

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 8:31 am

Which best describes your position Somewhat agree
regarding the 2021 Waterfowl
Management Area and crane
recommendations?

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Utah Waterfowl Association
To Preserve Utah's Waterfowl, Waterfowl Habitat and Waterfowling Heritage

May 3, 2021

?The Utah Waterfowl Association submits the following comments regarding the regulation of commercial guiding on Utah's waterfowl management areas. Regulation is needed as there has been a recent proliferation of commercial guiding, mostly on the Great Salt Lake, that is damaging the public hunting opportunity for which the WMAs were created. While some guides operate very professional businesses, we are concerned that the lack of regulation fosters (a) a profusion of guides that place excessive pressure on the resource, (b) the practical exclusion of the average hunter, and (c) unfortunately, room for unscrupulous operators. While we recognize that any regulatory framework will require future modification based on experience and data, action is necessary now.

?With the foregoing in mind, we propose that the following be included in the regulations: (We use the word "guide" as a catch-all to include any person or company that transports hunters to or through WMAs for commercial gain regardless whether the guide remains physically with the hunter during the hunt.)

1. Guided hunters may not hunt within the boundaries of WMAs. Guides may only transport hunters from WMA launches or through WMAs.
2. The number of guides, boat trips, and hunters utilizing WMAs should be limited.
3. The guide must keep a record of the number of boat trips, hunters, and birds harvested and report this information to the DWR.
4. Boats utilized by guides and the clubs referred to in #7 below must have a prominent registration number.
5. Restrictions on use of parking lots to avoid overcrowding.
6. Safety and insurance requirements.
7. Entities that act like guides, such as commercial clubs that primarily provide transportation services to and through WMAs, should be subject to the same boat trip and use/harvest reporting requirements and restrictions as guides. As an exception, a club that has been in existence continuously for more than 40 years can transport its members and non-paying guests within or through the Willard Spur WMA but is otherwise subject to all registration and reporting requirements.
8. These rules and a complaint process should be publicized so that all hunters are aware of the DWR's efforts.
9. These rules should be issued by the DWR rather than asking each manager to create his or her own set of rules.

In addition, we are concerned that the rapid increase in guiding has placed excessive pressure on certain populations of waterfowl such as greenwing teal. We encourage the DWR to utilize the data obtained from the foregoing regulations to assess whether this is the case. Such a study could play a role in managing this resource that is enjoyed and valued by so many of the state's waterfowlers.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

First I would like to thank Blair and all the WMA managers for a great job of taking care of our Public marshes with the minimum man power and equipment that they have to work with. The special use permit that was talked about in the proposed changes to cross the WMA's Doesn't go far enough. All persons who are guiding waterfowl in Utah regardless of where they are guiding should have to have a permit to do so. There needs to a way hold a guide accountable for his actions where he could loose his permit for game violations or just flat ripping off a trusting sportsman that may have traveled miles just to have a bad experience. I have hired outfitters all over the world I have seen the good ones and i have seen the bad ones. Nothing leaves a bad taste in your mouth than a bad Guide. Thanks for taking my comments
Dan Spencer
Woundedgoose@aol.com
801-244-4887

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 5:07 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Waterfowl guiding should not be allowed on State waterfowl management areas. These areas are already too crowded and guiding just increases conflicts.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 7:03 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I disagree with the statement that guiding is taking away from public opportunity. Guiding does the opposite! it has created opportunity for my family I would never have been able to enjoy or experience. To say there is illegal guiding with nothing being done means illegal guiding will continue. Licensed insured guides and moreso THEIR CLIENTS should be allowed to continue enabling ALL to enjoy the resources!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 8:31 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? I have submitted an email with my thoughts and concerns on this matter

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 9:37 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Guides have allowed me access to the marshes that I would otherwise not be able to get into. I do not have the means or knowledge to hunt these areas alone. Thank you.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I understand the concern of using guides, however I have personally used a guide to Hunt waterfowl in the WMA and would like to see the guides continue to be able to continue.

The days of youth participating in hunting I feel is declining, I have seen first hand guides providing opportunity to take youth hunting and feel that they are another great asset to help youth get into and stay interested in the outdoors.

If a guide meets the licensing requirements and is insured and can obtain a so called captains license they should be able to guide.

There are very positive outcomes from using a guide, some may not have the equipment or the knowledge be it waterfowl hunting or fishing the gorge which also allows guiding.

Many cherished memories of the outdoors have been made by one choosing to hire a guide for various reasons. Again having seen first hand a youth shooting their first duck with a guide is a moment one will always remember.

We need to keep any means of providing hunting opportunities to everyone and encourage all to do our part to preserve this great opportunity we gave to hunt and fish in this great state.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 5, 2021 10:28 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

As a woman waterfowler I don't always have the gear, knowledge and the ability to go at it alone. I have been fortunate enough to go out with a guide that made it an enjoyable experience that made me want to continue using a guide to provide me more opportunities that I know I would not be able to provide by myself.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I disagree with the guide recommendations on WMAs.

1. You talk about the WMAs being a place for the public hunter. My question would be, who do you think is being guided? Most of those people are your average Gunter who doesn't have the gear or the know how but wants to hunt waterfowl.
2. You talk about some guides are not equipped to guide and pose a danger. How about the self guided hunter who does the same? Are we going to save him from himself?
3. It was discussed that the guides are using a particular area day in and day out. My question is, how is it detrimental? Are there less swans? Less geese? Less ducks? Or is it because someone else wanted to hunt that area? Last time I checked, there were no reservations being taken for spots. ANYONE can hunt these areas.
4. If we eliminate Guides on WMAs, should we eliminate guiding all together in the state of Utah? I would be curious as to your survey. Of course most people who responded are opposed to guiding. Just by the numbers, there are way more average hunters than guides. What would you expect from a survey? How about you take a survey of the Henry Mountain deer hunters and ask them if they like guides?

Please don't support this bill. There are so many issues with it. How about postponing the change and bring together both groups and find solutions.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 10:57 am

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I agree that guides and outfitters and the clients of these guides should not be able to hunt on WMA property. Transportation of the clients through the WMA as proposed is ok. I agree that all of this needs to be controlled with specific requirements including limited use of parking lots for the Guides and Clients as well as limitations as to how many times you travel through the WMA throughout the year.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 11:06 am

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Please do not allow guiding on Utah's Waterfowl Management Areas. Too many times I've watched one of the well known guides day after day after day guide for swans on the back pond at Harold Crane. This at times applies unnecessary pressure to birds in the area and ultimately it takes away from the general public's experience.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I am an avid hunter here in Utah and over the years have spent thousands and thousands of dollars on hunting permits, gear, firearms, archery equipment, ammunition, fishing gear, and other items that have directly benefited wildlife conservation through taxes, fees, etc. I have participated in the dedicated hunter program, which requires 32 hours of community service that directly benefits the wildlife habitats here in Utah. All this to say that I am dedicated to our lands, our animals, and the sustainability and perpetual success of hunters and anglers and I am proud to do my part.

I recently got into waterfowl hunting. And quite honestly, it would have been impossible without the assistance of a guide. Hunting in some of our WMAs requires a significant amount of equipment which is simply an impossible barrier to entry for most people. With the help of a guide, people without the financial resources can still enjoy our wilderness resources. Limiting guiding, even if requiring permits, will significantly reduce the availability to these resources and that's not good for Utah.

Utah has world class duck hunting. People literally fly in from all over the world to hunt in Utah. Ramsey Russell, one of the most world-renown duck hunters, came to Utah 2 years ago and hunted multiple WMAs with the use of a guide and then raved about it on social media and podcasts. He would have been completely unable to hunt this area without one. Last year, my father flew out from Illinois to come hunt on a guided WMA hunt. The following day, our guide had hunters come in from Georgia.

Simply put: If you limit guiding, specifically on WMAs, you severely hurt Utah business, tourism, hunting license sales, etc. It is a domino affect. This is not what Utah needs.

Please do not implement restrictions or permit requirements for Utah's WMAs.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 12:13 pm

Which best describes your position Strongly agree
regarding the 2021 Waterfowl
Management Area and crane
recommendations?

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 12:45 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 1:05 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? How will enforcement of not guiding on wma's be handled? If a guide is permitted to cross the wma to access other ground but decides to use the wma instead, how would this be discovered/enforced?

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 1:43 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

. I strongly oppose any and all change being offered and suggest guiding continue to be allowed in Waterfowl Management Areas.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 2:53 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Don't stop guiding. No need for that. Make them be permitted and licensed and insured but I don't agree with prohibiting guiding

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 3:29 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly agree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 3:31 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Strongly agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Do you have any additional comments about the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? It seems given the camping and law enforcement challenges, camping should not be allowed at all. The canyon bottom restriction will just move the problem to other areas of the WMA.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 4:38 pm

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 5:23 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I have used a private guide to hunt the Willard spur area. I found the guides to be a great asset to the public. I would not of been able to provide the same "experience " and smiles on my two youths faces that the guide mentored to my son and daughter. There is room for everyone. Maybe consider limitations or special rules to protect the public and public grounds, but not a ban!

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Two areas in this bill are troublesome to me. While I understand the desire for no new blinds, the bill does not take into account environmental changes or any other factors that might necessitate new blinds. I believe any such bills needs to provide a process for the public to request waivers of this requirement.

The other problem I have is the restriction/prohibition on guides. The bill does not take into account all of the money generated by non-residents. Prohibiting guides significantly impacts non-residents, such as myself, who enjoy waterfowl hunting, but am unable to hunt in UT without a guide or land owner permission. Furthermore the state should not be infringing upon hunting opportunities for the handicapped. It's hard enough already. At least let the handicapped be guided.

On another front with respect to this guiding issue, there is already too much governmental intervention and outside pressures on hunters and fishermen. Thus I'll take the libertarian approach with respect to this bill and ask the following question. Why is the government intervening with legitimate commerce by imposing such ridiculous restrictions on capitalism and entrepreneurship? Rhetorical I know! But there is no need to restrict guiding because of your failure to enforce and properly regulate existing laws pertaining to unlicensed and/ or uninsured businesses. Do your job and crack down on the violators, leave legitimate businesses alone and let's all enjoy the outdoor opportunities afforded us in the great State of Utah without imposing the restrictions of this unnecessary bill. Thank you.
Joseph Lombardo.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

This isn't going to be a nice letter. I've never seen a guide on ANY WMA I've hunted on the past 30 years. The only time I've seen a guide is when I've hired one. For example Ogden Bay is over 17,000 acres, you really have to try hard to get crowded on that place, or any other WMA outside of opening day. I think you had the majority of people who responded to your poll who are little twerps who want to outlaw people to protect their own selfish interests in the vain hope that if guides are eliminated, their own poor hunting skills will somehow be enough to secure a bag limit. I've hunted twice with a guide, Once for a swan permit and he was invaluable since I have never hunted swan before. Second, I took my son on a guided hunt and he was able to bag his first goose and make outstanding memories. If this action passes, my 14 year old son will never take a swan because we don't have a boat and equipment necessary to hunt swan effectively. Also, if you outlaw guided hunting, you are shooting yourself in the foot. The number of waterfowl hunters has plummeted in the the last few decades. You'll lose me and my son and any children my son will have.

Thank you for not supporting the banning of guides on WMA areas.

Jonathan Stettler

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 5:43 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed changes? Being from southern Utah and enjoying to swan hunt, this would not be possible without the help of a guide. They have the equipment necessary to get where the swans are and to humanly harvest an animal.

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Guides play a vital role in the success of Swan hunting for the State of Utah. My husband and I hunted swan in 2016 without a guide. I wounded one swan and was unable to retrieve the wounded bird. My husband also wounded one swan. In 2019 we hired a local guide we were successful with no wounded birds and less impact to the ecosystem. Your survey shows 13% are in favor of guides. What about the representation of this 13%? Why not regulate the guide industry and limit licensure. What about the handicap hunter who requires guides, you are discriminating against them. I think by passing this bill you will only make guiding a black market business.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I think that guides should be allowed to use WMA property. They are taking public hunters out so banning them from using WMA land is in a way banning public hunters. My daughter and I hunted Swans with a guide on WMA property. It was a fantastic trip and such a great experience to set over a big decoy spread. There is no way that a guy like me could justify the expense of such a setup when we only hunt swans every few years. reputable guides provide a great service for those people that are not full time waterfowlers.
Please do not vote for HB295

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I think that guides should be allowed to use WMA property. They are taking public hunters out so banning them from using WMA land is in a way banning public hunters. My daughter and I hunted Swans with a guide on WMA property. It was a fantastic trip and such a great experience to set over a big decoy spread. There is no way that a guy like me could justify the expense of such a setup when we only hunt swans every few years. reputable guides provide a great service for those people that are not full time waterfowlers.

Please do not vote for HB295

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 6:11 pm

Which best describes your position Strongly disagree
regarding the Millville-Providence WMA
Habitat Management Plan?

Do you have any additional comments Outfitters should be aloud to guide on WMA's.
about the Millville-Providence WMA
Habitat Management Plan?

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 8:01 pm

Which best describes your position Strongly disagree
regarding the 2021 Waterfowl
Management Area and crane
recommendations?

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Greetings,

I just watched this presentation, well done. I participated in the survey that was sent out and have hunted your WMAs multiple times. As a non-resident I have relied on a guide each time I've hunted waterfowl in Utah, thus I very much oppose the regulations presented. For my hunts I was certain to select the use of a licensed company, one that was fully legal, and I therefore chose Fried Feathers. To the best of my knowledge, I believe they are the only fully legal, licensed outfitters in the area. Last season I drew a swan permit, but could not go due to pandemic travel restrictions in my home state of Oregon. After drawing the tag I was contacted by multiple folks offering to take me hunting, and the closer I looked into them, I found they were not licensed. As you know, hunting your WMAs is very unique in terms of waterfowl hunting experiences anywhere in the West. I do not have an expensive airboat, duck boat, layout boats or specialized decoys for the variety of hunts Utah offers in their very specialized habitat, nor would I imagine many, if any, out of state hunters having them either, especially the airboat. Thus, I'm very dependent on a licensed guide service in order to experience the outstanding hunting opportunities Utah offers; it would be a shame to remove this opportunity to nonresident hunters. In my mind, retaining the use of limited licensed guides would be a wise choice; and heavily crack-down on those operating illegally. The amount of money licensed guides bring into the economy each year would be worth it, alone, not to mention the low-impact they would continue to have on the habitat within the WMAs as they know exactly where they are going and how to best get there. Imagine if every non-resident waterfowl hunter attempted a DIY swan hunt, for example; they simply don't have the knowledge to accomplish this in a safe way, neither to themselves or the habitat. During the multiple hunts I've gone on over the years with Fried Feathers Outfitters, never have we encountered fellow hunters occupying places we wanted to hunt; in fact I can count on one hand the number of other hunters I've seen during the multiple hunts I've been on. We've always been able to hunt where we wanted to, which is why the overcrowding issue seems a bit of a stretch to me. At the same time, Fried Feathers never appeared to be occupying a hunting locale fellow hunters wished to be in. I strongly urge you to weigh the "all or nothing" approach when it comes to allowing waterfowl guides or no guides on your WMAs, as from what I've seen, a fully legal outfitter has a lot to offer nonresident hunters, and can help boost the local economy with the services they offer. I simply have a hard time, based on my personal experiences, seeing outfitters overrunning public lands in this part of Utah. In fact, over my past 21 year career as a full-time outdoor writer specializing in hunting throughout the West, Utah's waterfowl WMAs are among the least pressured public lands I've seen anywhere in the West. To eliminate guided hunting waterfowl hunting opportunities in this great state, especially on public lands which appear greatly underutilized by the public compared to so many places I've hunted over the years, would be a complete travesty to fellow hunters.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 6, 2021 8:09 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? I am totally against

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Strongly disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly disagree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 8:07 am

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I do not agree with the new proposal for not allowing guides and outfitters on Wildlife Management Areas. Without the service of a guide, my father and I would have never been able to participate in our duck hunt. I think this will be a poor choice to get new hunters into the field and not expose new hunters to a professional resource to expand their knowledge.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 10:01 am

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Hi. My name is Bart Roberts. I want you to know that I have hunted waterfowl for many years with and without a boat. I currently have an airboat that I use to play on the great salt lake and other areas.

I know of a couple guide services that also use these water ways. I have never had a bad experience when ive ran into them on the ramps, or in the field. In fact they have helped me with information that other guides such as fishing and big game hunting guides would have given me both fingers...

Please consider letting them continue to do what they love doing which is helping people that do not have a boat go out on a great duck or goose hunt.

Thank you

Bart Roberts

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 10:25 am

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I am strongly opposed to prohibiting of guided hunts for waterfowl. I utilize a guide because it allows me to hunt with my dad and uncles. They provide for someone that has physical limitations a means to hunt. If guided hunts are prohibited, there are several of us that won't be able to hunt. Please go after those that are the specific problem and don't take away my access to hunt.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Hello,
my name is Ron Rasmussen and I am a not a resident of the state of Utah. I am emailing in response to the changes in waterfowl guiding on WMAs suggested by the State of Utah. I strongly oppose any and all change being offered and suggest guiding continue to be allowed in Waterfowl Management Areas.
As stated above I am not a resident but I have hunted waterfowl numerous times in your beautiful state and have spent considerable dollars there including airfare, car rental, hotels, restaurants, sporting good shops, hunting licenses and on Waterfowl Guides. Without the ability to use a guide we would simple not come and hunt there as it we would not be successful in our hunts and there are other states we would go hunt with professionals.
I am very upset to hear of the suggested change as I feel my family and myself should have the same opportunities to explore and experience the states WMA's. I don't have the knowledge or the specialized equipment but your hunting guides do and without them I will not be able to make these memories.
I ask that you please consider allowing guides the use of WMAs so my family and all others can enjoy the resources!
Respectfully,
Ron Rasmussen

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

My name is Brandon Thome-Neitzel, and I strongly oppose any and all changes being offered and suggest guiding continue to be allowed in Waterfowl Management Areas.

I have had numerous experiences on the State's WMAs with fully licensed and insured guides throughout the last several years. Hunting Utah Waterfowl Management Areas with my friends and family could only be accessible by means of hiring a fully licensed and insured guide. My friends, family, and myself have been fortunate enough to partake in hunting in this great state, and we would be devastated if those opportunities were no longer made available. My father and I make it a yearly trip to Utah to bond and enjoy the outdoors. Fully licensed and insured guides make these opportunities available.

I am very discouraged to hear of the suggested change. I feel I should have the same opportunity as all do to discover and experience the state WMAs. I do not have the knowledge or equipment to do so; the fully licensed and insured guide I am able to go with does. The economic impact from not allowing fully licensed and insured guides in Waterfowl Management Areas would also have a significant economic impact to several local businesses, hotels, and restaurants.

Please consider allowing fully licensed and insured guides the use of WMAs so my friends, family, and all others can enjoy these incredible resources!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 1:54 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? Having guides on WMAs is a terrible idea. These areas are limited in size and people with a economic incentive act much different than people out hunting as an recreation activity. I would even let them cross WMA to access other land as this movement will disturb waterfowl and displace them off the WMAs.

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly agree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 2:06 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Hi I'm logan I'm 13 and I hunted with a guide and I shot my goose and I was happy that I could have someone take me out on the hunt and I would hate if you took away the guided hunts.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 4:57 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Please do not take away hunting opportunities for my kids and I by eliminating guides on our amazing WMA's. Thank you!

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 9:05 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I hunt waterfowl a lot! And throughout the whole season.. a lot of people hunt waterfowl in Utah. And a lot of people stop hunting once things start to freeze.. I am not a guide nor do I do any guiding however I am totally against banning guides from guiding on WMAs. If there is really an issue with a bunch of guides that aren't licensed out there guiding then perhaps the problem is there needs to be a stiffer consequence for people who are not licensed guiding... I feel like that would be a good first step. Especially since I've never heard of someone who has guided illegally getting in trouble..

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 7, 2021 10:52 pm

Which best describes your position Strongly disagree
regarding the 2021 Waterfowl
Management Area and crane
recommendations?

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Dear Wildlife Board and/or RAC member,

As an avid waterfowl hunter I am deeply concerned about the proposal from the DWR regarding the use of Waterfowl Management Areas (WMA's). Please bear with me I have many thoughts on the subject and will try to express them all.

Let me start with my background so that you know where I am coming from. I am not a commercial hunting guide (I don't take folks out waterfowl hunting for a living), but because I do take friends and acquaintances out and by legal definition as written in Utah Code 58-79-102 there are times that I could be considered a hunting guide or outfitter, because someone that I took hunting paid for fuel for the truck or boat and it exceeded the \$100 dollar amount. On one occasion I have even been given cheese and maple syrup from Wisconsin by a hunter from Wisconsin that I met through social media. I didn't take him out for compensation but at the end of the day he offered and it would have been impolite not to accept his gift. I have hunted the marshes of Utah for over 40 years almost exclusively on our public WMA's. I have introduced countless people to the sport, some of which I still hunt with to this day. I am not a casual hunter that might get out once or twice, or even a handful of times. Depending on the year I may be in the marsh 30-50 days a season. Last season was 40+ days. I have walked, biked, used a canoe, a kayak, a mud boat, an airboat (not my own, I wish). I share this information to help you get a sense how many potential encounters I have in regards to the concern with guides and guiding on our WMA's. I have never had a negative encounter with someone guiding. I am not naïve enough to think that just because I haven't had a bad encounter doesn't mean they don't happen but rather they might not be as prevalent as they are being made out to be. The reality is that we don't actually have any hard data.

It seems that we are reacting to an issue that is isolated to a few specific locations with a few guides at a few times during the season. Rather than propose regulation that addresses those specific issues we get a proposal to ban guiding on all WMA's. Why not regulations specific to those problem areas. HB 295 states that guiding is not allowed without a permit and then we turn around and say "sorry no permits". Seems rather underhanded. Let's not forget that the hunters being taken into the marshes by the guides are "public hunters" with as much right to use the marsh as any other hunter. They have just chosen to pay someone to take them out. Blair states in his presentation that only 13% support guiding, but what you don't was the reaction to the survey on social media. Many of those that expressed opposition to guiding did not realize that guiding is currently allowed. They feared that we would get an influx of new users on the WMA's (any duck hunters nightmare). Because so many didn't realize we already have guides using the areas it signals to me that they are not as big of an impact as we are being lead to believe. What happened to the other data. Blair also states that roughly 1% of the land area in the state is wetland and that opportunities for the public to use it is why the WMA's were created. If we exclude the hunters that guides are taking out from using the WMA's where are they supposed to go. The assumption here is that guiding is forcing the public hunter from being able to use the areas

and that is not true. More hunters is actually making it more crowded, not the fact that some of the hunters have hired a guide. Even a guided hunter is still a "public hunter" on public land.

In regards to the use of the WMA for swan hunting guides. We are being told that the guides are using an area day after day after day and that it is impacting the habitat, the wildlife and the infrastructure. What doesn't get said is that if the guides were not there other hunters would still be there having the same affect, because that is where the swans want to be. Let's put the swan hunt into perspective, 2750 permits, with very small percentage of those utilizing a guide to fill the permit. If the regulation goes into effect it will essentially mean "no swan guiding in Utah" because most of the swans are harvested on our WMA's or Bear River Bird refuge that doesn't allow commercial guides. The loss of public hunting opportunity that keeps getting brought up is no different than any other spot. If I want it I need to get there before someone else, guide or not. Many times I have had to set up in a different spot than I intended because someone else got there first. That is the nature of hunting public land.

Blair also mentions liability for unlicensed and uninsured guides. My response is then we need to enforce the law that we already have that requires them to get licensed and insured rather than prohibit guiding. What would I propose? Start by continuing to allow guiding with the intent to gather actual data. Require them to register and report information such as dates, numbers of people, harvest data, place used, etc. Then we will know how much use we are getting on the WMA, where the use is, the extent, and then we can make better recommendations based on that data. If we start by excluding guides then we will not be able to gather that data. We may find that in the future we need to exclude guiding in some or all of these areas but it will then be based on real data not just based on what someone thinks is going on. Another suggestion that I heard was to make sure those that are guiding are clearly identified. Not sure how we would do that but it could be a good idea.

All this from someone that doesn't guide commercially and had one of the best seasons of my life last year. We saw more waterfowl more consistently and in more areas then we ever have. Our waterfowl managers are doing such an awesome job with the WMA's, let's keep them open to all "public hunters", even those that need to pay someone to help them get into the birds.

Thanks you for your time. Feel free to contact me if you need any clarification on any of the ideas or thoughts.

Ja Eggett

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

You've addressed licensed guides, but what about non licensed ones? Those hunters who have the equipment and know how to put hunters in the right spot at the right time(the x), day after day. Other hunters realize where those x's are over time and really work their butts off to slog out through the swamp to get there and get set up, only to have joe money come driving up in his airboat with 10 hunters anxious to shoot a limit of birds. As true sportsmen we know the right thing to do is for joe and his crew to move off and hunt, but most of the time he wont, because he knows it's the x spot and he has promised his buddies a good time hunting. Sure, he is doing this as a friend, but how do we know he isn't taking some payment under the table? Also, what can be done about these same hunters utilizing the same spot day after day, after day??? After awhile it becomes an unwritten rule that they own that spot. This same thing happens at big game water holes.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

ur service on the Regional Advisory Committee. My name is Gary Heap. I am emailing in response to the changes in waterfowl guiding on WMAs suggested by the State of Utah. I strongly oppose any and all change being offered and suggest guiding continue to be allowed in Waterfowl Management Areas.

I completely disagree with the conclusions in the video, I have been hiring guides for over 6 yrs and we always avoid other hunters and I have yet hunted the exact same spots. Guides are not hunting for themselves, they are taking the public out to their public's lands for their enjoyment/use. I don't think prohibiting guiding will decrease the crowding. Utah is growing, duck hunting is more popular than ever and with the drought, wet lands are limited.

I have had wonderful experiences with licensed/insured guides on the WMAs. As someone who does not have the time/resources to own my own boat, decoys, etc to hunt many of the WMA lands, I look to enjoy these areas via a guide. As a tax payer, avid hunter/fishing license holder I feel it is my right and privilege to hire whoever is legally and lawfully licensed to take me to these public areas and enjoy a swan or duck hunt.

On a personal note, every year, my daughter and I hire a license/insured waterfowl guide to take us out to some of the most amazing areas on the WMA where we see all sorts of wildlife, from cranes, swans, blue herons to bald eagles. Without the ability to hire a guide, we would be deprived of these experiences that I feel I should have every right to enjoy and offer lifetime memories for my daughter and I.

I also take several customers a year to these areas via a guide where they would not have the opportunity to experience some of these WMAs otherwise and they always tell me what a great experience it was, and they look forward to it every year.

Please reject all proposed changes and continue to allow us to enjoy these WMAs via a guide.

Kind Regards,

Gary

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 8, 2021 3:13 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly disagree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Hi my name is Jamison and I'm 12 years old. Last year I was guided on my very first swan hunt ever without the help of a guid I would not be able to do this hunt. Guides allow me and my dad acces to the WMA please don't band guiding and take away those oppourtunities away. Thank you for your time.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 8, 2021 7:11 pm

Which best describes your position Somewhat agree
regarding the 2021 Waterfowl
Management Area and crane
recommendations?

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

Utah Waterfowl Association
To Preserve Utah's Waterfowl, Waterfowl Habitat and Waterfowling Heritage

May 3, 2021

The Utah Waterfowl Association submits the following comments regarding the regulation of commercial guiding on Utah's waterfowl management areas. Regulation is needed as there has been a recent proliferation of commercial guiding, mostly on the Great Salt Lake, that is damaging the public hunting opportunity for which the WMAs were created. While some guides operate very professional businesses, we are concerned that the lack of regulation fosters (a) a profusion of guides that place excessive pressure on the resource, (b) the practical exclusion of the average hunter, and (c) unfortunately, room for unscrupulous operators. While we recognize that any regulatory framework will require future modification based on experience and data, action is necessary now.

With the foregoing in mind, we propose that the following be included in the regulations: (We use the word "guide" as a catch-all to include any person or company that transports hunters to or through WMAs for commercial gain regardless whether the guide remains physically with the hunter during the hunt.)

1. Guided hunters may not hunt within the boundaries of WMAs. Guides may only transport hunters from WMA launches or through WMAs.
2. The number of guides, boat trips, and hunters utilizing WMAs should be limited.
3. The guide must keep a record of the number of boat trips, hunters, and birds harvested and report this information to the DWR.
4. Boats utilized by guides and the clubs referred to in #7 below must have a prominent registration number.
5. Restrictions on use of parking lots to avoid overcrowding.
6. Safety and insurance requirements.
7. Entities that act like guides, such as commercial clubs that primarily provide transportation services to and through WMAs, should be subject to the same boat trip and use/harvest reporting requirements and restrictions as guides. As an exception, a club that has been in existence continuously for more than 40 years can transport its members and non-paying guests within or through the Willard Spur WMA but is otherwise subject to all registration and reporting requirements.
8. These rules and a complaint process should be publicized so that all hunters are aware of the DWR's efforts.
9. These rules should be issued by the DWR rather than asking each manager to create his or her own set of rules.

In addition, we are concerned that the rapid increase in guiding has placed excessive pressure on certain populations of waterfowl such as greenwing teal. We encourage the DWR to utilize the data obtained from the foregoing regulations to assess whether this is the case. Such a study could play a role in managing this resource that is enjoyed and valued by so many of the state's waterfowlers.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 8, 2021 9:48 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Somewhat agree

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 8, 2021 10:11 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations?

Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations?

I don't hunt crane, and am not too concerned about other positions of HB 295, other than the Guide Services on our WMA's...Thank you for recognizing that there is already too much pressure on our public WMA's, and that guides, with their paid clientele, put the average waterfowler at a distinct disadvantage..To stay in business, Guides must provide shooting and results, which easily results in unethical, and at times, illegal methods...I've been an active waterfowler here in Utah since the late 80's, I've seen our huntable areas shrink, and support these restrictions...

Form Name:
Submission Time:

May 2021 RAC Feedback
May 8, 2021 10:46 pm

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process?

Somewhat disagree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed changes?

I agree that the hybrid meeting gains some efficiency. However I'm concerned with the publics ability to comment. if the meeting is to held in real time where the meeting would've allowed in person comment, those comments should be taken in electronically live, or ther discussion should be postponed until they can be.

Which best describes your position regarding the 2021 Waterfowl Management Area and crane recommendations? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about these recommendations? Thanks Blair for hearing the public and proposing these. I could not agree more with not having guided on WMAs.

Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to the wildlife public meeting process? Strongly agree

Do you have any additional comments about the proposed changes? I think it is very important to keep the ability to join these meetings online. I personally would not be able to attend hardly any of these meetings in person (even if covid was not a thing), but attend most online and am very grateful to be able to participate. Even without having the public able to comment in the meetings, I think these online meetings have actually helped public involvement and education.

Which best describes your position regarding the Hat Island WMA Habitat Management Plan? Neither agree nor disagree

Which best describes your position regarding the Millville-Providence WMA Habitat Management Plan? Strongly agree
