

70211

Title: Fall fishing at Mekan Springs

The Problem:

Boating and fishing at Mekan Springs in Waushara County is prohibited after September 1. This was done many years ago to create a refuge in conjunction with a refuge at Greenwood Wildlife Area to protect a flock of non-migratory (giant) Canada geese. Giant Canada geese are very prevalent now to the point that they have overpopulated some areas and the formerly unique nature of the Mekan flock has been eliminated. In conjunction with this the use of Greenwood Wildlife Area as a refuge for the geese has been discontinued. Closing Mekan Springs to fishing as of September 1 no longer serves its original purpose and no other avian species exists at the springs to warrant special protection provided by the September 1 closure. This concern has been discussed with the local DNR staff and the chair of the local Conservation Congress.

Opportunities to fish at Mekan Springs in the fall will provide anglers with an additional resource and not harm the function of Mekan Springs as a State Natural Area. Also other boaters would be able to use the springs for fall recreation.

Be it resolved that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in Waushara County on April 11, 2011 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the Department of Natural Resources to take action to allow fishing and boating access at Mekan Springs in the fall.

John Shillinglaw

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This resolution is introduced in Waushara County



John Shillinglaw