Duck and Coot Zones and Dark Goose Unit Boundary Proposals



June 2025 Commission Meeting Sidney, Nebraska

Timeline

November 2024

- Asked hunters to submit zone boundary proposals
- Most input ever received

February 2025

- Sent out a survey to get hunter opinions regarding hunter submitted proposals that met criteria
- Most input ever received: 4,423 responses (~400 in 2019)

• April 2025

- Targeted survey sent to Missouri River hunters in Dakota, Thurston, Burt & Washington Counties

June 2025

- Commission will vote on zone and unit boundaries as an action item

September/October 2025

- A season date preference survey will be sent out to correspond with new zones/units
- Fall 2026: New zone/unit boundaries go into effect

Duck and Coot Seasons

Zone 1 - Oct. 12 - Dec. 24, 2024

Zone 2 — Oct. 5 - Dec. 17, 2024 (Low Plains); Oct. 5 - Dec. 17, 2024 and Jan. 8 - 29,

2025 (High Plains)

Zone 3 — Oct. 26, 2024 - Jan. 7, 2025 and Jan. 8 - 29, 2025 (High Plains)

Zone 4 — Oct. 26, 2024 - Jan. 7. 2025

Examining the previous season dates for each zone can help with understanding the following hunter proposed changes.

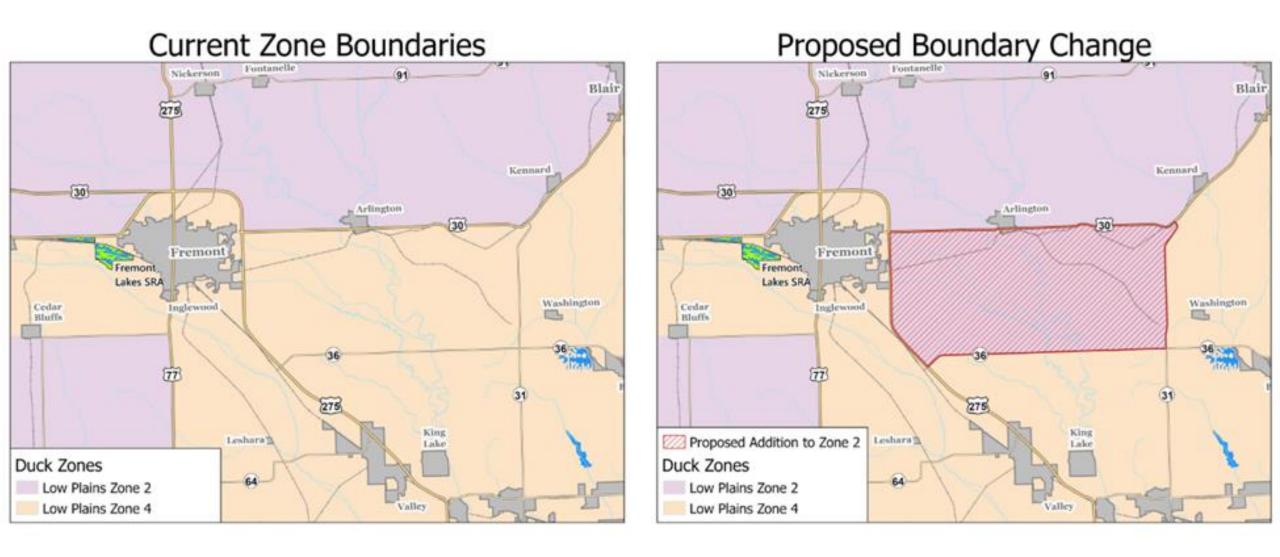


Proposed Boundary Change KEYA PAHA DAWES KNOX CEDAR CHERRY SHERIDAN SIOUX HOLF! BROWN DAKOTA ZONE 2 BOX BUTTE WAYNE THURSTON ANTELOPE GARFIELD WHEELER MADISON STANTON CUMING GRANT HOOKER THOMAS LOUP SCOTTS BLUFF BURT ZONE 1 MORRILL BOONE GARDEN DODGE WASH-ARTHUR MCPHERSON LOGAN GREELEY COLFAX VALLEY BANNER INGTON CUSTER NANCE DOUGLAS SHERMAN HOWARD CHEYENNE KEITH KIMBALL MERRICK SARPY DEUEL LINCOLN CASS YORK BUFFALO PERKINS ANCASTER ZONE 3 ZONE 2 Zone 1 OTOE Zone 2 FRONTIER CHASE HAYES CLAY FILLMORE PHELPS Zone 3 JOHNSON NEMAH GAGE --- High Plains Boundary DUNDY HARLAN FRANKLIN WEBSTER NUCKOLLS HITCHCOCK RED WILLOW

Proposal: Zone 2 will absorb all of <u>current Zone 1</u>. Current Zone 4 will be renamed Zone 1. This will result in Nebraska having 3 Duck and Coot Zones which will allow "splits" to be offered in future duck hunting seasons.

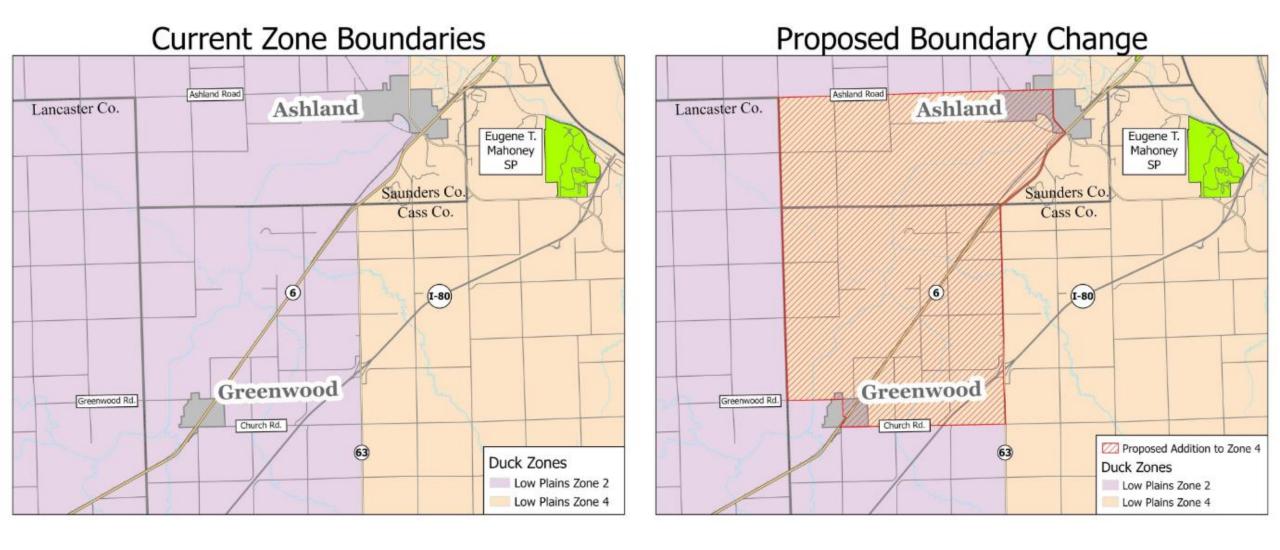
PAWNEE RICHARDSON

Dodge County



Proposal: Extend Zone 2 into Zone 4 east of Fremont and south to HWY 36.

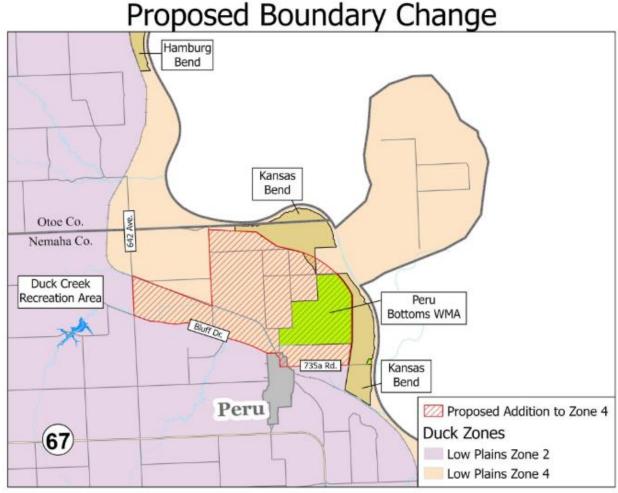
Cass-Saunders County



Proposal: Extend Zone 4 past Ashland and south to Greenwood.

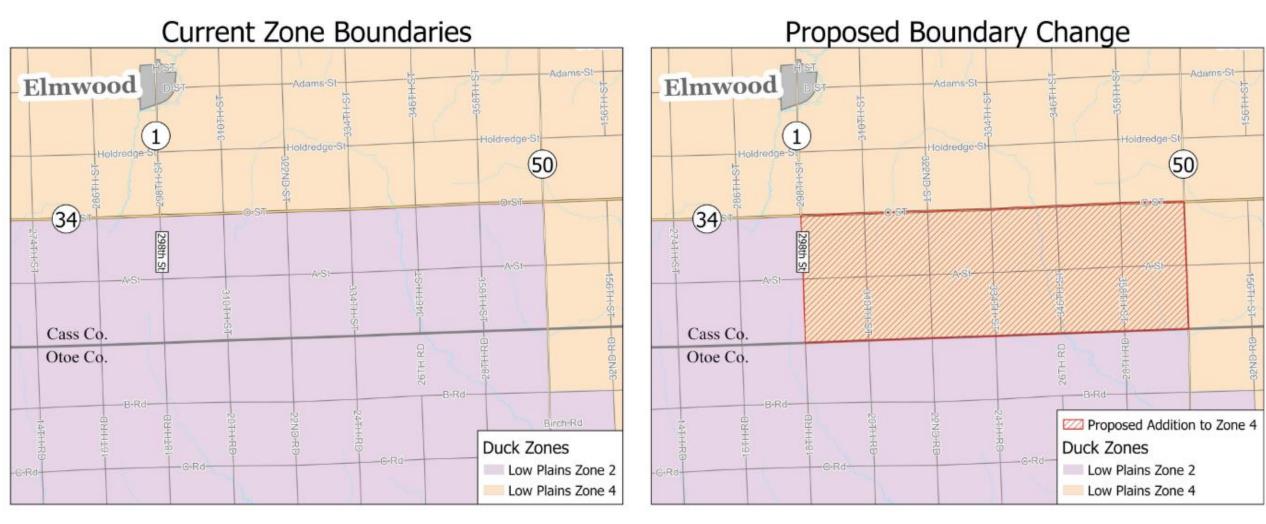
Nemaha County

Current Zone Boundaries Hamburg Bend Kansas Bend Otoe Co. Otoe Co. Nemaha Co. Nemaha Co. Duck Creek Duck Creek Recreation Area Recreation Areal Peru Bottoms WMA 735a Rd. Kansas Bend Peru **67**) **Duck Zones** 67 Low Plains Zone 2 Low Plains Zone 4



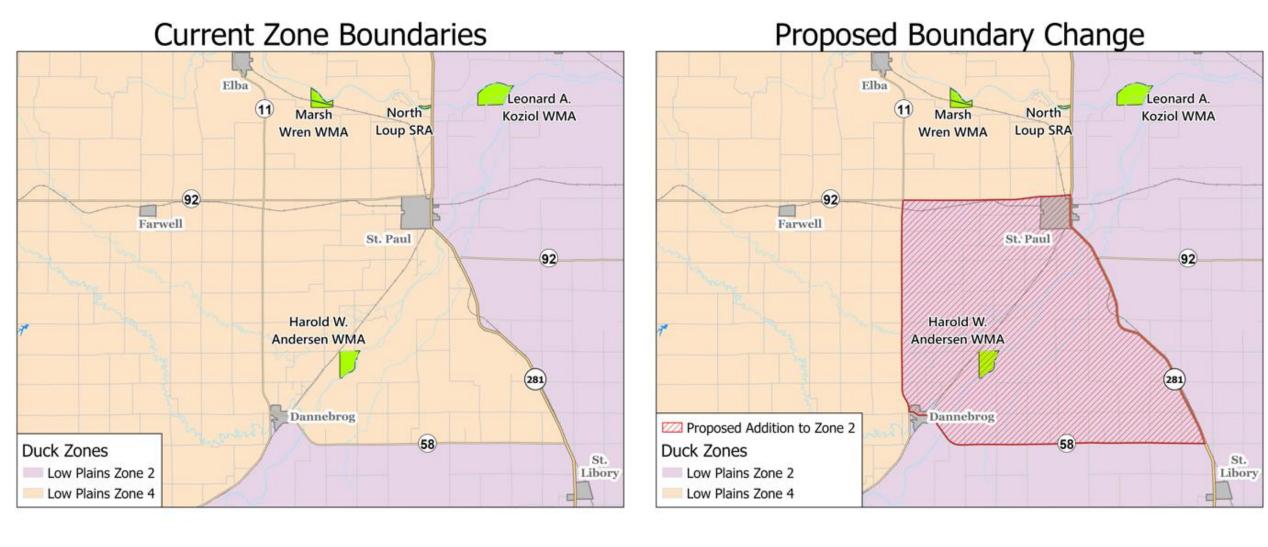
Proposal: Move Peru Bottoms WMA and the western adjacent area from Zone 2 to Zone 4.

Cass County



Proposal: Extend Zone 4 westward between HWY 34 and the Cass/Otoe Co. line south of Elmwood.

Howard County



Proposal: Move a portion of the Middle Loup River south of St. Paul into Zone 2.

Dodge County

Proposed Boundary Change **Current Zone Boundaries** Nickerson Nickerson 275 275 30 30 30 30 Ames Ames North North Fremont Fremont Bend Bend Fremont Fremont -Morse -Morse Lakes SRA Lakes SRA Bluff Bluff Bramble Bramble (79) Cedar Cedar Inglewood Inglewood WMA WMA Bluffs Bluffs 77 77 Proposed Addition to Zone 4 **Duck Zones Duck Zones** Low Plains Zone 2 Low Plains Zone 2 Low Plains Zone 4 Low Plains Zone 4

Proposal: Extend Zone 4 into Zone 2 between old HWY 30 and <u>new</u> HWY 30.

Greely County

Current Zone Boundaries Proposed Boundary Change Proposed Addition to Zone 4 **Duck Zones** WHEELER COUNTY WHEELER COUNTY **Duck Zones** Low Plains Zone 2 COUNT GREELEY COUNTY GREELEY COUNTY Low Plains Zone 4 Low Plains Zone 2 Low Plains Zone 4 BOONE Spalding Spalding 91 91 Primrose Primrose Cedar Rapids Rapids Greeley Greeley Center

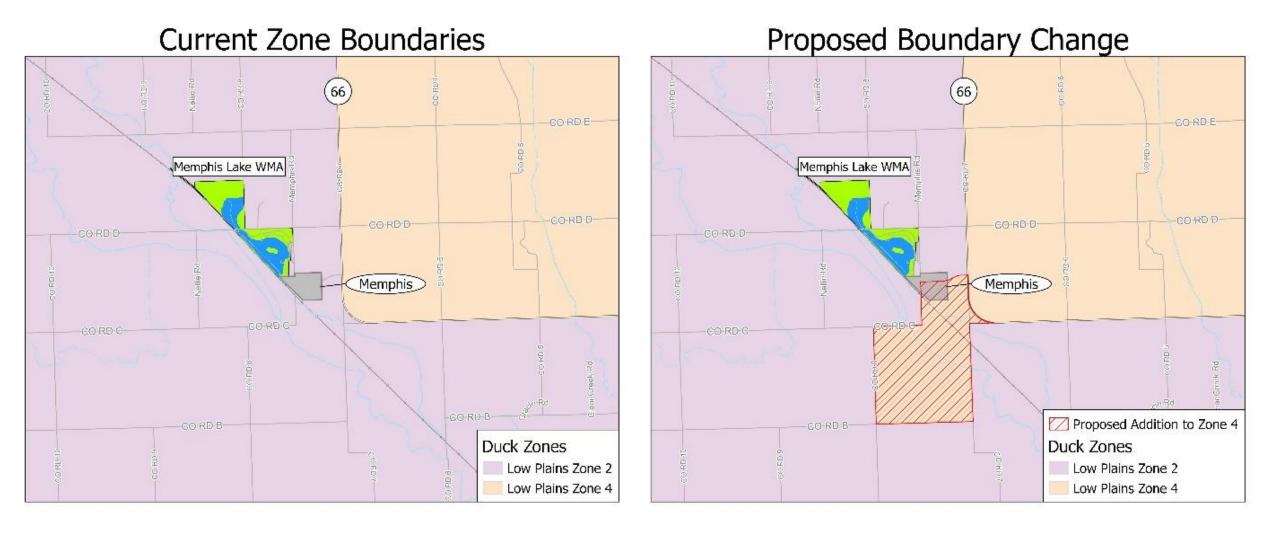
Proposal: Move a portion of Zone 2 from Cedar Rapids to Greely Center and north to Spalding into Zone 4. Area encompasses portion of Cedar River.

Saline County

Proposed Boundary Change **Current Zone Boundaries Duck Zones** Proposed Addition to Zone 4 S CRP Low Plains Zone 2 CR P Low Plains Zone 4 **Duck Zones** (15) (15) Low Plains Zone 2 -CR-Q GR Q -CR Q Low Plains Zone 4 CR-R CR-R-CR-R -CR-R-CR-R-CR-R -GR-R-Swanton Swanton WMA (NRD) WMA (NRD) CR T (74)CR T (74)CR-U-Western Western CR-UU-CR-UU-Swanton Swanton CR-VV Schwisow Schwisow WPA WPA

Proposal: Move Zone 4 westward between HWY 15 & HWY 74

Saunders County

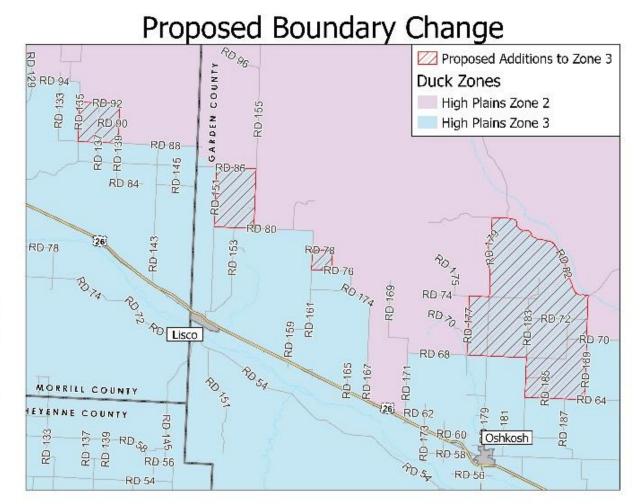


Proposal: Extend Zone 4 into the town of Memphis and southwards.

Morrill and Garden Counties

Current Zone Boundaries RD 129 RD 94 **Duck Zones** OUNTY High Plains Zone 2 High Plains Zone 3 RD-92 RD 88 RD 86 RD 84 RD-80 RD 78 RD-78 Po Lisco **RD 74** © RD 72 RD 70 **RD 68** MORRILL COUNTY RD 64 EYENNE COUNTY

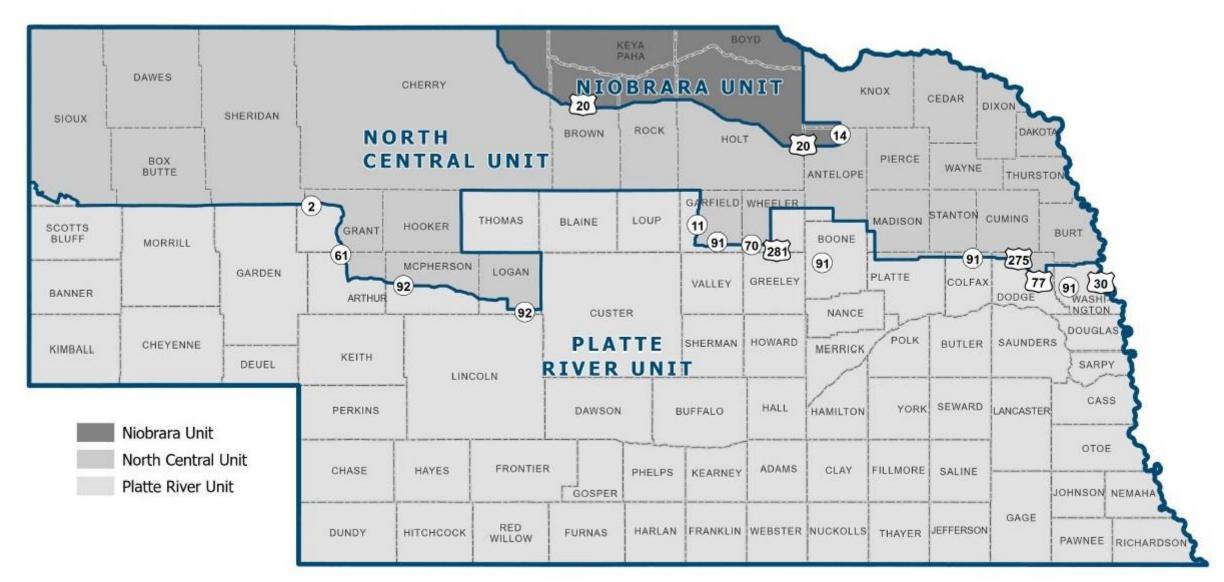
RD 54



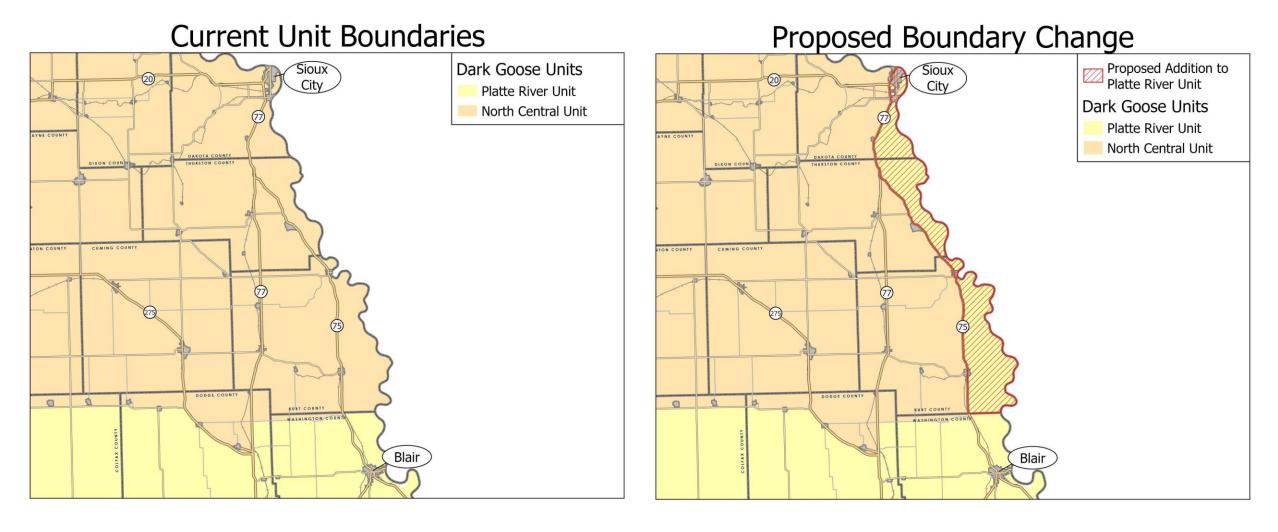
Proposal: Extend Zone 3 northwards into Zone 2 to encompass more agriculture ground.

Dark Goose Units

North Central Unit — Oct. 5, 2024 - Jan. 17, 2025 Niobrara Unit — Oct. 28, 2024 - Feb. 9, 2025 Platte River Unit — Oct. 28, 2024 - Feb. 9, 2025

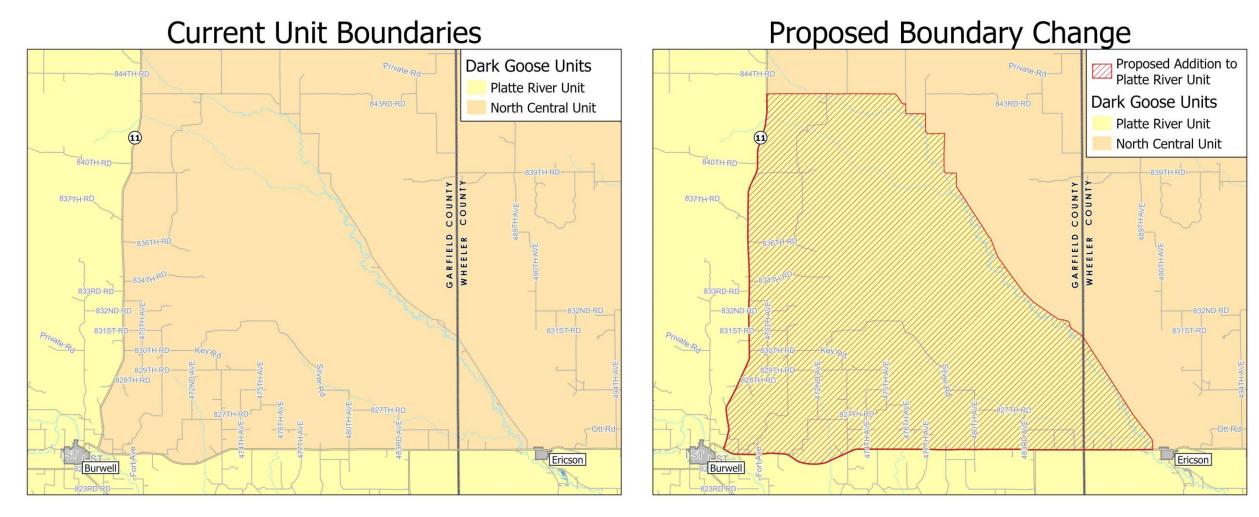


Dakota, Thurston, Burt & Washington Counties



Proposal: Extended the Platte River Unit north, along the Missouri River, to South Sioux City, NE.

Garfield and Wheeler Counties



Proposal: Move a portion of the Cedar River into Platte River Unit from North Central Unit