



Few healthy people understand what it is like to have a physical disability. They take for granted daily activities that often require extensive planning and effort for the disabled. For some, simply getting dressed in the morning may take an hour or more. Imagine then, the difficulty and frustration of disabled people who love the outdoors, who yearn to hunt, fish, camp, or take a simple outing to their favorite lake, stream, or meadow.

Over the years, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has provided more opportunities each year for the state's disabled sportsmen and women. From the first handicapped-accessible restroom in a state park to the current disabled/youth deer season and special hunts designed for the disabled, the department offers a number of options for the disabled to enjoy the outdoors.

And these opportunities are about more than hunting, fishing, and parks. They help people with physical disabilities to build relationships with others, realize they are accepted by able-bodied folks, and learn where they can do things to stay active. Ultimately, it's about finding the faith and courage to nurture one's life.

For more information or assistance, contact one of the KDWPT offices listed below.

PRATT OPERATIONS OFFICE

512 SE 25th Ave.
Pratt, KS 67124-8174
(620) 672-5911

REGION 1 OFFICE

1426 Hwy 183 Alt., PO Box 338
Hays, KS 67601-0338
(785) 628-8614

REGION 2 OFFICE

300 SW Wanamaker
Topeka, KS 66606
(785) 273-6740

REGION 3 OFFICE

1001 W McArtor Rd.
Dodge City, KS 67801-6024
(620) 227-8609

REGION 4 OFFICE

6232 E 29th St. North
Wichita, KS 67220
(316) 683-8069

REGION 5 OFFICE

1500 W 7th St., Box 777
Chanute, KS 66720-0777
(620) 431-0380



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, 1020 S Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612-1327. 03/14

Keeping the Spirit Alive

Options for disabled hunters and anglers



For many Kansans, hunting and fishing are their passions, but when disability strikes, the hunter or angler faces special challenges in the outdoors. To ensure that all individuals enjoy high-quality opportunities, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) offers a variety of alternatives to accommodate the needs of disabled citizens.



One of those opportunities involves special permits. There are three different permit categories for disabled hunters, and one of these applies to fishermen, as well. These free permits are designed to give disabled persons the opportunity to hunt or fish although they must still purchase hunting and fishing licenses and other permits or stamps required, unless exempt by law (such as being a resident 15 or younger or 65 or older).

Other opportunities include special facilities or access to generally-restricted areas.

Hunt-From-Vehicle Permit

This permit is available to anyone who qualifies for a handicap vehicle placard. Those with severe visual impairments, who cannot walk without an orthopedic device, who must use portable oxygen, or have a class III or IV cardiac condition are eligible for this permit. The disability can be a permanent or temporary condition.

Applications are available by contacting a KDWPT office listed in this brochure. The application must be completed and signed by a licensed medical practitioner. The permit is free and is issued through regional offices. Anyone who has a handicapped identification placard issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles is exempt from this process. The permit or placard allows the holder to hunt and shoot from a motorized vehicle. Contact KDWPT's Law Enforcement Division at 620-672-5911 for more information.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS
 DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PERMIT
 (Authorized by K.S.A. 32-033 and K.A.R. 115-18-15)

PERMIT NUMBER _____, 20____

In response to application dated _____ D.O.B. _____

(Print)
 has certified that he/she has a permanently physical or visual disability such that he/she cannot safely hunt or fish in accordance with law and rules and regulations of the department, as certified by a person licensed to practice optometry or medicine and surgery in any state. This permit shall allow the permit holder to designate another person to take, on behalf of and while accompanied by the permit holder, the permit holder's legal limit of game or fish. The permit holder must have a valid hunting or fishing license (if required) in addition to other permits (deer tags, etc.). The assistant shall not be required to hold any licenses, permits, stamps or any other issues of the department otherwise required for the activity being engaged in.

Dated at _____ this _____ day of _____, 20____

By _____
 Title _____

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

KEEP AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION BY CONSERVATION OFFICER

Does not authorize hunting without permission of the landowner. All license fees are in addition to this permit.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE PERMIT

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS
 PERMIT TO HUNT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

PERMIT # _____ PERMIT EXPIRES _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

This permit acknowledges the above person has qualified for a disability permit to hunt from a motor vehicle. Under provisions set forth in K.S.A. 32-031 and K.A.R. 115-18-4 the following conditions apply:

- This permit shall not authorize any persons to shoot from any highway, as defined in part thereof in open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.
- Permit holder is authorized to hunt wildlife during the prescribed open seasons from a stationary vehicle. This exception does NOT apply to migratory game birds.
- You are not allowed to hunt on public lands where area regulations prohibit vehicles permits, and abide by applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
- This permit does not waive requirements to possess the landowner's permission of such permit to hunt from a vehicle during the permit holder's hunting activity. Any person assisting a holder of such permit shall not perform the actual shooting of wildlife for the permit holder.
- This permit is required to be carried when hunting and is to be displayed upon request order to hunt from a vehicle in another state, please contact the proper state wildlife department.
- Your authorization to hunt from a stationary vehicle is valid for the state of Kansas. In order to hunt from a vehicle in another state, please contact the proper state wildlife department.

APPROVED BY REGIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SUPERVISOR:
 SIGNATURE _____ DATE: _____

HUNT-FROM-VEHICLE PERMIT

Disability Assistance Permit

A Disability Assistance Permit allows persons who are physically incapable of pulling the trigger or reeling in a fish to designate another person to do this for them. The application is available through the Pratt Operations Office and also requires certification by a licensed medical or optical practitioner. There is no fee for the permit

Fishing and Boating Docks

All boating and fishing docks currently being built in the state are designed to accommodate disabled boaters and fishermen. While most such docks are designed for boaters, disabled anglers often use them. A few docks in the state are designed specifically to accommodate the disabled angler.

Waterfowl Hunting

Although KDWPT currently maintains only one disability-accessible waterfowl blind in the state – at Cheyenne Bottoms – special allowances are made for disabled waterfowl hunters during special hunts and in some areas. These can include accommodations such as allowing disabled hunters to use a vehicle or area not otherwise allowed.

Other Accommodations

State regulation allows a person to assist a disabled hunter, without doing the actual shooting. A disabled permit holder may designate someone to assist in pursuing and retrieving a big game animal harvested by the disabled hunter. There is no permit required for persons providing such assistance to a disabled big game hunter, but the assisting individual must possess a hunting license.

KDWPT is also working to help disabled sportsmen and women through a special youth/disabled deer hunting season in late September. During the youth/disabled deer season, only youth 16 or younger and those who qualify for a Disability Assistance Permit may hunt.

A few special hunts for disabled persons are occasionally held throughout the state at different times of the year, often through volunteer organizations assisted by KDWPT staff. These events help disabled hunters with everything from getting into the field to field dressing game. Check with the nearest KDWPT office for information.

In addition to these programs, KDWPT has a specially-built hydraulic lift deer blind donated to the department by the Paralyzed Veterans of America. The blind is available on a first-come, first served basis to volunteer or conservation groups to use when conducting disabled hunts. This is a wheelchair-accessible device that provides a comfortable enclosure that can be elevated to 19 feet.