

Minnesota Federation of Field Trial Clubs, Inc.

*Dedicated to promoting Sporting Dogs and Competitions,
throughout the State of Minnesota*



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Keystone Woods WMA Update

12-08-2023

To: all MFFTC members and dog clubs interested in Keystone Woods WMA (formerly Kelly Farms)

As most of you know we have been working with the MN DNR to develop a lease to continue training and holding events at the new WMA Keystone Woods like the one we have at Four Brooks WMA

On Nov 1, 2023, the MNDNR presented a draft plan in a focus group meeting to all parties involved and asked for their feedback. Attached is a copy of that plan and the response our team sent them a couple weeks ago. At this point, the DNR is working to finalize the plan and present it to the public for comment sometime after Jan 1, 2024. Public comments are expected to be heard via email and possibly an in-person open-house meeting.

Throughout this process it has been our impression that many of the decision makers within the MNDNR may not have a clear understanding of who we are, what we do and how important it is for us to hang on to these grounds to be able to continue training and holding events. We believe this public comment period will be our opportunity to communicate to them the number of people this will affect, those who have enjoyed this property with their dogs for decades and the opportunity this property offers for so many others in the future. They need to hear how important it is for us to have a place like this to develop our dogs and hold events this close to the twin cities.

This is not a done deal yet. There are folks that think that even using a portion of a WMA for training dogs or holding a hunt test is not an appropriate activity on a WMA especially during the spring nesting season and we should expect that there will be some push back when the plan goes to public comment.

Given the size (1820 acres) and proximity to the twin cities the DNR wants this new WMA to attract new people to the outdoors and introduce/invite them to get out and enjoy the other WMAs and public lands throughout the state.

How many of us would say that if it weren't for our dogs we probably wouldn't even go?

Please send this out to your membership and strongly encourage them to consider showing up to the public meeting if one is offered and or composing a personal email message describing what it has meant to them to have a place like Kelly Farms or Four Brooks to train and participate in events at.

We will notify you when we receive notice as to when the DNR will present their plan and open it for public comment.

Thank you for your consideration in this important matter!

John Zeman MFFTC pres.

and the Kelley farms/Keystone Woods WMA planning committee