

REPORT OF THE
GAME & FISH/STATE POLICE OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE

ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

November 15, 2019

The Subcommittee met Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at the Henry Gray Hurricane Lake Wild Life Management Area, in Bald Knob, Arkansas. The subcommittee heard testimony and discussed the following items:

1. Discussion on the current and future condition of Greentree Reservoirs (GTRs) which are bottomland forests artificially flooded by land managers to provide duck habitat and duck-hunting opportunities. Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) presenters: were Chris Colclasure, Deputy Director; Anne Marie Doramus, Commissioner; Brad Carner, Wildlife Division Chief; Garrick Dugger, Wildlife Management Division; Luke Naylor, Waterfowl Program Coordinator

AGFC employees discussed Arkansas' national status as the waterfowl hunting destination with over 100,000 hunters in the state harvesting over 1,000,000 ducks a year. The Waterfowl economic impact to the state is \$70 million annually.

AGFC staff also discussed the situation with bottomland hardwood forests on public land in Arkansas which are at crises stage as far as the long term health of the forest. A 2014 forest health assessment identified a dramatic decline at the Henry Gray Hurricane Lake Wildlife Management Area of 42% in advanced stages of damage to near death due to serious water stress or drainage.

AGFC will change the flooding patterns to which hunters are accustomed. Information relative to the change has been mailed to all who purchased a duck stamp.

2. Discussion of Rules and Regulations adopted by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission: Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt Restrictions, Veteran and Active-Duty Military Waterfowl, and Turkey Stamp Regulations, Financial Impact Statement and Minute Order for Regulations
3. Discussion of Arkansas Game and Fish Commission proposed Captive Wildlife Regulation

Submitted by:

Senator Keith Ingram, Co-Chair

Representative Josh Miller, Co-Chair