



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge  
1434 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stafford, KS 67558  
Phone: (620) 486-2393 FAX: (620) 486-2315



May 28, 2015

Tom Bidrowski  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pratt, KS 67124-8174

Dear Mr. Bidrowski,

The Quivira NWR staff and I would like to thank you for sharing information on the public scoping for potential KDWPT Duck Zone Boundary changes. I appreciate the discussion we had at the refuge office, and also during the public meeting held at the KDWPT office in Wichita, KS. We look forward to hearing about the final decision, and will continue to work with your office regardless of what hunt zone changes that may occur.

I would offer a refuge comment toward "not changing" the Low Plains Early and Late seasons as they are currently designated, and would like to see Quivira continue under the Low Plains Late season if some boundary change does occur. The late season is more consistent with Quivira's management goals and objectives because it minimizes disturbance to whooping cranes. We also believe there are fewer disturbances to fall migrant waterbirds overall, even if by a few weeks.

I believe a more significant impact would be realized by hunters who take advantage of Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms being in separate hunt zones. Having both areas in the same hunt zone would decrease hunting opportunity when one or the other is closed (as during a split). Based on our feedback during CCP development, there is general satisfaction with the current waterfowl hunting program.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the potential changes and consider our input. The decision making task on your part will be a difficult one, but we look forward to working with KDWPT on this management decision.

Sincerely,

Mike Oldham  
Refuge Manager, Quivira NWR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service