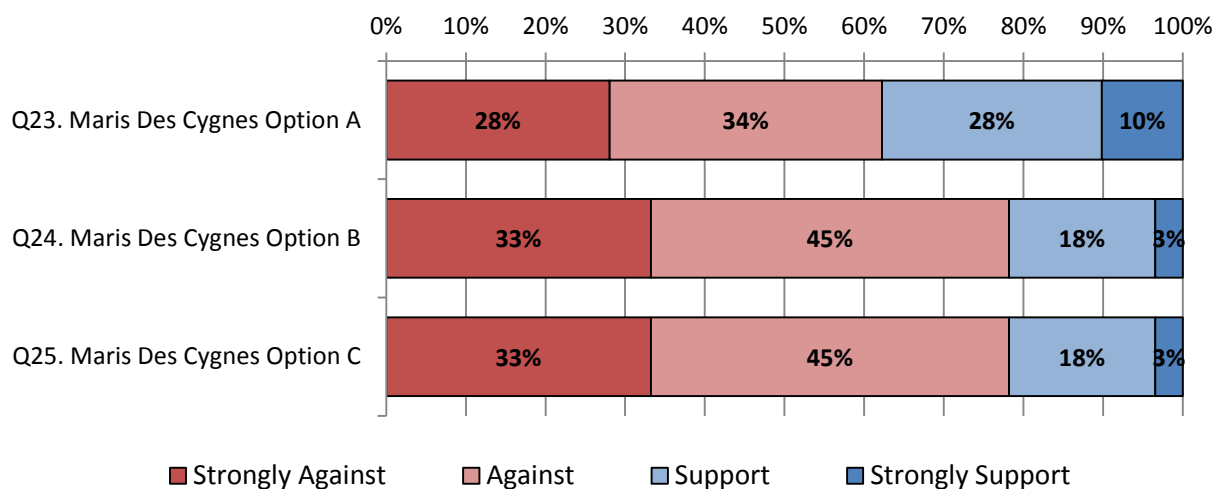


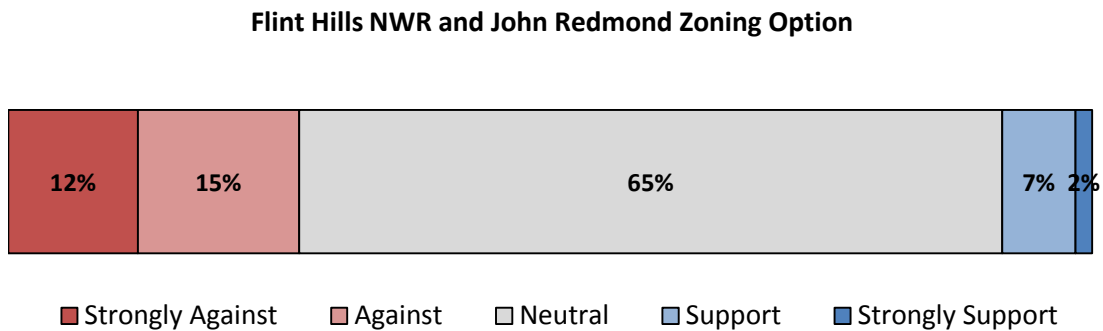
Figure 16. Preference for duck zone options for Maris Des Cygnes with “no preference” removed (Questions 23 -25)



Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary – Flint Hills

Participants were presented an option that would remove Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge and John Redmond Reservoir from the Southeast Zone but leave Wolf Creek Reservoir (Coffey Co Lake) in the Southeast Zone. They were asked to indicate their level of support for that option (Figure 17).

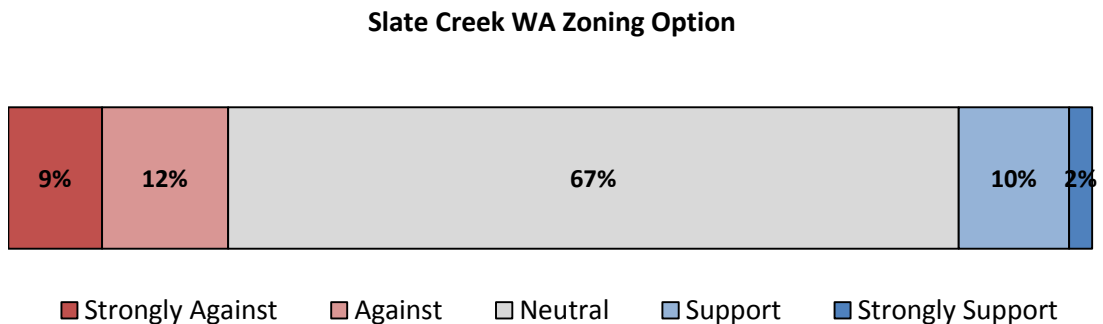
Figure 17. Preference for duck zone option for Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge and John Redmond Reservoir (Questions 26)



Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary – Slate Creek WA

Participants were presented with an option that if the southwest corner of the Southeast Zone was expanded west from Hwy 77 to I-35; placing a portion of the Arkansas River from Wichita to Oklahoma, and portions of the Ninnescah River in the Southeast Zone. The option listed would allow Slate Creek Wildlife Area to remain in the Late Zone. They were asked to indicate their level of support for that option (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Preference for duck zone option for Slate Creek Wildlife Area (Questions 27)



Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary - Other Options

Participants were asked to describe any other modifications they may have to the Late - Southeast Zone Boundary they may have in Question 28. See Appendix C.

Summary

Overall, the majority of Kansas resident duck hunters was relatively satisfied with current zone boundaries and demonstrated limited support for any presented duck zone alterations. Low response rate for the survey might further indicate that the majority of hunters have no strong inclinations to alter Kansas duck zones. Information provided by this survey coupled with duck migration phenology, harvest chronology and other mechanism of hunter feedback provides KDWPT staff needed information for developing duck hunting zones in Kansas.

Appendix A. KDWPT Duck Hunting Zone Survey Notification Postcards

Dear Fellow Waterfowlers, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is conducting a survey to collect waterfowl hunters' opinions pertaining to Kansas' duck hunting zones. Please take a moment to complete the survey by visiting the following website <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/duckzone2015>. You will need to enter the ID number printed above your name on the other side of this postcard in order to participate. If you do not have web access or need further assistance completing this survey please call KDWPT Emporia Office at 620-342-0658. Thank you for your participation, your input is important to derive the best duck hunting zone boundaries for Kansas.

Sincerely,

Tom Bidrowski
Migratory Game Bird Program Manager
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism



August 7, 2015

Dear Fellow Waterfowlers,

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism recently sent you a post card asking for your participation in a survey to collect waterfowl hunters' opinions pertaining to Kansas' duck hunting zones. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment to complete the survey by visiting the survey's website

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/duckzone2015>. You will need to enter a survey id number in order to log into the website. Your survey id number can be found on the front of the post card just above your name.

Thank you for your participation, your input is important to derive the best duck hunting zone boundaries for Kansas.

Sincerely,

Tom Bidrowski

Tom Bidrowski
Migratory Game Bird Program Manager
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Tom.bidrowski@ksoutdoors.com
(620) 566-1456



Appendix B. KDWPT Duck Hunting Zone Survey



2015 Duck Hunting Zone Survey

Dear Fellow Waterfowler,

You have been selected to participate in a survey that will assist in developing Kansas' duck hunting zones. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and providing us your opinion on Kansas' duck zones. Any changes to Kansas duck zone boundaries will begin in the fall of 2016 and will be in place for the next 5 years.

To begin this survey, locate your Survey ID on your survey notification postcard. Your Survey ID can be found on the front of the post card under your zip code. This ID is just for mailing purposes and your answers will remain confidential as results of this survey will only be reported in group form. Only valid ID numbers will be used in survey analysis.

Thank you for your time and input.

Sincerely,

Tom Bidrowski
Migratory Game Bird Program Manager
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
tom.bidrowski@ksoutdoors.com
(620) 966-0892

Question 1. Please Enter Survey ID. This can be found on the front of the post card you received just under your zip code.

Survey ID

Information on Duck Hunting Zones

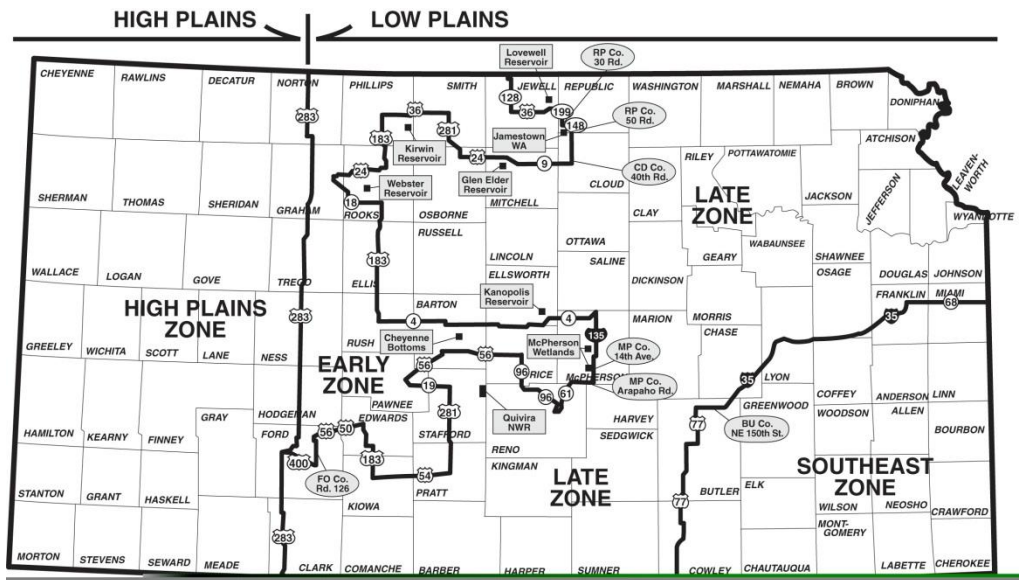
Kansas has a diverse landscape that offers a variety of waterfowl hunting opportunities and Kansas hunter preferences in season can be just as diverse. It is a challenging task to create waterfowl seasons that work for all as waterfowl hunters are passionate about their sport, and KDWPT typically receives strong – and often conflicting – opinions about season preferences. KDWPT strives throughout its season setting process to include all perspectives and provide the greatest opportunity for the entire waterfowling community.

Zoning (independent hunting seasons in two or more areas within the state) and splits (one or more season segment) is one method used to assist in matching season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters in specific areas of the state. Zoning and splits also stretches the season throughout the fall and winter across the state. The benefits of zoning increases under restrictive season length frameworks, as were in place from 1988 through 1992 (39-day total season length compared to current 74-day season)

Kansas has two duck hunting units- the High Plains (area west of Hwy 283) and the Low Plains (area east of Hwy 283). For the purpose of this survey we are only focusing on the Low Plains Zones.

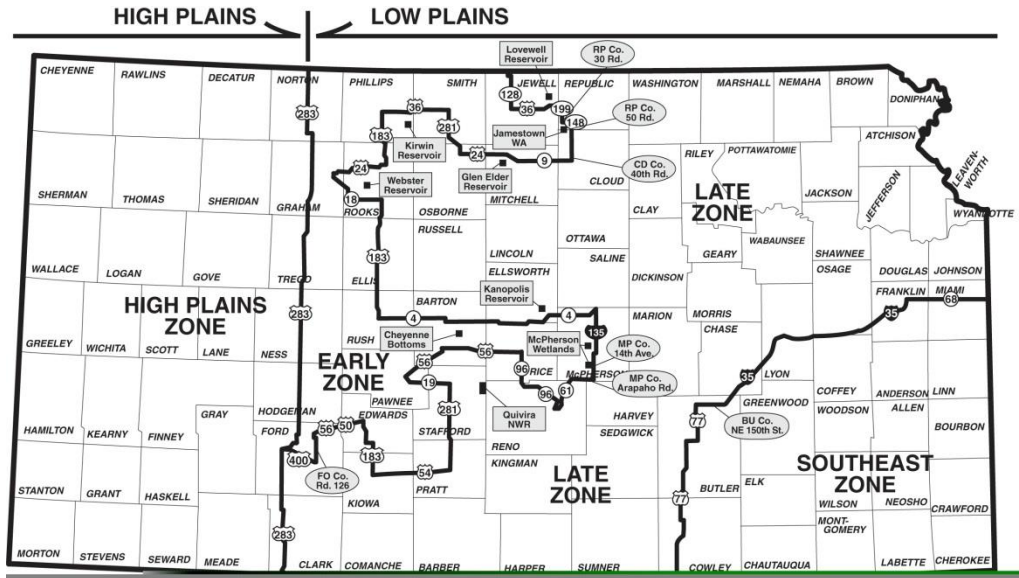
Question 2. Please check your satisfaction with Kansas' current Low Plains duck zone boundaries

- Very Dissatisfied Dissatisfied Neutral Satisfied Very Satisfied



Demographics

In order to provide proper management and focus efforts, it is important for KDWPT to have an understanding of its duck hunters. Please respond to the following questions regarding residency, where you hunt and how often. (Please refer to Kansas Duck Zone Map)



Question 3. In which duck zone do you currently reside?

- High Plains Unit
 Early Zone
 Late Zone
 Southeast Zone

Question 4. Please select how often you normally hunted DUCKS and the county you normally hunt for each of Kansas's four duck hunting zones.

Zone	Days Hunted <u>Ducks</u>	County Hunted <u>Ducks</u> in most
High Plains	_____ *	_____
Early Zone	_____ *	_____
Late Zone	_____ *	_____
Southeast Zone	_____ *	_____

* Options: I do NOT hunt this zone, I rarely hunt this zone, I occasionally hunt this zone, I frequently hunt this zone

Federal Guidelines

The US Fish and Wildlife Service sets the guidelines from which states can design their duck zone boundaries. They are:

- Zones must have a contiguous boundary.
- Only may be selected for the regular duck season
- The High Plains Unit are not part of the process
- Once a zone/split option is selected, it must remain in place for the following 5 years.
- States may choose one of the three zone/split options listed in question below.

Question 5. Please select your most preferred zone/split option

- Four zones with no splits
- No zones but with the option for two season splits (three season segments)
- Up to three zones with the option for one split (two season segments) in one, two, or all zones (Option that is currently used)
- No Preference

Early Zone – Late Zone Boundary Line

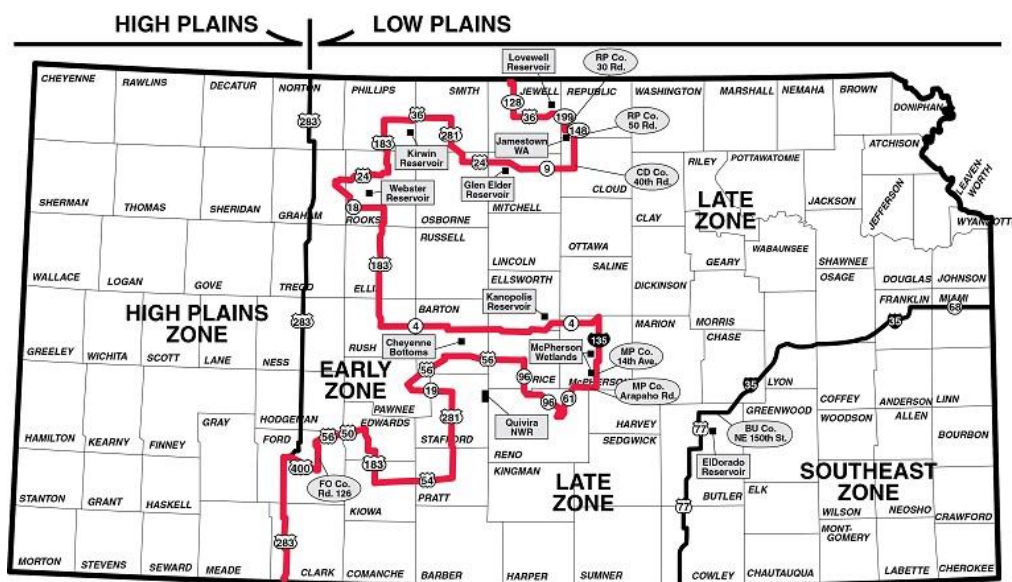
The **Early Zone** is designed to target early migrants that are attracted to the shallow wetlands like Jamestown Wildlife Area, McPherson Wetlands, Cheyenne Bottoms and the central playas that characterize this zone.

The **Late Zone** was separated from the early zone in 1997 to better align season dates with the migration patterns of waterfowl relative to its rivers and larger water bodies. The late zone covers more than 40% of the land area and contains more than 70% of Kansas resident hunters. Typically, the season is timed later than the Low Plains Unit Early Zone but earlier than the Low Plains Unit Southeast Zone.

There are several possible options available to modify the Early Zone and Late Zone Boundary. The following series of questions is to give us your feedback regarding what possible changes you would support or would oppose.

Question 67. Please check your preference regarding zone boundaries between the Early and Late Zones? (Check only ONE)

- Leave the boundary between the Early Zone and Late Zone as they currently are
- Combine the Early Zone and Late Zone
- Reduce the size of the Early Zone, expanding the size of the Late Zone
- Increase the size of the Early Zone, reducing the size of the Late Zone
- No Preference regarding the Early Zone and Late Zone boundary



Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary Line - Quivira NWR

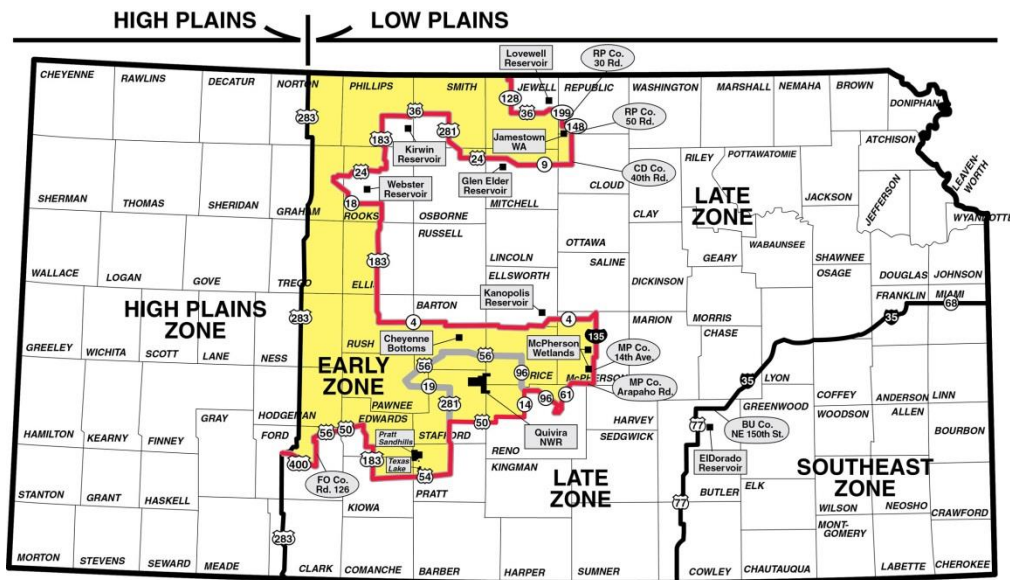
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge is located in south central Kansas roughly 30 miles west of Hutchinson and 35 miles southeast of Great Bend. Quivira and the surrounding landscape is comprised of sand prairie, salt and freshwater marshes and large agricultural fields. The Arkansas River is north of Quivira and Rattlesnake Creek runs through Quivira. Currently, this area is in the Late Zone.

Question 7. Which Duck Zone Should Quivira National Wildlife Refuge be in?

- Early Zone
- Late Zone
- Southeast Zone
- No Preference

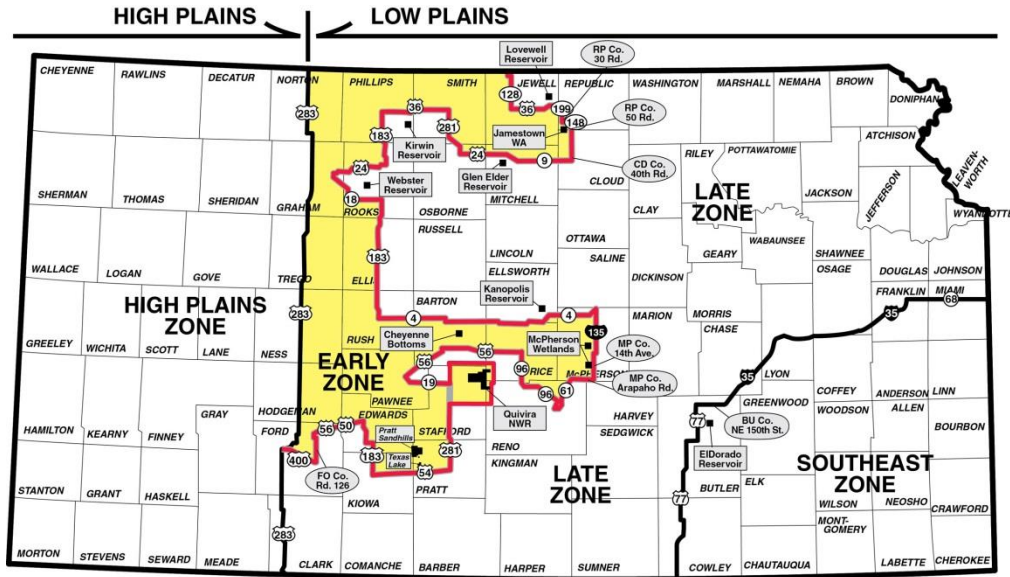
Question 8. Quivira Option A, this option includes Quivira NWR in the Early Zone. This option would also include a portion of the Arkansas River from Great Bend to Nickerson in the Early Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Early Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
- Oppose
- Neutral
- Support
- Strongly Support



Question 9. Quivira Option B, this second option includes Quivira NWR in the Early Zone, but includes a smaller portion of the surrounding landscape. It does include a small portion of the Arkansas River near Raymond in the Early Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Early Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support

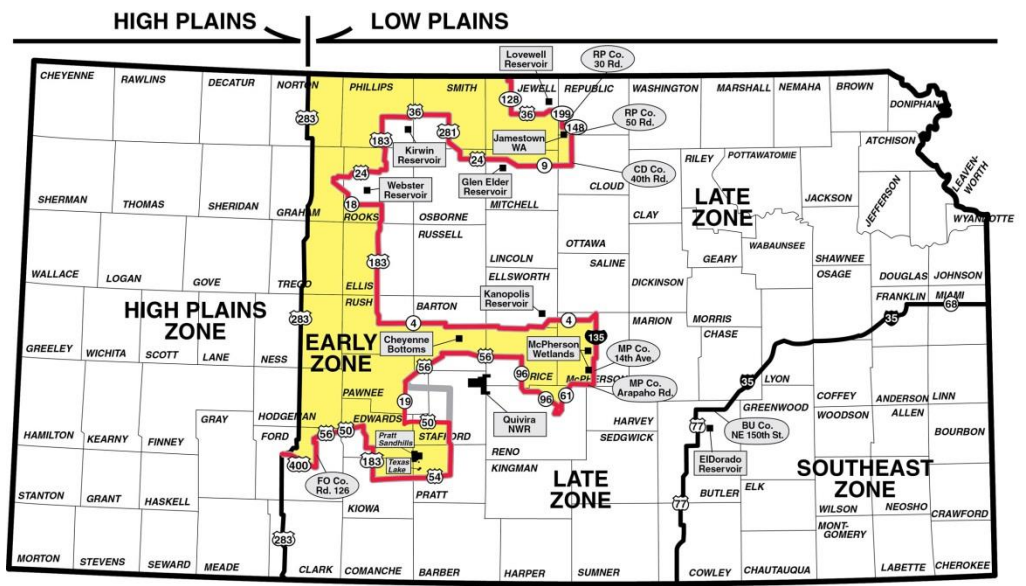


Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary Line - Larned, St John

In 2006 there was a small expansion of the Late Zone south of Great Bend and west of Quivira. This was done to include more of the Arkansas River, surrounding agricultural fields, and ponds in the Late Zone. The option below would make another small expansion of the Late Zone that would extend south from HWY 19 to Hwy 50. This would place the predominately agricultural area with small ponds and portions of Rattlesnake Creek in the Late Zone instead of the Early Zone.

Question 10. Please indicate your level of support to change the area between Larned and St. John described above from the Early Zone to the Late Zone. The area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below would be the proposed Early Zone. Gray line indicates the current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

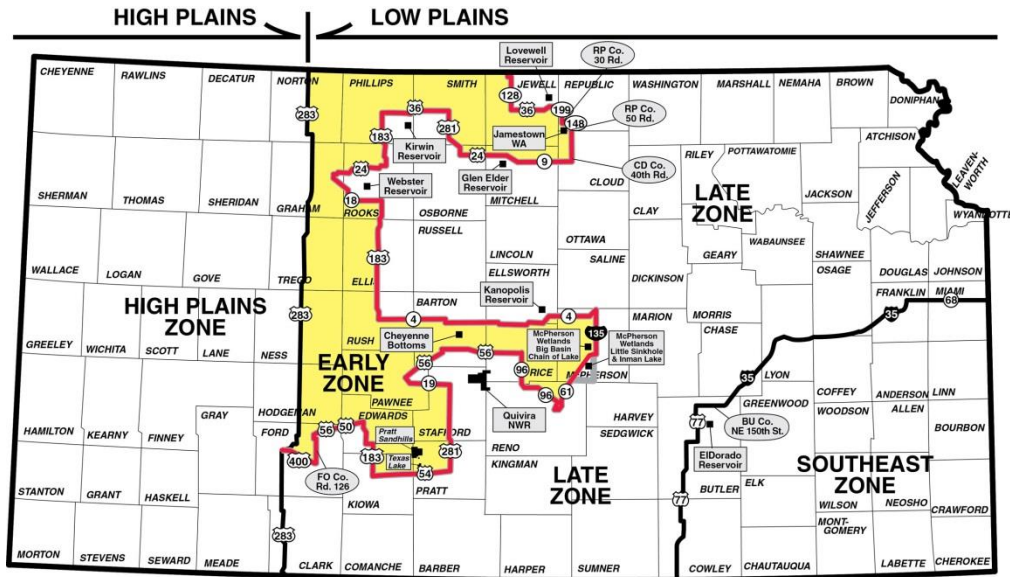


Early Zone – Late Zone Boundary Line - McPherson Valley Wetlands

McPherson Valley Wetlands is located in the eastern portion of the Early Zone. It is comprised of 3 major units. The surrounding area also includes small private wetlands as well as Inman Lake. Prior to 2006, Hwy K-61 was the zone boundary which placed Inman Lake and McPherson's Little Sinkhole marshes in the Late Zone.

Question 11. Please indicate your level of support to revert to the 2006 Early Zone boundary near McPherson Valley Wetlands. This option would change the area south of Hwy K-61 (including the southern portion of the McPherson Valley Wetlands and Inman Lake) from the Early Zone to the Late Zone. The area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below would be the proposed Early Zone. Gray line indicates the current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support

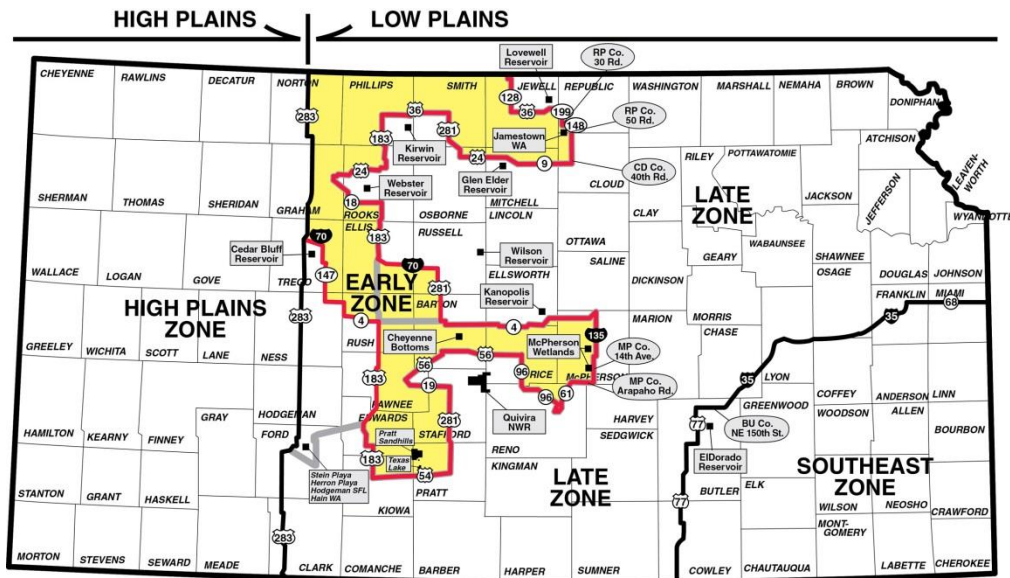


Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary Line - Cedar Bluff

Cedar Bluff Reservoir is located in west central Kansas about 23 miles southwest of Ellis. It is currently in the Early Zone. Listed below are 3 options that would place Cedar Bluff Reservoir in the Late Zone. Please provide your preference for each option below.

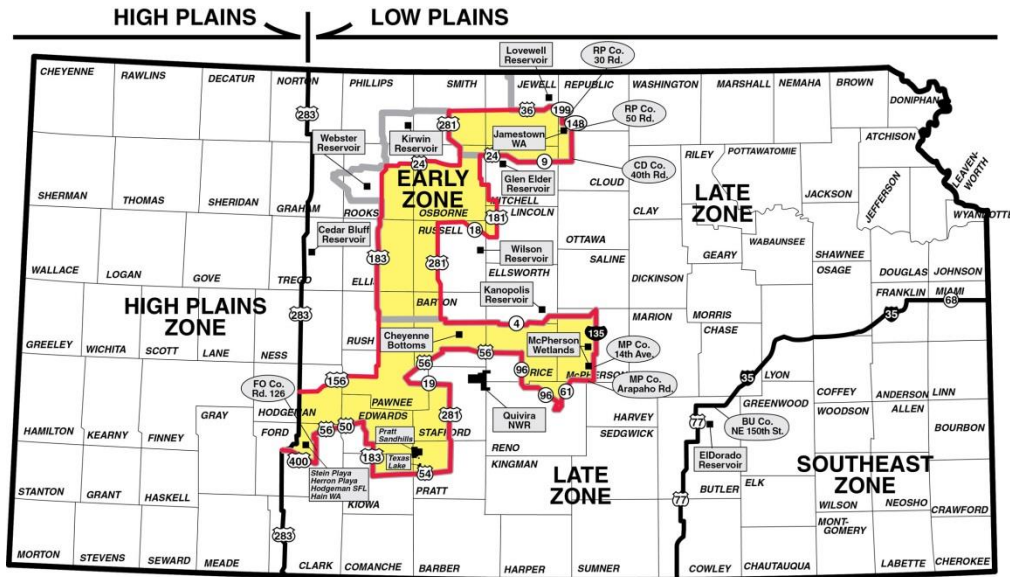
Question 12. Option A Cedar Bluff. This option would connect Cedar Bluff to the Late Zone from the southwest. It would remove Heron and Stein Playas, Haine and Hodgeman State Fishing Lakes and several other small wetlands from the Early Zone. What is your opinion regarding this change to the Early - Late Zone Boundary? Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Early Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose Oppose Neutral Support Strongly Support



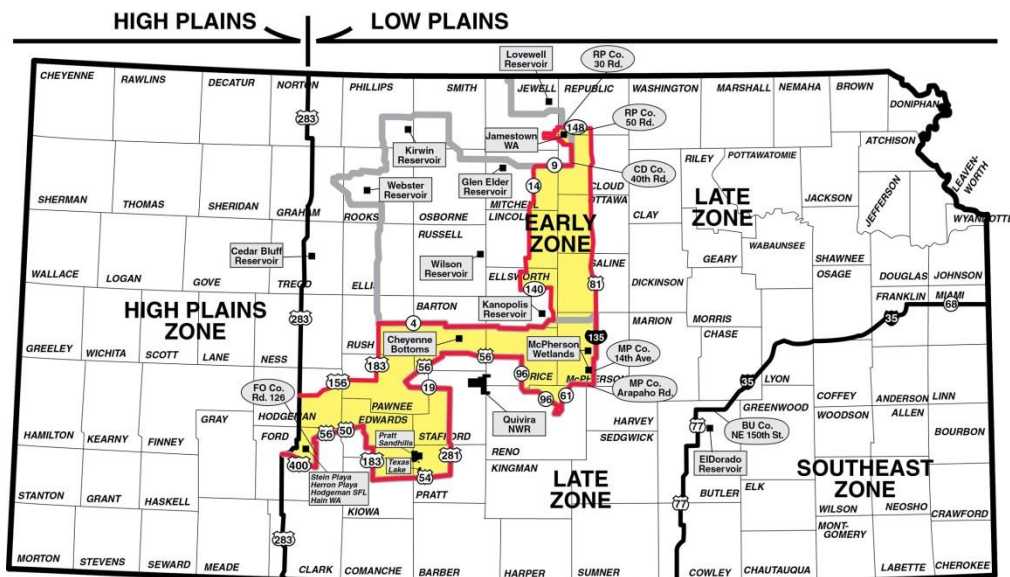
Question 13. Option B Cedar Bluff. This option would connect Cedar Bluff to the Late Zone by shifting a portion of the Early Zone slightly east into Ellis and Russell Counties. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Early Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



Question 14. Option C Cedar Bluff. This option would connect Cedar Bluff to the Late Zone by shifting the Early Zone boundary to the east into Lincoln, Ellsworth, Ottawa and Saline Counties. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Early Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support

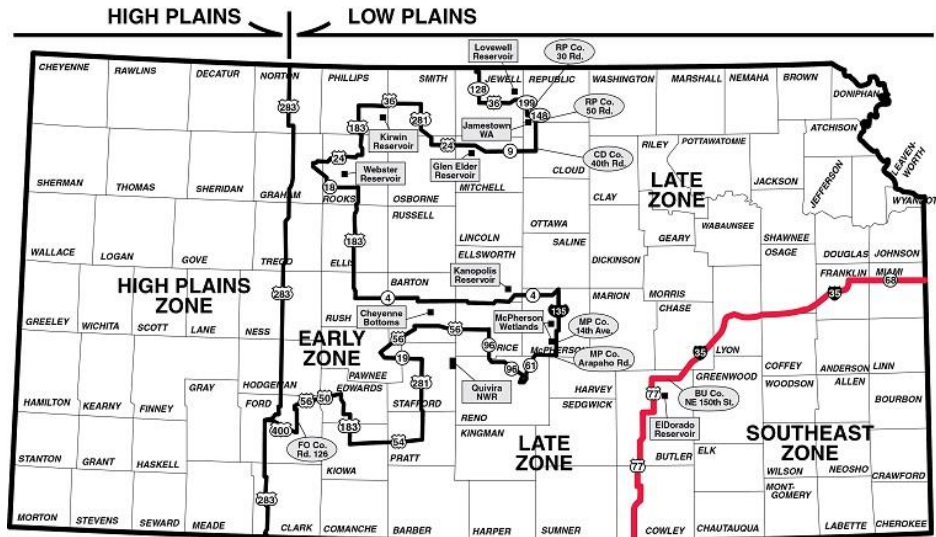


Early Zone / Late Zone Boundary Line - Other Options

Question 15. Please describe any other modifications you may have to the Early Zone and Late Zone Boundary you may have. Please be specific.

Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary Line

The **Late Zone** was separated from the Early Zone in 1997 to better align season dates with the migration patterns of waterfowl relative to its rivers and larger water bodies. The **Southeast Zone** was separated from the Late Zone in 2011 due to unique hunting opportunities, and to satisfy a segment of hunters in this portion of the state that prefer later season dates.



Question 16. Please check your preference regarding zone boundaries between the Late Zone and Southeast Zone? (Check only ONE)

- Leave the boundary between the Late and Southeast Zones as they currently are
- Combine the Late and Early Zones
- Reduce the size of the Late Zone, expanding the size of the Southeast Zone
- Increase the size of the Late Zone, reducing the size of the Southeast Zone
- No Preference regarding the Late Zone and Southeast Zone boundary

Question 17. If modifications were made to the Late Zone and the Southeast Zone boundary, which changes would you support (Check ALL that apply)

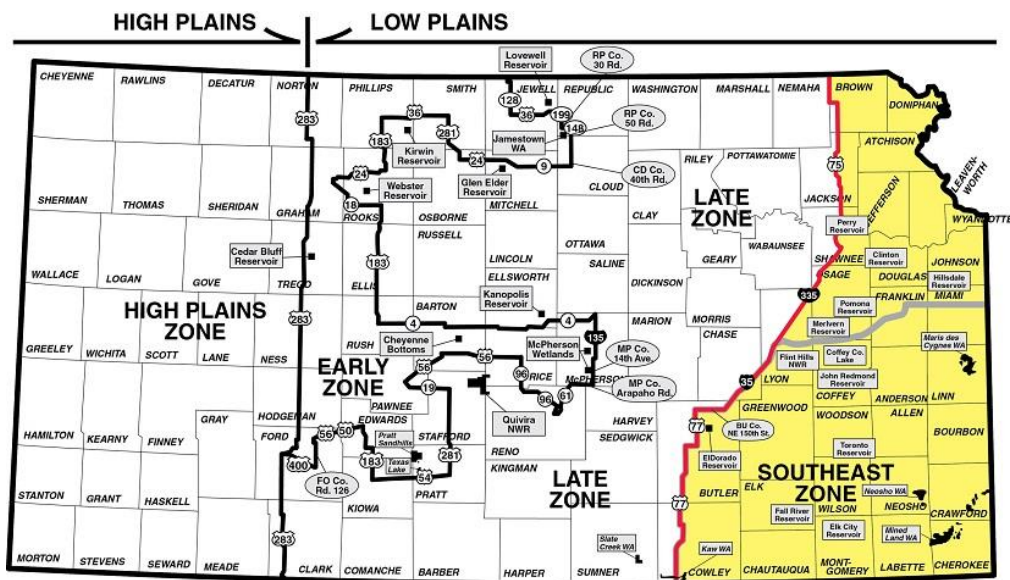
- Reduce the Southeast Zone to remove Maris Des Cygnes Wildlife Area
- Reduce the Southeast Zone to remove the marshes at Flint Hills NWR
- Reduce the Southeast Zone to Hwy 54
- Expand Southeast Zone to cover portions of the Kansas River
- Expand Southeast Zone to cover portions of the Missouri River
- Expand Southeast Zone west to I-35 to cover portions of the Arkansas River
- Expand Southeast Zone to include Hillsdale Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone west to include Melvern Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone west to include Pomona Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone west to include Council Grove Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone west to include Marion Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone west to include Clinton Reservoir
- Expand Southeast Zone north to include Perry Reservoir

Late - Southeast Zone Boundary

The next series of questions is to collect hunters' opinions on large scale changes to the Late Zone / Southeast Zone Boundary

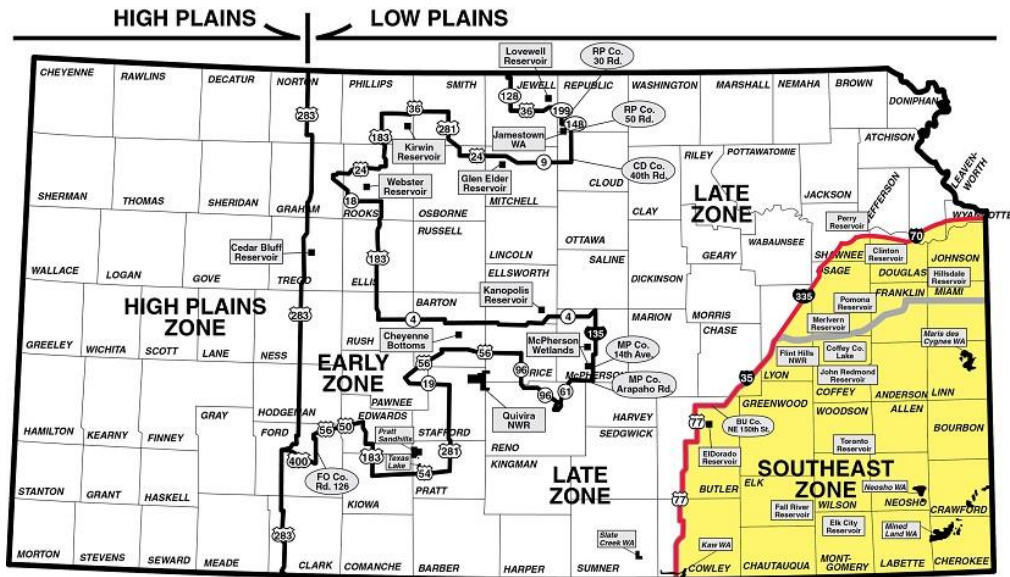
Question 18. Option A. This option would expand the Southeast Zone northward towards the Nebraska border. This expansion would place Melvern Reservoir, Hillsdale Reservoir, Pomona Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, Perry Reservoir, portions of the Kansas River (Topeka East) and the Missouri River in the Southeast Zone, essentially making the Southeast Zone an Eastern Zone. I-335 from Emporia to Topeka, then Hwy 75 from Topeka to Nebraska would be the boundaries. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



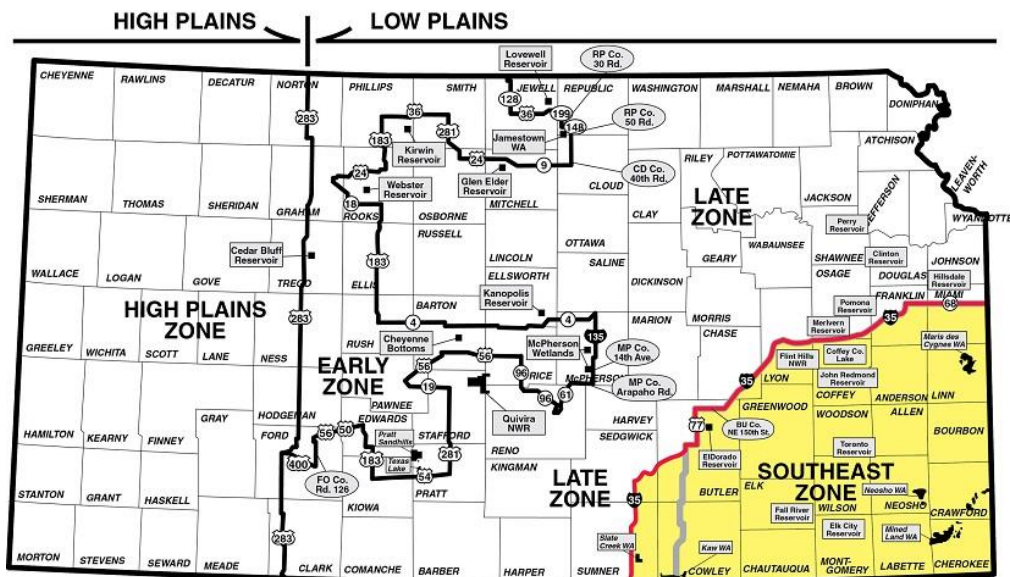
Question 19. Option B. This option would add more reservoirs to the current Southeast Zone. This would possibly include Melvern, Pomona, Clinton, Hillsdale, and Perry Reservoirs. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



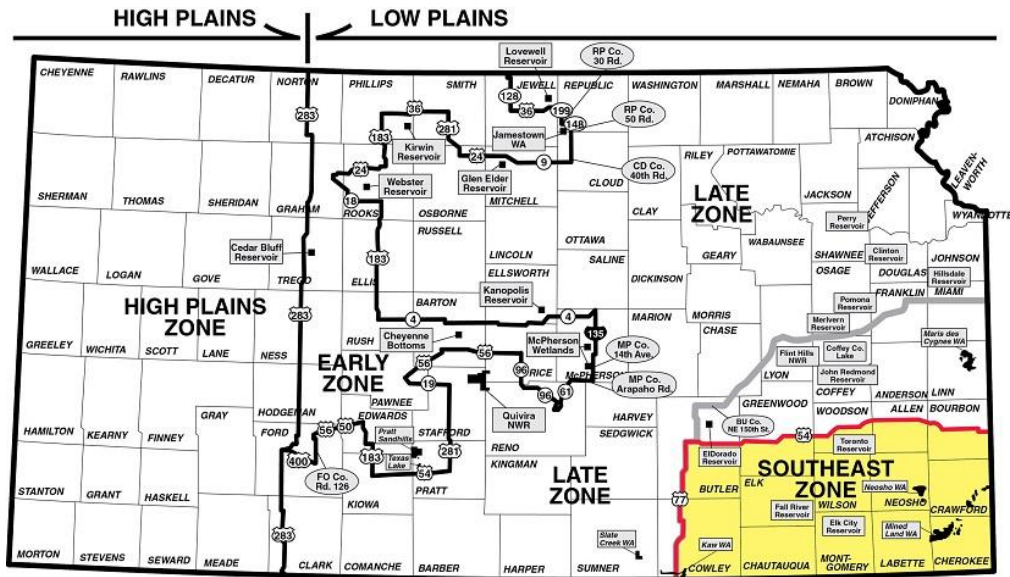
Question 20. Option C. This option would allow expansion of the southwest corner of the Southeast Zone by moving it west from Hwy 77 to I-35. It would place a portion of the Arkansas River from Wichita to Oklahoma, portions of the Ninnescah River, and Slate Creek Wildlife Area in the Southeast Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



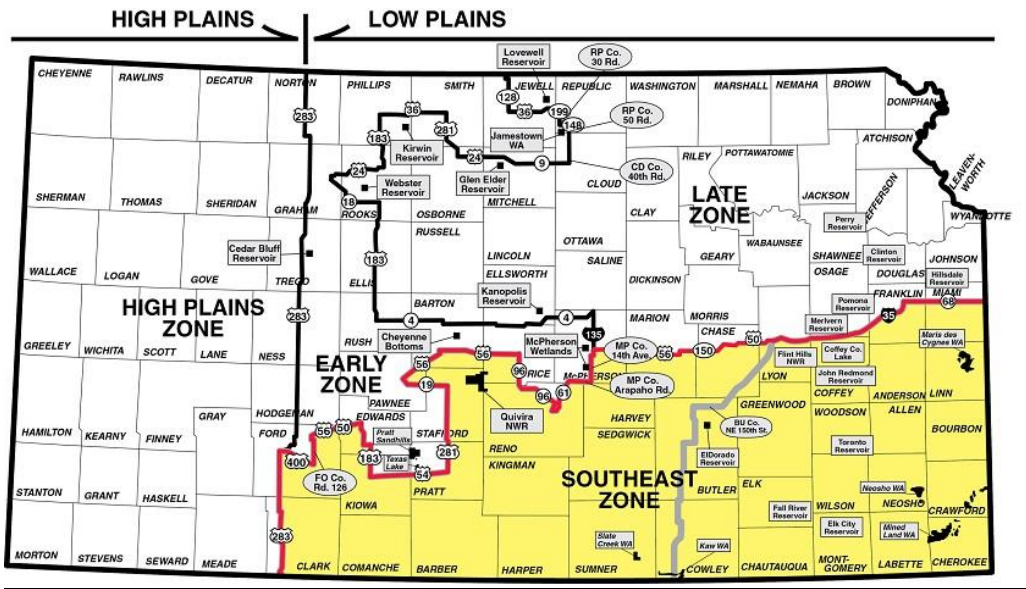
Question 21. Option D. This option reduces the Southeast Zone, and US Highway 54 would serve as the northern border of the Southeast Zone. This would remove Flint Hills NWR, Redmond, Wolf Creek (Coffey Co), El Dorado, and Marais des Cygnes from the Southeast Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



Question 22. Option E. This option would extend the Southeast Zone to include south-central Kansas. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support

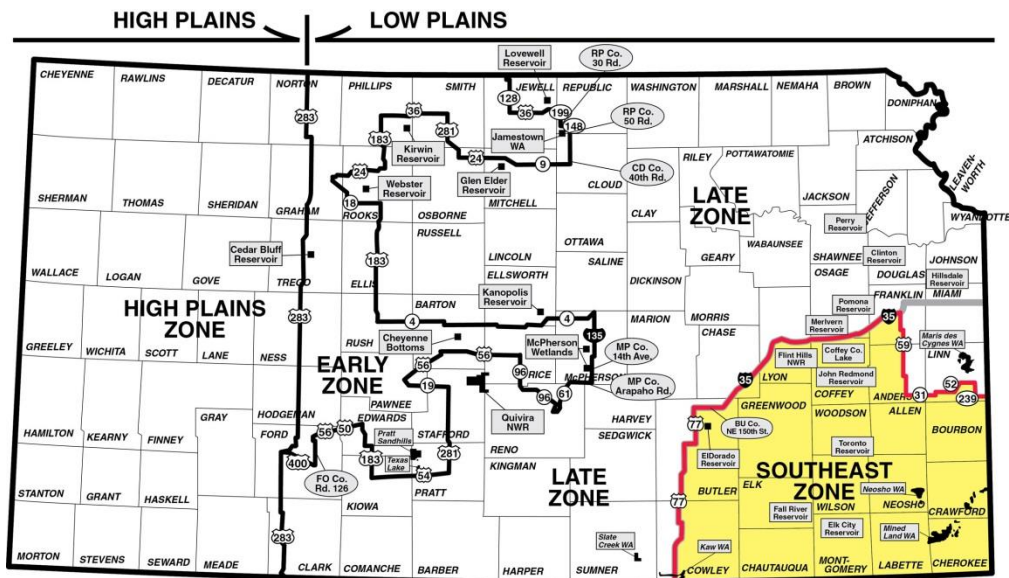


Late Zone / Southeast Zone Boundary Line - Area Specific Changes

Listed below are options that would remove specific areas from the Southeast Zone, placing them in the Late Zone. In the maps below the red line with the yellow highlighted area would be the new Southeast Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundaries that would be changed.

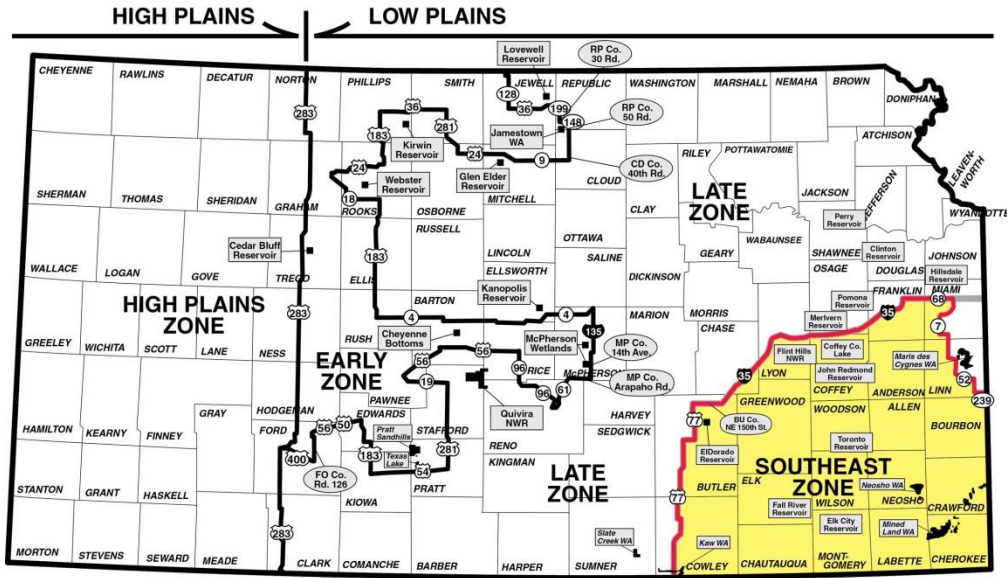
Question 23. Options A. This is one of three options that would remove Marais des Cygnes from the Southeast Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



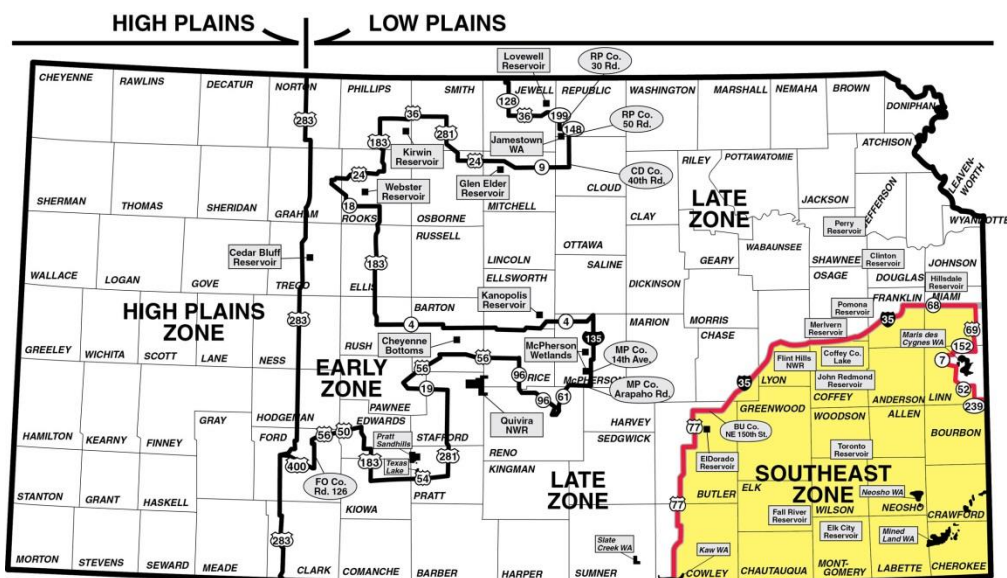
Question 24. Option B. This is a second of three options that would remove Marais des Cygnes from the Southeast Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



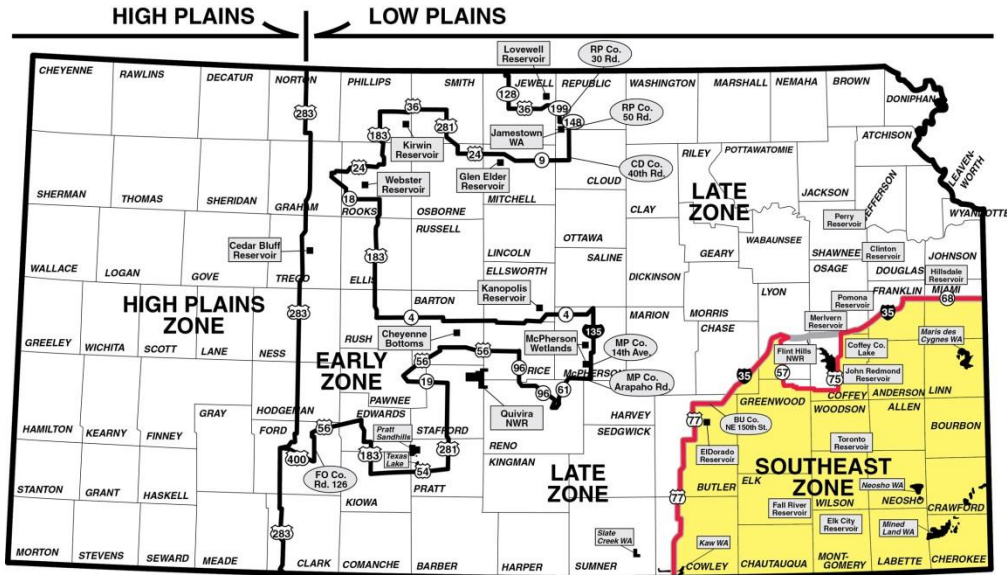
Question 25. Option C. This is the third of three options that would remove Marais des Cygnes from the Southeast Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



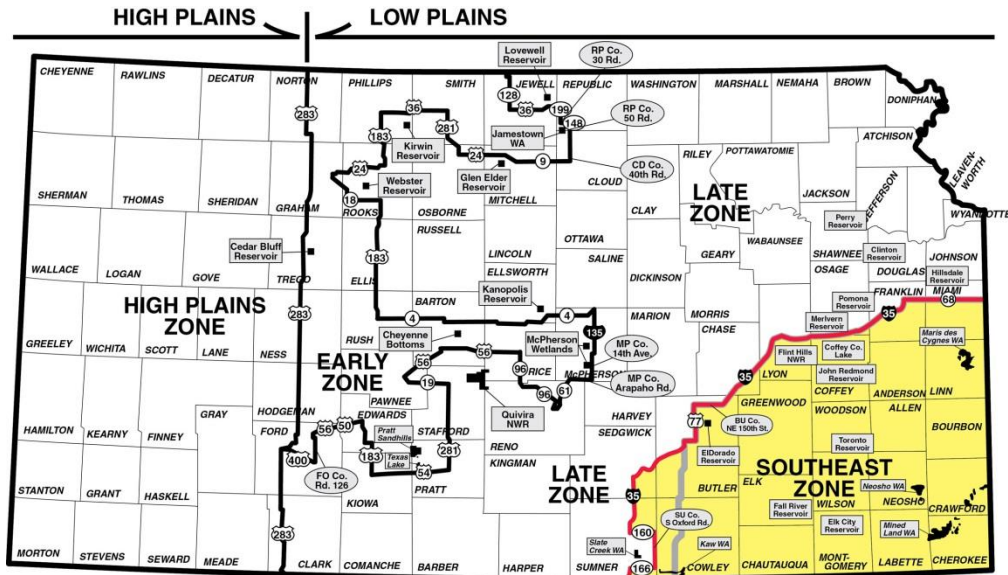
Question 26. Option D. This option would remove Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge and John Redmond Reservoir from the Southeast Zone but leave Wolf Creek Reservoir (Coffey Co Lake) in the Southeast Zone. This option may or may not include Marais des Cygnes in the Late Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray lines indicate current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



Question 27. Option E. If the southwest corner of the Southeast Zone was expanded west from Hwy 77 to I-35, it would place a portion of the Arkansas River from Wichita to Oklahoma, and portions of the Ninnescah River in the Southeast Zone. The option below would allow Slate Creek Wildlife Area to remain in the Late Zone. Please indicate your level of support to include the area outlined in red and shaded in yellow in the map below in the Southeast Zone. Gray line indicates current zone boundary that would be changed.

- Strongly Oppose
 Oppose
 Neutral
 Support
 Strongly Support



Late Zone – Southeast Zone Boundary Line Options

Question 28. Please describe any other modifications you may have to the Late Zone and Southeast Zone Boundary you may have. Please be specific.

End of Survey

Thank you for taking your time and providing your input. This survey will be an important component in determining duck zone boundaries. Results will be posted to KDWPT Migratory Bird Reports website. KDWPT will provide staff recommendations at the August 20th KDWPT commission meeting in Great Bend, KS. KDWPT commission will vote on any new duck zone changes at their October 22nd meeting in Burlington, KS. For more information please visit KDWPT Homepage.

We wish you success afield next season.

Question 29. If you would like to be included in KDWPT's emailing list, please enter your email below.

Appendix C. Comments on Early Zone & Late Zone Boundary from Question 15. Only comments relating to Kansas duck zones are listed.

Comment #	Q15. Comments on Early Zone & Late Zone Boundary
1	3 zones, HP, ,Late, Move SE south 50 miles
2	Add quivira to the early zone to try & avoid the woopers
3	All of Mcpherson county wetl&s nees to be in the late zone
4	All these zones are a hunter's nightmare. Needs to be simplified significantly
5	Anything that doesn't restrict the early zone to only 3 public areas. Leads to overcrowding at Jamestown & McPherson. Perhaps extend the early zone to include Milford, Tuttle, & Perry where you have a higher percentage of the state's population.
6	Anything to able to field hunt for mallards around Cedar Bluff later in the season
7	As I usually hunt just in Barber Co. no modifications are desired.
8	BIRDS DO NOT CARE ABOUT POLITICAL BOUNDRIES, THE BOUNDRIES ARE CONSTRAINTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITY; MAKE THE ZONE BOUNDRIES LOGICAL FOR HUMANS TO REDUCE CONFUSION.
9	Cedar Bluff would be good to put in the late zone for people who target mallards. Early migrants typically are not hunted as much on those areas as mallards. But one thing I am against is putting more pressure on Cheyenne Bottoms. There seems to be more & more people traveling to Cheyenne bottoms & McPherson wetl&s to hunt the early zone because there aren't many other options during that time. This makes the hunting pressure extremely high during the month of October. If a few other places were open, the destination hunters could spread out a bit.
10	Change late zone to that of early zone:re cold & early freeze up of rivers & marshes.
11	combind the two to simplify boundries.
12	combine
13	Combine early & late zone into one big zone, with no season difference
14	combine early & late zone to make one zone
15	combine early & late zones
16	Combine into one zone
17	COMBINE LATE & SOUTHEAST
18	combine the early & late zone
19	Combine the early & late zone & let it all open at the same time, quit running lines all over so no one knows for sure whats in or out, plus it would take some of the pressure off of several areas as with it all open not everyone would go to one little area. the map looks like some 2 year old drew lines on it
20	combine the early & late zone to make 1 zone. Then have 3 duck segments. the boundrys are to cut up & need to be simplified
21	Combine the Early Zone & Late Zone together.
22	Combine the two!
23	Combine the zones into one. The late zone makes difficulty for older hunters because of more ice. The late zone is useless to most pond hunters because the last month & a half the ice is too thick to break. I don't believe most duck hunters want to hunt on rivers & fields for months instead of ponds. Late zone hunters miss out on almost all of the widgeon, gadwall, wood ducks, & other early fliers that provide some of the easiest & funnest wing shooting. Many older & beginning hunters can't take the increased cold weather from the late zone. My area hunters would greatly appreciate changing to one

	zone that started at the early date or at least mid to early October. January & February are for hunting geese, pheasants, quail, & prairie chicken in my opinion. It doesn't benefit duck hunters to have the season open when all the ponds & most of the creeks & rivers are froze solid. The ducks don't hang around when there is no open water.
24	combine them
25	combine them
26	combine them
27	Combine them completely.
28	combine them into one zone then this survey would not be necessary
29	disolve & combine
30	Divide the state north to south like MO is or just high plains & low plains. Very hard to know if you are at this point or that to be legal or not. Needs to be more clear than it is currently. Ask your enforcement officers or review the tickets/warnings that are given for people hunting in the wrong place & time because they were confused on which road or something as to where they were.
31	do a way with the boundary
32	do away with early zone
33	Do away with early zone
34	Do away with early zone all together
35	Do away with the early zone, period.
36	combine the late & early zone & go with late zone dates for the birds!
37	Do not fix what is not broken!
38	DWP needs to change boundary in the early zone because having the mcpherson valley wetl&s close to me severely hinder my duck hunting. you have that early teal season which means the season is closed when the mallard get here. so i am unable to hunt on ground that i own because of the wetl&s. so make the boundary just around the wetl&s.
39	early & late zones as one!!!!!!
40	Either do away with the early & late zones, or include all of pratt & stafford county in the late zone. There usually is really good hunting on rattlesnake west of 281 late in the seaon but it closes to early!.
41	eliminate early & late
42	eliminate early zone & have three segments: One limited to teal & early migrants & then two segments for all others
43	Eliminate the late & eary zone & only have one zone
44	Establish zones by county boundaries
45	Expand the South East Zone to include all of Butler & Cowley County
46	extend late zone into Southeast zone
47	For me combine early & late zone as 1
48	Get rid of the Early zone entirely. The least confusing boundaries the better. That goes for the whole state.
49	Get rid of the late southeast zone & have just the late zone.
50	Go my highways north & south. Keep areas of water in one zone such as Glen Elder, etc. Don't make it so difficult where the borders are hard to underst&.
51	Have a high plains zone,with the same border, a late zone & the southeast zone,& change

	the open & close dates to keep it regulated
52	have no modifications, leave as is
53	high plains & low plains period with the late season split dates south east stays the same
54	I am all for simplification of the zone boundaries. Its scary to think that I could be hunting on the wrong side of the line. Make it easier for hunters to know their boundaries.
55	i am fine with the way things are now as i dont get out of Lyon co much to hunt so it is hard to give an opinion on zones i know nothing about.
56	I believe that it should remain as is currently but I hunt 99% of the time in south east zone in Cherokee county so this zone move will not affect this area
57	I believe that the early & late zones should be combines to make one zone out of it.
58	I grew up in Hays & come back to hunt there frequently. Anything we can do to get Cedar Bluff into a zone that allows for hunting later into the year would be great. It is a big body of water & typically the mallards don't push down until later in December. They stick around by we aren't able to hunt them even though the water is usually open.
59	I hunt Jamestown & Lovewell & what is being done up here works great.
60	i Just dont underst& why you cannot open the season the 2nd weekend of october & run it til january 15 & have no pauses or breaks or just split the state along us hwy81/I35
61	I just think that it is important to keep the river around great bend in the late zone due to great late season hunting. It would be a shame if that were to change. Also west of 281 in Stafford county needs to stay in early zone please.
62	I like having multiple zone options within driving distance. Popular areas around Wichita include El Dorado, Cheney, McPherson, Quivira, so keeping those diversified among the zones gives us more options during the season splits.
63	I like it the way it is
64	I like it the way it is
65	I like the way it is currently. Please try to have Cedar Bluffs & Quivira in late Zone it gives us Duck hunters other opportunites
66	I live right on k4 & I hunt both sides of the highway. The current zones may work well for others but I miss out on lots of ducks because of timing.
67	I personally would like to see east of 96 going through sterling be changed into late sone.
68	I really hope Mcpherson Wetl&s stays in the Early Zone.
69	I strongly think all of russell county shuld be in the early zone
70	I think the current duck season dates work ok except in my area of Phillips county it always seems like just when good numbers of mallards show up the season ends. I think the season closes too early.
71	I think we only need a High & Low Plains Zones
72	I think you sholuld do away with south late zone.
73	I would change the zone to taking the boundary along the east end of the early zone up 14 hwy up to 56 hwy then straight east to Mc Pherson. The early zone includes the Arkansas River south & east of Sterling in the early zone & the river is best late in the season..
74	I would combine the two into one zone & have no split seasons. I would start the season later & run it later into February. Ducks have shown up later after the season the last several years.
75	I would include Webster & Kirwin into the early zone.
76	I would like them combined.
77	I would like to Hodgeman SW area in the late zone

78	i would like to see sedgwick county added in to the early zone there are a lot of ducks around that time & i feel like we miss out on a good part of season to harvest ducks
79	I would like to see the late zone be more like the southeast zone & open later & not have the split in the season. More often than not the mallards don't show up until well after thanksgiving & are usually real thick during our split
80	I would like to see the season run later due to the cold weather & ducks not getting here until later each year. Could push back the opening date to keep the season the same length.
81	I would like to see the zones combined. As you know we have been in a drought for several years & the fly ways have changed. The migratory bird flight is still moving & has not settled on a flight zone yet.
82	I would like to see things adjusted where we could hunt into January a little more & start our seasons a little later. Often the early part of the season is so HOT, we many times waste the first 2 or 3 weeks of the season because of the heat. Waiting a to start a little later might help water levels in hunting areas some also. I would like to see just 3 zones. High Plains. Low Plains & Southeast Zone.
83	Include Quivira NWR in the Early Zone
84	it looks pretty well balanced to me.
85	It seems like the SE zone should not include Flint Hills or Marais de Cygnes
86	It suits me well right now. The only change i would want to see, is ellsworth county in the early zone.
87	It would be nice to put Quivera in the early zone along with everything between it & Cheney Bottoms. Quivera seems to always get closed for whopping cranes right before it would open. Opening it earlier would hopefully allow people to hunt it.
88	Its to much of a jug saw puzzle.
89	Just combine them
90	just do away with early & late zone & combine into one zone with, shutting down areas at certain points during season at above/below certain highways
91	Just like to see them open same time
92	Just make the geographical boundaries large blocks & easy to identify. Not so many twists & turns & roads or rivers that are the boundaries. Make them county lines & a large chunk of the state. Perhaps the early zone could be from Nebraska to some county line south of Barton County & 283 to whatever the east county line is now. Don't make hunters have to break out GPS to make sure they are legal on an imaginary line that is imposed by someone in an office for bureaucratic reasons. Make it simple. The entire country is growing weary of government imposition over a variety of topics that are way less important in the gr& scheme of things. Thanks for allowing my input.
93	keep it ALL simple, longer hunts ease pressure over-all
94	keep it simple, make the early zone from Nebraska to Oklahoma . 183hwy. to 135-35!!!
95	Keep same
96	keep the boundries simple
97	Keep the same.
98	Keep the way it is please!!!
99	Late Zone - either needs to start later or run into January later. Currently closes on Dec 31. Before the big ducks numbers even get here. Yes it opens back up the last week of Jan but by then a good majority of big ducks are gone.
100	Late Zone cover all of Osage County

101	Late zone needs to start later & go later into year
102	Late Zone shallow waters freeze up early. When big ducks arrive they congregate on open river waters. Very difficult to hunt. Would like to see a solution for more days later when big ducks are here.
103	Late zone split season starts too late. Usually froze out early in the 2nd part of it
104	Later dates for early zone
105	later dates open, so when big ducks are here
106	Later season in January. & February
107	Leave as it is
108	Leave it like it is!! Changing it just causes confusion!
109	leave it the same!!!! or Expand
110	Leave it the SAME, it works don't break it>>>
111	Leave Quivira & the Ark River in the Late Zone.
112	leave se zone alone
113	leave the high plains & low plains zone as they are divided by 283 highway
114	Leave them alone!
115	Leave zones as they are
116	make all of mcpherson wetlands late zone
117	Make both zones the same
118	Make it as simple as possible
119	MAKE IT SIMPLE
120	make it simpler
121	Make late zone season earlier & longer esp Canada geese
122	Make more straight, very confusing boundaries
123	Make one Duck Season - KISS
124	Make the boundary simpler. Run the boundary N&S as straight as possible, say like Hwy81, & let areas fall where they may.
125	Make the southeast zone Expand north to the Nebraska border to make the eastern part of the state not have a late season split. The best waterfowl hunting in the eastern part of the state could take place during that split.
126	Make the zones run east west instead of north south It freezes way earlier north than in the southern end of state
127	Make them one zone, or if you want three zones then break them by rough geographic distances into thirds. This is way to confusing for hunters.
128	move the early zone more east all together
129	move the early/late zone boundary at Glen Elder Res. further north (jewell county line) so we can take advantage of a north wind in later season to hunt ducks on the north side of the lake. This has always seemed like a silly boundary to be exactly on a major reservoir.
130	Needs to be more north south..things get confusing with more boundaries. Why not use counties instead? Duck season needs to be pushed back, & go later in January....there are no birds Oct 31..plenty of birds in January.
131	No big duck season split, later start to the big duck season.
132	No boundary
133	no boundary modifications
134	no modifications
135	NO MODIFICATIONS

136	No modifications necessary.
137	none - keep the same
138	None...I think that Kansas currently has a really good plan for waterfowl hunting.
139	one zone
140	Only have the High Plains & low plains NO OTHER ZONES
141	open all zone at the same time
142	Please change the late zone boundary back to its original boundary which will put the southern region of mcpherson valley wetl&s back into the late zone along with Inman Lake in the late zone. There were absolutley NO COMPLAINTS when mcpherson was split. It give hunters 2 opportunitys to hunt ducks longer, & I have private ground that was incompassed during the last change & the ducks do not get here until the end of October early november & when the split happens is when the ducks are here. Again there is way more benifits for all hunters if that line gets changed back to highway 61 split, which is a 4 lane major highway. It is not confusing, if a hunter does not know where they are when they are hunting they shouldnt be hunting at all. In the last 5 years I have not heard anyone say that the line chnge that was proposed 5 years ago was a good idea. We that live around Mcpherson & enjoyed the 2 parts of the wetl&s & our private ground, which my private ground HAS BEEN MOVED TO EARLY ZONE, we were not approached about this line change & it HAS IMPACTED OUR DUCK HUNTING TREMENDOUSLY. As mentioned before please change this back to the way it was for decades when NO ONE had issues with the boundarys.
143	Please do away with the crooked line, keep it simple.
144	Please do not change any zone boundaries in the state of Kansas. They are set up perfectly now for the opportunistic waterfowler who hunts public l&s.
145	Please leave boundary as is.
146	Please leave boundary as it currently is.
147	Please quit wasting my time with surveys. FWS will do whatever they want anyway!
148	Please split the SE Zone in half with the northern half falling into the Early Zone. We barely have enough time to hunt our shallow water as it freezes so fast & thus miss out on a lot of hunting. The season in the upper half of the SE Zone should start earlier due to cold weatherssetting in earlier over the last several years.
149	preferred option would be leave it as is
150	Put Sedgwick & Kingman county in Southeast zone.
151	Quivira needs to be in the early zone, With the whooping cranes shutting it down for rmost of the late zone season, if you do not move it to the early zone, it is lost for hunting for most of the season. The Feds don't give a damn about hunters & if you don't act, significant hunting opportunities will be lost,
152	Quivira option A
153	Remove the early zone & make it one continuous zone.
154	simplify
155	Simplify things! Don't spend time, money & effort complicating the seasons.
156	Simply put, the more we can open the marshes & ponds sooner, the better. To extend them into the late season when they are typically frozen will do the outdoorsman less good.
157	Since the break for the 2 zones is where I live, I have to pay attention to what dates one side of the highway is open or closed. However I realize it has to be somewhere!
158	Southern boarder enlarged southward

159	split down 81 highway
160	Split early & late in half
161	keep it simple, run it down the center of the zone straight down the county lines.
162	Take it out all together, just have a high & low plains
163	Texas Lake Wildlife Area to the Late Zone
164	Texas Lake Wildlife Area to the Late Zone
165	Thanks for addressing cedar bluff
166	The central part of Reno rice & stafford needs to stay early since most of the water if flooded crops & small low areas. Once they freeze it over for a lot of us.
167	The current patterns of zone placement are extremely hard to figure out with the boundary maps & the differences in the time frames. Surely we could pick a highway or designated marker that runs north to south instead of all the fragmented locations that are currently used.
168	The early zone is so chopped up.
169	The late & early zones should be combined to make one. Ducks dont have calenders or see man made boundries, so no matter what we decide its still a guessing game.
170	The migration period of all waterfowl appears to be starting earlier as a product of the climate change & KDWPT needs to take that reality into consdieration when setting waterfowl seasons. Flights too early means no birds at the end of the season!
171	The more complicated the map; the more chance of error(broken laws)which may contribute to a less satisfied hunt experience. The simpler the better. We(you) are always looking to increase hunter numbers.
172	the zone should be larger, to make a simple two time zone
173	These two zones need to be combined & have only the High Plains & the Low Plains Zones
174	This is personal preference but I135 eastern boundary for early season cuts out significant smoky hill river hunting for mallards in late season when river is only open water
175	too confusing, go with as few zones as possible. 2.
176	try not to divide bodies of water or WMAs between early & late zones. Try to keep the boundaries simple & not so jagged, this makes it more difficult to determine what zone you are in & probably makes enforcement more difficult as well
177	use I70 for the north border of early season NOT K4
178	very strong support for dividing big basin & little sinkhole!!
179	Whatever you decide don't make it to confusing & leave Jamestown Early Zone
180	Would like to have rush co all in the same zone
181	would like to see McPherson area included in late sone
182	would like to see stein, haines l& herons left in early zone
183	Would like to see the Ark from Kinsley to Learned in the late zone.
184	Would like to see the seasons start earlier with the same end dates
185	Would prefer just one zone

Appendix D. Comments on Late Zone & Southeast Zone Boundary from Question 28. Only comments relating to Kansas duck zones are listed.

Comment #	Q28. Comments on Late Zone & Southeast Zone Boundary
1	As long as you leave Quivira/Ark River OUT of the SE Zone, I'm pretty neutral.
2	Being from stafford county, the current southeast zone dosent matter much to me as i don't make it down there. However I am in favor of moving areas of the late zone such as Quivira & stafford & pratt counties to match the dates of the southeast zone. The last couple of years there has been a lot of ducks around after the season has closed.
3	COMBINE
4	Combine & keep current boundaries
5	COMBINE SOUTHEAST TO RUN FROM WICHITA EAST TO MISSIOUR LINE, NORTH TO THE NEBRASKA BORDER
6	combine the two like they used to be
7	combine the two zones
8	Combine the two zones
9	Combine the zones like they were before 2010.
10	Combine them
11	combine them
12	COMBINE THEM (K.I.S.S)
13	COMBINE THEM AS ONE ZONE
14	combine them both
15	Divide the state in three or four easy sections KISS
16	do away with the boundary
17	Do away with the S/E Zone. Make it all Late Zone!
18	Do away with these two zones & combine them but provide for a split season that allows for later hunting for a greater portion of central kansas, esp south central kansas as we do not see many ducks until much later than other parts of the state
19	Do NOT extend the late zone to include the area around Quivira, Stafford & Reno counties,
20	do not increase the southeast zone
21	Do not move it any further west.
22	do not zone anything
23	DON'T Expand THE SE ZONE THE SMALL BODIES OF WATER I HUNT ARE FROZEN IN JANUARY
24	draw straight lines, unify the state, why do you have to make it so difficult
25	duck migrate north to south. units should run more east to west than north to south. best hunting is mid december to the very last day of season in se zone. the later the better
26	east west to allow for colder weather in the north
27	El Dorado lake excuded from the southeast zone
28	eliminate all of Miami County from the SE zone but leave all of Linn County in the SE zone
29	eliminate the southeast zone & keep everything late zone .
30	Expand noth on the southeast zone

31	Expand the Southeast zone to the Neb border
32	Extend the season to be as late as possible
33	For the Southeast portion I would rather see a narrow b& running from the Nebraska to the Oklahoma border in the extreme eastern third of the state.
34	Franklin County is in norteast Kansas & has no business being included in the Southeast zone. The current boundary of I-35 has ruined my hunting. Move the Southeast zone south!
35	Get rid of SE Zone entirely.
36	Get rid of the southeast zone
37	get rid of the southeast zone
38	GET RID OF THE SOUTHEAST ZONE, MAKE IT LATE ZONE
39	Get rid of the southeast Zone. The people that got that zone started care only about themselves.
40	have Kansas City in the se zone
41	I am more concerned with the season dates opening too early & then have to close too soon before the mallards are fully here.
42	I am voicing opposing to any change that would include an earlier season for Linn County & the Mar de Cygne area. Frankly for most average years, I preferred the season dates we had last year. It will frieze & thaw, & there will be hunting & resting opportunities.
43	I changed a little from thestart to theend of the survey. I lik,e the idea of Expanding the SE to Ne including the Missouri river.
44	I do most of my hunting in shawnee, osage & douglas co. I would like to see the season extended to a later date for ducks
45	I do not like the season for the southeast zone. I hunt in the late zone, & really hope our dates aren't changed like theirs. If anything, I'd rather have our da week earlier, & definitely don't want to start later.
46	I don't believe there are enough hunters that create a zone problem
47	I enjoy hunting fields in Jan, the more of Jan open to hunting the better for me & my hunting parties!!
48	I feel the SE zone shouldn;t exist, but the current areas (mainly 68 Hwy & I-35) are good boundaries to keep how they have been.
49	I have hunted in the Marais des Cygne valley (Miami/Linn Co) & last year we missed thebest week of the season when we had hundreds of ducks in our marsh & were closed due to the split opener. When we opened on Nov 15th we had ice. In 2013 we had ice Thanksgiving week. Putting those of us who hunt the Marais des Cygne Valley in the SE Zone has been a disaster, & when it was proposed 5 years ago we were told the Feds had missed the date for review & it wouldn't be an issue for 5 years. Two months later we were in the new SE Zone. Not good.
50	I hope Slate Creek Wetl&s stay in the Late Zone
51	I like the all the way to Neb opion
52	i like thr idea of a later season along the kansas river
53	I primarily hunt labette montgomery & neosho counties. I am satisfied with the current set up provided as far as boundaries & season dates. If anything I would like to see the season extended later in the year as often larger amounts of birds have arrived & weather conditions help to concentrate them.

54	I strongly believe that the Marais des Cygne Wildlife area, which is where I mostly duck hunt, should stay in the Southeast Zone to benefit from the late Mallard migration.
55	I support any expansion of SE ZONE. No reduction.
56	I support any option that Marais de cygne out of the SE zone
57	I think the zones are fine the way they are, but if changes must be made, I would prefer creation of an Eastern Zone from NE to OK.
58	I would not split the duck season in Jan. I would like to see it as is due to the number of ducks & geese that move thru this area due to warm early winters. This is usually when we see the most ducks & geese in the area
59	I would like for the KDWP Commission to vote with the general waterfowl opinion & not their personal preference as they have done the last couple years. Their role on the commission is to support the hunters of the state, not their personal hunting areas. Please share this with the Commission.
60	I would like Marais Des Cygne out of the southeast zone
61	I would like the southeast zone to go up to the eastern part of the Smokey Hill Valley.
62	I would like to see all of Lyon Co in the late zone
63	I would like to see El Dorado Lake in the late zone.
64	I would like to see the end to the SE zone or limited to Neosho & environs. For the duck hunting that I do, the establishment of the new SE zone simply increased opening day competition for the places I hunt along the north side of this zone boundary.
65	I would like to see the entire eastern portion of the state included
66	I would like to see the southeast season extended by 2 weeks.
67	I would like to see the Southeast zone moved south to the Bourbon/Crawford line putting the Hollister Wildlife Area in the Late Zone.
68	If any are being made. Go north with the border. Going west would be beneficial if it went all the way to 177 hwy & south of US 50
69	If it ain't broke don't fix it
70	If moving any of your boundaries will cause an earlier opening for Shawnee County please make that change
71	I'm OK the way they are
72	Include all of Butler Co in the late zone
73	Include Clinton WA into the early zone. There is entirely too many hunting opportunities lost after the season ends, which is when the major migration moves in
74	Include more big water areas/reservoirs in the southeast zone especially Hillsdale. Run seasons later as it seems ducks are coming down later in the season.
75	It is particularly difficult to respond to most of the questions regarding zone adjustments without knowing why they are being considered. Does it have to do with anything besides unenlightened hunter self-interest? Is there some biology involved?
76	It's fine the way it is.
77	Just combine areas make it simple
78	Just combine them and leave them alone
79	Just don't take John Redmond & Wolf Creel Lake area out of the Southeast zone
80	Just forget the two zones make it one with split seasons
81	Just leave Marais Des Cygnes in the SE Zone

82	Just leave the seasons like they r
83	just make sure wolf creek is in SE zone
84	just move the line out of Butler Co
85	Just tell me when i can hunt where. Use your data.
86	Keep it the same. I don't hunt down there though.
87	KEEP MARAIS DES CYGNE IN THE SOUTHEAST ZONE!!!! Please!!
88	keep same
89	Keep the current SE Zone.
90	Keep the MDC area in the zone with the latest duck hunting dates
91	Keep the SE zone in the SE.
92	Leave alone
93	leave as is
94	leave as is
95	Leave as is
96	leave Cowley County boundary of Hwy 77 alone, Provides double oportunity in our area!!
97	leave it alone
98	Leave it alone.
99	Leave it as is pleas
100	Leave it as it is...do not affect the late zone.
101	leave it the way it is
102	Leave Marais De Cygne in SE zone
103	Leave the area around Great Bend as it is. Thank you!!!
104	Leave the boundaries clear. Don't jog into a area to confuse the boundaries.
105	leave the flint hills NWR out
106	Leave the Late Zone & Southeast Zone the same or combine them.
107	leave the late zone alone relative to the southeast zone
108	leave the same
109	Leave the southeast zone as is.
110	Leave the Southeast Zone Boundary alone. Leave the Southeast Zone season dates alone.
111	Less zones so it is less confusing
112	lessen SE zone
113	like the boundary line the way they currently are set. dont care if change but flint hills nwr must stay in SE zone. good luke thanks for survey.
114	Love the southern option, but Hwy 54 needs to be changed to Hwy 50 to the north. That western chunk of Stafford cty & to the west of Stafford cty & to the south should not be in the early zone.
115	make all seasons longer with LESS zones- duck should run into Feb with Goose season & both could run later still. There are ALWAYS more duck AFTER the season where I hunt & work outside.
116	make boundries simple
117	Make El Dorado lake in the late zone-not the southeast zone.
118	Make south east zone bigger don't mess with Mairsde cygnes it's good in southeast zone

119	make the northern border 52 hwy
120	Make the SE zone as small as possible
121	Make the SE zone smaller
122	Make them the same
123	many I know that hunt in Marais DE Cygne area complain about freezing up early because their season starts to late
124	Marais Des Cygne moving into Late Zone, last few weeks of southeast zone is to late & the birds move on from the ice
125	Marias de Cygne needs to be out of the Southeast zone. We are losing way too many good hunting days in early November. The ducks arrive, eat up the food before we can shoot them & then leave.
126	more late zone in the southeast zone
127	Move late zone & southeast zone boundary East to include Arkansas River, Kaw wildlife area, Winfield city Lake in Late zone instead of SE.
128	Move Linn County back to late zone! We have been screwed since the change has been made in 2011 because of on commissioner.
129	move the season start date to the first weekend of november & shut season down thur rifle deer season
130	Myself & many other waterfowl hunters I know here in Northeast Kansas would love to have the Kansas River (or as much as possible) available to hunt during the no-split Southeastern zone season. The Kansas River is arguably the last waterway in the state to freeze up, & could provide excellent opportunities throughout all of December & January.
131	NO MODIFICATIONS
132	no modifications desired
133	No other Modifications.
134	No SE zone....But if we have to have one I like the one that runs all the way north to nebraska & includes the eastern 1/5th of the state.
135	No southeast zone Make it all Late Zone
136	No strong feelings for modification, prefer to leave as is, if anything.
137	Not so worried about modifications to boundaries, but highly in favor of not splitting seasons with season being closed the 2nd week of November in the SE Zone
138	not to familiar with southeast zone. Guess I need to do my homework
139	one zone
140	Please do not change any zone boundaries in Kansas. They are perfect just as they are.
141	Please don't move the SE zone any further north, west makes sense though
142	Please get rid of the Southeast zone. It does NOT benefit most waterfowl hunters in Southeast KS, who mostly hunt watershed ponds. The ponds are frozen over for most of the Southeast season, making waterfowl hunting impossible to hunters without river access.
143	Please include Inman lake area & Mcpherson wetl&s Inman area south of 61 Highway back into the late zone. Its where it was for decades & worked Perfectly.
144	Please just make it simple & combine the Southeast Zone & the Late Zone, problem solved
145	Please keep south central KS in the Late Zone.
146	preferred option - leave it as is

147	Put Pomona and Hillsdale in Southeast zone
148	Remove Flint Hills NWR & Marais des Cygnes from SE zone
149	Remove Marais des Cygnes from southeast zone & split the season for late zone
150	Remove the boundary & combine the zones
151	SE zone should include areas e of 283 & s of 4
152	Season needs to run thru the END of January!!!!
153	south east zone being mostly the south part of ks
154	Southeast Zone cover more to the west.
155	Southeast zone needs to be small. Do not Expand it.
156	split down I 35
157	Start the Southeast zone the last weekend in October, I what more early hunting I do NOT normal have open water in mid December
158	stay the same
159	Stick to the small area in the corner & quit drawing lines everywhere
160	stop playing gerrymandering with the lines.
161	The best, I think, would be to use county lines instead. That way you are county out of a zone. Currently in Butler if you are on the wrong side of a highway (near cassoday) the north side is good but the south of the highway may be out of season
162	The bigger the southeastern zone the better.
163	The late zone should NEVER move north. Ice conditions greatly vary from Perry to MDC. There are many days in Late December where Perry is frozen solid but marshes south such as MDC have come open. To include Perry, Clinton, etc into the South East zone would be a HUGE mistake.
164	The SE Zone was a mistake & never should have been implemented. Being able to harvest more mallards is not a legitimate reason for changing the entire set up duck hunting in KS.
165	In the 4 years of existence the Se zone froze up prior to the season even starting. Do away with the SE zone & put the whole area back in the late zone
166	the southern part of the state gets migrants later. don't reduce the SE zone.
167	The survey should explain the impact these changes have on hunting dates.
168	There needs to be an option where the shallow Marais Des Cygnes WA & Flint Hills NWR are in the Late Zone. I also think Melvern with its deep water should be in the SE Late Zone.
169	There seems to be at times later in the season for Mallards if the Southeast Zone would be Expanded North to encompass Perry & the Big Mo
170	three zones in the state, west, central, & east
171	Totally combine late & southeast or leave it the way it is
172	With later migration patterns, keep the late zone intact.....
173	Would like to see Milford Lake have a later season similar to or exactly the same as Southeast Zone.
174	Would like to see the seasons extended later it seems that the good duck hunting falls later than the season allows hunting plus i am also a very avid bowhunter it would like to be able to hunt more waterfowl when the bow season closes the current season does not leave a lot of time to duck hunt after deer season

175

Would love for the Southeast Zone to be Expanded west include the Ark River from Wichita to Oklahoma. The late zone usually closes & we are unable to hunt at our location which is just west of 77. The season always closes right when the hunting is best. The ponds are frozen but the river is open, & we are unable to hunt with current seasons in the late zone. Once the season does open back up, the river has become too icy to hunt & the birds have moved south. Moving the SE zone west would have a large positive impact on our season.