



Duck Zone Ad Hoc Committee

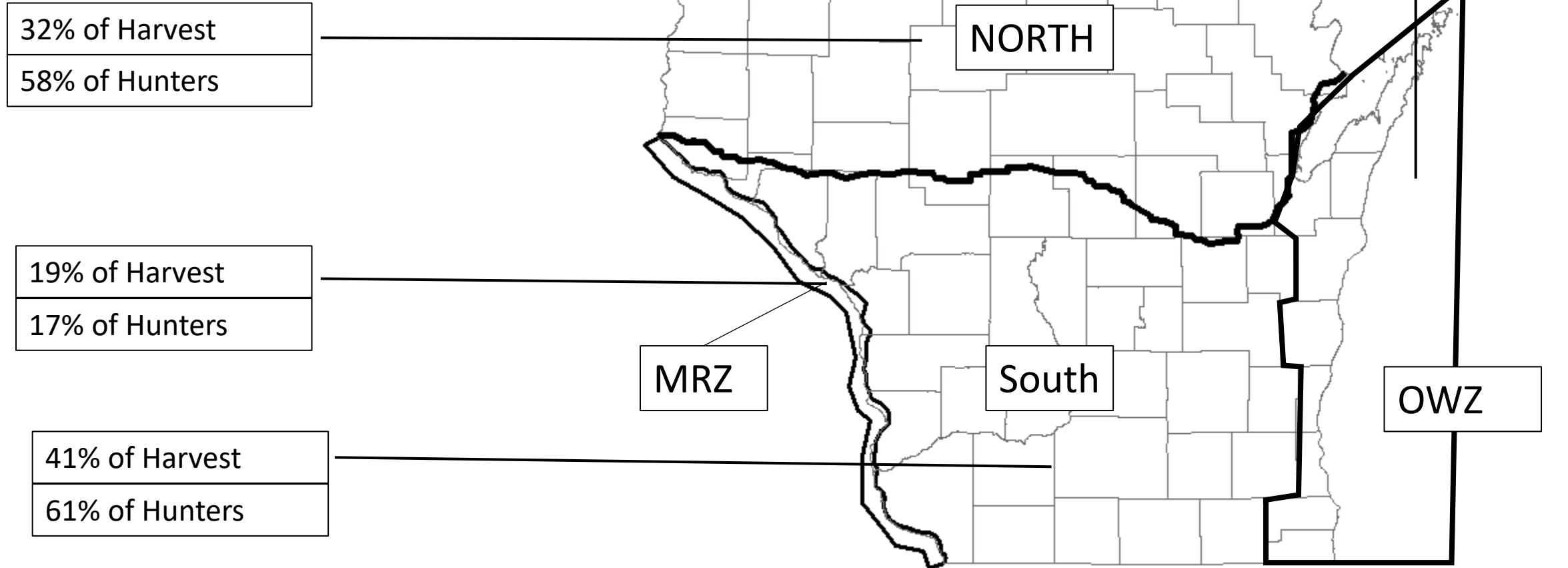
Guidelines for Duck Zones and Split Seasons



The following zone/split-season guidelines apply only for the *regular* duck season:

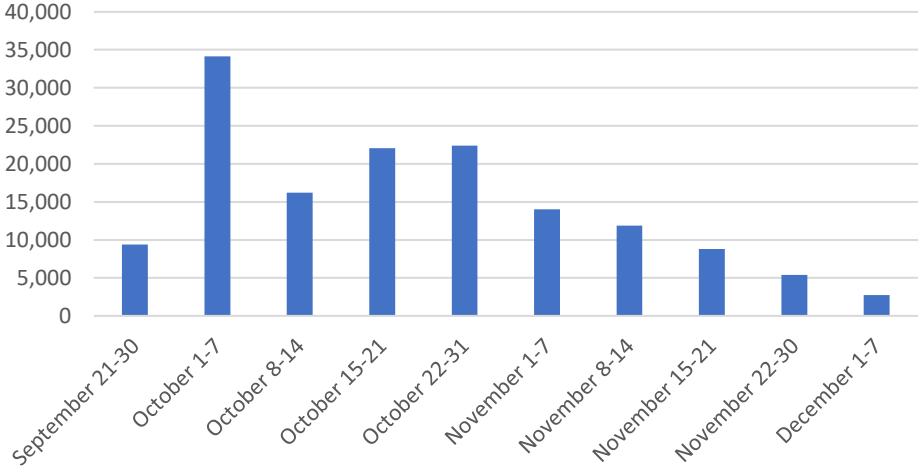
1. A zone is a geographic area or portion of a State, with a contiguous boundary, for which independent dates may be selected for the regular duck season.
2. Consideration of changes for management-unit boundaries is not subject to the guidelines and provisions governing the use of zones and split seasons for ducks.
3. Only minor (less than a county in size) boundary changes will be allowed for any grandfathered arrangement, and changes are limited to the open season.
4. Once a zone/split option is selected during an open season, it must remain in place for the following **5 years**. Any State may continue the configuration used in the previous 5-year period. If changes are made, the zone/split-season configuration must conform to one of the following options:
 1. No more than four zones with no splits.
 2. Split seasons (no more than 3 segments) with no zones
 3. No more than three zones with the option for 2-way (2-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones.

Harvest Data

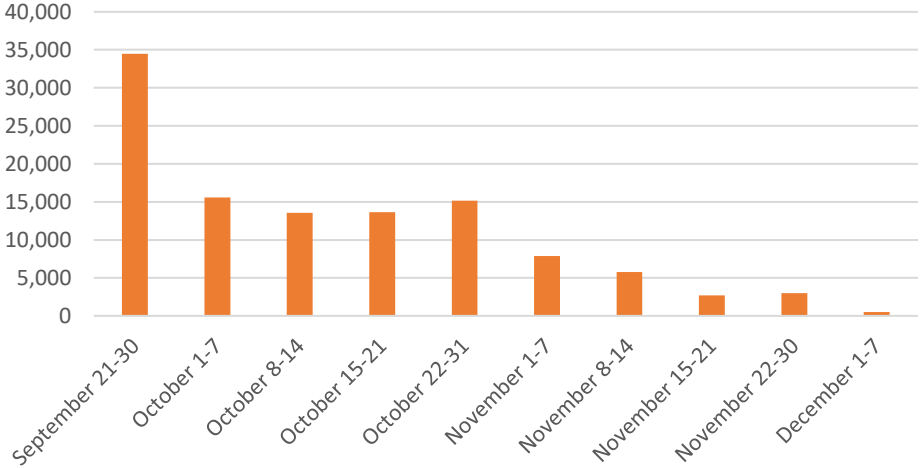


Current Zone Structure Harvest by Week

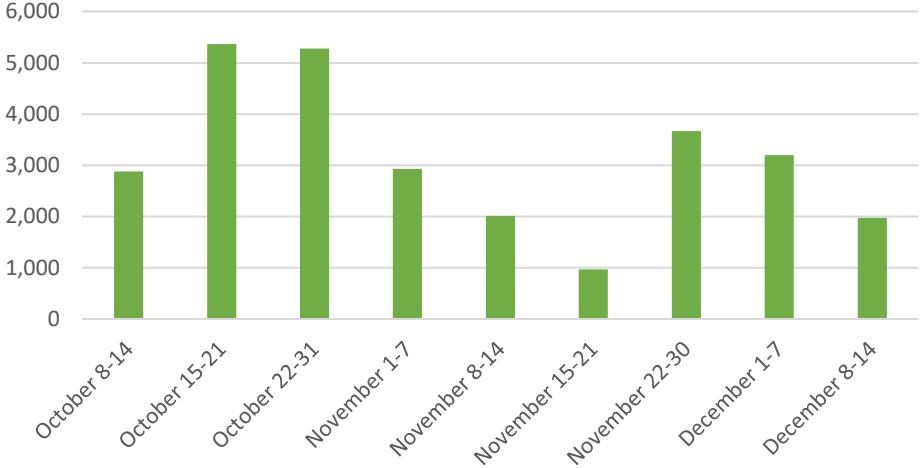
South Zone (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



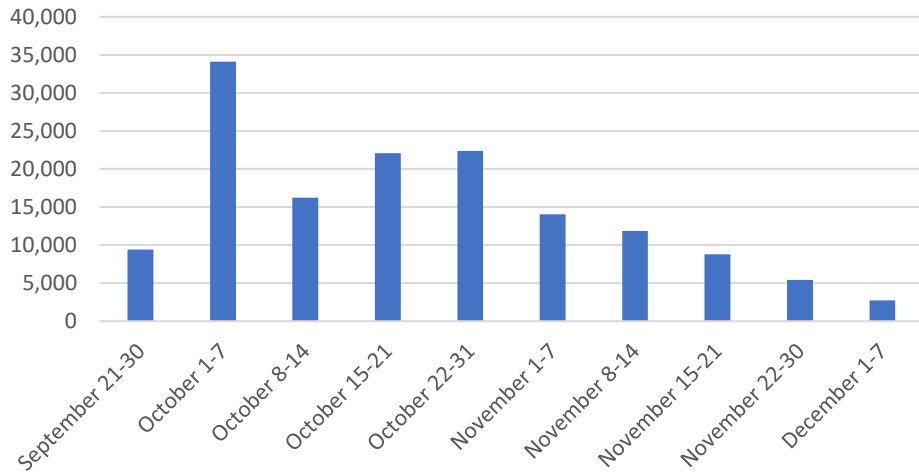
North Zone (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



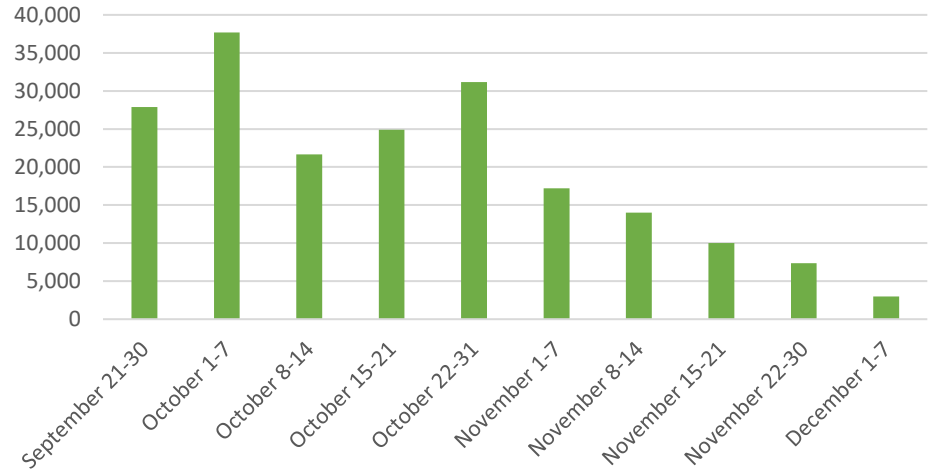
Open Water Zone (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



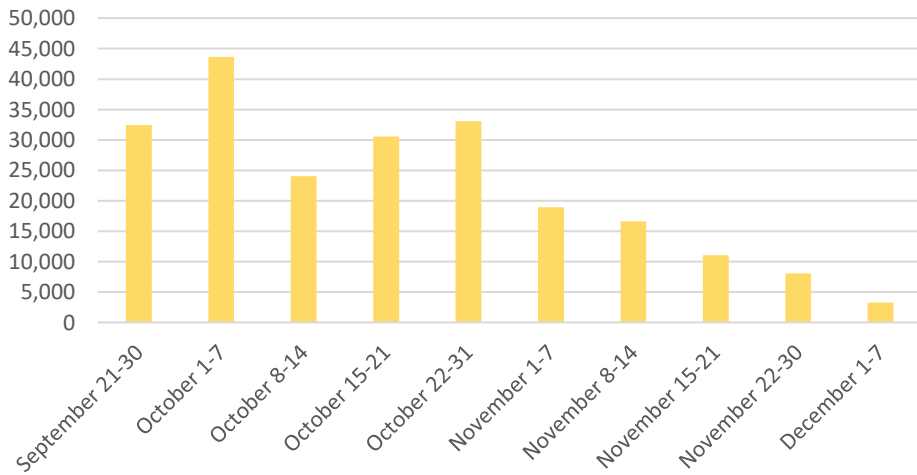
South Zone (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



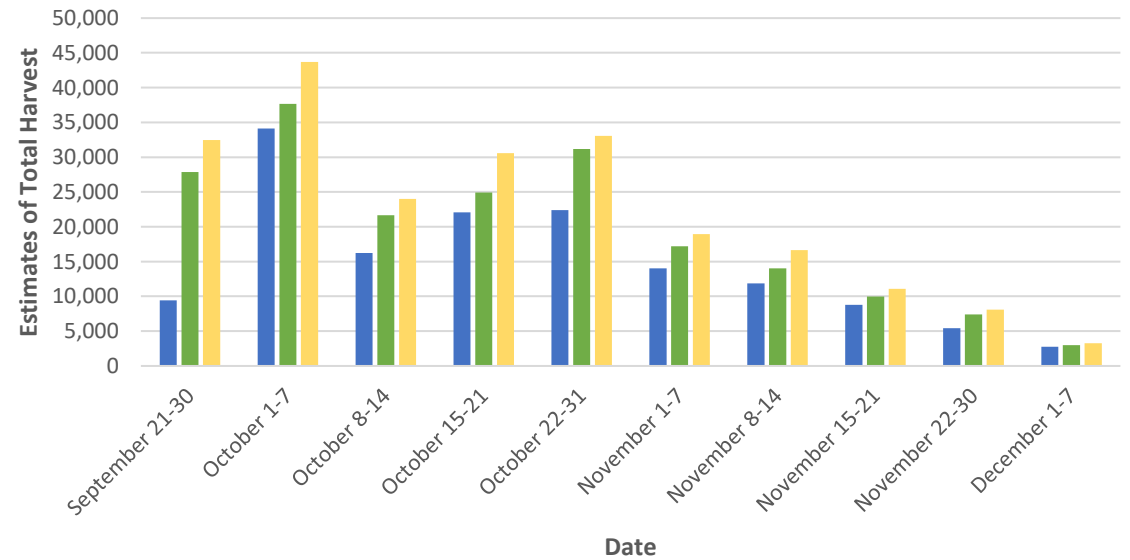
South Zone (Hwy 64) Average (16-22)



South Zone (Hwy 8) Average (16-22)

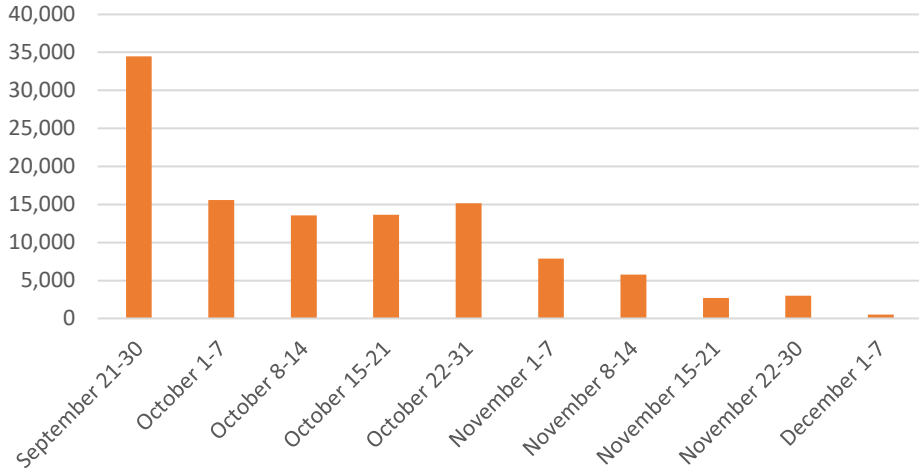


Comparison of 3 Southern Zone Options (2016 - 2022)

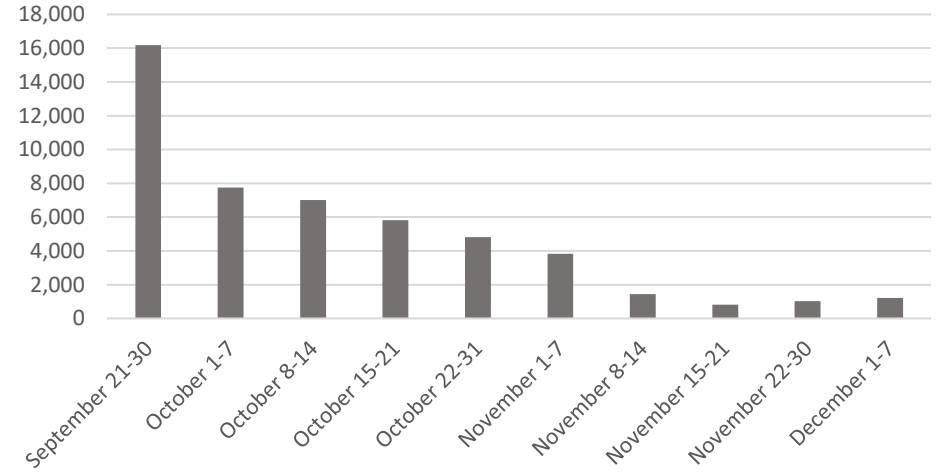


***** 57% of North Zone harvest occurs between Hwy 10 and 64**

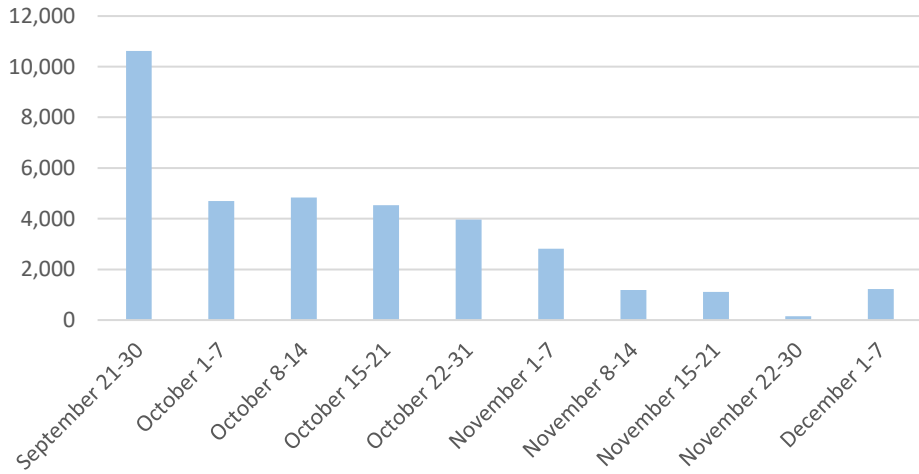
North Zone (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



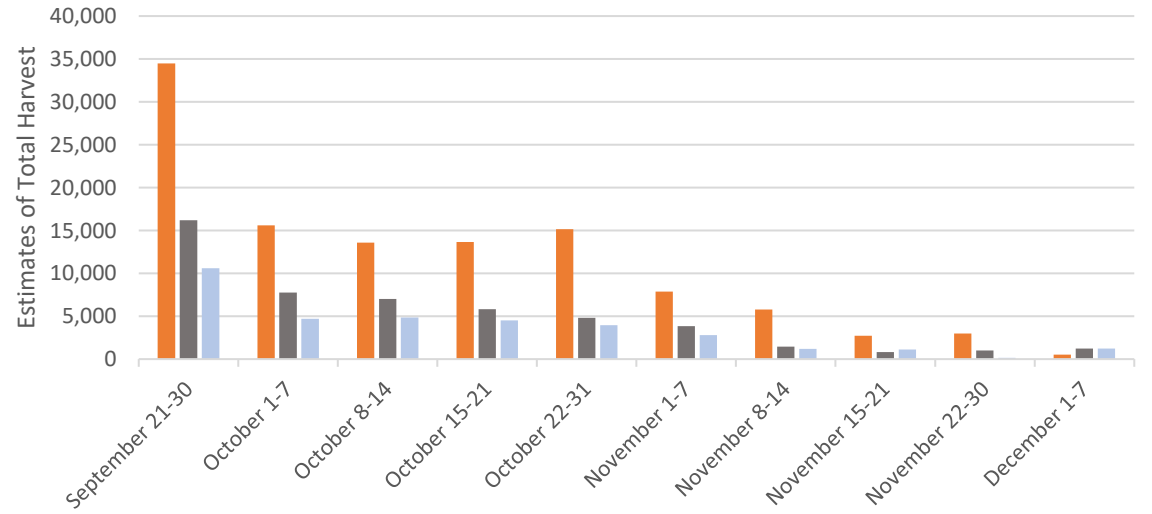
North Zone (Hwy 64) Average (16-22)



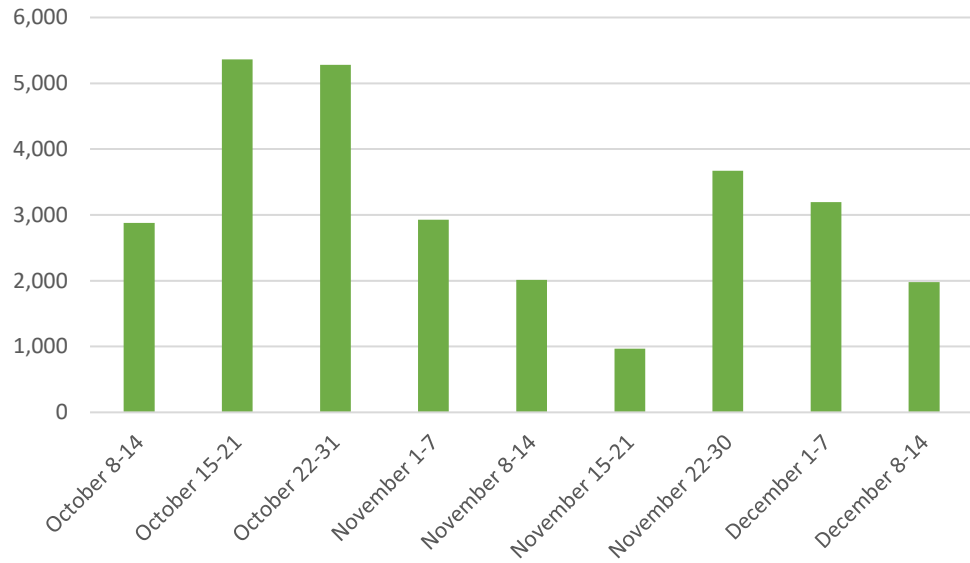
North Zone (Hwy 8) Average (16-22)



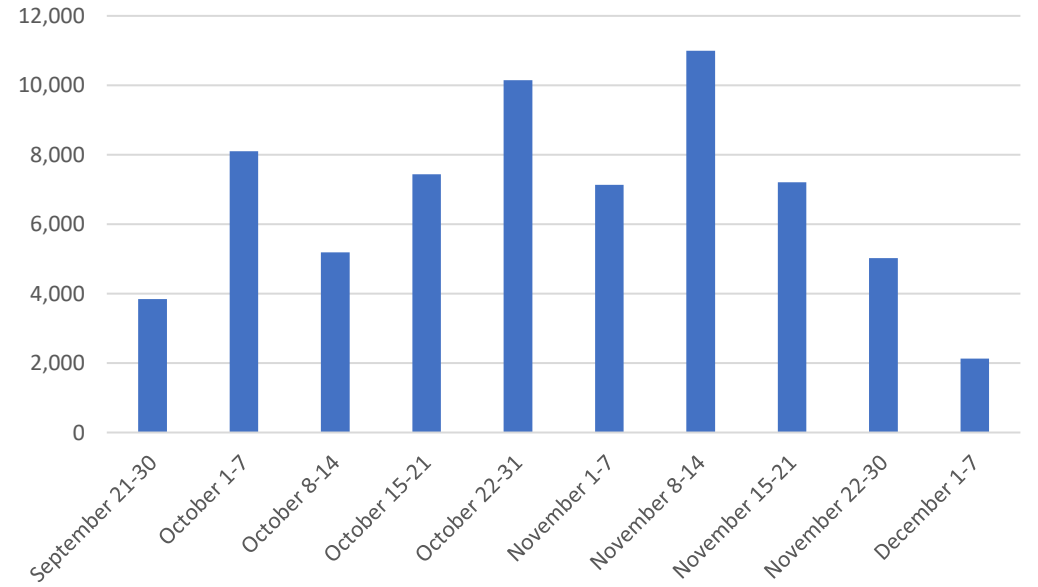
Comparisons of 3 Northern Zone Options (2016 - 2022)



Open Water Zone Counties (Hwy 10) Average (16-22)



Mississippi River Counties Average (16-22)



Waterfowl Hunter Survey Results

2015 WISCONSIN WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

Participation in Waterfowl Hunting
and Opinions of Hunting Regulations



2019 WISCONSIN WATERFOWL HUNTER SURVEY

Participation in Waterfowl Hunting
and Opinions of Hunting Regulations



2015 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Results:

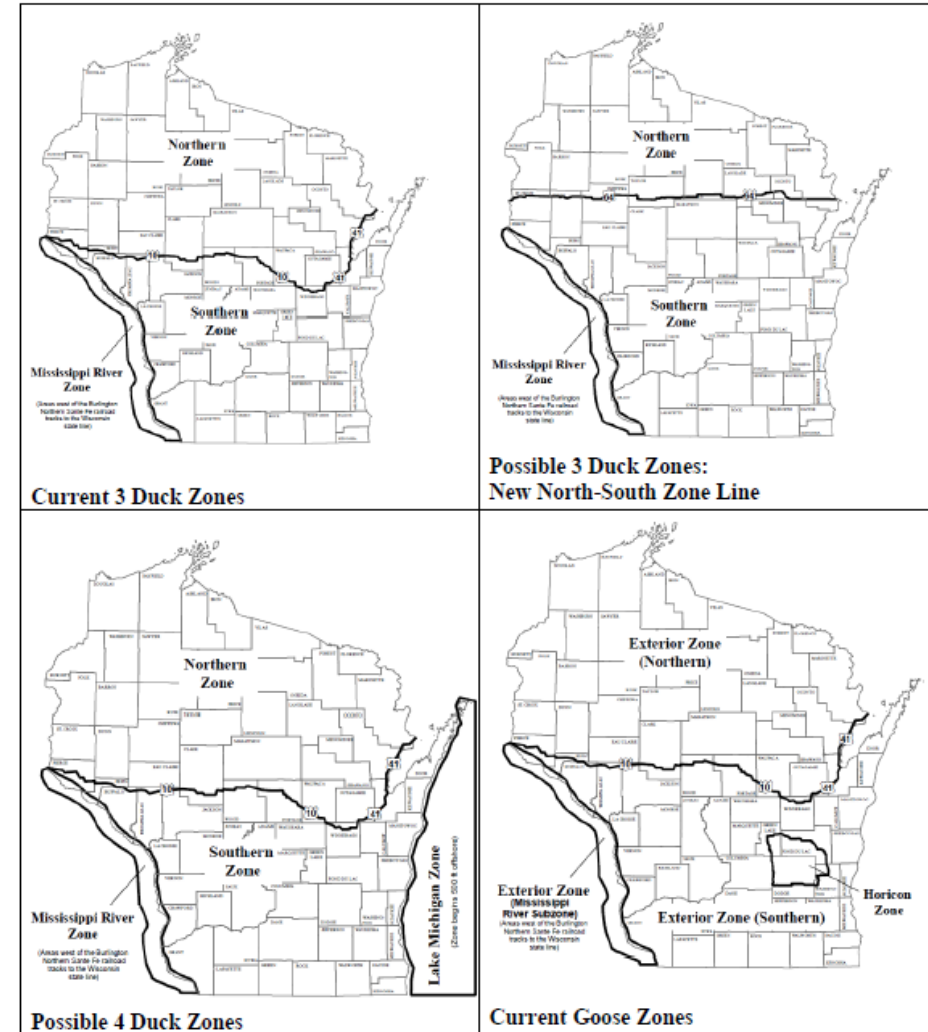
12. Of the three zone options on the previous page, which option do you most prefer? **(check one)**

63% - Option 1: No change to current zone structure

18% - Option 2: Extend the South zone further north to Hwy 64

19% - Option 3: Create a fourth zone of Lake Michigan open water (no split season in any zone)

2015 Duck and Goose Hunting Zones



2019 Wisconsin Waterfowl Hunter Survey

Which zone structure concept would you prefer to see? **(check one)**

	Statewide	North	South	Mississippi River
2 zones with 2 splits	28.4	26.9	29.7	22.4
3 zones with 1 split	27.9	25.1	28.2	36.7
4 zones with no split	11.0	14.4	9.5	11.2
No opinion	32.7	33.6	32.6	29.7

Use the reference maps on cover letter which refer to general locations to tell us which designation of zones you most prefer. (We'll ask about where to draw exact boundary lines in question #4). **(check one.)**

	Statewide	North	South	Mississippi River
2 zones - North and South	41.6	46.2	41.3	24.8
3 zones - North, South, Mississippi River	28.3	27.0	26.4	52.5
3 zones - North, South, Lake Michigan	10.0	6.9	12.0	4.1
No opinion	20.1	20.0	20.3	18.6

Where would you like to see the southern boundary line of the Northern duck zone?


	Statewide	North	South	Mississippi River
Keep at Highway 10	34.3	40.9	30.6	42.2
Move it north to Highway 64	28.0	27.6	29.8	12.7
No opinion	24.5	23.0	23.6	40.2
Other suggestion	13.1	8.6	16.0	5.0

Public Input Results



2019 Waterfowl Season Options

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the 2019 Wisconsin Waterfowl Seasons.

*** Please enter your contact information below. This information will be used to verify the validity of the input received. It will not be shared with any third parties.** 

Name

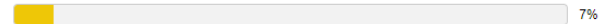
Email Address

Phone Number

Would you like to receive additional information on Waterfowl in Wisconsin through our GovDelivery email service?



Yes, add my email to GovDelivery to receive updates on Waterfowl in Wisconsin.



Next

Migratory Game Bird Public Comment Summary 2016

(150 total comments)

Issue	<u>Email/ Hearing/other</u>	<u>Groups at Meetings</u>	<u>Cons Congress</u>	<u>% of comments in favor</u>
<i>Duck Zone Options, retain current 3 zone format (South, North, Mississippi River; 2017-2020)</i>	<u>106</u>	<u>5</u>	X	<u>71%</u>
Duck Zone Options, Move North/South Zone Line north to Hwy 64	28	1		
Duck Zone Options, Eliminate Miss River Zone and Create Lake Michigan Zone	9	-		
Duck Zone Options, Move North/South Zone Line further south or different (unspecified)	7	-		

Migratory Game Bird Public Comment Summary 2020

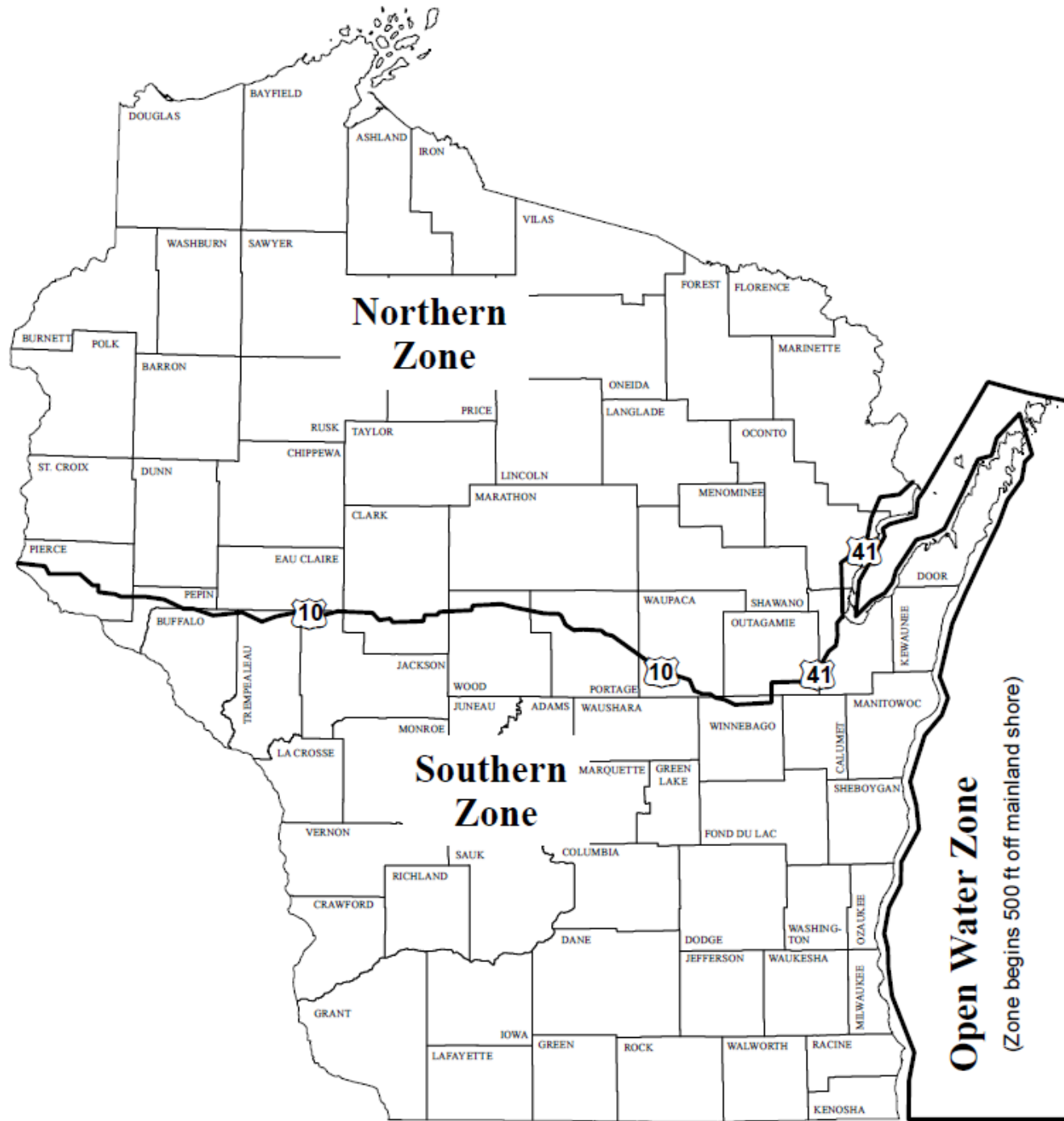
(2,061 total comments)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Email/ Hearing/other</u>	<u>Groups at Meetings</u>	<u>Cons Congress</u>	<u>% of comments in favor</u>
2021 - 2025 Zone Configuration, 3 zones/1 split (North, South, Open Water (Lake Michigan/Green Bay))	825	4	X	40%
2021 - 2025 Zone Configuration, 3 zones/1 split (North, South, Mississippi River)	685	1		
2021 - 2025 Zone Configuration, 2 zones/2 splits (North and South)	551	-		
<u>Issue</u>	<u>Email/ Hearing/other</u>	<u>Groups at Meetings</u>	<u>Cons Congress</u>	<u>% of comments in favor</u>
2021 - 2025 North/South Zone Boundary Line, Hwy 10	890	5		54%
2021 - 2025 North/South Zone Boundary Line, Hwy 64	773		X	

Zone Structure Feedback

- North and South Zone season starting on the same date
- Warmer seasons resulting in increased interest in later season dates in North Zone
- Reminder this is only a five-year commitment
- USFWS reviewing proposals from multiple flyways for other options 2 zones with 2 splits, 3 zones with 2 splits, 1 non-contiguous zone
- Positive feedback from public regarding open water zone (shown growth in participation 2019 = 4% 2021 = 9%)
- Feedback from public and NRB regarding Miss. River Zone and South Zone being the same except for a 2-day difference

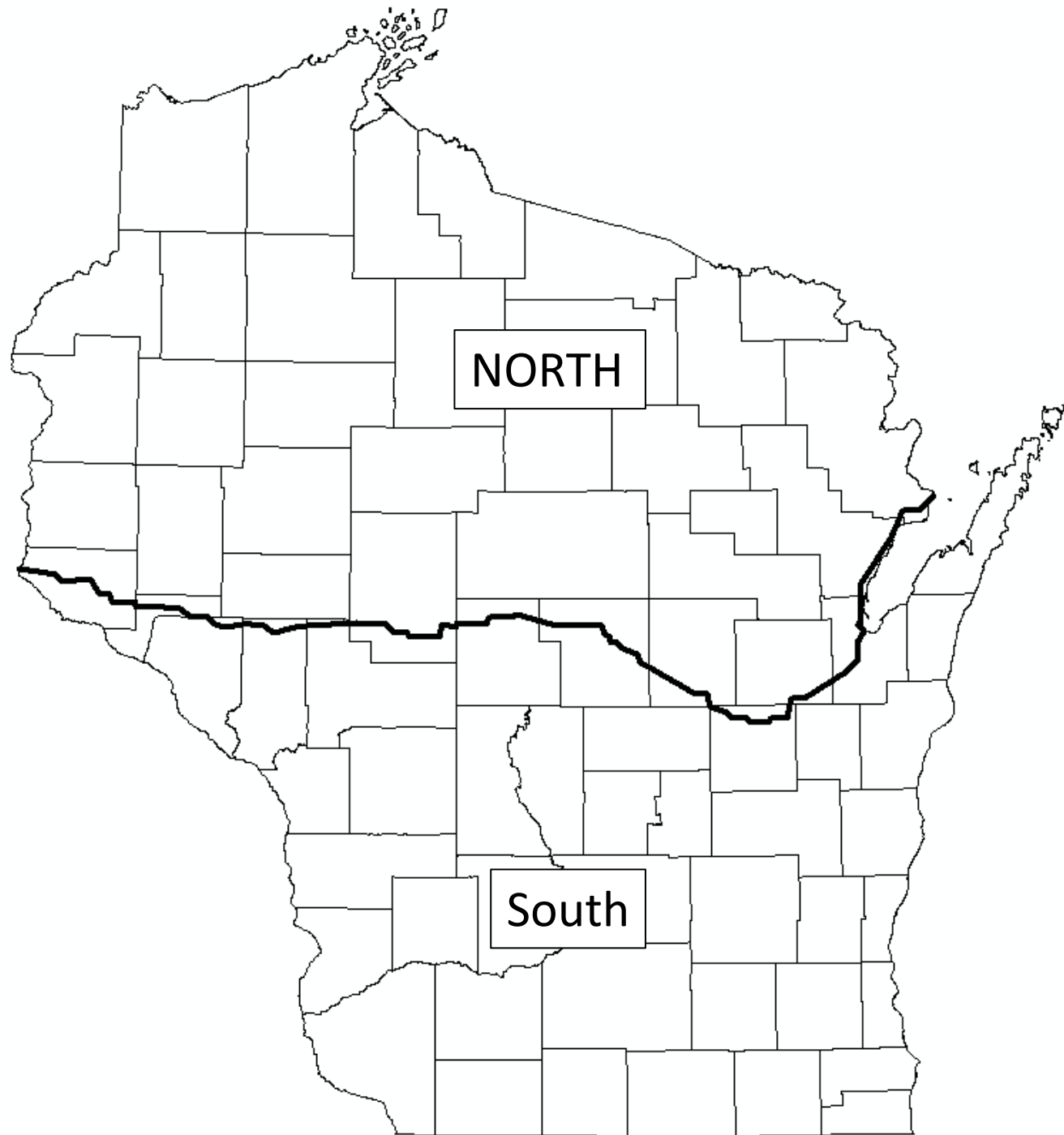
Current HWY 10



- Changes:
- No change
 - 1 split allowed

2 Zones

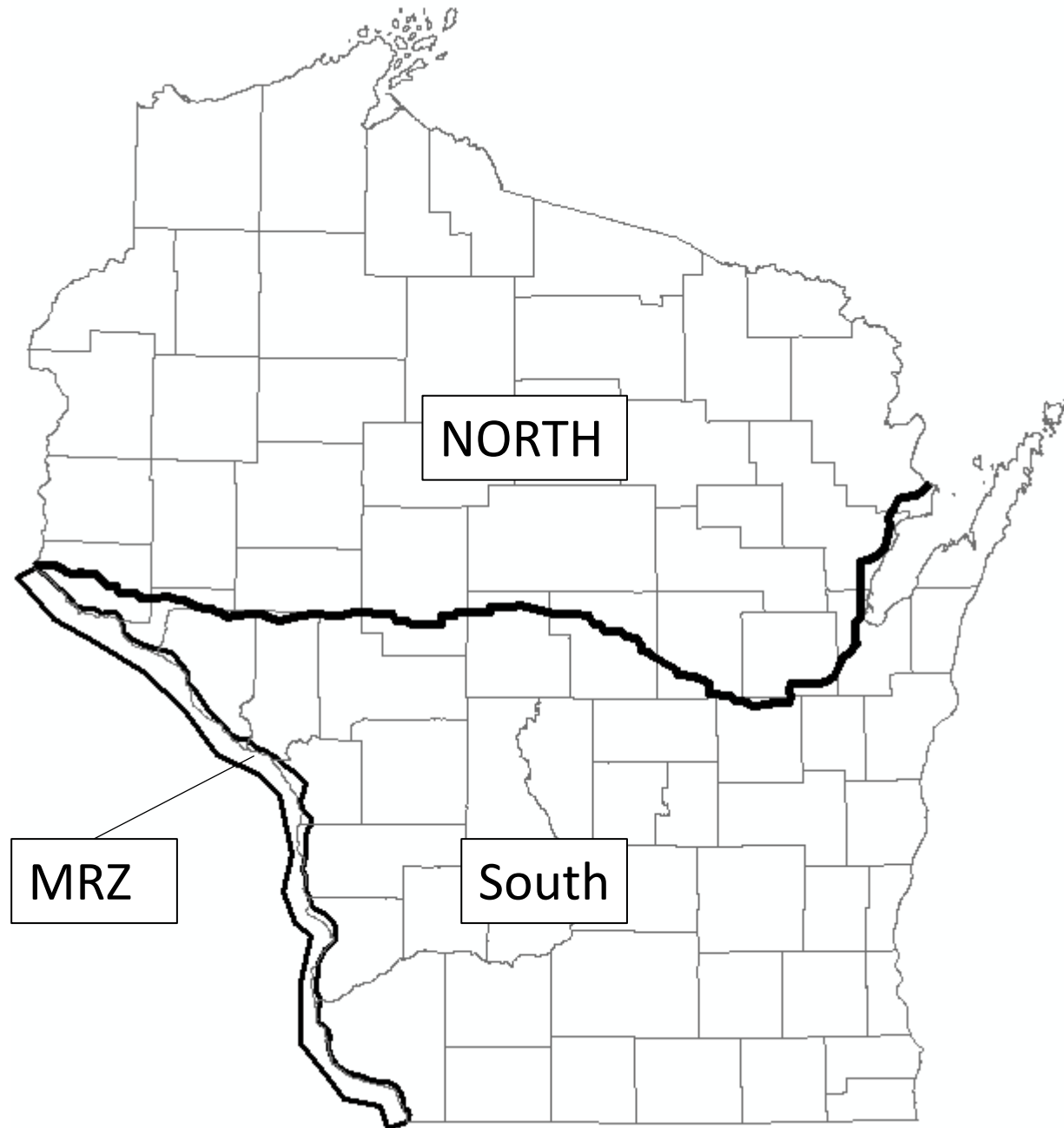
HWY 10



- Changes:
- 2 Zones
 - 2 split allowed

2011 - 2020

HWY 10



Changes:

- 1 split allowed

3 Zone

North/South- HWY 64

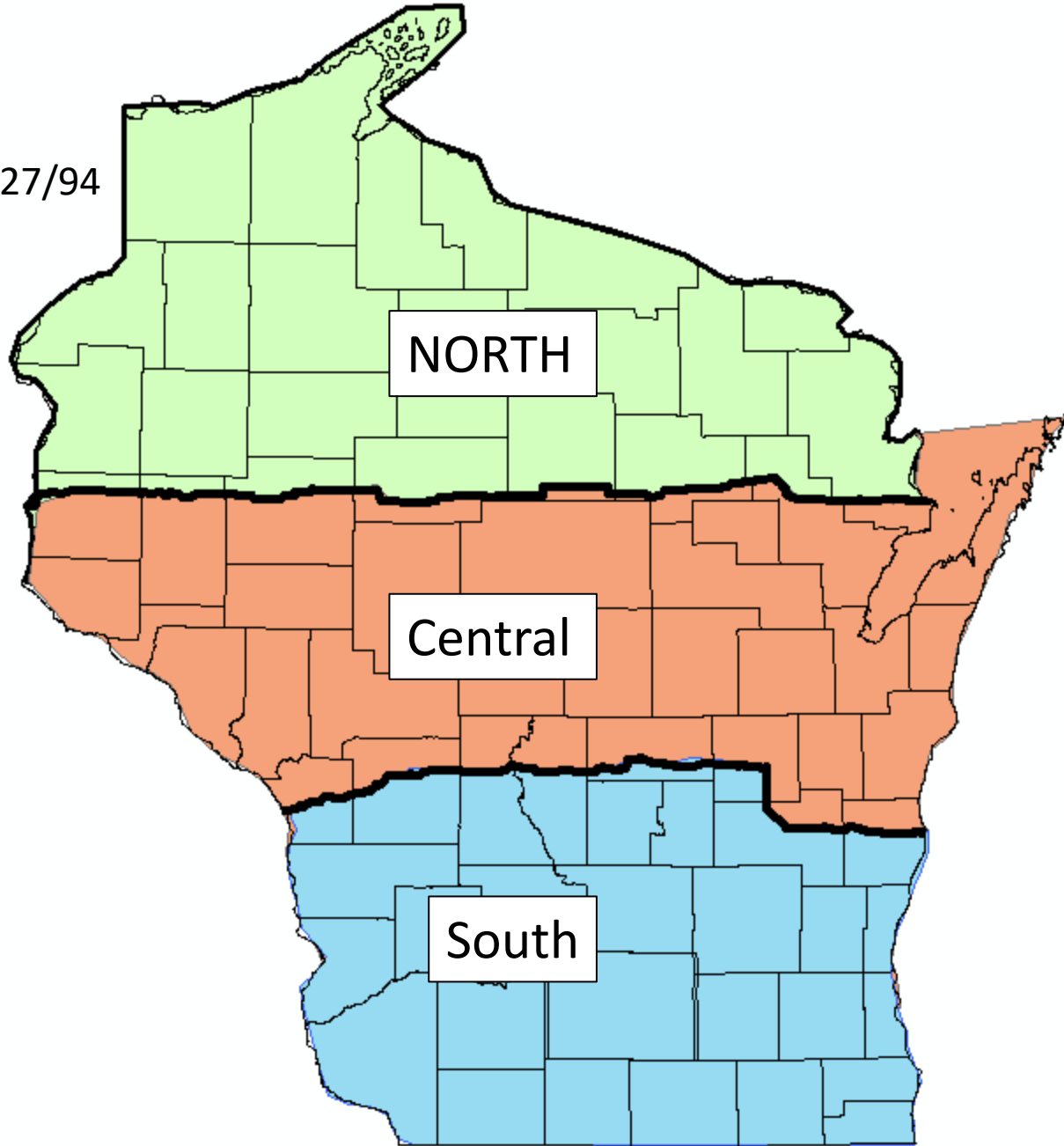


- Changes:
- North/South/OWZ
 - 1 split allowed

3 Zones

North/Central- HWY 64

Central South- HWY 23/41/21/27/94



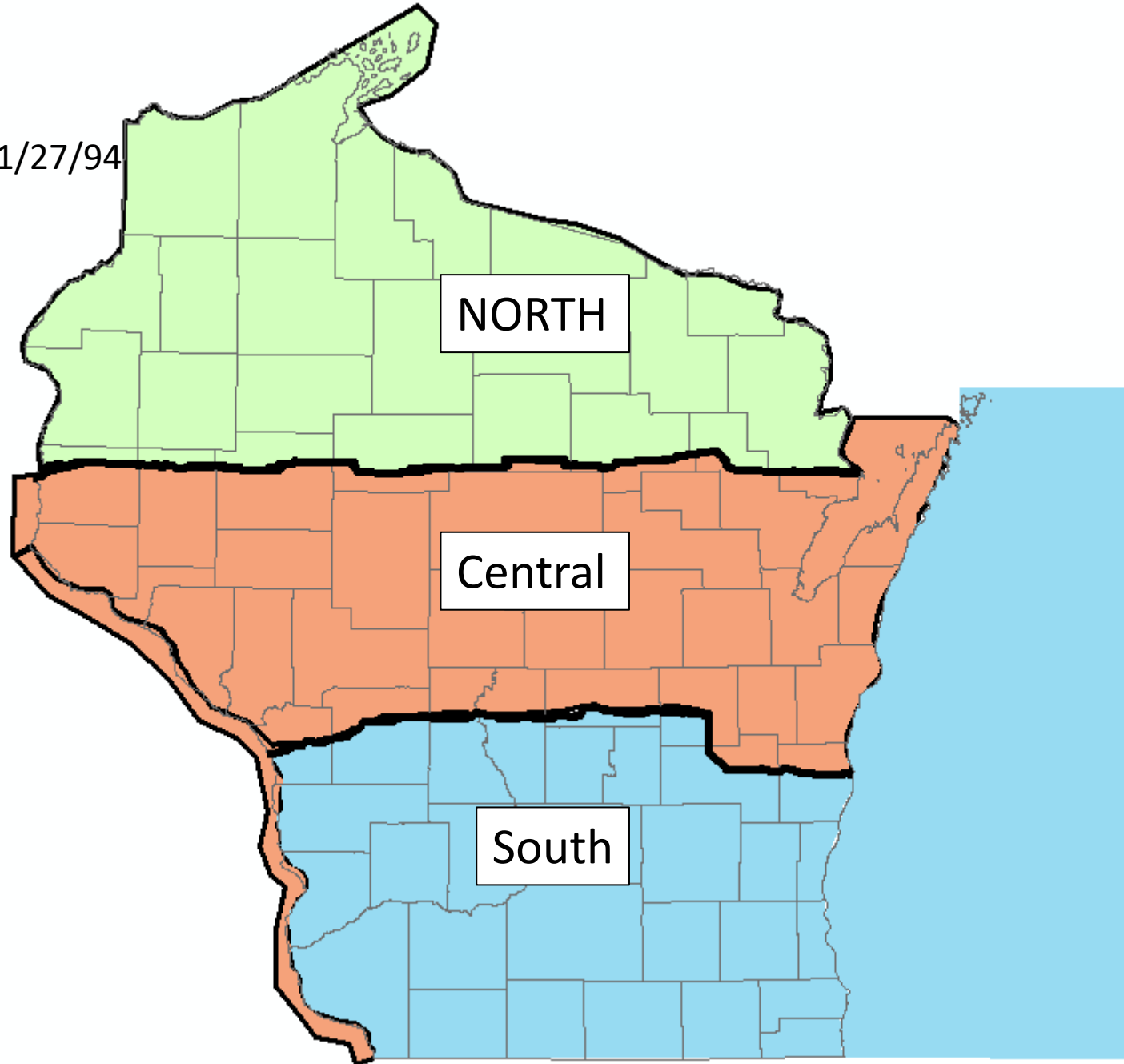
Changes:

- North/Central/South
- No MRZ
- No OWZ
- 1 split allowed

3 Zone

North/Central- HWY 64

Central/South- HWY 23/21/27/94



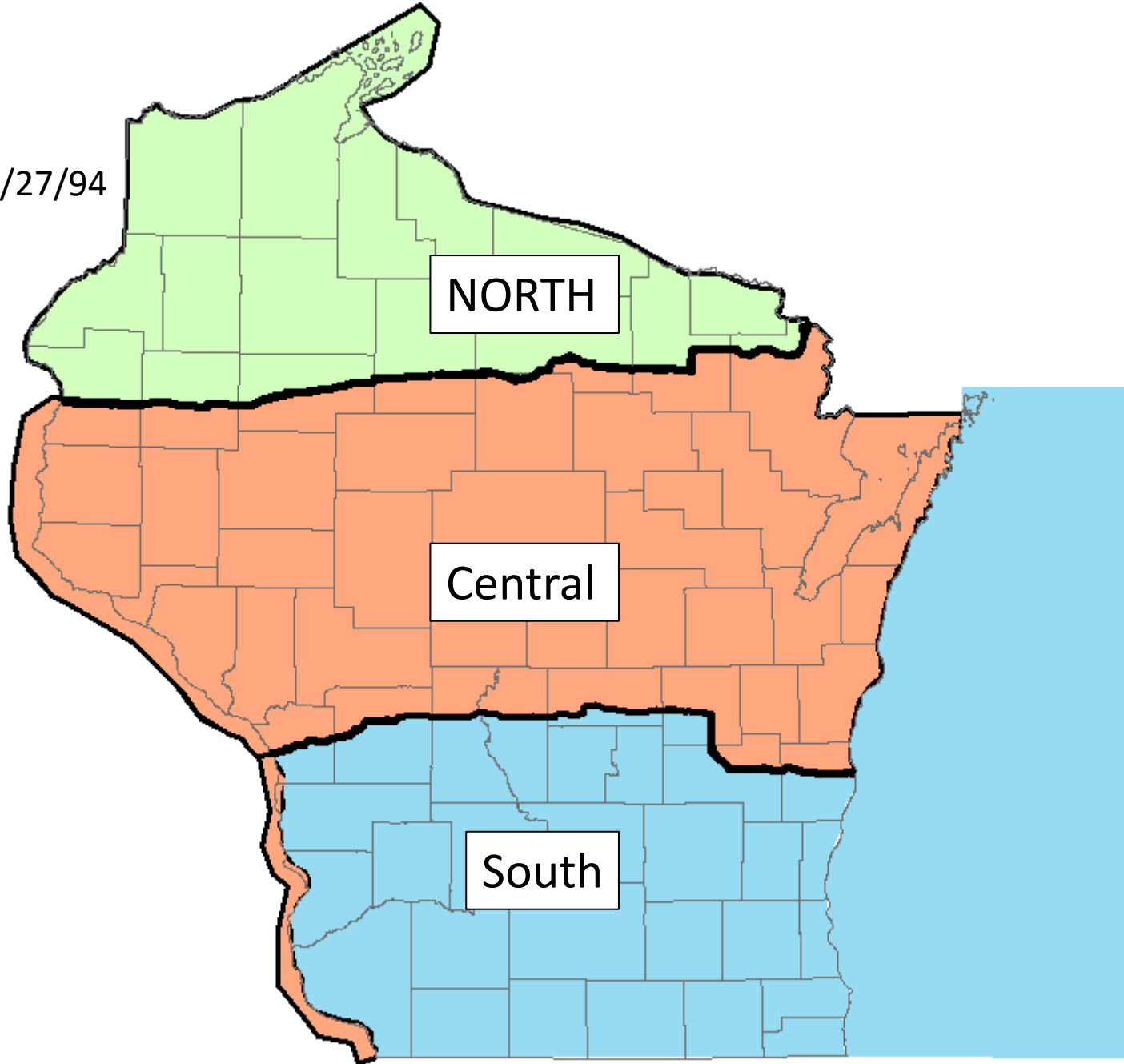
Changes:

- North/Central/South
- MRZ included in Central
- LMZ included in South
- 1 split allowed

3 zone

North/Central- HWY 8

Central/South- HWY 23/21/27/94



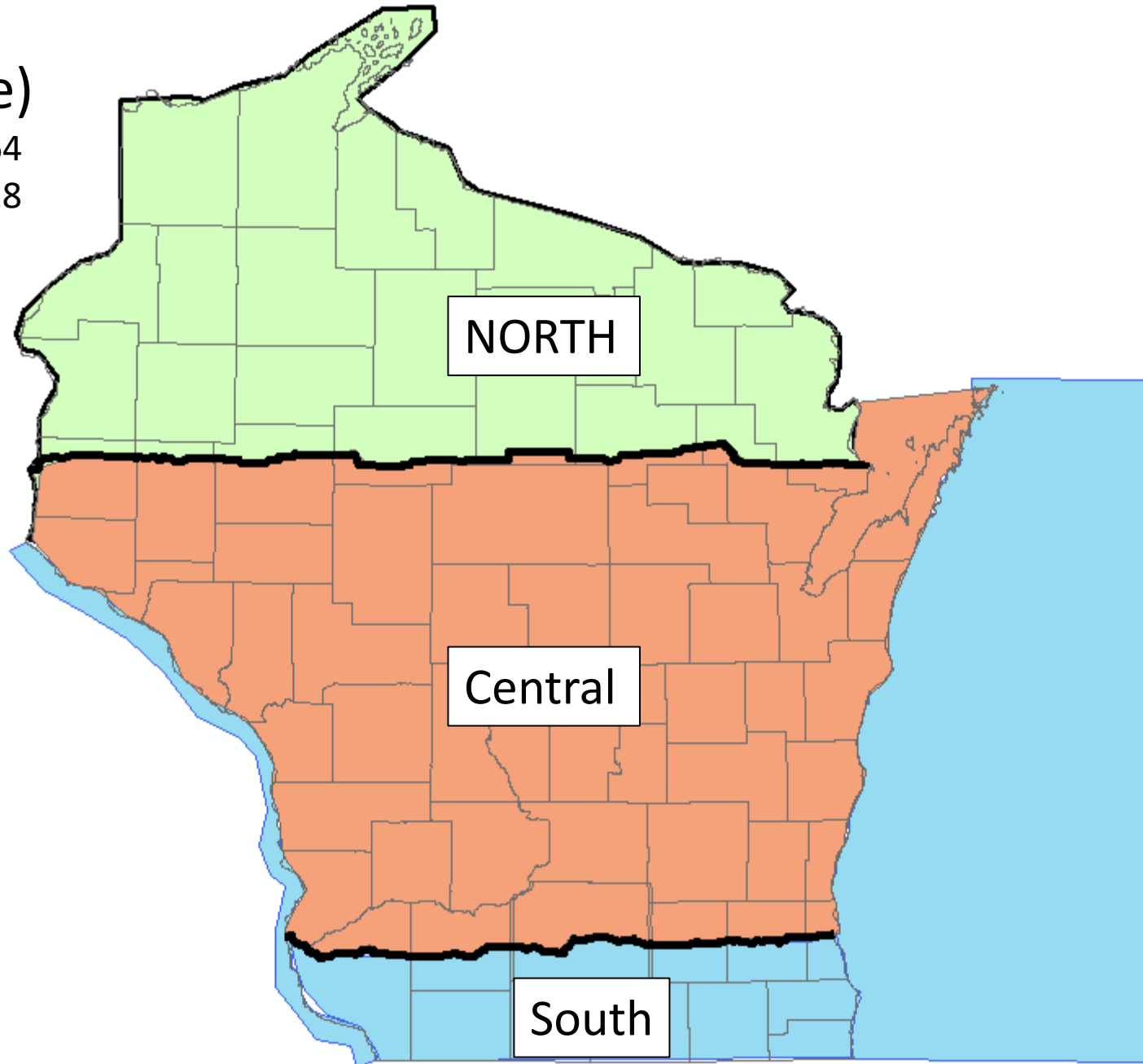
Changes:

- North/Central/South
- MRZ included in Central
- LMZ included in South
- 1 split allowed

3 Zone (U zone)

North/Central- HWY 64

Central/South- HWY 18



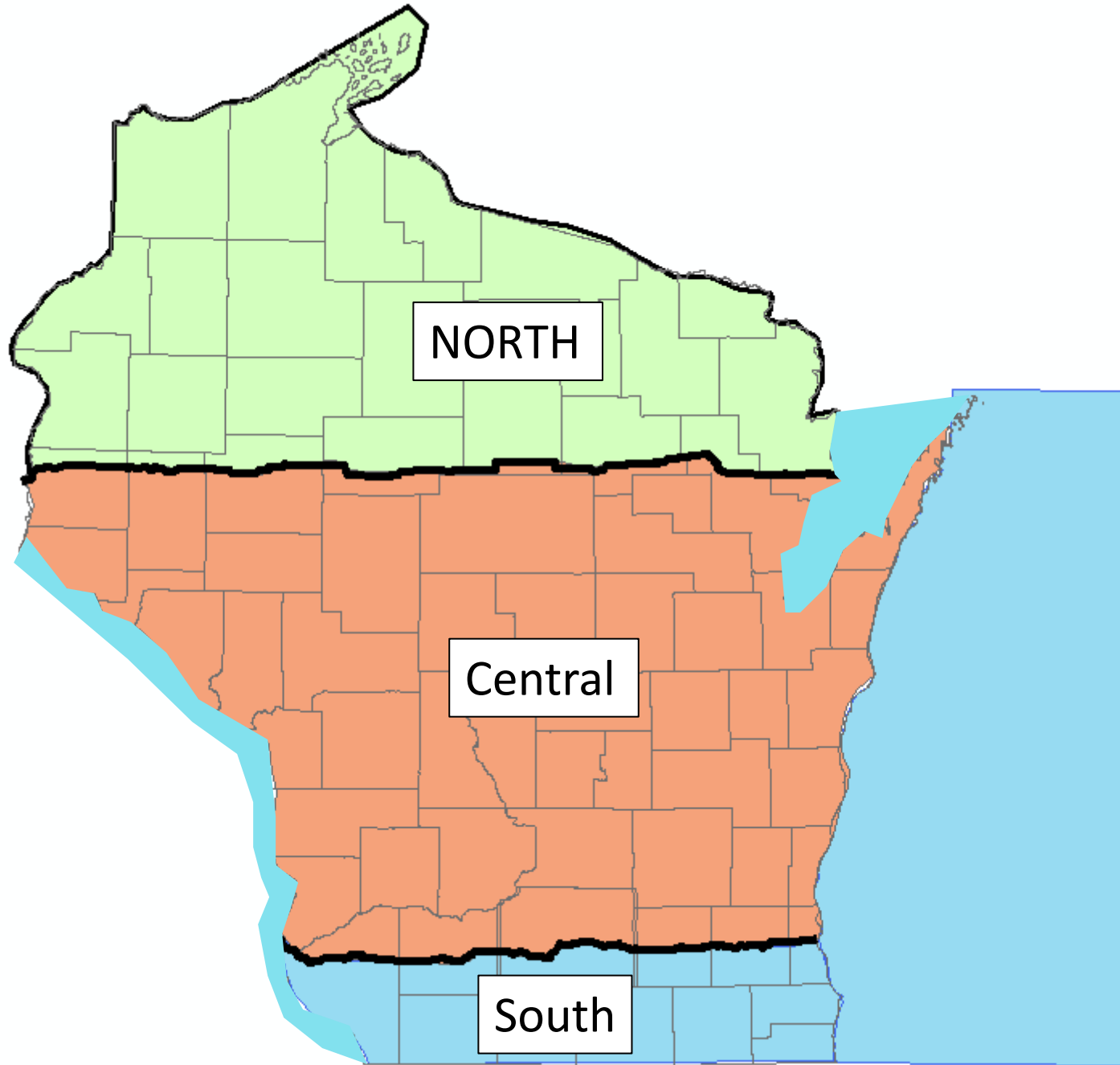
Changes:

- North/Central/South
- MRZ & LMZ included in South
- 1 split allowed

3 zone

North/Central- HWY 64

Central/South- HWY 18

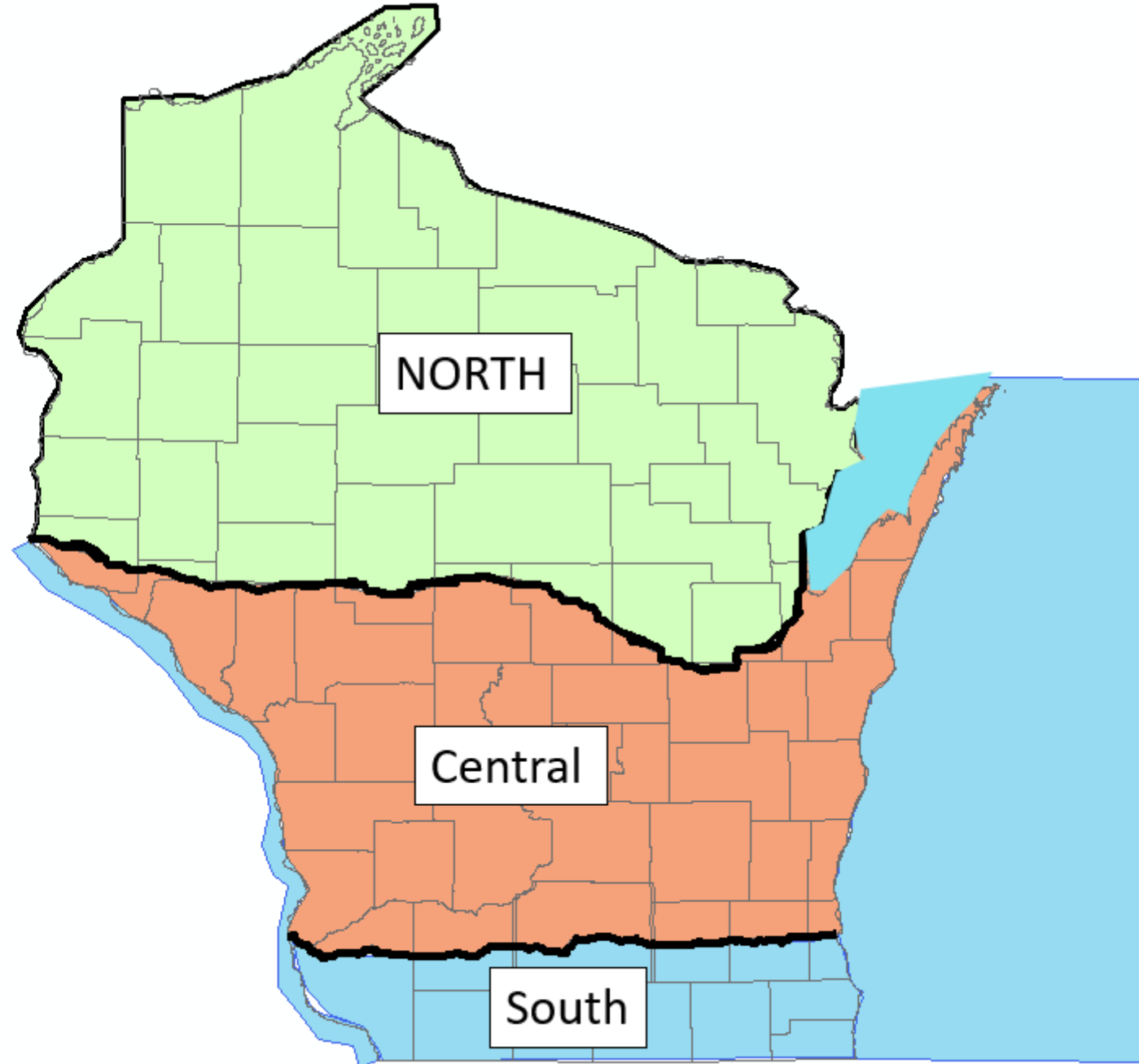


- Changes:
- North/Central/South
 - OWZ and MRZ included in South
 - 1 split allowed

3 Zone (U zone)

North/Central- HWY 10

Central/South- HWY 18



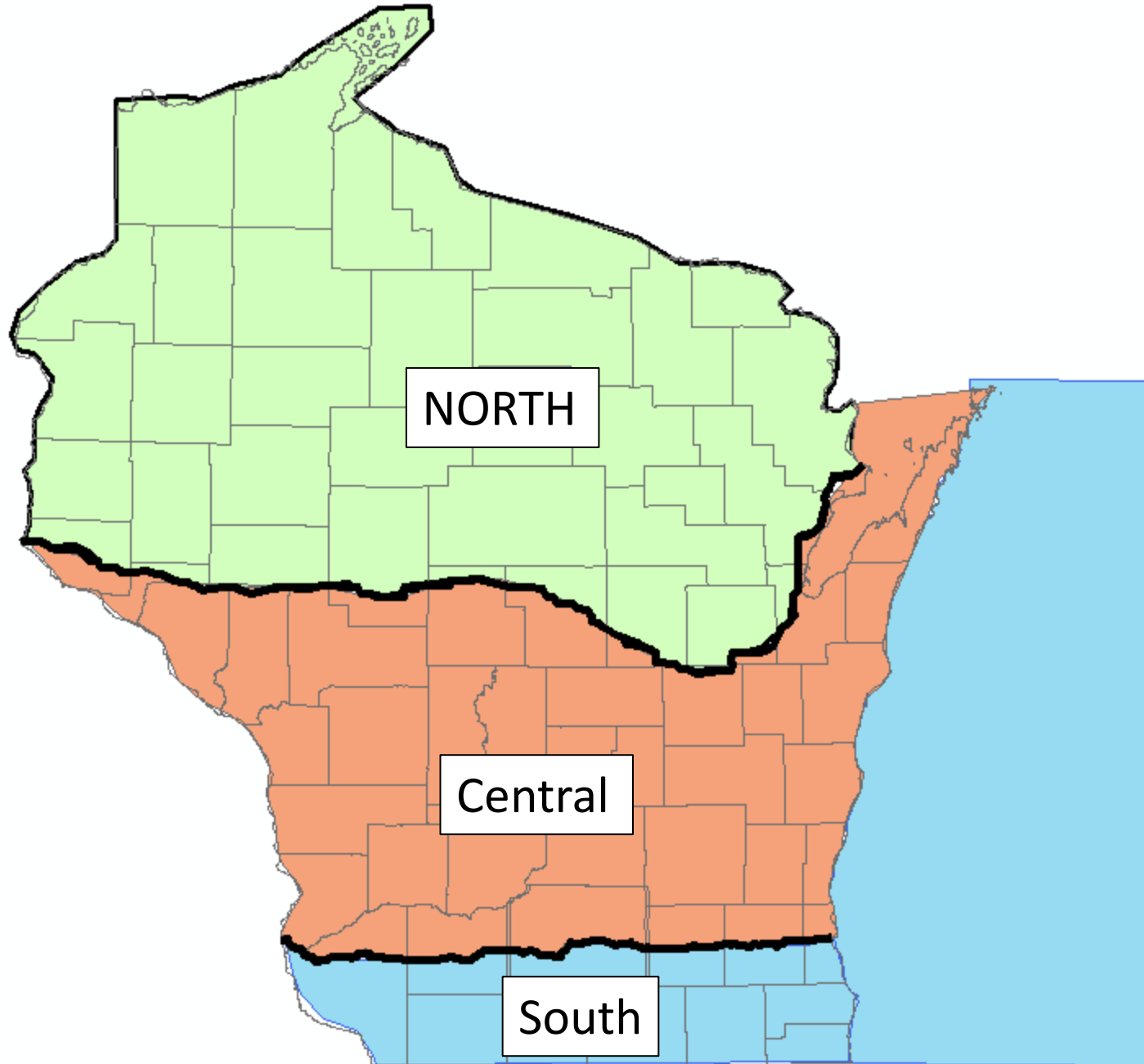
Changes:

- North/Central/South
- MRZ & OWZ included in South
- 1 split allowed

3 zone

North/Central- HWY 10

Central/South- HWY 18

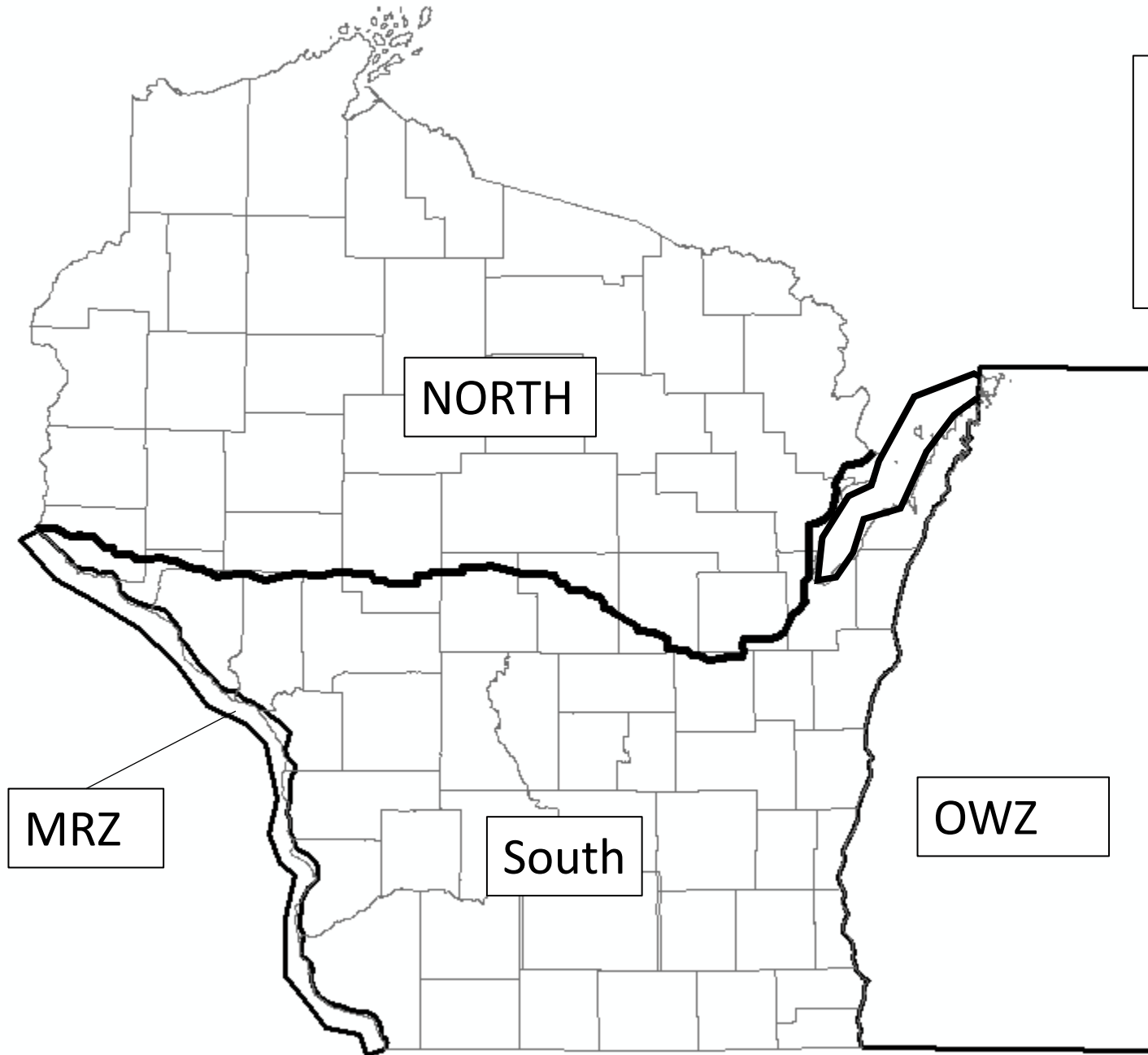


Changes:

- North/Central/South
- LMZ included in South
- 1 split allowed

4 Zone

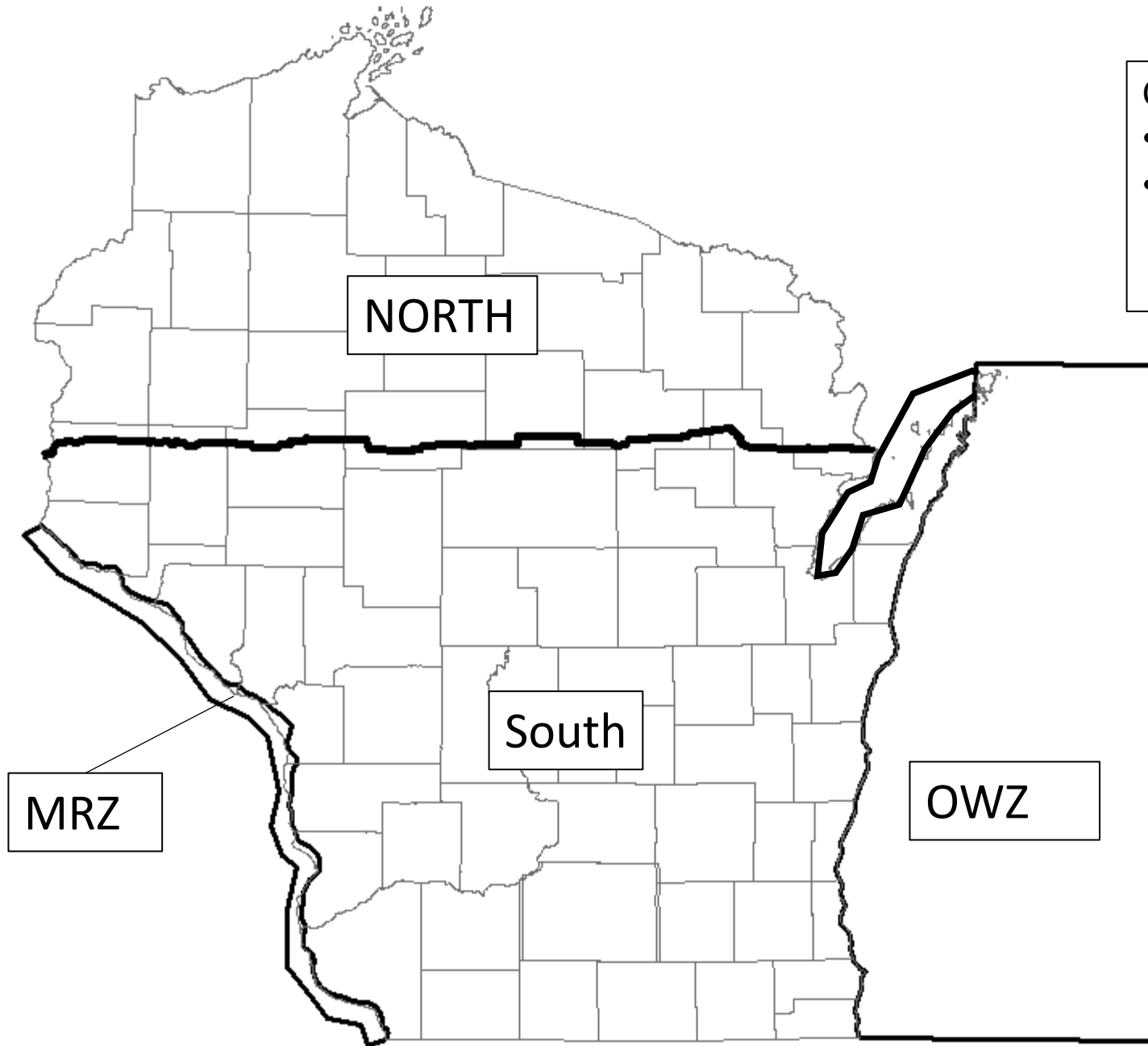
North/South- HWY 10



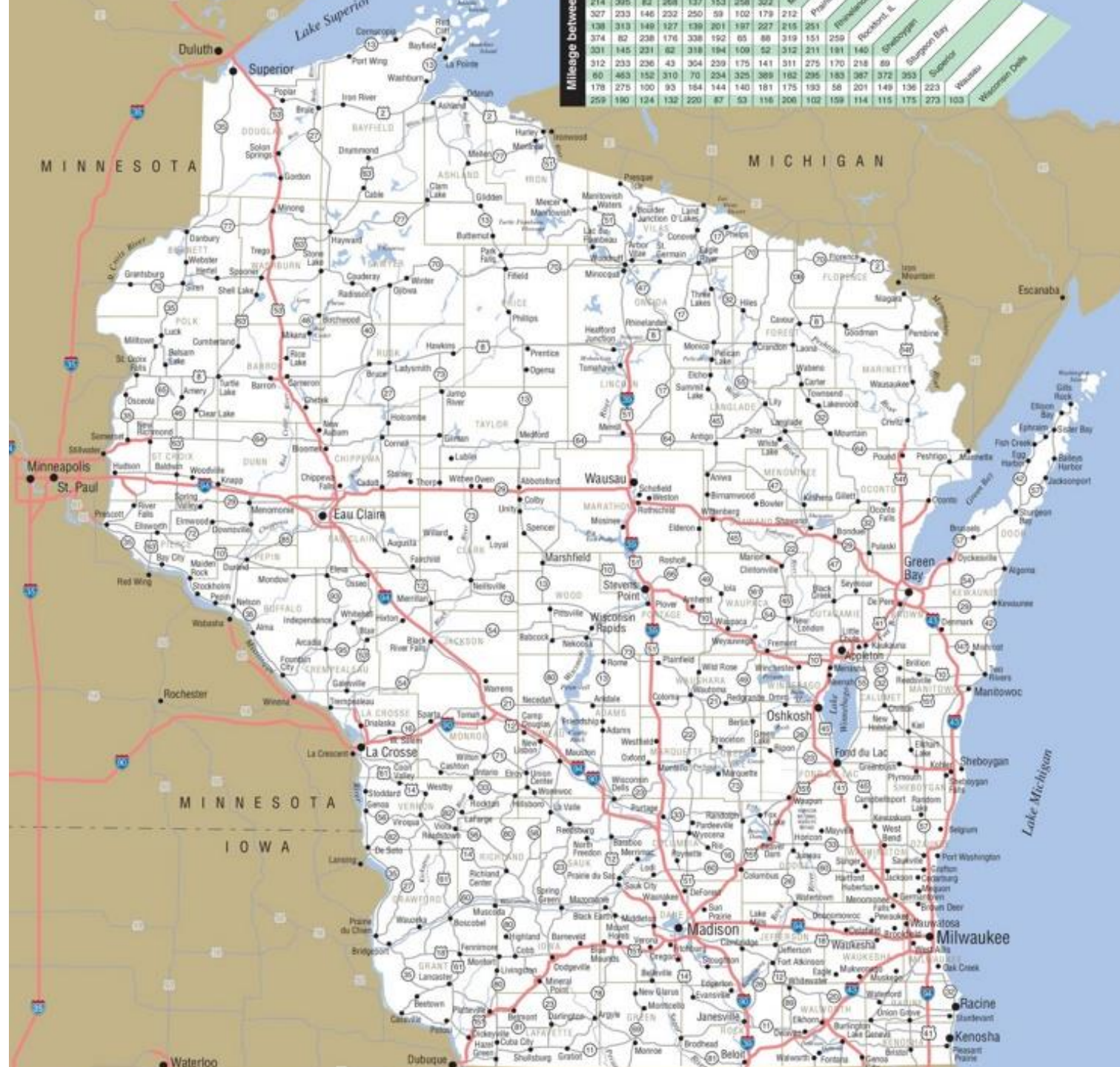
- Changes:
- North/South/OWZ/MRZ
 - No splits allowed

4 Zone

North/South- HWY 64



- Changes:
- North/South/OWZ/MRZ
 - No splits allowed



Path moving forward

- Identify a suite of questions to be used in the 2024 waterfowl hunter survey
 - This will help inform the public input process in spring 2025
- Conservation Group and Stakeholder Group Collaboration
- Discuss utilization of new media tools to inform as well as collect public input
- Timetable
 - Hunter Survey Results – February 2025
 - Collect Public Input – February – March 2025
 - Submit Decision to USFWS – May 1, 2025
 - Effective Date – Fall 2026

Questions/Discussion

