

Thank you for your time today and for all the work you have done to help the resource.

I have done a small amount of research into the use of the public WMAs and I have witnessed the usage at many of the WMAs areas throughout the last 7 seasons. I agree that the change needs to happen to keep the resource from being overutilized by nonresidents. There has been an increase of NR waterfowl Stamps sold in the last 20 years while the number of resident stamps has remained static. This increase in NR is almost 300% and NR stamps now account for over 40% of total stamp sales.

I commend your efforts to address the overcrowding at the public areas and your proposal may be the right way to go, but I believe there are better solutions to the overcrowding. I would encourage you to consider other options before going forward with this proposal. Both Arkansas and South Dakota have enacted non-resident licensing and looking at how they have navigated a difficult task would be a good place to start. Limiting non-residents to 3 days and having one of those days be Sunday could create the unintended consequence of having one of the two weekend days (Sunday) be so overcrowded that residents would suffer. For many residents the weekends are the only days they can hunt.

I propose a \$100 Non-Resident public lands waterfowl stamp with the revenue generated from that stamp going directly into conservation efforts to improve and better manage the WMAs. This stamp would be required for non-residents to hunt public land in Kansas but would also be valid on private land. In addition to generating additional revenue for the WMAs, this would also give us an accurate number of non-resident waterfowlers using the WMA's and WIHA. In the 2020-2021 season Kansas Sold 15,586 state stamps to non-resident waterfowlers and the total number of non-resident visitors to the then 29 WMAs was 3,000 according to the check-in system. This means that with the data available over 12,000 non-residents hunted waterfowl on private ground, areas without a check-in system, or on WIHA. Instituting a non-resident public land waterfowl stamp would help us better understand usage of public lands without counting on a check-in system.

I understand that you have given great thought and effort into coming up with solutions that are conserving the resource. That is and should be the goal of and changes and I sincerely thank you for your dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Cheech Kehoe
Topeka