

Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 East 29th St N, Wichita, Kansas to consider the approval and adoption of proposed regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:30 p.m., December 13 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing and more business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. December 14 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and may request the meeting materials in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the meeting should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission Secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698 to request special accommodations.

This 30-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulations.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to sheila.kemmis@ks.gov if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulations. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulations.

In addition to the previously published notice, the regulations that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting are as follows:

K.A.R. 115-25-5. This exempt regulation establishes the fall turkey season, bag limits and permits. The proposed version of the regulation would close the fall season for turkeys in 2019 in 4 hunting units to account for several years of poor reproduction.

Economic Impact Summary: The economic effect on the Department would be a reduction of \$157,000, which would impact the wildlife fee fund. There would also a corresponding decrease in collateral economic impact to the economy of the state in the estimated amount of \$8,000,000. Otherwise, no other economic impact to the department, other

state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

K.A.R. 115-25-6. This exempt regulation establishes the spring turkey season, bag limits and permits. The proposed version of the regulation would adjust opening dates for youth, archery and the regular seasons in 2020.

Economic Impact Summary: The season generates approximately \$1,742,500 in user fees, all of which accrue to the wildlife fee fund, and generates approximately \$51,712,000 to the Kansas economy, based on economic studies provided by the USFWS. Otherwise, the proposed version of the regulation is not anticipated to have any other significant economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public.

K.A.R. 115-25-14. This exempt regulation establishes fishing seasons, creel limits, size limits, and possession limits. The proposed version of the regulation adds two new trout locations and several new mentor fishing ponds.

Economic Impact Summary: Fishing in Kansas generates approximately \$6,794,800 in user fees, all of which accrue to the wildlife fee fund, and approximately \$292,962,000 to the Kansas economy, based on economic studies provided by the USFWS. Otherwise, the proposed version of the regulation is not anticipated to have any other significant economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulations and their respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at www.kdwpt.state.ks.us, or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman