

D. Public Hearing

1. KAR 115-25-20, Sandhill crane; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and permit validation (Richard Schultheis)

Staff recommendation is to revise KAR 115-25-20 to reflect a split in the area currently open to sandhill crane hunting in Kansas into western and central crane hunting zones along the boundaries described below and represented in Figure 5. Staff further recommends the west zone season open on the third Saturday in October and run for 58 days consecutively, including the opening day. No changes to the season structure for the central zone (58 days, beginning the Wednesday after the first Saturday in November), or the total area open to sandhill crane hunting are recommended.

Proposed sandhill crane hunting zone boundaries

Central Zone: That portion of the State within an area bounded by a line beginning where I-35 crosses the Oklahoma border, then north on I-35 to Wichita, then north on I-135 to Salina, then north on U.S. 81 to the Nebraska border, then west along the Kansas/Nebraska border to its intersection with Hwy 283, then south on Hwy 283 to the intersection with Hwy 18/24, then east along Hwy 18 to Hwy 183, then south on Hwy 183 to Route 1, then south on Route 1 to the Oklahoma border, then east along the Kansas/Oklahoma border to where it crosses I-35.

West Zone: That portion of the State west of the western boundary of the East Zone.

2. 2020-21 Waterfowl Seasons (Tom Bidrowski)

SEPTEMBER TEAL HUNTING SEASON

Staff recommends adopting a 9-day season in the High Plains Unit (west of Hwy 283) and a 16-day season in the Low Plains Zones (east of Hwy 283) (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit Sep. 19 to Sep. 27
- Low Plains Zones Sep. 12 to Sep. 27

YOUTH, VETERAN, AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Staff recommends adopting 2 youth waterfowl hunting days and 2 days for veterans and active military waterfowl hunting days. Staff recommends the youth/veterans/active military waterfowl hunting days be held simultaneously and held 1 week prior to the opening day of the general duck season in each of the respective Kansas duck zones. Staff recommends adopting Federal Frameworks daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours.

DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT HUNTING SEASONS

Staff recommends adopting a 96-day season in the High Plains unit and 74-day season in the Low Plains Zones (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours and option A for merganser limit. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Oct. 10 to Jan. 03 and Jan. 22 to Jan. 31
- Low Plains Early Zone Oct. 10 to Dec. 06 and Dec. 19 to Jan. 03
- Low Plains Late Zone Oct. 31 to Jan. 03 and Jan. 23 to Jan. 31

- Low Plains Southeast Zone Nov. 07 to Jan. 03 and Jan. 16 to Jan. 31

CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT, AND LIGHT GEESE HUNTING SEASONS

Staff recommends adopting a 105-day season for dark geese (Canada geese or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese): and light geese (Snow and Ross’s geese) and Option B (88-day season with a bag limit of 2) for white-fronted geese. Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit for light and whited fronted geese, and daily bag limit of 6 dark geese and Federal Framework for possession limits shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- White-fronted geese: Oct. 31 to Jan. 03 and Jan. 23 to Feb. 14
- Dark Geese: Oct. 31to Nov. 01 and Nov. 04 to Feb. 14
- Light Geese: Oct. 31to Nov. 01 and Nov. 04 to Feb. 14
- Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 15 to Apr. 30

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON

Staff recommends adopting a 15-day season in the in the Low Plains Unit. Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and hawking hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Closed to extended falconry season
- Low Plains Early Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Late Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10

3. Duck Hunting Zones (Tom Bidrowski)

Staff recommends no changes to Kansas Low Plains Duck Hunting Zones.

4. KAR 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits. (Matt Peek)

No changes are recommended for this regulation at this time, including season structure, bag limits, and permits.

We propose unlimited archery permits be allocated for both residents and nonresidents. Firearm and muzzleloader permits will remain restricted to residents, with half assigned to landowner/tenants and the remainder awarded to general residents. Firearm and muzzleloader permit allocations will be determined following winter aerial surveys.

The proposed season dates are:

September 19-27, 2020 and October 10-31, 2020 for the archery season.

September 28, 2020 - October 5, 2020 for the muzzleloader season.

October 2-5, 2020 for the firearm season.

5. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit and permits (Matt Peek)

We do not currently anticipate any changes to season structure, bag limits or permit types.

Unit boundaries are defined in K.A.R. 115-4-6b. Units 2 and 3 will be open to hunting.

The proposed season dates on Fort Riley are:

- a) September 1-30, 2020 for a season in which both muzzleloader and archery equipment may be used.
- b) October 1-December 31, 2020 for the firearms season.
 - 1) First segment: October 1-31, 2020.
 - 2) Second segment: November 1-30, 2020.
 - 3) Third segment: December 1-31, 2020.

The proposed season dates outside the boundaries of Fort Riley are:

- a) September 1-30, 2020 for the muzzleloader season.
- b) September 14-December 31, 2020 for the archery season.
- c) August 1-31, 2020, December 2-13, 2020, and January 1-March 15, 2021 for the firearms seasons.

Limited quota Either-Sex (ES) elk permits are valid during any open season, and we're proposing 12 be authorized.

Limited quota Antlerless Elk (AE) permits are valid during any open season except that only 1/3 are valid during each of the three one-month segments on Fort Riley. We're proposing that six AE permits be allocated for each segment.

Elk permits will be available only to Kansas residents, and permit applications will be separated into military and nonmilitary applicants. An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only and either-sex elk permits will be authorized in Units 2 and 3. An unlimited number of general resident and landowner tenant antlerless-only and any-elk permits will be authorized in Unit 3. We do not currently anticipate any changes to season structure, bag limits or permit types.

Unit boundaries are defined in K.A.R. 115-4-6b. Units 2 and 3 will be open to hunting.

The proposed season dates on Fort Riley are:

- c) September 1-30, 2020 for a season in which both muzzleloader and archery equipment may be used.
- d) October 1-December 31, 2020 for the firearms season.
 - 4) First segment: October 1-31, 2020.
 - 5) Second segment: November 1-30, 2020.
 - 6) Third segment: December 1-31, 2020.

The proposed season dates outside the boundaries of Fort Riley are:

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- b) September 14-December 31, 2020 for the archery season.
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6. KAR 115-4-2. Big game and wild turkey; general provisions (Levi Jaster)

Except for big game animals taken with an "either-sex" permit, the visible sex organs of the big game animal shall remain naturally attached to the carcass or a quartered portion thereof, while in transit from the site of the kill to the permittee's residence or to a commercial place of processing or preservation, unless the carcass has been tagged with a department check station tag, the permittee is using the department's electronic carcass tag system and has submitted the information required (county, the date, and the time of kill and enter a photograph of the entire carcass, with sufficient clarity to display the species and the antlered or antlerless condition of the big game animal), the permittee has obtained a transportation confirmation number after electronically registering the permittee's big game animal or wild turkey on the department's electronic registration site, or the permittee retains photographs necessary for electronic registration until registration occurs.

7. KAR 115-4-4. Big game; legal equipment and taking methods (Levi Jaster)

Remove the restriction on the use of draw locking devices. This would allow locking draw devices to be used as legal archery equipment for taking big game animals.

8. KAR 115-4-6. Deer; management units (Levi Jaster)

Change the boundary of DMU 19 Kansas City urban; unit 19 to: that part of Kansas bounded by a line from the Missouri-Kansas state line west on Johnson County 199 Street to its junction with interstate highway I-35, then southwest on interstate highway I-35 to its junction with federal highway US-75, then north on federal highway US-75 to its junction with South Topeka Boulevard, then north on South Topeka Boulevard to its junction with Shawnee County SW 93 Street, then west on Shawnee County SW 93 Street to its junction with Shawnee County SW Auburn Road, then north on Shawnee County SW Auburn Road to its junction with interstate highway I-70, then west on interstate highway I-70 to its junction with NW Carlson-Rossville

Road, then north on NW Carlson-Rossville Road to its junction with Shawnee County NW 62 Street, then east on Shawnee County NW 62 Street to its junction with Shawnee County NW Hoch Road, then north on Shawnee County NW Hoch Road to its junction with Shawnee County NW 66 Street, then east on Shawnee County NW 66 Street to its junction with Shawnee County NW Humphrey Road, then south on Shawnee County NW Humphrey Road to its junction with Shawnee County NW 62 Street, then east on Shawnee County NW 62 Street to its junction with state highway K-4, then north on state highway K-4 to its junction with state highway K-92, then west east on state highway K-92 to its junction with Leavenworth County 207 Street, then north on Leavenworth County 207 Street to its junction with state highway K-192, then northeast on state highway K-192 to its junction with federal highway US-73, then east on federal highway US-73 to the Missouri-Kansas state line, then south on the Missouri-Kansas state line to Johnson County 199 Street, except federal and state sanctuaries and department-owned or -managed properties.

9. KAR 115-25-9 Deer; open season, bag limit and permits (Levi Jaster)

Add Elk City and Berentz-Dick Wildlife Areas (Buffalo Ranch) to the list of lands managed by the department on which the additional four Whitetail Antlerless Only permits are valid.

The proposed season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2020-21 are as follows:

Youth and Disability	Sept. 5, 2020 – Sept. 13, 2020
Early Muzzleloader	Sept. 14, 2020 – Sept. 27, 2020
Archery	Sept. 14, 2020– Dec. 31, 2020
Pre-Rut WAO	Oct. 10, 2020 – Oct. 12, 2020
Regular Firearm	Dec. 2, 2020 – Dec. 13, 2020
1 st Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2021 – Jan. 10, 2021
2 nd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2021– Jan. 17, 2021
3 rd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2021 – Jan. 24, 2021
Extended Archery (DMU 19)	Jan. 25, 2021– Jan. 31, 2021