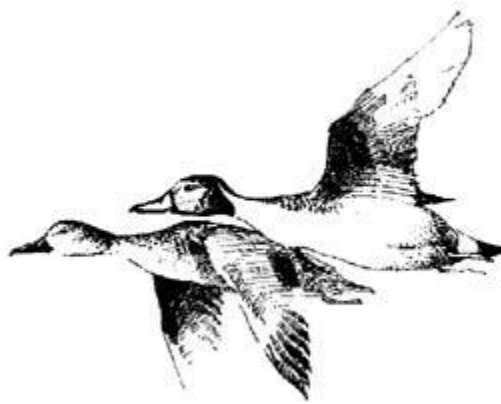


Duck and Coot Zones and Dark Goose Units Recommendations
FOR
The 2026-2030 Waterfowl Seasons

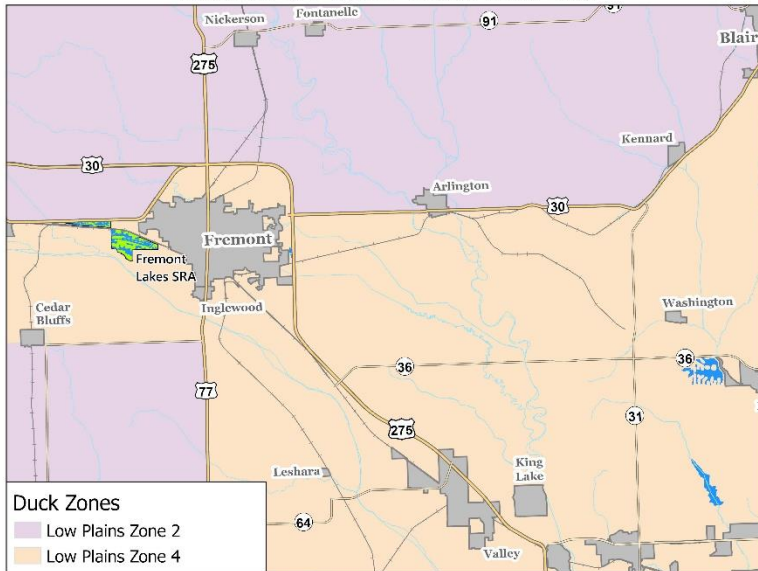


NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
June 13, 2025

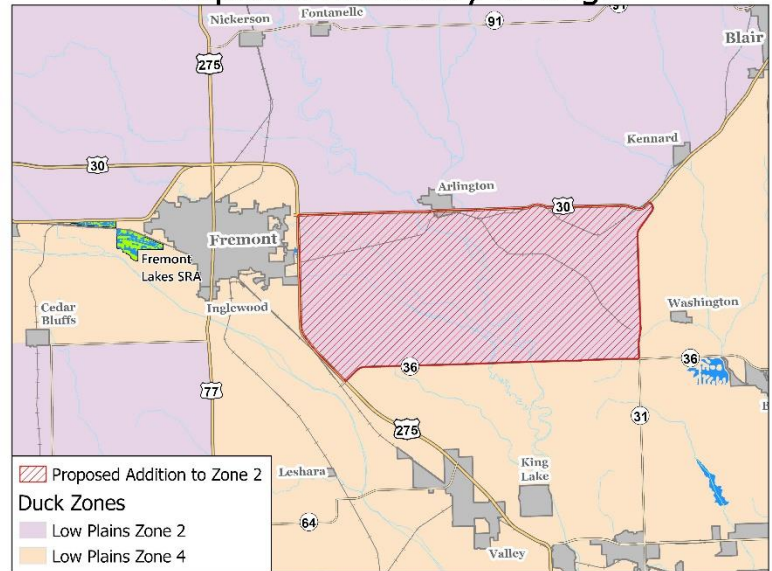
Duck Zone Current and Proposed Boundary Modifications

(Proposed Changes in Red)

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

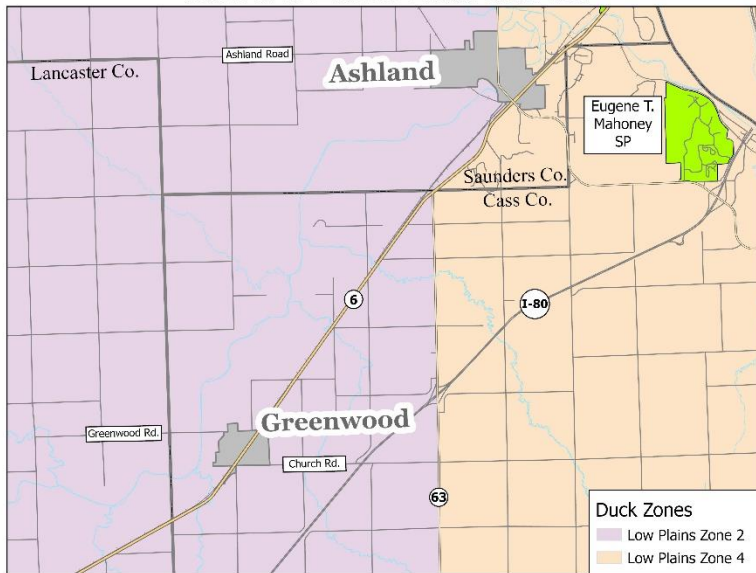


Description: Move Zone 2 south to HWY 36 east of Fremont in Dodge County.

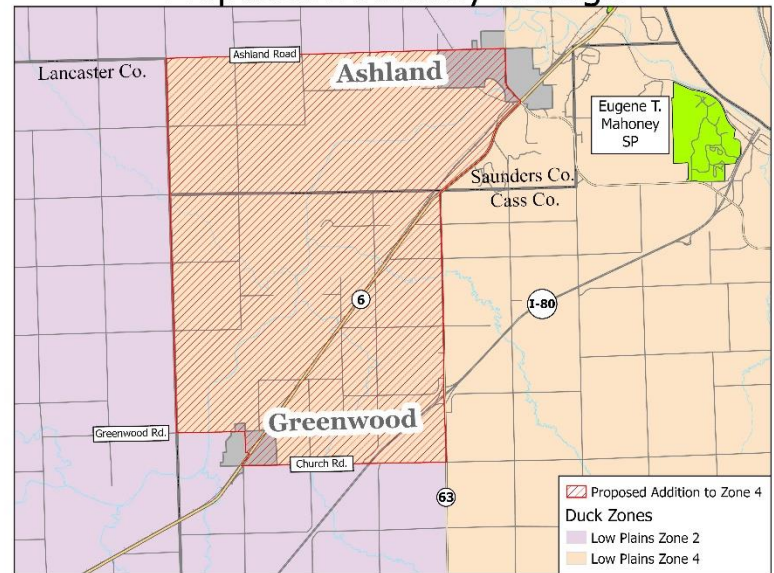
Current: ... east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border...

Proposed: ... east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; **east to U.S. Hwy 275; south to NE Hwy 36; east to NE Hwy 31; north to U.S. Hwy 30;** east to the Iowa-Nebraska border...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

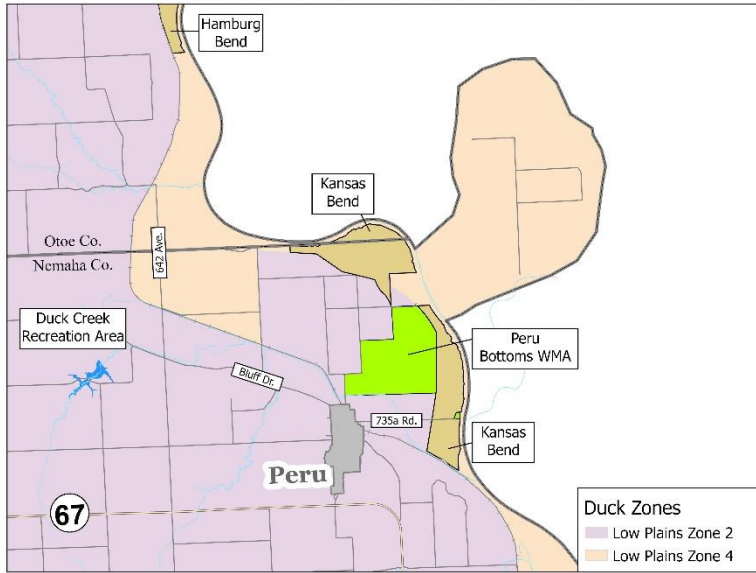


Description: Extend Zone 4 west to N. 190th St, north to Ashland and south to Greenwood in Saunders and Cass Counties.

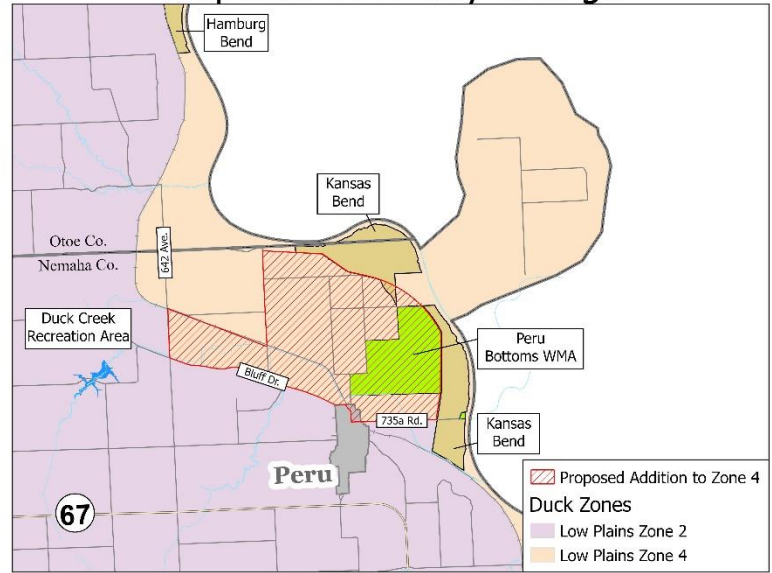
Current: ... north to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63; north to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77...

Proposed: ... north to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63; north to Church Rd; west to U.S. Hwy 6; northeast to 5th St; west to West St; north to Greenwood Rd; west to N. 190th St (Cass/Lancaster County Line); north to Ashland Rd; east to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change



Description: Extend Zone 4 south in Nemaha County to Bluff Drive so that Peru Bottoms WMA and the surrounding area is included in Zone 4.

Current: ... east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to the intersection with Nemaha County Rd 643A; south to the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy 2...

Proposed: ... east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to 735a Rd/Olive St.; west to 5th St.; north and west to Bluff Dr.; west to 642 Ave.; north to the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy 2

Elmwood

1

50

34

29th St

Cass Co.

Otoe Co.

Duck Zones

- Low Plains Zone 2
- Low Plains Zone 4

Elmwood

1

34

50

29th St

Cass Co.

Otoe Co.

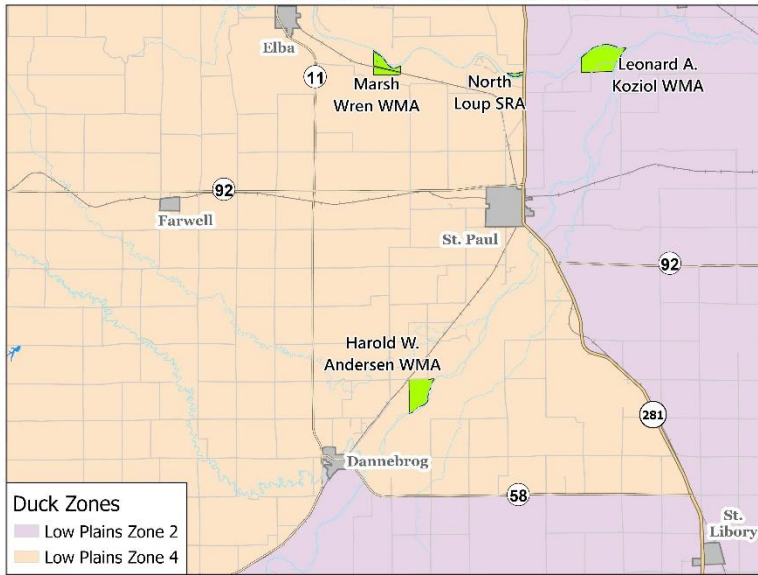
Proposed Addition to Zone 4

Duck Zones

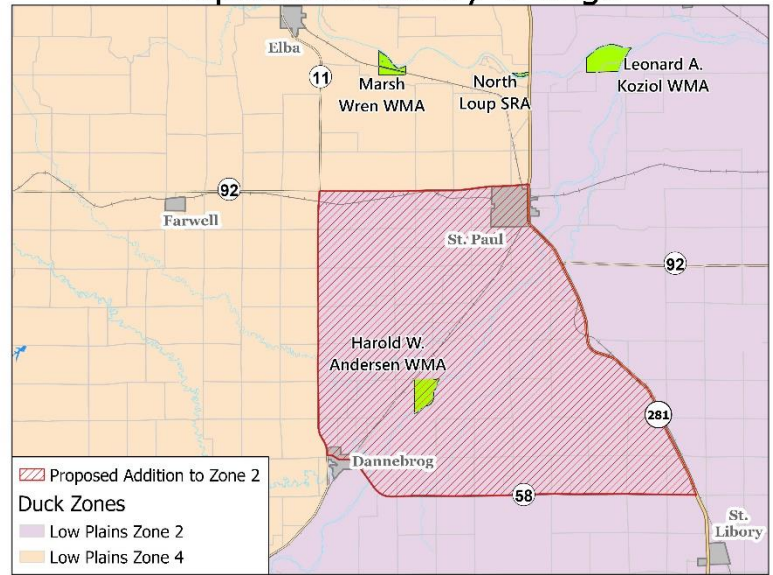
- Low Plains Zone 2
- Low Plains Zone 4

Proposed: ... west to NE Hwy 50; north to Van Dorn St. (Cass/Otoe County Line); west to S. 298th St.; north to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

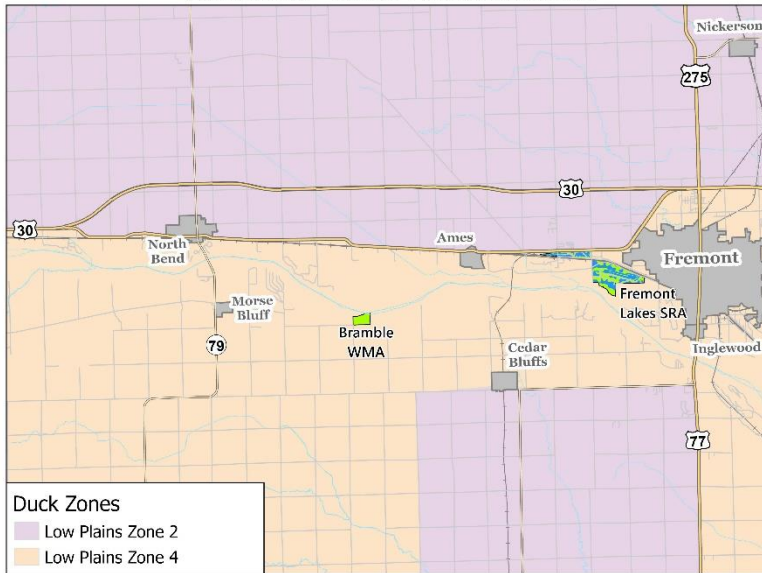


Description: Extend Zone 2 in Howard County west to Highway 11 and north to Highway 92.

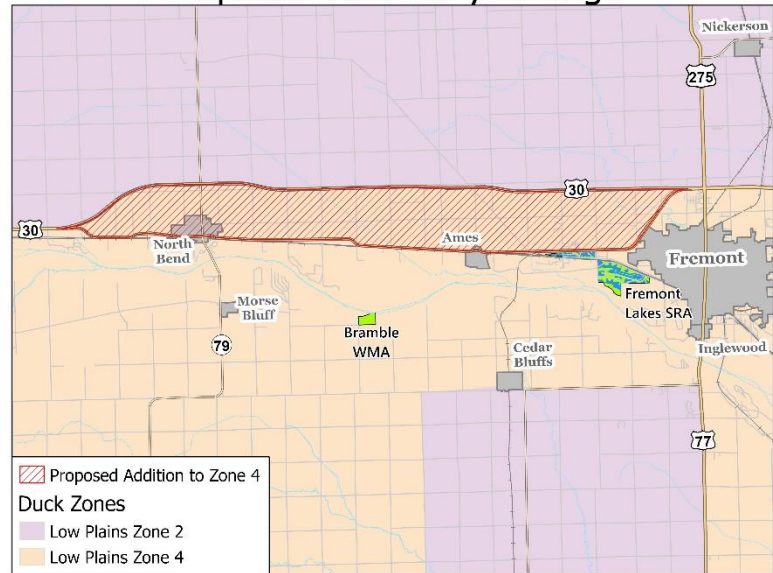
Current: ... west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 58; west to NE Hwy 11; west and south to NE Hwy 2...

Proposed: ... west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy 11; south to NE Hwy 2...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change



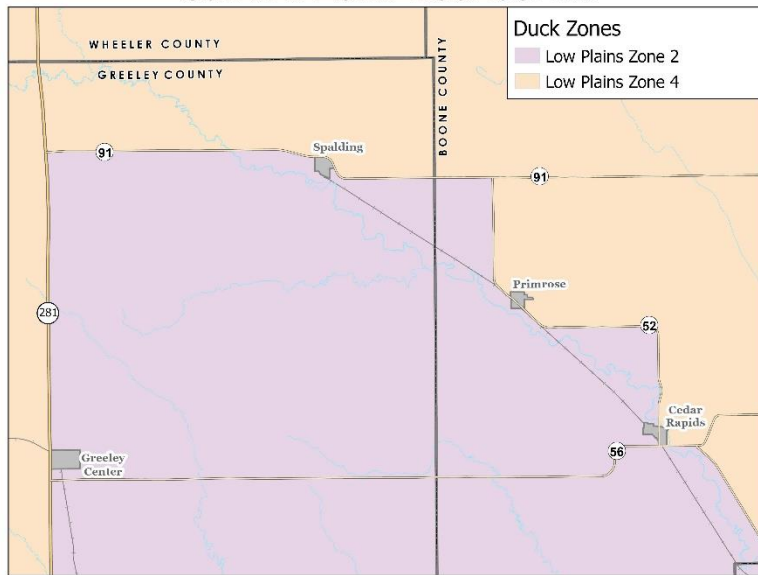
Description: Extend Zone 4 in Dodge County north to new Highway 30 bypass.

Note: An addition to Highway 30 was constructed to bypass North Bend and Ames. The proposed boundary would follow this new bypass section. The old highway is labelled as Platte River Road or US-30 Business. Accepting the proposed boundary change would not require a change to the boundary description.

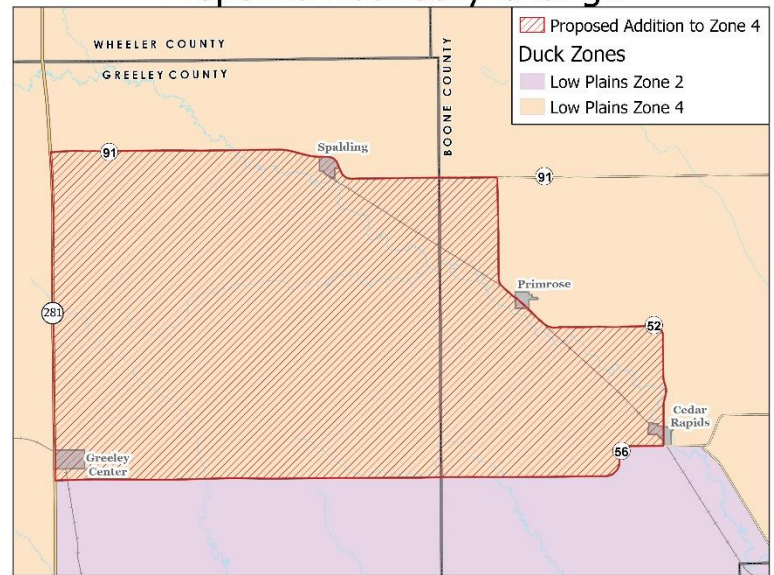
Current: ...east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border...

Proposed:...east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to the Iowa- Nebraska border...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

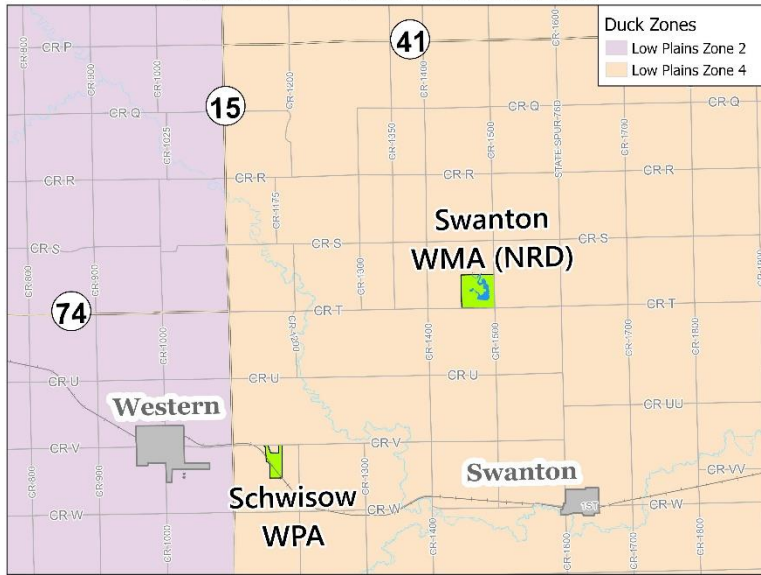


Description: Extend Zone 4 south in Greeley and Boone Counties to Highway 56.

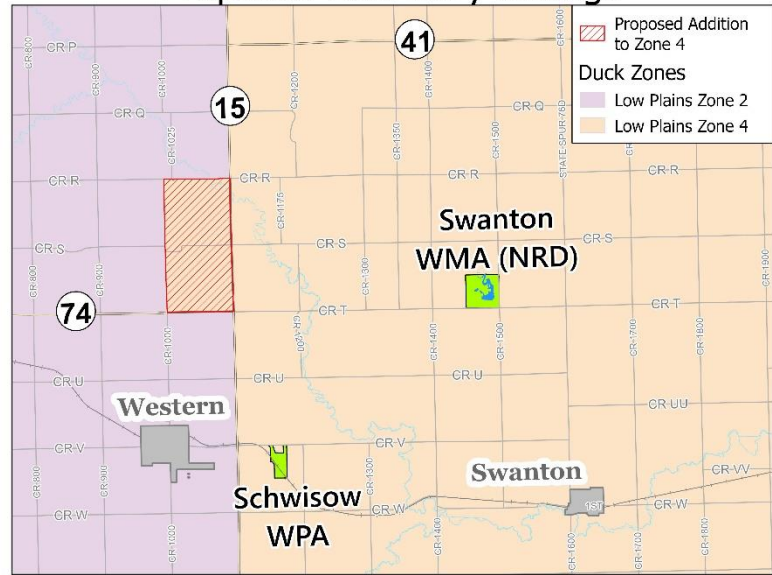
Current: ...north to NE Hwy 52; west and north to NE Hwy 91; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 58

Proposed: ...north to NE Hwy 52; **west and north to NE Hwy 56**; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 58...

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

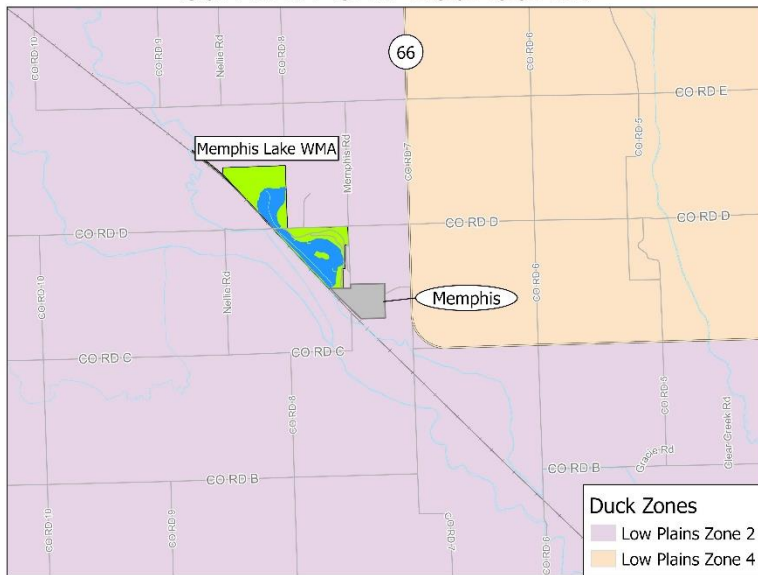


Description: Extend Zone 4 in Saline County between Highway 74 and County Road R west to County Road 1000.

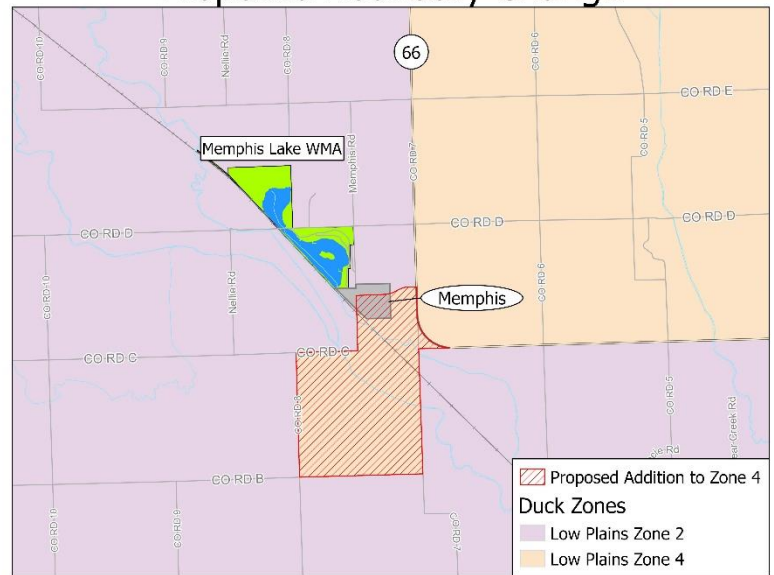
Current: ...east to NE Hwy 15; north to U.S. Hwy 6...

Proposed: ...east to NE Hwy 15; north to NE Hwy 74; west to Saline County Road 1000; north to Saline County Road R; east to NE Hwy 15; north to U.S. Hwy 6

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

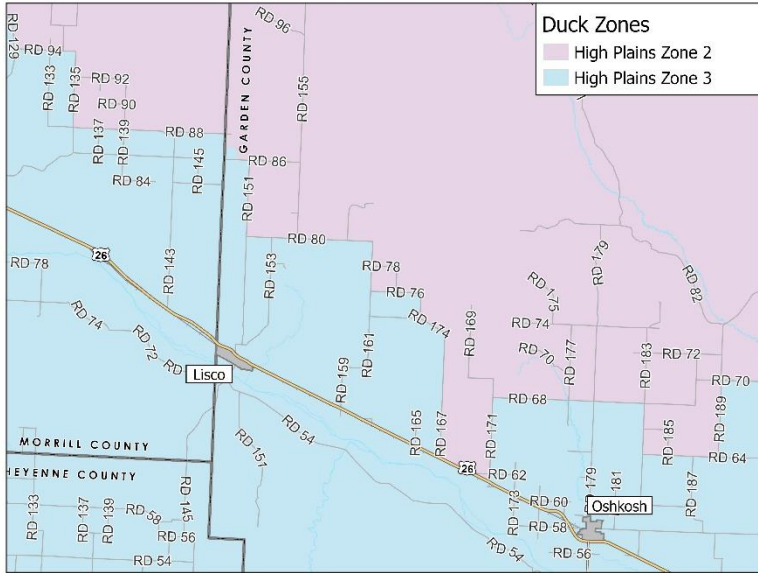


Description: Extend Zone 4 in Saunders County south of the town of Memphis from Highway 66 southwest to County Road 8 and County Road B.

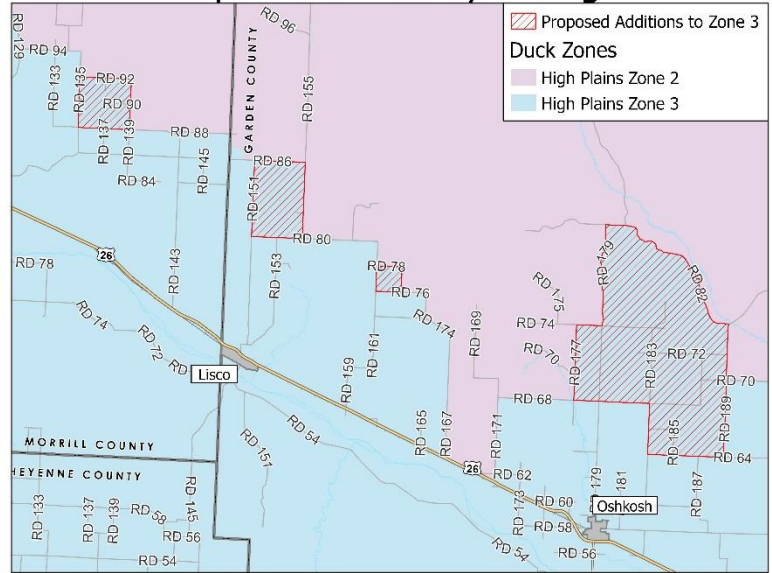
Current: ...west to NE Hwy 63; north to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77...

Proposed: ...west to NE Hwy 63; north to NE Hwy 66; **north and west to Saunders County Road C; west to Saunders County Road 7; south to Saunders County Road B; west to Saunders County Road 8; north to Saunders County Road C; east to Memphis Rd.; north to Galena St./NE-78C-Spur; east to NE Hwy 66; north and west to U.S. Hwy 77...**

Current Zone Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change



Description: Extend Zone 3 in four areas of Morrill and Garden Counties to add agricultural fields to Zone 3.

Current: ...south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; south to County Rd 88; east to County Rd 147; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 86; east to County Rd 151; south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; east to County Rd 183; south to County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north to County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201...

Proposed: ... south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; **south to County Rd 92;** **east to County Rd 139;** south to County Rd 88; east to County Rd 147; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 86; east to County Rd **155;** south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd **78;** **east to County Rd 163;** south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; **east to County Rd 177;** **north to County Rd 74;** **east to NE Hwy 27/County Rd 179;** **north to County Rd 82;** east to County Rd 189; **south** to County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201...

Zone 1

Zone 2

Zone 3

High Plains Boundary

N

Current: Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border at U.S. Hwy 183; south along Hwy 183 to NE Hwy 12; east to NE Hwy 137; south to U.S. Hwy 20; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to the Niobrara River; east along the Niobrara River to the Boyd County Line; north along the Boyd County line to NE Hwy 12; east to NE 26E Spur; north along the NE 26E Spur to the Ponca State Park boat ramp; north and west along the Missouri River to the Nebraska-South Dakota border; west along the Nebraska-South Dakota border to U.S. Hwy 183. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd Counties east of U.S. Hwy 183 shall be included in Zone 1.

Proposed: ~~Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border at U.S. Hwy 183; south along Hwy 183 to NE Hwy 12; east to NE Hwy 137; south to U.S. Hwy 20; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to the Niobrara River; east along the Niobrara River to the Boyd County Line; north along the Boyd County line to NE Hwy 12; east to NE 26E Spur; north along the NE 26E Spur to the Ponca State Park boat ramp; north and west along the Missouri River to the Nebraska-South Dakota border; west along the Nebraska-South Dakota border to U.S. Hwy 183. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd Counties east of U.S. Hwy 183 shall be included in Zone 1.~~

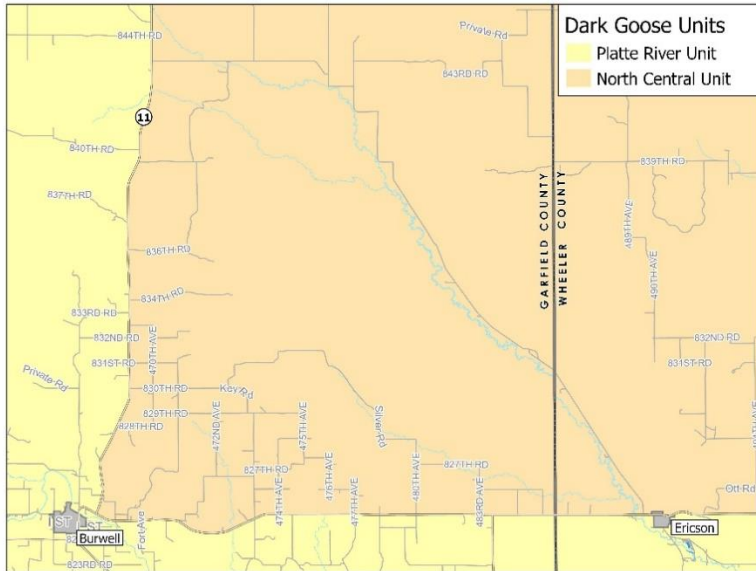
Justification

Zone 1 was created in 1981 and has undergone minimal changes over the last 44 years. In addition to increasing sedimentation from the Niobrara River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers begins to drop water levels the week prior to Thanksgiving through the first week of December resulting in most of the boat ramps west of Lewis and Clark Lake becoming unusable. Generally, the Missouri River west of Lewis and Clark Lake freezes up within the first couple of weeks of December according to district staff.

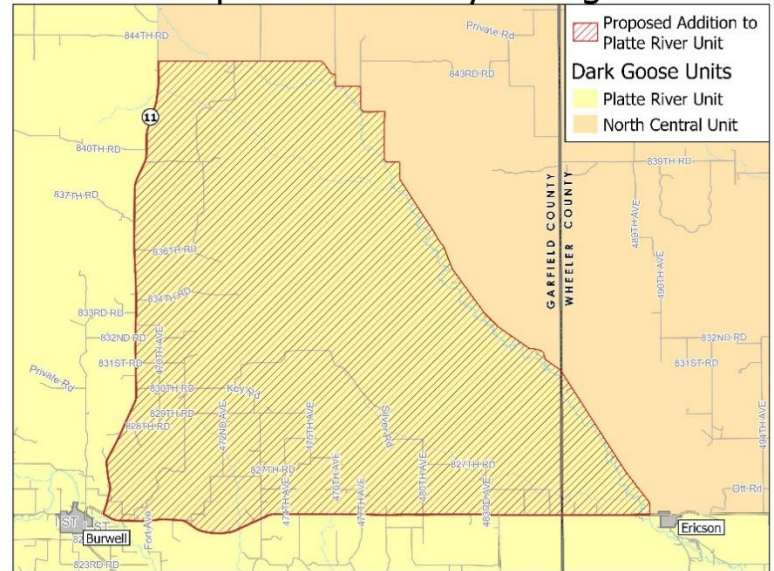
Due to the timing of decreasing water levels and freeze up, connecting Zone 1 with Zone 4 would limit hunting opportunity as Zone 4 has historically opened the last weekend in October while Zone 2 opens the first weekend in October. Opening the Zone 1 area in early October ensures more huntable days on the river and surrounding area. However, Zone 1 peak mallard migration is late November while Zone 2 typically closes around December 15th. Those that field hunt along portions of the Niobrara and the lower Missouri River will likely advocate for more December hunting days. Results from the February 2025 rezoning survey indicate that 52% of Zone 1 hunters that had a preference, prefer to be absorbed by Zone 2 as opposed to 27% who would prefer being included in Zone 4. 22% preferred to maintain the current zone configuration. Thus, staff recommend that Duck Zone 2 absorb all of Duck Zone 1. Over the next 5 years, staff will monitor input provided by hunters and suggest new changes in 2029/2030, if appropriate.

Dark Goose Unit Current and Proposed Boundary Descriptions (Proposed Changes in Red)

Current Unit Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

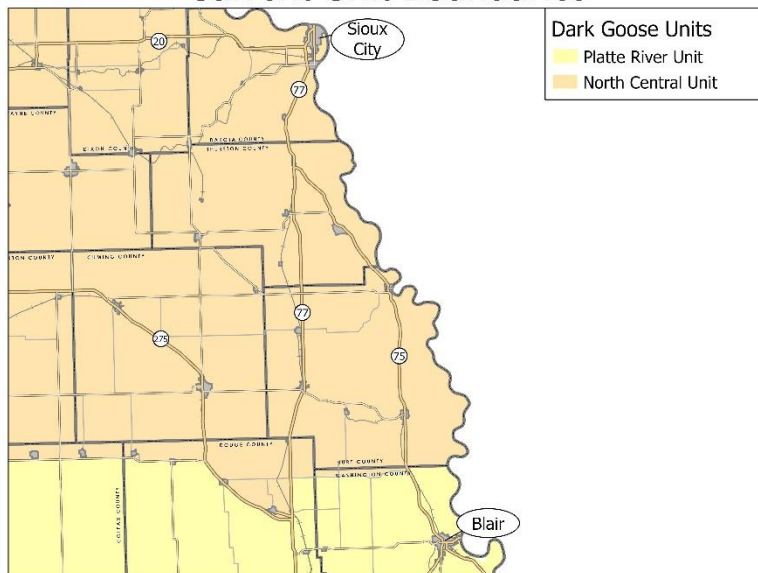


Description: Extend the Platte River Unit northeast in Garfield and Wheeler Counties to Cedar River Road between Highway 11 and Highway 9.

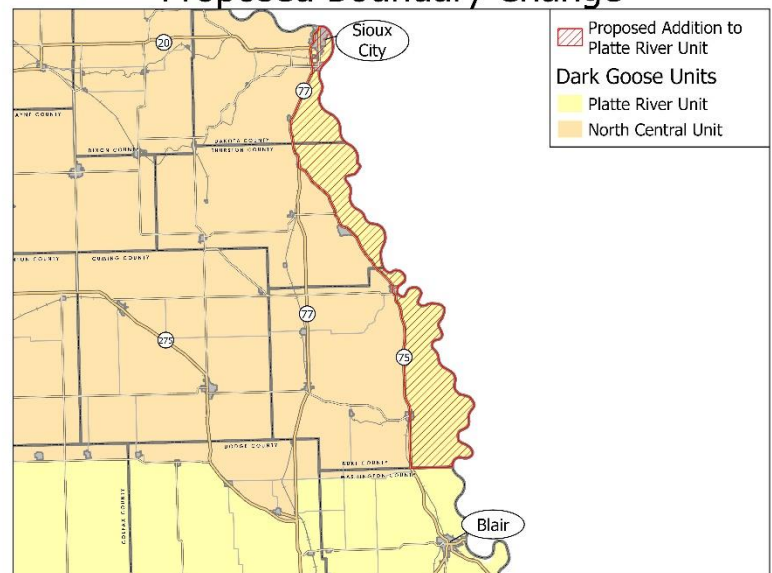
Current: ... west to U.S. Hwy 281, south to NE Hwy 70, west along NE Hwy 70/91 to NE Hwy 11, north to the Holt County line ...

Proposed: ... west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 91; west to Cedar River Rd; north and west to NE Hwy 11; north to the Holt County line...

Current Unit Boundaries



Proposed Boundary Change

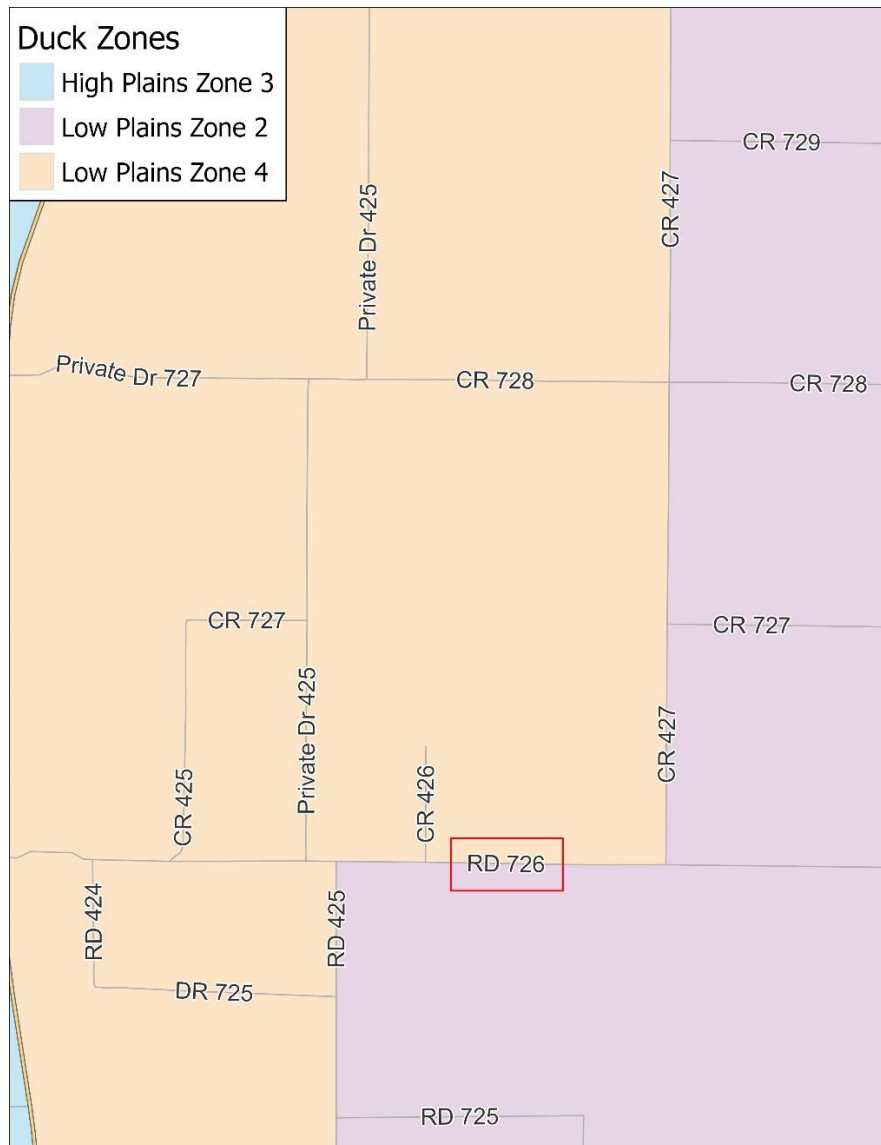


Description: The Platte River Unit will extend north along the Missouri River, east of HWY 77 and HWY 75 to South Sioux City.

Current: ...north along the Nebraska-Missouri and Nebraska-Iowa borders to the Burt-Washington Counties line, west along the Burt-Washington Counties line to U.S. Hwy 75, south to Dodge County Road 4/Washington County Road 4, west to U.S. Hwy 77...

Proposed: ... north along the Nebraska-Missouri and Nebraska-Iowa borders to U.S. Hwy 77; south to U.S. Hwy 75; south to Washington County Road 4/Dodge County Road F, west to U.S. Hwy 77...

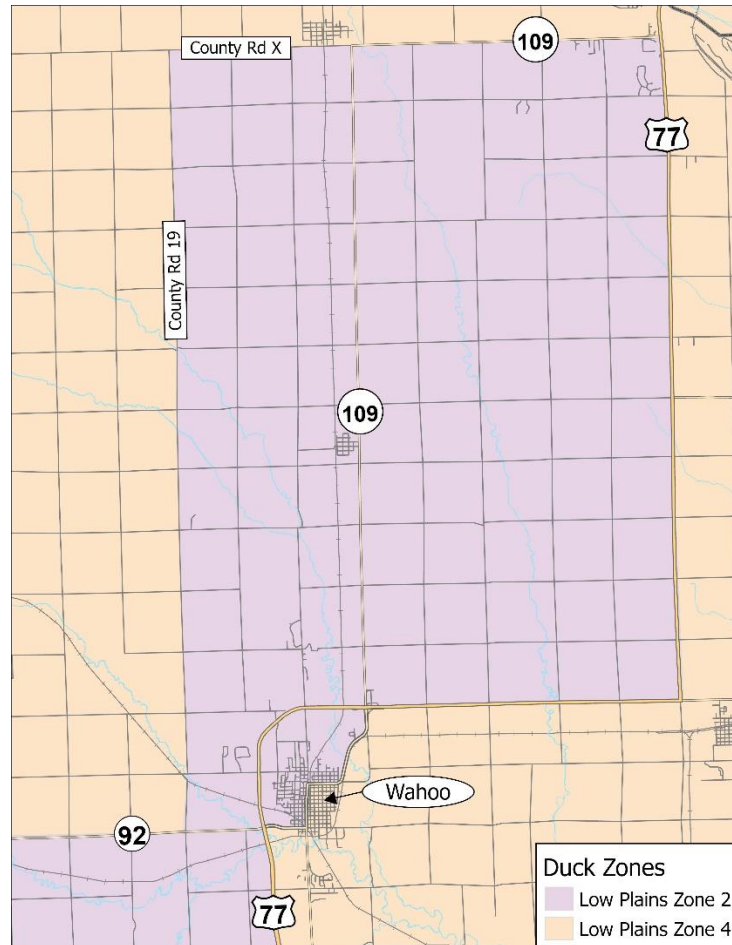
Current Descriptions That Need Cleaned Up



Description: In the current description of the Zone 4 boundary in Furnas County, County Road 276 is listed rather than County Road 726.

Current: ...east to Gosper County Rd 427; south to Furnas County Rd 276; west to Furnas County Rd 425.5/425; south to U.S. Hwy 34...

Corrected: ... east to Gosper County Rd 427; south to Furnas County Rd **726**; west to Furnas County Rd 425.5/425; south to U.S. Hwy 34...



Description: The current written description of the Zone 4 Boundary near Wahoo is ambiguous. In an effort to make the written boundary more understandable, a modification in wording is being suggested. This modification does not affect the actual placement of the boundary line.

Current: ...north and west to U.S. Hwy 77; north to NE Hwy 109; west along NE Hwy 109 and Saunders County Rd X to Saunders County 19; south to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy Spur 12F...

Corrected: ...north and west to U.S. Hwy 77; north to W 1st Street; east to N Chestnut Street; north to E 12th Street/Old Highway 77; northeast to U.S. Hwy 77; east and north to NE Hwy 109/Saunders County Rd X; west to Saunders County Rd 19; south to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy Spur 12F...

Complete Duck and Coot Zone and Dark Goose Unit Written Recommendations

Duck and Coot Zone Boundaries

High Plains: That portion of Nebraska lying west of a line beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border on U.S. Hwy 183; south on U.S. Hwy 183 to U.S. Hwy 20; west on U.S. Hwy 20 to NE Hwy 7; south on NE Hwy 7 to NE Hwy 91; southwest on NE Hwy 91 to NE Hwy 2; southeast on NE Hwy 2 to NE Hwy 92; west on NE Hwy 92 to NE Hwy 40; south on NE Hwy 40 to NE Hwy 47; south on NE Hwy 47 to NE Hwy 23; east on NE Hwy 23 to U.S. Hwy 283; and south on U.S. Hwy 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border.

~~Zone 1: Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways and political boundaries beginning at the South Dakota-Nebraska border at U.S. Hwy 183; south along Hwy 183 to NE Hwy 12; east to NE Hwy 137; south to U.S. Hwy 20; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to the Niobrara River; east along the Niobrara River to the Boyd County Line; north along the Boyd County line to NE Hwy 12; east to NE 26E Spur; north along the NE 26E Spur to the Ponca State Park boat ramp; north and west along the Missouri River to the Nebraska-South Dakota border; west along the Nebraska-South Dakota border to U.S. Hwy 183. Both banks of the Niobrara River in Keya Paha and Boyd Counties east of U.S. Hwy 183 shall be included in Zone 1.~~

Zone 2: Those areas of the State that are not contained in Zones 1 or 3, ~~or~~ 4.

Zone 3: Area bounded by designated Federal and State highways, County roads, and political boundaries beginning at the Wyoming-Nebraska border at its northernmost intersection with the Interstate Canal; southeast along the Interstate Canal to the northern border of Scotts Bluff County; east along northern borders of Scotts Bluff and Morrill Counties to Morrill County Road 125; south to Morrill County Rd 94; east to County Rd 135; south to County Rd 92; east to County Rd 139; south to County Rd 88; east to County Rd 147; south to County Rd 88; southeast to County Rd 86; east to County Rd ~~151~~ 155; south to County Rd 80; east to County Rd 161; south to County Rd 78; east to County Rd 163; south to County Rd 76; east to County Rd 165; south to County Rd 167; south to U.S. Hwy 26; east to County Rd 171; north to County Rd 68; east to County Rd ~~183~~ 177; north to County Rd 74; east to NE Hwy 27/County Rd 179; north to County Rd 82; east to County Rd 189; south ~~County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north County Rd 64; east to County Rd 189; north~~ to County Rd 70; east to County Rd 201; south to County Rd 60A; east to County Rd 203; south to County Rd 52; east to Keith County Line; north along the Keith County line to the northern border of Keith County; east along the northern boundaries of Keith and Lincoln Counties to NE Hwy 97; south to U.S. Hwy 83; south to E Hall School Rd; east to North Airport Road; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to NE Hwy 47; south to NE Hwy 23; east on NE Hwy 23 to U.S. Hwy 283; south on U.S. Hwy 283 to the Kansas-Nebraska border; west along Kansas-Nebraska border to the Nebraska-Colorado border;

north and west to the Wyoming-Nebraska border; north along the Wyoming-Nebraska border to its northernmost-intersection with the Interstate Canal.

Zone [41](#): Area encompassed by designated Federal and State highways and County Roads beginning at the intersection of U.S. Hwy 283 at the Kansas-Nebraska border; north to NE Hwy 23; west to NE Hwy 47; north to Dawson County Rd 769; east to County Rd 423; south to County Rd 766; east to County Rd 428; south to County Rd 763; east to NE Hwy 21; south to County Rd 761; east on County Rd 761 to County Road 437; south to the Dawson County Canal; southeast along Dawson County Canal; east to County Rd 444; south to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 183; north to Buffalo County Rd 100; east to 46th Ave.; north to NE Hwy 40; east to NE Hwy 10; north to County Rd 220 and Hall County Husker Highway; east to Hall County S 70th Rd; north to NE Hwy 2; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to Chapman Rd; east to 7th Rd; south to U.S. Hwy 30; north and east to NE Hwy 14; south to County Rd 22; west to County Rd M; south to County Rd 21; west to County Rd K; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 2; south to U.S. Hwy I-80; west to Gunbarrel Rd (Hall/Hamilton County line); south to Giltner Rd; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to W 82nd St; west to Holstein Ave.; south to U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 10; north to Kearney County Rd R and Phelps County Rd 742; west to Gosper County Rd 433; south to N Railway Street; west to Commercial Ave.; south to NE Hwy 23; west to Gosper County Rd 427; south to Gosper County Rd 737; west to Gosper County Rd 426; south to Gosper County Rd 735; east to Gosper County Rd 427; south to Furnas County Rd [276 726](#); west to Furnas County Rd 425.5/425; south to U.S. Hwy 34; east to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 10; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 81; north to NE Hwy 4; east to NE Hwy 15; north to [NE Hwy 74; west to Saline County Road 1000; north to Saline County Road R; east to NE Hwy 15; north to](#) U.S. Hwy 6; east to NE Hwy 33; east to SW 142 Street; south to W Hallam Rd; east to SW 100 Rd; south to W Chestnut Rd; west to NE Hwy 103; south to NE Hwy 4; west to NE Hwy 15; south to U.S. Hwy 136; east to Jefferson County Rd 578 Ave.; south to PWF Rd; east to NE Hwy 103; south to NE Hwy 8; east to U.S. Hwy 75; north to U.S. Hwy 136; east to the intersection of U.S. Hwy 136 and the Steamboat Trace (Trace); north along the Trace to the intersection with Federal Levee R-562; north along Federal Levee R-562 to [735a Rd/Olive St.; west to 5th St.; north and west to Bluff Dr.; west to 642 Ave.; north](#) ~~the intersection with Nemaha County Rd 643A;~~ to the Trace; north along the Trace/Burlington Northern Railroad right-of-way to NE Hwy 2; west to U.S. Hwy 75; north to NE Hwy 2; west to NE Hwy 50; north to Otoe County Rd D; east to N 32nd Rd; north to Otoe County Rd B; west to NE Hwy 50; north to [Van Dorn St. \(Cass/Otoe County Line\); west to S. 298th St.; north to](#) U.S. Hwy 34; west to NE Hwy 63; north to [Church Rd; west to U.S. Hwy 6; northeast to 5th St; west to West St; north to Greenwood Rd; west to N. 190th St \(Cass/Lancaster County Line\); north to Ashland Rd; east to](#) NE Hwy 66; north and west to [Saunders County Road C; west to Saunders County Road 7; south to Saunders County Road B; west to Saunders County Road 8; north to Saunders County Road C; east to Memphis Rd.; north to Galena St./NE-78C-Spur; east to NE Hwy 66; north and west to](#) U.S. Hwy 77; [north to W 1st Street; east to N Chestnut Street; north to E 12th Street/Old Highway 77; northeast to U.S. Hwy 77; east and north to NE Hwy 109/Saunders County Rd X; east to](#) ~~north to NE HWY 109; west along NE HWY 109 and Saunders County Rd X to~~ Saunders County Rd 19; south to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy Spur 12F; south to Butler County Rd 30; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 27; west

to County Rd W; south to County Rd 26; east to County Rd X; south to County Rd 21 (Seward County Line); west to NE Hwy 15; north to County Rd 34; west to County Rd H; south to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 81; south to NE Hwy 66; west to Dark Island Trail, north to Merrick County Rd M; east to Merrick County Rd 18; north to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy 14; north to NE Hwy 52; west and north to NE Hwy ~~91~~ 56; west to U.S. Hwy 281; south to NE Hwy 92; west to NE Hwy 58; west to NE Hwy 11; ~~west and~~ south to NE Hwy 2; west to NE Hwy 68; north to NE Hwy L82A; west to NE Hwy 10; north to NE Hwy 92; west to U.S. Hwy 183; north to Round Valley Rd; west to Sargent River Rd; west to Sargent Rd; west to NE Hwy S21A; west to NE Hwy 2; north to NE Hwy 91 to North Loup Spur Rd; north to North Loup River Rd; north and east along to Pleasant Valley/Worth Rd; east to Loup County Line; north along the Loup County Line to Loup-Brown County line; east along northern boundaries of Loup and Garfield Counties to NE Hwy 11; south to Cedar River Road; east and south to NE Hwy 70; east to U.S. Hwy 281; north to NE Hwy 70; east to NE Hwy 14; south to NE Hwy 39; southeast to NE Hwy 22; east to U.S. Hwy 81; southeast to U.S. Hwy 30; east to U.S. Hwy 275; south to NE Hwy 36; east to NE Hwy 31; north to U.S. Hwy 30; east to the Iowa-Nebraska border; south to the Missouri-Nebraska border; south to Kansas-Nebraska border; west along Kansas-Nebraska border to U.S. Hwy 283.

Dark Goose Unit Boundaries

Niobrara Unit: That area contained within and bounded by the intersection of the Nebraska-South Dakota border and U.S. Hwy 83, south to U.S. Hwy 20, east to NE Hwy 14, north along NE Hwy 14 to NE Hwy 59 and County Road 872, west along County Road 872 to the Knox County Line, north along the Knox County Line to the Nebraska-South Dakota border, west along the Nebraska-South Dakota border to U.S. Hwy 83. Where the Niobrara River forms the boundary, both banks of the river are included in the Niobrara Unit.

Platte River Unit: The area bounded starting at the northernmost intersection of the Interstate Canal at the Nebraska-Wyoming border, south along the Nebraska-Wyoming border to the Nebraska-Colorado border, east and south along the Nebraska-Colorado border to the Nebraska-Kansas border, east along the Nebraska-Kansas border to the Nebraska-Missouri border, north along the Nebraska-Missouri and Nebraska-Iowa borders to U.S. Hwy 77; south to U.S. Hwy 75; the Burt Washington Counties line, west along the Burt Washington Counties line to U.S. HWY 75; south to ~~Dodge County Road 4/~~ Washington County Road 4/Dodge County Road F, west to U.S. Hwy 77, south to U.S. Hwy 275, northwest to U.S. Hwy 91, west to NE Hwy 45, north to NE Hwy 32, west to NE Hwy 14, north to NE Hwy 70, west to U.S. Hwy 281, south to NE Hwy 70/91, west to Cedar River Rd; north and west to ~~west along NE Hwy 70/91 to~~ NE Hwy 11, north to the Holt County line, west along the northern border of Garfield, Loup, Blaine, and Thomas Counties to the Hooker County line, south along the Thomas-Hooker Counties lines to the McPherson County line, east along the south border of Thomas County to the Custer County line, south along the Custer-Logan Counties line to NE Hwy 92, west to U.S. Hwy 83, north to NE Hwy 92, west to NE Hwy 61, north to NE Hwy 2, west along NE Hwy 2 to the corner formed by Garden, Grant, and Sheridan Counties, west along the north borders of Garden, Morrill, and Scotts Bluff Counties to the intersection with the Interstate Canal, north and west along the Interstate Canal to the intersection with the Nebraska-Wyoming border.

North-Central Unit: Those portions of the State not in the Niobrara and Platte River zones.