

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 7, 2013

Ronald "Ronny" Graham
CHAIRMAN

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

The following constitute minutes of the Commission Meeting
and are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

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Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
2000 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808.
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LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
BATON ROUGE, LA
November 7, 2013

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Minutes of October 3, 2013
3. Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege
4. To Hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports October
5. To Establish the Bussey Brake Tract as the Bussey Brake Wildlife Management Area
6. Presentation on Wildlife Management Area Program
7. To Consider Declaration of Emergency to Open Deer Season on Kisatchie National Forest during the Period November 22-28, 2013
8. To Consider Declaration of Emergency for Additional Buck Season Dates in Deer Area 7
9. To Consider a Declaration of Emergency for Fisheries Closures due to the BP Oil Spill
10. Presentation of the Louisiana Duck Stamp Contest Winner
11. Set March 2014 Meeting Date
12. Receive Public Comments
13. Adjournment

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Thursday, November 7, 2013

Vice Chairman Billy Broussard presiding

Pat Manuel
Will Drost
Stephen Sagrera
Dan Davis
Ann Taylor

Secretary Barham was also present

Chairman Broussard called for a motion for approval of the **October 3, 2013 Commission Minutes**. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Manuel. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

For the agenda item, **Commission Special Announcements/Personal Privilege**, there were none heard.

Lt. Col. Joey Broussard stated, for the agenda item, **To Hear Enforcement & Aviation Reports/October**, the department's planes flew a total of 70.5 aviation hours for the month. There were Eight (8) boating accidents reported with Eight (8) injuries and One (1) Fatality. There were 1144 total cases for the month of November with 382 Written Warnings issued and 34 Public Assistance. Three (3) news releases were discussed

First, LDWF Enforcement Division Academy to Enroll 30 Cadets for Training this Fall: LDWF will begin training cadets in December to bolster the ranks of agents in the field in 2014. The 2014 class of graduating agents will fill field office vacancies around the state

The second News Release: Two Louisiana Men Cited for Taking Deer Illegally - Enforcement Agents cited two men in Avoyelles and Rapides parishes for taking deer using illegal methods, possession of illegally taken deer, failing to comply with deer tagging requirements, taking illegal deer during an open season and hunting on Deer Management Assistance Program lands without permission from land owner.

The Third News Release: Four Men Arrested for Night Hunting Violations – Enforcement Agents along with Concordia Parish Sheriff's Office arrested four subjects in Concordia parish for night hunting violations. All four subjects were charged with taking deer during illegal hours, hunting wild quadrupeds during illegal hours, hunting from a moving vehicle and taking deer from a public road

The next item, **To Establish the Bussey Brake Tract as A Wildlife Management Area**, was handled by Mr. Thomas Bates.

Mr. Bates began by stating that by Act of Donation, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission have acquired fee simple title and leasehold rights to certain tracts of

land comprising of ±2,614.44 acres, including water bottoms, situated in the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, known as Bussey Brake. Described herein as, more or less, Sections 22, 24, 26, 23, 25, 27, 34, 35, 36 Township 22 North, Range 5 East and that this property contains valuable fish and wildlife habitat, the protection and proper management of which is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts,

It is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the state and provide for appropriate public use and recreational opportunities on these lands, including water bottoms, that these lands be selected and established as a Wildlife Management Area, (WMA).

It is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission select all State owned lands and leased lands, including water bottoms, located within Bussey Brake as described herein, and all adjacent state owned water bottoms, and establish these lands, including water bottoms, as the Bussey Brake Wildlife Management Area. This property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection of the wild birds, fish, and wildlife and their habitat, and allow such public recreation, including fishing and hunting, which is consistent with these purposes.

There were no questions or comments heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Drost. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the Resolution passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this Resolution is made a part of the record)

RESOLUTION

Bussey Brake Wildlife Management Area

Adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

- WHEREAS, by Act of Donation, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission have acquired fee simple title and leasehold rights to certain tracts of land comprising of $\pm 2,614.44$ acres, including water bottoms, situated in the Parish of Morehouse, State of Louisiana, known as Bussey Brake. Described herein as, more or less, Sections 22, 24, 26, 23, 25, 27, 34, 35, 36 Township 22 North, Range 5 East, and is more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- WHEREAS, this property contains valuable fish and wildlife habitat, the protection and proper management of which is critical to the State's conservation and wildlife management efforts,
- WHEREAS, it is the recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that in order to enhance fish and wildlife habitat in the state and provide for appropriate public use and recreational opportunities on these lands, including water bottoms, that these lands be selected and established as a Wildlife Management Area, (WMA).
- WHEREAS, it is the further recommendation of the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission select all State owned lands and leased lands, including water bottoms, located within Bussey Brake as described herein and more fully described in Exhibit A hereto, and identified on the attached Exhibit B (map), and all adjacent state owned water bottoms, and establish these lands, including water bottoms, as the Bussey Brake Wildlife Management Area.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, in accordance with the laws of the state of Louisiana, particularly Title 56, Sections 109 and 781 of the revised Statutes of 1954, does hereby select all lands known as Bussey Brake comprising $\pm 2,614.44$ acres, more or less, including all water bottoms and adjacent water bottoms owned by the state, as more particularly described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, and establish said lands, including water bottoms, as the Bussey Brake Wildlife Management Area.
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this property shall be used exclusively for wildlife management purposes, and as such, is perpetually dedicated to the protection of the wild birds, fish, and wildlife and their habitat, and allow such public recreation, including fishing and hunting, which is consistent with these purposes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, on behalf of the Commission, to take all actions necessary in furtherance of this resolution.

Billy Broussard, Vice Chairman
Wildlife and Fisheries
Commission

Robert J, Barham, Secretary
Department of Wildlife and
Fisheries

EXHIBIT A

1. (Township 22-Range 5 East) Section 22 – All the E2 of SD sec lying E of the E R/W line of the Texas Gas Transmission Corp. Pipeline Section 23 – N2 of NW of NW, S2 of SW of NW; S $\frac{3}{4}$ of NE of SW; SW of SW; SW of SE Section 26 – all section 27 – all the Eastern $\frac{3}{4}$ th of SD sec lying E of the E R/W line of the Texas Gas Transmission Corp. Pipeline. Section 34 – all of the section lying E of the E R/W line of the Texas Gas Transmission Corp. Pipeline.Less; 5 AC in the SE corridor described as: The S2 of SE4 of SE4 of SE4 sold to Bennet & Company by Deed recorded in conveyance book 69, page 218. Section 35 – W2 of NW; NE of NW, North 10 AC of the NW of SW; North 30 AC of SE of NW; W2 of NE of NE. Contg in the aggregate 1,914.44 Acres.
2. All forest products situated on the following described lands in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, to-wit:
SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 23, Township 22 North Range 5 East, containing 80 acres, more or less.

The property above represents leased portions of the WMA acreage.

3. The following described property is situated in Morehouse Parish, Louisiana together with all buildings and improvements:
The Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; South $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$; Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; North $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$; Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$; South $\frac{1}{2}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$; North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ located in Section 23, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,
The Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 24, Township 22 North, Range 5, East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,
All section lying West of Bayou Bartholomew being Lots 3, 4, 7 and 8 located in Section 25, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,
The East $\frac{1}{2}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 35, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,
Lot 2 located in Section 36, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,
All that part of section lying North of South line of Lot 2 of Section 36 and South of the North line of Lot 3 of Section 25, located in Section 37, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,

It being the intention to include all the property acquired by the seller from James Meek and Shelby Meek by deeds recorded in Conveyance Book 139, Page 146, and in Conveyance Book 177, Page 380, LESS AND EXCEPT 360 acres, more or less, sold to Union Producing Company by seller. Containing approximately 430 acres, together with all buildings and improvements thereon and all appurtenances thereunto belonging,

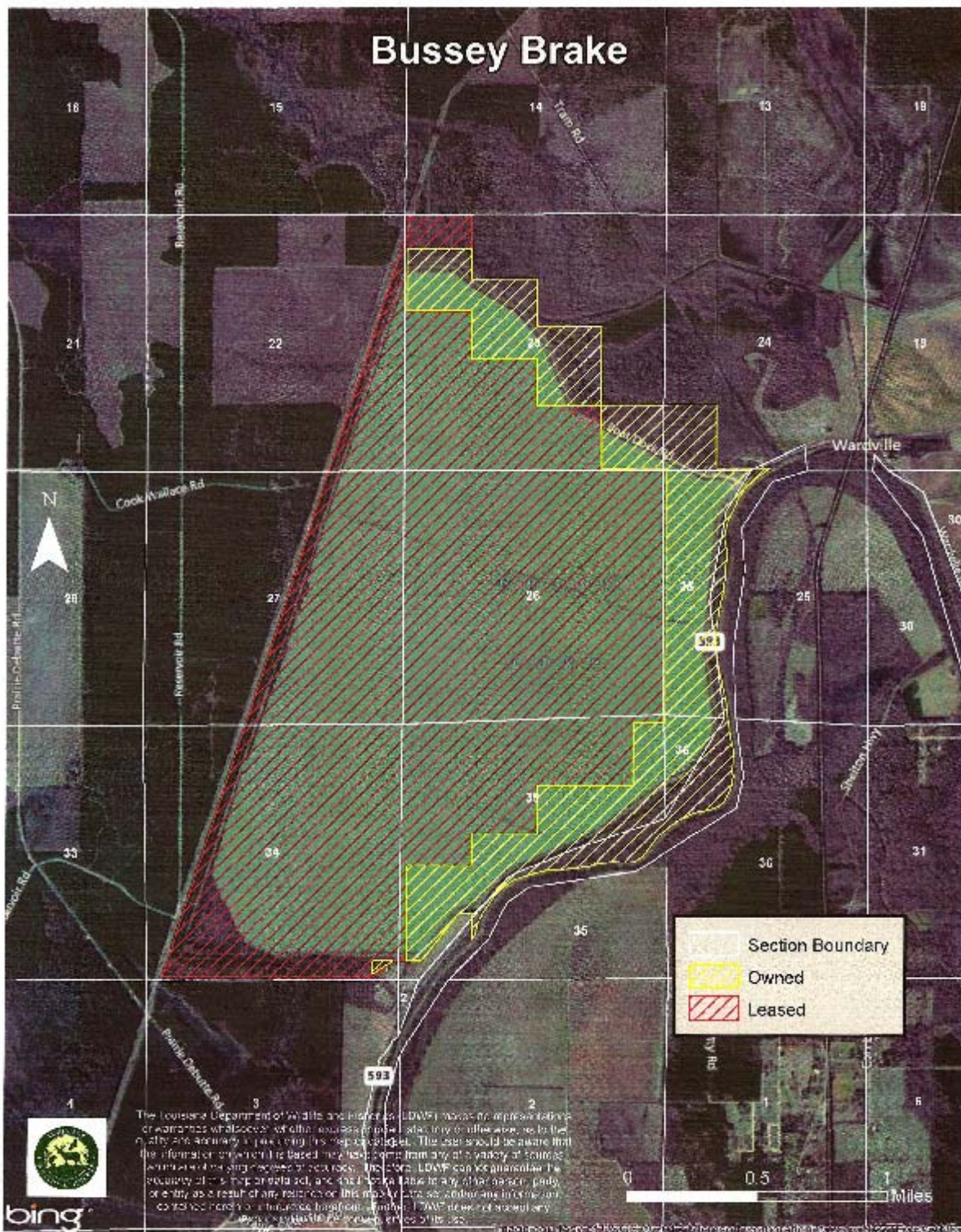
All the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, owned by seller lying North and West of a line described as beginning at a point on the South line of said Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, 663.8 feet West of the Southeast corner thereof, and run thence North 68.5 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, thence North 54 degrees 53 minutes East 470 feet to a point, thence East 280.2 feet to the East line of said forty acre tract located in Section 34, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,

All of Lot 9 or the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ lying North and West of a line described as beginning at a point on the West line of said forty 334.2 feet North of the Southwest corner thereof, thence East 318.3 feet to a point, thence North 37 degrees 43 minutes East 1,639.1 feet to a point on the North line of said forty, thence East on the North Line to the Northeast corner of said forty; the South three-quarter (30 acres) of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$, being all of said land in said forty owned by Seller; Lot 4 or Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$; South one-quarter (10 acres) of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$, being all the land owned by Seller in said forty, Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$; Lot 3 or Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$, Lot 2 or Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$; Lot 1, or Southeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ located in Section 35, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,

Lot 3 or Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$, located in Section 36, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana,

All lying North of the South line of Lot 4 of Section 35 and South of the North line of Lot 3 of Section 36 located in Section 37, Township 22 North, Range 5 East, Morehouse Parish, Louisiana.

EXHIBIT B



Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **Presentation on the Wildlife Management Area Program (WMA)**, to be presented by Steve Smith, WMA Program Manager. Mr. Smith began with a visual Presentation

Presentation Overview

LDWF's Mission and Where the WMA Program fits

What our program offers to users

What our program delivers for conservation

What makes this possible

Where we are headed

WMA Program Mission - LDWF Mission Statement

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education for social and economic benefit of current and future generations; to provide opportunities for knowledge of and use and enjoyment of these resources; and to promote a safe and healthy environment for the users of the resources.

WMA Program Goals

Provide necessary habitats to support game and non-game wildlife.

Provide quality outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.

What the WMA Program Offers to Users

Public Lands in LA

- State and Federal Agencies own and manage 3.3 million acres (9.7%)
- USFS 603,000 acres
- USFWS 600,000 acres
- USACOE 39,000 acres
- NPS 25,000 acres
- LDWF 1.4 million acres
- 4.4% of the state

WMA Ownership- 52 WMAs

- LDWF- 525,627
- Other government agencies- 258,204
- Private- 174,424

Comparison of States across the SE

- LA- 1.4 million acres/680,000 user days
- AL- 775,000 acres/ 160,000 user days (hunting use only)
- TX- 770,000 acres/use data not collected
- AR- 754,000 acres/ use data not collected (additional USFS acreage)
- MS- 665,000 acres/ 227,000 user days

Annual Use Numbers

2012-2013- 480,000 user days (Wildlife Div.)

227,000 user days (CNR Div.)

Wildlife Division

237,000 hunting

98,000 fishing

145,000 other use

CNR Division

63,000 hunting

158,000 fishing

6,000 other use

Deer Hunting on WMAs

Most prevalent use with 76% of all hunters on WMAs hunting deer

Higher than all other use combined

57000 efforts in 2012-13

21% of deer hunters utilize WMAs

Reforestation

Approximately 22,000 acres restored/enhanced across 33 WMAs

Research and Education on WMAs

Currently 34 ongoing research permits issued to Colleges, Universities,

NGOs, and other Government Agencies

Research and Education on WMAs

LDWF research and monitoring

Research and Education on WMAs

Used by multiple High School, College and University classes for education

Research and Education on WMAs

Coastal Roots Program/Terrebonne Leadership Council

Road and Trail Infrastructure

1850 miles of roads/1350 maintained by LDWF

- Infrastructure 703 miles of ATV, ATV/UTV, Handicapped ATV, and Year-Round

ATV trails maintained by LDWF
Goal to make all trails suitable for UTVs
Recreational Trails Program

CNR-33 miles of levees and 25 WCSs
Conservation Partnerships
Other Agencies
NGOs- TCF, TNC
Universities
Personnel-Wildlife and CNR 75 biological and technical staff
Ongoing training and education for staff
Understanding and Adapting to Our Users
User/Hunter Surveys
Infrastructure maintenance and development
Capital Outlay- Bridges
Big Lake, Richard K Yancey, Grassy Lake
Capital Outlay-WMA Facilities
Land Acquisition
Focused on priority habitat types identifies as threatened in the state and as lacking in the WMA system
Longleaf pine, Shortleaf-oak-hickory, Prairie

There were no questions or comments heard

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider Declaration of Emergency to Open Deer Season on Kisatchie National Forest during the period November 22-28, 2013**, to be presented by Mr. Kenny Ribbeck.

Mr. Ribbeck stated, the season dates for deer hunting, with firearms, bucks only, still hunt only, is presently scheduled for Oct 28, November 2-21, November 30 – December 1, and December 14-29, and was based on a November with four weekends. However, this year November has five weekends and Thanksgiving is November 28. In order to provide additional hunting opportunities during the Thanksgiving week holidays, the U.S. Forest Service has requested the additional week of November 22-28 be included in this year's season dates for deer hunting, with modern firearms, bucks only, still hunt only on the following described areas of Kisatchie National Forest: **Catahoula** (Grant and Rapides parishes), **Winn** (Winn, Grant & Natchitoches parishes), **Kisatchie Ranger Districts** (Natchitoches Parish), **Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Rapides Parish), and the **Vernon Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Vernon Parish, excluding Fort Polk/Vernon WMA).

Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts adding the following dates of November 22 - 28, 2013 for deer hunting, firearms, bucks only, still hunt only, on Kisatchie National Forest, within the area noted.

This action must be taken by Declaration of Emergency since the Commission's season date rule has already been submitted to the legislative leadership and the Louisiana Register, and insufficient time remains to make these changes via standard rulemaking prior to the opening dates of these seasons.

There were no questions or comments heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Drost. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2013-14 Deer Seasons on Kisatchie National Forest

In accordance with the emergency provisions of La. R.S. 49953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of La. R.S. 56:115 and 116, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The season dates for deer hunting, with firearms, bucks only, still hunt only, is presently scheduled for Oct 28, November 2-21, November 30 – December 1, and December 14-29, and was based on a November with four weekends. However, this year November has five weekends and Thanksgiving is November 28. In order to provide additional hunting opportunities during the Thanksgiving week holidays, the U.S. Forest Service has requested the additional week of November 22-28 be included in this year's season dates for deer hunting, with modern firearms, bucks only, still hunt only on the following described areas of Kisatchie National Forest: **Catahoula** (Grant and Rapides parishes), **Winn** (Winn, Grant & Natchitoches parishes), **Kisatchie Ranger Districts** (Natchitoches Parish), **Evangeline Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Rapides Parish), and the **Vernon Unit of the Calcasieu Ranger District** (Vernon Parish, excluding Fort Polk/Vernon WMA).

Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts adding the following dates for deer hunting, firearms, bucks only, still hunt only, on Kisatchie National Forest, within the area noted herein:

November 22 - 28, 2013

This action must be taken by Declaration of Emergency since the Commission's season date rule has already been submitted to the legislative leadership and the Louisiana Register, and insufficient time remains to make these changes via standard rulemaking prior to the opening dates of these seasons.

Billy Broussard
Chairman

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider Declaration of Emergency for Additional Buck Season Dates in Deer Area 7**, to be presented by Kenny Ribbeck

Mr. Ribbeck stated that the season dates for Area 7 deer hunting, with firearms, still hunt only, is presently scheduled as follows:

October 19- 20, 2013 (Either-sex)

October 21-November 1, 2013 (Bucks Only)

November 16-17, 2013 (Either-sex)

November 29 – December 1, 2013 (Either-sex)

During the season setting process, it was the intent of LDWF to include the dates of November 9-15 and November 18-28 in the Bucks Only segment of this season. However, these dates were mistakenly left out of the 2013 Notice of Intent, and thus the Louisiana Register. In order to remain consistent with past season lengths and to provide intended additional hunting opportunities during the month of November, LDWF is requesting that the dates of November 9-15 and November 18-28 be included in this year's season dates for deer hunting, with firearms, bucks only, still hunt only in Area 7.

This action must be taken by Declaration of Emergency since the Commission's season date rule has already been submitted to the legislative leadership and the Louisiana Register, and insufficient time remains to make these changes via standard rulemaking prior to the opening dates of these seasons.

Commissioner Manual asked Mr Ribbeck, "Why were the dates left off"? Mr. Ribbeck stated that there are five weekends in November which was over looked but brought to WLF attention by the public. If approved, the dates will be put out through news releases and web postings.

There were no other questions or comments heard. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Davis and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this Declaration of Emergency is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2013-14 Area 7 Deer Seasons

In accordance with the emergency provisions of La. R.S. 49953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of La. R.S. 56:115 and 116, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The season dates for Area 7 deer hunting, with firearms, still hunt only, is presently scheduled as follows:

October 19- 20, 2013 (Either-sex)
October 21-November 1, 2013 (Bucks Only)
November 16-17, 2013 (Either-sex)
November 29 – December 1, 2013 (Either-sex)

During the season setting process, it was the intent of LDWF to include the dates of November 9-15 and November 18-28 in the Bucks Only segment of this season. However, these dates were mistakenly left out of the 2013 Notice of Intent, and thus the Louisiana Register. In order to remain consistent with past season lengths and to provide intended additional hunting opportunities during the month of November, LDWF is requesting that the dates of November 9-15 and November 18-28 be included in this year's season dates for deer hunting, with firearms, bucks only, still hunt only in Area 7.

Therefore, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts adding the following dates for deer hunting, with firearms, bucks only, still hunt only, in Area 7:

November 9-15, 2013
November 18-28, 2013

This action must be taken by Declaration of Emergency since the Commission's season date rule has already been submitted to the legislative leadership and the Louisiana Register, and insufficient time remains to make these changes via standard rulemaking prior to the opening dates of these seasons.

Billy Broussard
Vice Chairman

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Consider Declaration of Emergency for Fisheries Closures due to the BP Oil Spill** to be presented by Mr. Martin Bourgeois

The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

The Commission has granted authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein

A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sagrera and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

(The full text of this Notice of Intent is made a part of the record)

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure
November 7, 2013

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:6.1, the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby closes all commercial fishing, effective immediately November 7, 2013 in the following areas:

Those waters north of 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude from the eastern shore of Southwest Pass of the Mississippi River eastward to a line beginning at 28 degrees 59 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 56 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 23 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those waters north of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 20 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude; and, those waters north of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River westward to -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and southeastward along a line beginning at 29 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 15 minutes 25 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude; and, those waters west of the western shore of South Pass of the Mississippi River south of 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 28 degrees 59 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds west longitude, 2) 28 degrees 58 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 3) 28 degrees 59 minutes 01 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 28 degrees 59 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 10 minutes 15 seconds west longitude; and, those waters east of the eastern shore of South

Pass of the Mississippi River and south of 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude eastward to a line beginning at 29 degrees 01 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 07 minutes 20 seconds west longitude and ending at 28 degrees 59 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 08 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those waters adjacent to but not including Northeast Pass and Southeast Pass of the Mississippi River and bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 08 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 04 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 08 minutes 15 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 04 minutes 50 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 04 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 05 minutes 30 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 05 minutes 10 seconds west longitude; and, those waters south and west of Pass a Loutre of the Mississippi River and east of -89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 25 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 03 minutes 30 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 25 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 09 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 05 minutes 35 seconds west longitude; and, those waters south of North Pass of the Mississippi River bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 55 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 12 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 01 minutes 05 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 11 minutes 35 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 01 minutes 10 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 11 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 02 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude; and,

those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from -89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to -89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, that portion of state outside waters seaward a distance of one mile from the inside/outside shrimp line from the western shore of Caminada Pass at -90 degrees 02 minutes 46.597 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Belle Pass at -90 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds west longitude; and that portion of state outside waters seaward a distance of one-half mile from the shoreline from the southwestern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along the shoreline to the southeastern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 18 minutes 46 seconds north latitude to -89 degrees 51 minutes 19 seconds west longitude.

Recreational fishing is open in all state inside and outside territorial waters, except in the following areas, where only recreational angling, charter boat angling and the harvest of bait by wholesale/retail seafood dealers who hold a special bait dealers permit and who harvest bait for sale to recreational fishermen exclusively, pursuant to the provisions of LAC 76:VII.329 is allowed: those state inside and outside waters adjacent to Grand Terre Island bounded by the following coordinates: 1) 29 degrees 18 minutes 20 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 54 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 2) 29 degrees 17 minutes 10 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 53 minutes 50 seconds west longitude, 3) 29 degrees 15 minutes 40 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds west longitude, 4) 29 degrees 17 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and -89 degrees 57 minutes 20 seconds west longitude; and, those state inside waters in the upper Barataria Basin north of 29 degrees 26 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and south of 29 degrees 29 minutes 00 seconds north latitude from -89 degrees 50 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to -89 degrees 57 minutes 00 seconds west longitude; and, that portion of state outside waters seaward a distance of one mile from the inside/outside shrimp line from western shore of Caminada Pass at -90 degrees 02 minutes 46.597 seconds west longitude westward to the eastern shore of Belle Pass at -90 degrees 13 minutes 30

seconds west longitude; and, those state outside waters seaward a distance of one-half mile from the shoreline from the southwestern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 54 minutes 04 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along the shoreline to the southeastern shore of Grand Terre Island 2 at -89 degrees 51 minutes 39 seconds west longitude; thence eastward along 29 degrees 18 minutes 46 seconds north latitude to -89 degrees 51 minutes 19 seconds west longitude.

The Deepwater Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life.

The Commission hereby grants authority to the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries to open, close, reopen-reclose, broaden or otherwise modify the areas closed and opened to fishing if biological, environmental and technical data indicate the need to do so, or as needed to effectively implement the provisions herein.

Billy Broussard

Chairman

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **Presentation of the Louisiana Duck Stamp Contest Winner** to be presented by Mr. Larry Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated that Tony Bernard of Lafayette, La., captured first place in the 2014 Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp competition sponsored by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). The contest determines the image to be used on what is commonly known as the Louisiana Duck Stamp.

Bernard, who also won the 2007 stamp competition, beat out 20 other competitors. Guy Crittenden of Richmond, Va., who has won the Virginia State Duck Stamp contest three times since 2005 and placed second in last year's contest, placed second again. John Harris of Groveland, Fla., who has won the Florida State Duck Stamp contest three times and placed second in the 1998 Federal Duck Stamp Contest, took third place.

Tony Bernard was born and raised in Lafayette where as a high school junior he recognized his raw artistic talent. With no professional training, he has built a career in the art world that includes commissions to produce original art for local and regional festivals, professional athletic teams, NASCAR and SEC sporting events. In 2008, Tony was commissioned to paint the official portrait of Governor Bobby Jindal that now hangs in the Governor's Mansion in Baton Rouge.

Again this year, the department was impressed with the number of high quality entries said Reynolds. Bernard's painting combined a spectacular depiction of a pair of white-fronted geese, the most targeted species for goose hunters in Louisiana and a highly desirable prize among waterfowl hunters everywhere, with a background of marsh and leaden sky that makes you feel optimistic about the upcoming hunt.

For the fifth consecutive year, LDWF held an open contest that allowed the artist to choose any migratory waterfowl species known to winter in Louisiana other than northern pintails, wood ducks, American wigeon and mallards, which were featured on the 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013 duck stamps respectively.

The Louisiana Waterfowl Conservation Stamp program was established in 1988 by the Louisiana Legislature to generate revenue for conservation and enhancement of state wetlands and other worthy programs that benefit Louisiana's ducks and geese. This program has generated over \$11 million for wetland conservation in Louisiana since 1989, with over \$270,000 from last year's stamp sales alone.

The 2014 stamp, featuring Bernard's work, is expected to go on sale June 1, 2014. The artist will retain the original artwork and will have reproduction rights to the image for prints and other commodities after LDWF has used the image to produce the stamps.

Judges for the competition were Dr. Headley Adelman, Fred Roetker, John Robinette, Randy Caminita and Stephen Gauthier. Dr. Adelman is a retired biology professor at Southeast Louisiana University and artist from Hammond who has both competed in and judged our contest in the past; Roetker is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service waterfowl biologist and survey pilot from Lafayette; Robinette is an artist and retired LDWF wildlife biologist from Lake Charles; Caminita is a professional wildlife artist from St. Tammany who has also competed in this contest many times; and Gauthier is a residential contractor for Ron Gauthier Homes in Lafayette and is the State Chairman for Ducks Unlimited.

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **Set March 2014 Meeting Date**

A discussion took place and the meeting is set for March 6, 2014. A motion for approval was made by Commissioner Manuel and seconded by Commissioner Davis. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

Chairman Broussard announced the next item, **To Hear Public Comments,**

There were Seven (7) Comment Cards turned in – The seven comment Cards all referenced the Honey Island Shooting Range (Pearl River Wildlife Management Area)

Mr. Lanny Ledet spoke on the problems he is having Honey Island Shooting Range – Mr. Ledet stated he live about one hundred fifty yards from the Pearl River Management Area

He stated that all persons entering the WMA have to fill out Cards and the Shooting Range people don't have to fill them out.

Mr Ledet also stated that people are Driving 40 miles per hour through the gates

Ms. Lucy McMullen stated she goes out to Honey Island to hunt. She stated the WMA Closes at 4:00PM and has video of people shooting at 5:30PM. She also stated people are driving too fast through the front which presents a great danger and people do not stop and fill out the permits.

She is upset that kids are not able to hunt deer because of the duck hunters. She would like the Commissioners to please consider changing the hunt times

Mr David Stansbury also expressed concerns over trucks driving too fast through the gates at honey Island and said the Shooting Range is detrimental and that someone was going to die because Hwy 59 is so close.

Mr Stansbury stated that the Shooting Range is actually a Hunting Club. He stated he has found corn and took a blurry picture of the corn and that the range leads to a pile of corn.

He went on to say that the Shooting Range is not the problem; the Range Officers are the problem. He shared a story of having a gun pulled on him by one of the Range Officers because he asked him his name.

Mr. Jim Biermann, DMV spoke on Honey Island Shooting Range – Introduced himself as the Range Grand Master. Mr Bierman spoke about a research project he had conducted on the noise from the shooting range having no effect on the animals. He stated the Shooting Range is a 501c Non profit since 1993 and is open to the public on Friday –Sunday and has had over 19 thousands participants.

He stated there were 7,039 users in the fourth quarter of 2012 and the goal is to accommodate the WMA users. He spoke about the webpage Honeyisland.org and that the "Range Officers" have perks to use the range during off hours. There are 105 Active Range Officers. Mr. Bierman said the cost to enter the range is \$6.00 and is operational from 12:00PM – 4:00PM Friday and 8:00AM-4:00PM Saturday and Sunday

Commissioner Davis commented that he disagrees that noise does not affect other wildlife and believes they should consider pushing back the start time to 10:00AM

Commissioner Taylor asked Mr Biermann if they ever considered opening the range an extra day and he answered "no".

Commissioner Davis asked How many people did it take to manage the range and whether or not they had other jobs. Mr. Biermann answered 5-7 people per shift and yes they have other jobs.

Mr. Ed Lott was called to speak – He stated he did not wish to speak

Mr James Madison representing the Hunters of Pearl River Wildlife Management Area spoke on Honey Island Swamp. Mr Madison stated he lives in Slidell and was a Range Officer until "two days ago" due to his termination for talking to hunters.

He stated that he now represents one hundred hunters who have signed a petition. He spoke about the hunters being able to hear the gun shots from the range while hunting and that noise levels travel therefore hunters avoid the area. Said the noise is intolerable and continues to get worse. He spoke about hunters not being able to hunt the other thirty six thousand acres of the WMA away from the shooting range because there is not road access to the majority of the acreage

Mr Madison elaborated and discussed the types of weapons that are shot on the Range including short barreled AR's.

He would like the Commission to look at curtailing shooting hours as seasonal and only open the range from 10:00AM-3:00PM during hunting seasons and to completely close when special hunting days are open.

Mr. Madison also mentioned that the range shooters do not have to stop at the self clearing station and they are driving 30-40mph and that there are children in danger

He asked that the Commission reinstate the self clearing station

Open Discussions took place about the requirements to be a range officer

Mr. Eddie Sticker questioned how was the lease given to the hunting range without having gone to bid and would like someone to be able to provide him the answer

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Drost and seconded by Commissioner Manuel. Chairman Broussard called for a vote and the motion passed with no opposition.

There being no further business, Chairman Broussard **Adjourned** the meeting

Billy Broussard, Vice Chairman