

490209

TITLE: Elimination of Burnett County Canada Goose Subzone

PROBLEM:

The original Burnett County Canada Goose Subzone was created in 1957 to enhance the effort of restoring a nesting population of giant Canada geese (*Branta Canadensis maxima*) to northwestern Wisconsin. That restoration effort has been very successful and the configuration of the subzone was reduced in size in 1972, 1978 and 1994. Currently the subzone includes mainly the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area. It is proposed that the Subzone be eliminated totally as it is no longer needed. The giant population of Canada geese is well established in the area. The Crex Meadows Wildlife Area has a large refuge area which will continue to provide protection to the local nesting population. By eliminating the subzone, the Crex Meadows Wildlife Area, except for the refuge portion, will become open to Canada goose hunting during all Canada goose seasons, thus providing additional Canada goose hunting opportunity to hunters in the area. Originally, the Fish Lake Wildlife Area, located south of Crex Meadows was included in the Subzone and was removed from the subzone in 1978. Fish Lake WA has an extensive refuge area. Despite having removed this property from the Subzone in the 1978, it continues to support an excellent local breeding population of Canada geese and the Fish Lake Wildlife Area provides excellent Canada goose hunting on public lands.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Polk County on April 13 2009, recommends that the full Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action by introducing a rule change to eliminate the Burnett County Canada Goose Subzone.

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