

AGENDA
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS
COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, January 12, 2023
Great Plains Nature Center Auditorium
6232 E 29th St N, Wichita, KS
including a
Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option

Instructions for Virtual Portion of Commission Meeting, January 12, 2023 at 12:00 pm:

Instructions to Participate in Virtual Commission meeting on January 12, 2023

- A. Log Into Zoom
 - 1. Visit
https://ksoutdoors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEIcu2uqz8tHNTn_IB6zbkSfgPg0IUqBIDo
 - 2. Register by entering your first and last name, and email address.
 - 3. Once registered, you will be provided a link to “join the meeting.”
 - 4. Visitors will be muted upon entering the meeting. To comment or ask a question, use the “raise hand” feature or type into the chat area.
- B. Call In
 - 1. Call: 1-877-853-5257
 - 2. When a meeting ID is requested, enter: 858 5465 4760#
 - 3. When a participant ID is requested, enter: #
 - 4. For comments or questions, email: kdwpt.kdwptinfo@ks.gov
- C. Watch Live Video/Audio Stream
 - 1. Individuals may watch a live video/audio stream of the meeting on
<https://ksoutdoors.com/commission-meeting>

I. CALL TO ORDER AT 12:00 pm (noon)

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

IV. APPROVAL OF November 17, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Public Hearing

NONE

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

B. Secretary’s Remarks

- 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Brad Loveless)
- 2. Legislative Update (Dan Riley)

C. General Discussion

- 1. Commissioner Permit Update and Drawing (Stuart Schrag)**
- 2. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations (Richard Schultheis)**
- 3. Waterfowl Regulations (Tom Bidrowski)**
- 4. Furbearer Regulations (Matt Peek)**
- 5. Public Land Regulations (Ryan Stucky)**
- 6. Military Deer Seasons (KAR 115-25-9a) (Levi Jaster)**
- 7. KAR 115-2-1 Amount of Fees (Jake George)**

D. Workshop Session

- 1. Antelope 25-Series Regulations (Matt Peek)**
- 2. Elk 25-Series Regulations (Matt Peek)**
- 3. Big Game 4-Series Regulations (Levi Jaster)**
- 4. Deer 25-Series Regulations (Levi Jaster)**
- 5. KAR 115-8-1 Hunting, furharvesting and discharge of firearms (reference document) (Ryan Stucky)**
- 6. Pending Regulations (no presentation, presented multiple times) (Dan Riley)**
 - KAR 115-8-23 Bait; hunting**
 - KAR 115-8-9 Camping**
 - KAR 115-8-25 Trail (Game) Cameras and other devices**
 - KAR 115-25-5 Turkey; fall season, bag limit and permits**
 - KAR 115-25-6 Turkey; spring season, bag limit and permits**
 - KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications**
 - KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season (and associated reference document)**
 - KAR 115-18-10. Importation and possession of certain wildlife; prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions**
 - KAR 115-7-10. Fishing, special provisions (and associated reference document outlining reference document K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807-- Kansas ANS Designated Waters)**
- 7. Annual Camp (Linda Lanterman)**

VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

X. ADJOURNMENT

If notified in advance, the department will have an interpreter available for the hearing impaired. To request an interpreter, call the Kansas Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698. Any individual with a disability may request other accommodations by contacting the Commission Secretary at (620) 672-5911. The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 9, 2023, Ramada Inn & Convention Center, 420 SE 6th St, Topeka, KS. Times have changed to start at NOON and run until we are finished, with no recess.

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2022
Colby Event Center
1200 S Franklin, Colby, KS
including a
Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

The November 17, 2022, meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1 p.m. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Phil Escareno, Warren Gfeller, Lauren Queal Sill and Troy Sporer were present, as well as Emerick Cross and Delia Lister via zoom.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance Roster – Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – Matt Peek cannot be on this afternoon but will be on tonight, Rich Schultheis is presenting antelope and elk regulations for him this afternoon. Also, item number 5, 115-17-7, under public hearing is not a revocation; it is an amendment that creates prohibition for commercial mussel harvest. (Agenda - Exhibit B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE September 8, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Phil Escareno moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Warren Gfeller second. *Approved* (Minutes – Exhibit C).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Tim Clark, Red Dog Outfitters – I am full time whitetail deer outfitter in Kansas and Nebraska; mostly in Units 1 and 2 in Kansas but sometimes Unit 3, between Hoxie and Hill City. I bring a lot of experience to outfitting, originally from Colorado. They require state surety bond, insurance, annual fee to play. We never had that when I moved here but I continued to keep my insurance. I got rid of the bond because I am not going anywhere but is a good thing to have, it is like \$100. So, if you scam somebody, they get that bond back. I have a million ideas on how we can regulate, not a lawmaker but I know what works and what people should do. I would like to run through ideas I have because a lot of general public, from Pennsylvania or Wichita that go out in the state to hunt that are getting ripped off all the time. I do a good job and we killed 45 deer out of 52 (hunters), but I got called a scam this morning by two guys I have known for years. The point is, if I am getting called a scam what is really happening with the real scams. I see this stuff every year at the trade shows. There are pictures of a bunch of young kids that didn't pay \$5,000 to shoot those deer, probably their friends' but they have to start somewhere. People brag about "fake it until you make it," but that hurts Kansas, hurts farmers and it hurts me as an outfitter. There are no credentials to being an outfitter in this state and I think there needs to

be. I am not one for more government or taxes but these are common sense ideas. Volunteer my experience to the Commission and if you want to use me for these ideas from here on out to develop this. Ideas: criminal background check, looking for game violations, child offenses, I have kids in my camp and need to be checking people coming in, a predator can't be around kids at his home but he might just show up in my camp or he might bring in a camp and I have a guide that hasn't had a background check. This is what is going on everywhere. At deer camp people drink at night and common sense to know who outfitters are allowed to outfit. No drug or alcohol charges, weapons and drugs aren't a great combination and is a felony, if have a drug charge from last year and are carrying guns for customers, probably a conflict of interest. Surety bond we discussed and insurance, easy to get \$1 million or \$2 million and doesn't cost a ton, but most guys don't even know where to get it. In 17 seasons not had to use it but I have it. Offer protection to people, hunter and outfitter. It is not about money so much as vacation time and make it as clean as we can. New stuff that nobody has really done in other states that I know of. I believe an application for an outfitter, submit application and show lease for the next three years. In this unit you can't draw every year, roll over to Nebraska but I get guys who just want to hunt here. If I take \$5,000 from a group of four as down payment and next year that lease goes away how are they going to facilitate that hunt if loose a lease and end up knocking on doors just to get permission. So, a three-year minimum lease on land for whitetail, 640-acre minimum, with right section could run 10 hunters per year, two for muzzleloader, etc. With mule deer, need four sections to hunt on, they are where they are at and need that many to go find the animals, if not they shouldn't be operating a mule deer operation. If you are talking about ducks and geese you need a goose pit or duck blind on a lake, but deer is different; same with turkey. Outfitter complicity, unreported crimes. I think we should be charged if we see the guy screwing up they should call in a game warden. I call in everybody, I called in my five-year-old son for shooting a turkey with a .410, he got two with one shot; I thought who is going to believe this, he shot a jake and hen drops dead. I reported him, I report everybody. I don't think everybody is like that, they get nervous and don't want to lose a customer. I don't want to lose sleep. If they don't report crimes take away their license. If we do go down this road, give us a 120-day window, hunting expos are in first quarter of the year, everybody is applying and it is tax season and thinking about this year. There are a million other things I could add to it but these are things I thought you might agree with. Commissioner Sporer – What do you think a fair application fee would be? Clark - \$500 almost too easy, but if dealing with hunters paying \$3,000 to \$5,000 you can cough that up; if you want to get rid of riffraff \$1,250 to \$1,500. Make them want it and go out and get a contract, make it a professional business because it is. It is hard to keep everything straight as it is and I have been hunting nonstop for 30 days. I have been saying that for years and also want to go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and ask them too; but I think all states should handle it personally because all states are different. I don't think we want feds to have a blanket, you know your animals better than everybody else. It would be good for us to be able to record how many hunters came in, how many shot deer, what deer they got (muley or whitetail), what unit, what county; full accountability to help you with your management. I know people check them in but if they are reporting deer, and they have 20 customers and only filled four deer, we should have a standard. If you can't hit 55% in this state you should be outfitting. The worst year I had here was 2020, I had 67%, not dead deer but shots fired, misses happen; 50% good in some parts of country but out here it sucks. If we have a book and keep accountability for you; I keep my own scores but people should be required to. If killing too many deer in that county than change it. If you want somebody who will volunteer I will volunteer my time. Commissioner Escareno – In your eyes, out-of-state outfitters, it appears we have a lot more coming into the state, what is your opinion on that? Should we hold them accountable at a higher degree than we should an in-state outfitter? Clark – Higher degree, I don't know, I would leave that up to enforcement but should hold them accountable. A lot of

those guys are in Florida or Kentucky, they outfit everywhere because they have a bunch of money to throw at leases, they are running deer mills, putting 20 guys in a camp, they go out and kill four deer and they make a bunch of cash. But they don't tell anybody about the other 16 hunters and they go home or may have somebody here running that camp. I outfit here and Nebraska, three hours from my door. If you are living in Tennessee and trying to outfit here, how are you doing that? Maybe on application you may ask what their full time job is, are you full time outfitter, do you have staff who facilitate this hunt. There is a lot of that. They should be held accountable like everybody else. Maybe they can be held accountable for somebody else's mistakes, when someone makes a mistake you turn it in. When you hide the mistake it becomes poaching a lot of times. This state has been fair about mistakes. I think the out-of-state guys should maybe have, not special circumstances, but start regulations. How can they make a quality hunt if they don't live here, how can they claim they have good intel on deer, show us how you are getting that intel. Do you have somebody working for you here or are you here all the time, show us, provide trail cam pictures or pictures of dead deer that you actually guided, not your friends deer from next door or last year, or whatever, or a picture of you from 19 years ago. Just because you know how to shoot a deer doesn't mean the client does, it is completely different coaching people than being a good hunter. I suck at hunting but I am great at coaching and some people are the other way, great at hunting but suck at coaching, it isn't the same. If you are presenting it to be a trophy hunt and the deer is massive and it is only you holding the deer, you should be selling books, not guided hunts because you are a superstar if you are killing them all legitimately. It is debatable. Commissioner Sporer – Your camp is where? Clark – I am all over, I just got a new one in Oakley, K&K Ranch, then between Hoxie and Hill City, thousands of acres there too, Graham, Sheridan and Norton counties and a bunch in Nebraska in Lincoln and Custer counties. I float around, I take them to the property, give them maps and show them deer and they go hunt. Commissioner Sporer – Is there outdoor guide registration in Nebraska? Clark – No, not one there either, but I started seeing scams. Like Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, I didn't know we had 30 outfitters in Kansas until I went there. Every year I go back there is brand new faces, a couple there every year but mostly a revolving door. If you are going to be an outfitter you have to prove you know what you are doing or prove you have the land to facilitate it or bring guys in that do have that talent. There are some guys that just want good ground. Commissioner Escareno – You have property for hunters to come hunt on. Are you with each and every crew or do you have someone with each crew? Clark – Both, some repeat customers want to go to the same cabin, hunt the same place because they know they don't have to scout, we meet them there, shake hands, show them where stands are at, show them where we know deer are that live in the area so they have idea of what is out there. Then I go home and text each night to see how they are doing and when they get a deer they are supposed to call me or text me from the stand and give me information before we get there to track. We are there but not in the camp with them. If had one big ranch and 30,000 acres around it that would be different. The way I am set up is I have eight camps spread out in six counties. Chairman Lauber – Given us good ideas, honestly heard before but that is not to take away from their merit. Part of the problem is we tried this 20 years ago, to regulate outfitters. The legislature took it away from us and gave to Department of Commerce and they and the political advocates of that move were more interested in making it a cheap free-for-all. It is not really our Department that regulates this, we have to be invited in. When we were invited in, we tried to stop system-gaining and it didn't work. An example, there is an outfitter like you and he has agents that work under his guide license or certificate or whatever approval he had at the time and you had everybody running around not paying fees. Yes, I think it would be a good idea and the public that hunts and doesn't use outfitters there is a clamor we need to regulate this as well. Two different groups of sportsmen, resident who hunts where they can and he takes what is left over after the outfitters have paid a more aggressive lease rate and that person doesn't worry so much about your

interests. Those people are pecking at us with some regularity. I think it needs to be done but don't know exactly how. Secretary Loveless – We have been having these conversations. The last two years we have been meeting with Kansas guides and outfitters, sorry we didn't have you on our list; trying to create a dialog about how we can do this better. Where we have been, given our history with the legislature and their priorities for us we have been having a discussion about having you all band together and self-regulate. We would be happy to help with that, coach you and partner with you on that. That seems like the best path forward and are stilling having conversations. We actually invited guides and outfitters a couple of commission meetings ago to visit directly. We will get your contact information and include you in this dialog. These are all good ideas. Clark – I will be your point man. I see it every year, guys pop up and then they are gone. It happened this year close to home. Sadly, they met through me, spun off and stabbed me in the back. One of the guys came through me and killed 470 inches of deer in three hunts and he stabbed me in the back to go with the other guy. The other guy was a sweet talker and he went there and got a two-year-old deer. On their sites they say they are not posting pictures of deer because we don't want our neighbors to shoot them. We only shoot mature deer because I am a wildlife biologist and then they popped three two-year-old deer off our border. This is a big state. To your point about the hunters feeling like we are taking all the property. I have done the math, in Graham County I have a little more than 1%, but generally less than one percent of every county I am in. But I get blamed for 95% of the deer that don't get shot, they say I am shooting all the deer and I am really not. We average about six deer per county and we leave a lot of money on the table. Now and then you have to move onto the next one. Chairman Lauber – The percentage may be one percent but highly desired habitat is going to be a lot higher. You can have a thousand-acre hay meadow and 80 acres of timber with a creek and one will have a lot more deer, yet number of acres is less. Clark – That is true. Chairman Lauber – Will reach out to you. Talk to other outfitters and see about getting some sort of a guide organization that you police your own until we figure out how to take care of it ourselves. We encourage you to do that. Clark – I don't have a lot of allies but there are guys that I trust and I will reach out to them and see what they will do. Chairman Lauber – They also have some of the same questions and concerns that you do. Clark – If you can provide me with names I will be happy to spearhead it for the ones who are open to it. Chairman Lauber – We can provide contact of those who attended the last meeting. Clark – I can reach out to them and we can form an alliance. Commissioner Sporer – I disagree with Commission on whether it is our job or not to regulate. If it is against the law to commercial hunt on public land, how do our people know whether they are an outfitter or not? Clark – Township, range and section lines on the contract. Commissioner Sporer – How do we know; If they guide on Cheyenne Bottoms, even though illegal, that has been an issue all along. If we don't have registration and some way to track, how do we know? That is the problem, we don't know. One of only unregulated industries in state of Kansas. How does landowner know if guy comes to the door and asks permission to hunt geese on them and then they show up in jacked up trucks and trailers and the landowner didn't know they were an outfitter. I think it needs regulated. We need state registration, whether with us or someone else, but don't know why we couldn't do it. We do all kinds of other regulations I don't know why we couldn't do it. Clark – If you see contract with landowner you can follow up with them, you see the proprietary information and lease and can see topo maps. We can have formulas for that. A quick oversight from someone with biology degree or knows deer or whatever and say a piece of ground is sufficient to hunt on, you are 100% right about that. Just happened by us, deer on camera I could tell where the picture came from too, the landowner said they didn't lease that piece of ground and now there is a purple paint sign up. Gained permission but didn't tell them what they were doing and landowners don't want paying hunters on their property. I tell people who don't want money that I make money and I will give it to them and they can give it to the church on Sunday or whatever. I am not going to be able to sleep if I don't give money I earned

hunting on their property. Get a hold of me if you want me to be a rep(resentative) on this side of the state, I am interested.

Gary Adrian, Mayor of Colby – Welcome to our new facility and thank you for what we have done at Villa High to make that a family area. You see young families spending quality time catching fish and it has been a big plus for Colby and people walking on the trail; money well spent and well used. Thank you for your help.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chairman Lauber – Starting in January we will have a different start time, start at noon and run straight through rather than have a break in the afternoon. We will have the public hearing first because we need to publish the public hearing part of the meeting instead of last, starting at 6:30 p.m., we will have it first. That will give the public an opportunity to communicate with us right before we vote. Once the public hearing is over, we will start Secretary’s remarks and general discussion and other information. I propose that at the start of the session, after the public hearing, we open it for any non-agenda items at that point. At the end of all the business, I propose one more opportunity for public comment, either via zoom or live. That way there will be two opportunities for non-agenda items, the mandatory open discussion before public hearing votes and hopefully we can streamline the meeting without it being drug out so long. Starting in January, the meeting will begin at noon (12 p.m.) instead of 1 p.m.

A. Secretary’s Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status Report – Brad Loveless, Secretary: Every meeting we have folks from part of state we are meeting in and Department folks who drive a long way to present. Some people don’t get recognized in the course of the meeting. I would like to ask our staff to identify themselves (*went around the room and everyone told who they were, title and where they worked*). Chairman Lauber – I am okay with that being done at all our meetings. Secretary Loveless – Appreciate your receptiveness to that. Fiscal year 2023 started July 1 and agency budget is approximately \$98.8 million for all divisions and efforts combined. The Park Fee Fund (PFF) revenue is derived from entrance and camping fees and annual vehicle passes to state parks. Revenue for the first four months of FY23 was just shy of \$3.6 million, \$370,000 less than previous five-year average for same four-month period. Of course, we have been through a couple of extraordinary years with COVID. The cash balance in PFF at the end of October was \$8.5 million Cabin revenue, parks and public lands combined, from rental of cabins, for first four months of fiscal year was approximately \$322,000, a 32% decline from previous 3-year average. Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) is derived from sale of hunting and fishing licenses, big game permits, tags, etc. to hunters and anglers. WFF revenue for fiscal year was \$1.07 million by end of October. This includes a \$2.7 million deficit in month of July due to delay in reimbursements to unsuccessful big game applicants until after the beginning of the new fiscal year and the least revenue for July in the past decade. So, that \$2.7 million difference was largely a function of (our) new licensing system and delays. Cash balance in the WFF has been reduced by \$10.3 million since the beginning of the fiscal year. Boat Fee Fund (BFF) revenue is derived from boat registrations and is necessary to provide boating safety, education, and access infrastructure to protect and support the boating public. Fiscal year 2023 receipts to-date are about \$418,000, a decline from the previous year of 18%. Agency is awaiting response for proposed fiscal year 2024 budget requests. We were working with Division of Budget just before this meeting; it is a back-and-forth process. So far, we are optimistic that our budget request will be allowed but we’re in the middle of that right now.

B. General Discussion

1. Regulation Procession Discussion – Dan Riley, chief counsel, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit D, PowerPoint – Exhibit E). There are two documents that relate to what I am talking about (Exhibits F, G). The first is a copy of the PowerPoint and the other is handbook that is part of the Department of Administration review process. Those are the standards by which every regulation that is submitted in terms of formatting, grammar and punctuation and all those sorts of things. Talked about this at commission level and at agency level because regulation promulgation process has fallen on hard times the last 8-12 months. The process for most of that time has ground to what amounts to a halt because regulations are not moving through the process. There have been several reasons for that from changes in personnel, changes in process, proposed change to the constitution that would have given the legislature the ability to yank any regulation out of the process and prohibit an agency from promulgating it but luckily did not get adopted in the election. The noise of their next attempt is already out there so that will not be a one-and-done to change the authority agencies have to regulate. Enough problems and changes in the process that we as an agency have to look at options and consider some things that we wouldn't necessarily look at. There are both challenges and opportunities. As an agency we are very much dependent on rules and regulations and frequent changes and amendments to rules and regulations. Obviously seasons, bag limits, changes in hunting areas, fishing areas, creel and length limits and all sorts of things that often change on an annual basis and make us dependent on regulations and the process by which we change and adopt new ones. Due to fact that wheels have fallen off that process we have to consider some options in terms of how we as an agency make ourselves better able to withstand that issue in terms of promulgation process. Obviously we have little control over external process; the process after the regulation leaves the agency and goes to the Department of Administration, when through that editing process it goes to the Attorney General's office, when completes review there it goes to the Department of Budget and then to Secretary of State's office. There are a lot of other agencies involved in the process and we have little control in that part of the process. There are some opportunities internally where we can do some things that make us more able to withstand slowdowns and stoppages we have had to endure and to anticipate some of those things in the future. One thing that is somewhat comforting is that we are not alone in terms of the issues of the process, every state agency and apparently some have suffered more than us; the process as a whole has ceased to function. One of things we have talked about internally, important for us to consider and lots of different manners we might be able to accomplish some of this is durability of regulations. We have many regulations that are changed annually, in fact we have one regulation amended three times in the last calendar year. When the process is not working, three times bad in terms of fighting the process. I think we need to think about making regulations so they don't require updating as frequently. I have talked to some program folks and heard some examples from other states and that is something that is doable and something we are going to look at so we don't have to rely on external process we can't control for every annual cycle. That makes us vulnerable when agency function is dependent upon somebody else's actions. In addition to making regulations more durable, flexible, longer lasting or broader application we also need to think about alternatives to regulations. There will never be a time we don't have regulations they are an absolute requirement to makes statutes enforceable or useable because there are a lot of gaps that require fleshing out or further expansion or explanation to make them be something that can be enforced. We will never be to a point we don't require regulations and the process. That being sad there are some options or other ways to accomplish what we need to as an agency in some situations without going through formal promulgation and external process. Some of those are Secretary's Orders, enforcement of statutory provisions as written and other

things we can consider in terms of agency process. This starts the conversation. I don't have solutions to the problem and don't think any of them are anything we can rapidly solve. I hope we can get everybody engaged in the process as I expect there will be a lot of ideas that come up that will be helpful and meaningful to the process. The opportunities we have will also streamline a lot of the process at the commission meeting level and some of those are actually taking place. The January meeting and agenda changes there are a step in that direction. In addition, one of the things internally tried to start is reducing redundancy of presentations for regulations in the process. Since the regulations are taking so long to get through the process staff are presenting multiple times on regulations and you have heard them enough that there is no reason to continue to run that same presentation over and over unless there is a question. Where we have undetermined amount of time for promulgation of that regulation once it gets to the point where the commission has no further questions then they will become my responsibility to state they are in the process. We will not take them off the agenda but won't continue to get workshopped over and over past the point of any questions. A big plus for commissioners, agenda and folks presenting. Something else that is critical is that we improve transparency of the process internally. That has not been well known and why I gave everyone a copy of the handbook, not trying to turn you into editors but so you are familiar with the standards of every draft of a regulation is submitted to. I want everyone in the process to be familiar with that and understand that, whether talking about a regulation or defending the process to somebody. How heavily scrutinized every regulation is when it comes through, I was going to bring some drafts we get back with a bunch of red ink; they work them over. Not only do we get edited on new language we are incorporating in a new amendment but also on old language, may be language that has been in a regulation for 20 years, but once submitted it is fair game. It is very thorough in depth very deep edit we have to deal with. We also are going to do a better job of making sure program people that draft the regulations and historically they have not had much involvement once handed off to legal people. That is a problem and a mistake because they should be aware of where it is at in the process, what is taking place in editing and being copied on what is happening so they are aware. Also, in area of transparency I would like to see us develop a tracking system so every regulation once started in the process that everybody in the agency can participate in to know where it is at and what stage of process it is in. When we have a bunch of regulations in the works at the same time it is a chore to keep up with where it is at. We discovered we don't always do the best job of distributing that information within the agency after we get a regulation finalized. There are a lot of people in the agency that rely on the information that comes out of regulation when it is promulgated, from licensing to enforcement and everybody. We have discovered we can do a lot better job of taking the final version and making sure that information and the explanation of significance of the change makes it to everybody in the process. We have opportunities for improvements and some of it is what we need to do to be able to thrive and survive and opportunities to make it better. Hang on to this handout and if you have an idea of something to improve this process write it down and let us know. This is going to be an ongoing thing, not something that we will have completed in six weeks, six months or maybe not six years, not finished any time soon. Chairman Lauber – You refer to durability, would an example of that be bag limits on upland game that hasn't changed in years; have regulation say, until such time as modified or something like that where we don't have to do it next year? Riley – Possibly. Also, a situation like that could make reference to Secretary's or Commission's order. Set number and rather than going back and changing number every time the number can be someplace else in another order. That is a perfect example of it. I anticipate we will come up with a lot of ideas we never explored too much. When you promulgate a regulation you have gone through a great deal of formality to turn something into a document that has force and effect law. Technically a regulation has just as much authority as a statute although premised on statutory authority. That is a good thing because the process is

thorough and everybody gets the opportunity to have input. But not every element of every standard requires that process. When that process is choking us down as it has been that is it has prompted us to look for other ways to convey the information. Need to make it known but all of it needs to go through that depth in terms of formality of the process. Chairman Lauber – We have seen Secretary’s Orders. Are we allowed to have Commissioner’s Orders? Riley – I have never seen one but the statutes include authority specific to the Commission. Chairman Lauber – If there are certain things that we could; for example, talked about having a draw for nonresident turkey hunters and that was supposed to be done in a certain amount of time and it has missed that deadline. If we wanted to have accomplished that a couple of months ago if we could have done a Commission Order we wouldn’t have had to gone through as much lead time to be able to get that accomplished. Riley – What is going to have to happen in every instance, regardless of the topic or particular issue, is to start and look at statutory authority, look at regulatory authority and decide where we are in terms of specific authority. In some cases, there is going to be a gap we will not be able to overcome without something that is significant and in other cases if statutory authority is clear and the Commission or Secretary are vested with specific authority in an area it doesn’t require anything further if statute doesn’t leave any questions. It will be a case by case review and what we feel comfortable with in terms of authority already in hand. Commissioner Gfeller – Streamlining that eliminates redundancy you mentioned, workshop items, if no questions we would report as in process? Would we still workshop it twice? Riley – That will be between the Commission and technical staff. Commissioner Gfeller – Do we deal with that at every meeting as we workshop something, suggest if we need another workshop? Riley – That would be helpful information for folks presenting. Chairman Lauber – Some items have been workshopped so much that we have cracked jokes about it. I would like to see something like that to streamline this thing because we have to have staff members leave their office to come present something for the fifth time is inefficient. Riley – There is a lot of timing of whole process because internal commission part includes workshopping and all the information exchanged there and opinions coming back from you to folks that introduce the issue. At the point they submit draft of regulation to legal we do our edit job and submit it to the external part of the process. Once that regulation has been submitted our opportunity to change it has dried up. There is a provision in the law that says we can make minor changes that basically are typographical or non-significant in terms of language. If we have a major change in terms of the content of the regulation that has been submitted we would have two choices, withdraw from review process and bring it back and change it or wait for it to go through the review process and appeal to change it at that point. Those are not promising in process reviews. The reality is we don’t have a lot of opportunity to make any changes anyway once submitted to formal promulgation process. It is a matter of timing internally and the process externally. Most of the time, what we hope for is that issues will be resolved before we begin the process. The number of times something is workshopped is critical to that part. We don’t want to start a regulation in the process before we are sure the Commission agrees with what is in the regulation. Commissioner Sill – Does that mean that at a public hearing we should get public input, have good reason to make an amendment to that, can we still do that? Or because it is already gone through the process to that point is that a problem? Riley – It would be a problem if the change is anything significant. We would have to start again unless it was a misspelled word or put a four instead of a nine or something like that or possibly something slightly more significant than that. Any substantial changes are going to require us to go back through the process again. If you think about it that final public hearing, if change is insignificant enough. It can’t change the tenure of the regulation as approved. That is their concern. If we run it through the process and it gets approved then we bring it back and change it then the review it has been through is meaningless if we made a significant change. Chairman Lauber – We have probably passed some amendments that really don’t pass muster and nobody ever said anything. Riley – Possibly.

The ones I have been involved in, and not one since I have been here, were insignificant and were not substantive changes. Commissioner Gfeller – Who decides whether it is insignificant or not? The Secretary of State's office gets the first review and we will send it back up the chain to the Department of Administration if they think there is a problem on a regulation as passed they are going to either restart the process. We don't have the ability to do a do over at public hearing stage. Commissioner Escareno – So changes cannot be made at the meeting and resubmitted for approval? Riley – We would have to start the process completely over. If we had a regulation that went clear through the process, came back to commission for public hearing and somebody needed something changed and the commissioners agreed then that regulation would have to be redrafted and resubmitted. Commissioner Sill – Here is the major problem with that. This stuff doesn't get put out to the public until it is ready for public hearing. Most of the folks don't know what we are proposing until at the end so they don't have good opportunity to have input until it comes to public hearing. Part of the reason I became a commissioner is because my first interaction with the commission I saw a newspaper article on a public hearing item and I had serious concerns about how that issues was going to impact public land, myself and other hunters, so I went to public hearing. The vote didn't happen because of some of the input I shared, they went back and revisited it and came back and decided not to proceed with that after gaining some other information. We are going to have to do a better job of getting this in the public before it starts that process so we get the input. One of the bright spots as I was doing my homework in preparing questions was that in our regulation summary book there is a tiny piece in the corner about pending, possible changes. It talks about the trail cam issue and a couple of other things. I have gotten several phone calls because people are looking at and reading that. Which is good news. That is a concern to me. How are we going to get that information out so we get good public input before it goes to this process? Commissioner Gfeller – It is my understanding in workshopping these things twice was that we do it at public meetings and that is part of the opportunity for the public to be aware of what we are considering. If we take away that. Riley – That is not what I was suggesting. If you think about the issues we have had in the last few months. Commissioner Gfeller – I know we have gone beyond two and seeing them over and over again but I thought you were saying we could decide after the first time whether we wanted to have a second, third or fourth time. It seems we want to keep the two times and then when it gets to redundancy then. Riley – It doesn't need to be a set number either way. There may be regulations that need to be workshopped five times. Based on input from commissioner or the public or whoever. I don't think we need to set a number. Commissioner Gfeller – I think public exposure is good. Chairman Lauber – In lieu of full blown formal discussion once we have had these workshops you are saying that after a couple of times we could say still pending? Riley – If it has been submitted. It is a matter of timing. I never know when I am going to see a regulation draft come to me. That is dependent upon input from commission has given to staff and they are comfortable the issue is settled or evolved and gotten to point where they are not changing significantly anymore then that is typically when the draft of the regulation would come to me. We give it our once over and submit to the promulgation process. Chairman Lauber – We have passed some amendments over the years that are in the best interest of the agency and best interest of the commission and every time we voted for an amendment your predecessor used to get heartburn. I never really understood just how far we could go on an amendment. The commission, after having new and important facts, may decide that is what is in the best interest of the state. I don't know how we do that. Riley – If it is significant it is not going to be an easy fix. The way we do it, if it needs to be done, is bring regulation back and redraft it and start the process again. It is not something that can't be done it is reality is it will add more time to the process. Chairman Lauber – I was under the impression that if amendment was too much we could go back to the next meeting and present it again with the amendment in it but that doesn't seem to be the case. I am guessing there are some legislative

malcontents who aren't concerned that we have this terrible bottleneck and we better be careful on how we do it. Riley – That is a safe bet. If you think about it this doesn't happen frequently in terms of a major change. The statute is very specific and it doesn't give us latitude for anything other than a minor change. Chairman Lauber – Out of the outgrowth and discussion and blah blah. Riley – Exactly. Chairman Lauber – We have stretched the outgrowth of discussion when we are wanting to vote on something different. Riley – It is also subject to consideration of person making that review. Chairman Lauber – From a practical standpoint, yes we have workshop sessions but the public doesn't really zero in on these things until the public hearing and at that point that is when all the discussion comes up. Sometimes things are brought up at public hearing that we as commission hadn't thought of so we want to make a change on the fly. Secretary Loveless – Great discussion, difficult for commissioners because he is talking hypothetically in generalities about how to make the process better and all of our conversations about this have been how we can be more efficient, more effective with our time. Remember, our first priority is that we get all the appropriate public and commissioner input before we get to the point something is done. We will never sacrifice that. Some of the conversation about maybe being able to shorten some of these is simply in those areas we sense no conversation ever associated with it; a rubber stamp year after year. That is when we are talking maybe we can make regulation last a few years or shorten the process if it is good with everybody. As soon as it is controversial or of interest and we start to get a sense there is more input, it takes at least those three bites of the apple that we have always done or even more, if level of interest dictates that. We will always be flexible. Chairman Lauber – I will try to make the workshop sessions a little more discussion. For example, we workshop duck seasons a couple of times, but big discussion comes up at public hearing and those discussions have merit. Need to come up and maybe we should make a point to bring those up beforehand so we aren't faced with making amendments afterwards. Riley – Waterfowl is a unique set anyway because those are not contained in our regulation. Chairman Lauber – Not contained in our regulation but also happen to be contentious and there are a lot of opinions on both sides that need to be weighed. Riley – Correct, but we don't have to worry about whether we can we amend it. We don't have to run those through the promulgation process. Commissioner Gfeller – I am still confused over amendments we make on regulations at public hearings. That has happened in the past and we have passed regulations as amended. That is telling me we haven't really amended a regulation as it has to go through the process and come back? Riley – It must. Commissioner Gfeller – But we don't see it again. Riley – If the change is found to be insignificant enough and doesn't change the tenor of the regulation as approved. That is their concern. If we run it through the process and it gets approved, we bring it back and we change it then the review it has been through is meaningless if we made a significant change. Chairman Lauber – We have probably passed amendments that really don't pass muster because nobody really ever said anything. Riley – Possibly. The ones I have been involved with, not one since I have been here, but the ones before were pretty insignificant and were not substantive. Commissioner Gfeller – Who decides whether it is insignificant or not? Riley – The Secretary of State's office gets the first review and will send it back up the chain to the Department of Administration if they think there is a problem with it. The Secretary of State's office is responsible for the publication and making sure everything, publish first in register and republish it again after the Commission approves it. The Secretary of State's office is responsible for making sure what was approved is what changed through the process. Commissioner Sill – If you had a regulation and added a sunset clause is that a significant change? Riley – Yes, I think so. Secretary Loveless – Dan gave me an example of what he considered an insignificant change; roads for boundary of a zone remained the same but the name changed. Riley – KDOT changed some street names in a deer regulation and nobody noticed the street name had changed until it had already been through the process. The DOA agreed they could correct those; it was more an error that nobody caught rather than a change

from a public hearing. They changed that without having to restart it again. If correction there is more latitude than if somebody decides they want to make a material change on something that came to light in continuing discussions. Chairman Lauber – We will have to make sure workshop items are thoroughly discussed, particularly if sense they might be controversial and the rest of the time you and Brad need to tell us to be mindful of this or that and limp along in such a way to get through this. Riley – Aren't pending regulations on the website also. We were talking about public knowledge. Sheila Kemmis – All along, even from the time they are in general discussion those things are out there on our website. Commissioner Sill – They have not been there for the last couple of months because I have been looking. Kemmis – The briefing book is out there in Commission section and public affairs posts agendas. All the briefing books are out there. The briefing book doesn't come out until 10 days before the meeting, but they are out there and all the briefing items you see is out there. They are out there even when just a general discussion item. It is in a weird spot on the website but it is out there. Jason Dickson – It is right underneath the schedule table. Kemmis – In blue ink, choose November there is a briefing book, an agenda. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Obviously we need to make some changes on the website because navigating through that I wasn't readily able to find it myself. If you go under pending draft regulations you are correct there is nothing there. Kemmis – But they are in the briefing book. The pending draft regulations are in the briefing book, they may not be under pending drafts. Assistant Secretary Schrag – My point is we need to do better at cleaning that up to make that more readily identifiable. To help clarify some things when we get to the point of having workshops that we don't have to have staff back up here I want to make sure those pending regulations in the process are still on the agenda. As you can see on today's agenda they are. You are right, a lot of our public doesn't see until made through several workshops. We want to make sure they are still listed and identified on the agenda so if somebody hadn't seen the proposed regulation up to that point they could see it and make a comment or inquiry as to what it was all about. I want to clarify that as well. Chairman Lauber – Beat this to death. It is an important issue and the more we talk the more we will have questions and we will never get through anything else. Appreciate you providing some clarity. Riley – Obviously, the more information we can get to the public early in the process by having this up on the website where they can find it when they have issues is key. This is one of those opportunities I was thinking of; we can find places to improve the process as we go along reinforcing what causes concerns and making stuff more rigid. Everything we can do to get more information out about the regulations early on is important. If you think of something later on don't hesitate to call or email.

2. Annual Camp – Steve Seibel, High Plains regional supervisor, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H). Put forward changes for review to 115-2-3. Camping, utility, and other fees. Annual camping permits are being reviewed on the number sold and how they are being used. Increases in camping occupancy has elevated the review of this permit and what changes are necessary to resolve capacity and storage issues of RV campers. We will be presenting more detail at the next commission meeting. Commissioner Sill – Difference between long-term and annual permits? Seibel – The long-term is our seasonal camping sites, available sites you can rent for up to six months. Commissioner Sill – So there is a difference the two permits. Seibel – The annual camp permit good for whole year for your camping fee. Commissioner Sill – How does that work with people reserving sites? If they have an annual camp how do they make sure they have a spot? Seibel – Just because you have an annual camp permit does not guarantee a site. They have to go online and reserve a site, enter annual camp number and that deducts the \$10 fee from your camping fees. All you are left with is basically your reservation fee and utility fees. Commissioner Sill – You will give us information as you workshop this on whether those permit fees are covering costs? That is part of what you are looking at right? Seibel – Yes, we are looking at that. People on long-term sites, or seasonal sites

as we call them, they still have to purchase the annual camp on top of seasonal permit.

Commissioner Sill – Do those folks pay deposits to cover excess cleanup costs when they leave?

Seibel – No, what they do is pay a month at a time in advance on those sites and sign a form that gives them direction on what they can and can't do at the sites and to have stuff out of our way for maintenance and things like that. We do try to keep up on making them keep their areas

clean. Commissioner Sill – Do you have a way to bill them when they leave trash when they leave? Seibel – If it is a trash issue that is littering and we can give them a citation.

Commissioner Sill – Like decks and leftover plywood? Seibel – I can't speak for the whole state, I am here in the west and really don't have that problem out here. Commissioner Sill – Thinking

about all those questions that come up in the process. Are there many sites, and will you be considering in this process, first come first serve sites and how many are available for each park

for people traveling through. Seibel – That is part of reservation system. This is just to review that annual camping permit. Some of the issues we are having is they are not using it for

camping but using it for long-term RV storage. We have primitive sites that have two or three campers and are there for six or seven months. Do 13-day rotation swap that keeps them within

the regulation. That is what we are looking at. Commissioner Sporer – I get complaints from people on weekends when they say there are no spots available and they show up and take a

primitive site and look at full hook-ups and half of them are empty. Did those spots get paid for? Seibel – Yes. Commissioner Sporer - They are fully paid for? Is there a deposit? A refund fee?

Seibel – No. They have to notify us within 24-hours prior to get any of refund back. If they don't show up that spot is sitting empty for them if they decide to come out Sunday. Commissioner

Sporer – They can refund 24-hours before? Seibel – It is 24- or 48-hours before. Staff - Three days now. Seibel - No refund unless 3 days before and then they just get a partial refund.

Commissioner Sporer – Does it go back on sale? Seibel – Yes, it does. If they reserve every weekend for the whole summer and they pay for it up front that is their spot. Commissioner

Escareno – Whether they are there or not? Seibel – Yes. Commissioner Escareno – Is there a way they can contact those folks to ask if they are going to use their spot that weekend? To Troy's

point I have had that happen to me numerous times where we have gone to get a site, showed up and there are four sites empty all weekend. You track that to make sure and it has happened.

Seibel – Some admins reach out to try and contact people who haven't checked in but if we can't get ahold of them we have to leave it available because it is paid for. It is there for them and if

they don't happen to make it Friday night they might get there Saturday or Sunday. It is waiting for them. Commissioner Escareno – I guess you could park in there than move if they show up.

Seibel – That is why we are wanting to review annual camping permit.

3. Villa High Lake – Dave Spalsbury, fisheries access coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit I, PowerPoint – Exhibit J). Talk about renovation project we have done here in town. This whole project was predicated on cooperation of multiple municipal agencies and stakeholders. KDHE staff in Topeka and Hays did background water quality testing to detect and figure out what was ailing the pond. EDH Engineering was involved doing basin seal, porosity testing and resilience testing. Aquatic Specialties was private contractor that was involved with assisting with basin seal and logistics. McCormick Paving and Construction dredged the lake. KDWP fisheries division provided money through CFAP grant program. KDWP Colby wildlife folks provided source of brush and materials for habitat installation. Thomas County Road and Bridge worked with City of Colby Street department and parks department and helped with a ton of things like basin sealing and shaping, their machine operators were fantastic. I want to thank those folks ahead of time. It is a small lake, about two acres, was a borrow pit back in the 1960s when they were building I-70 and it kept filling up with water and they decided to make a kids fishing pond out of it. Early on the City of Colby parks and Kansas Fish and Game Commission, now Wildlife and Parks to manage the pond for

fishing opportunities for the public. More recently it is a trout stocking location and even more recently we enrolled it in Urban Channel Catfishing stocking program. Pre-renovation, truly an urban lake even though Colby is relatively small town of 5,500 people. It suffered from a lot of the impediments a normal urban lake would, agriculture and residential and urban high intensity land use impacts in the watershed that affect water quality, high sediment load and a lot of nutrient input from both those activities. One thing about it is arid but a lot of the watershed is impervious. All though Colby doesn't get a ton of rain it is relatively easy to put water into Villa High, that is an advantage but will all the possible fertilizers and other stuff that can run into the pond it is also a problem. Over the years it has had a ton of sedimentation, it was relatively shallow, not even six feet with a 2 ½ foot average depth. With high nutrient availability in the water, between sediments and water quality it has chronic algae blooms which robs the water column of oxygen and kills fish so fish community was limited to fish tolerant to low dissolved oxygen. Had black bullheads, flathead minnows, golden shiners, green sunfish and world class goldfish and carp as well. We needed to dredge the pond. Started in winter of 2019, the city had to pump it out because it is a pit pond. Public sentiment was driving it to begin with and the city got a donation of \$150,000 from Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and same reception from municipal government. The City and County government worked so good together and were interested in the project and brought it to the forefront and put a ton of work in. Also, our agency put in almost \$80,000 through our CFAP program, provided matching funds to get the job done. McCormick Paving and Construction moved about 11,000 cubic yards of material and now the pond has a maximum depth of 13-feet and mean depth of about 6-feet. The sediment at the bottom was a dark brown Jell-O-like product. We had to fight some snow and wet weather but good we did it in winter because cold temperatures made the black Jell-O solid enough that they could actually load it out in dump trucks. Once we got it down to bottom material and get it to dry out before we could apply the basically baking soda to the sediment and then compact it. The soda ash changed the material pack to where it become impervious. We did a permeability study and showed the bottom would leak a little bit but wanted to be water conservative so sealed the basin, Banked material on edges, apply soda ash with fertilizer spreader to the bottom, pack it and bring in another load of material down and incorporate more soda ash, pack it and the last ring went in with a single lift, incorporated soda ash and packed it. Proof in the pudding, having drought and pond is only 10 inches low, so tight and holds water well. The watershed is simple, very little permanent water with two ponds on private land so saw opportunity that we could start with a blank slate so went in and applied rotenone on private landowner to the west and killed off undesirable fish like black bullheads that we didn't want to get back into Villa High so we could start with clean slate for fish management. The pond previously had zero habitat; it was uniform with no fish habitat. We added cedar trees from KDWP property and broken concrete from the construction of this building that we got for free or minimal cost to build rock piles, underwater rock piers and stuff like that. I can't say enough about parks department here in Colby, minimal staff but they worked hard and did a great job. We rip rapped the entire shoreline with broken concrete and went another step further and built a fishing pier in the middle on the right side. The first year we stocked fish and it stayed warm up until September and weather switched and got 60 mph wind out of the northwest and the pond turned over and there was enough hydrogen sulfide that we had a partial fish kill. We decided to put in a destratification unit, four diffusers run by an air compressor; we run it at night so not putting extra heat into the water during the summer and it has done a good job with temperature through the water column and is uniform top to bottom so working and it does help supplement dissolved oxygen which can be a problem and limit our fish population. Both commercial and KDWP stocked the lake. We contributed flathead minnows, golden shiners and bluegill to start with. Got them started for longer term forage source and sportfish in terms of the bluegill. Since we had a blank slate we tried something different so went with smallmouth bass and it is in the urban

catfish program and in winter we have trout. Also, recently added hybrid walleye or saugeye to help control the bluegill that did exceedingly well in terms of reproduction so needed way to crop them back. Water quality has been a problem, primarily nutrient loading. One of most efficient ways to know we have improved water quality is the wetlands. It is experimental but we built wetland on channel coming into the pond where we can recirculate water back into the wetland, draw water from east end of pond, pump it into wetland, it percolates through wetland and back through the pond. Haven't run it a whole season yet as it has been a process and is a novel approach we hope will work. Did plant the wetlands with hybrid plants, like rush and sedge, produced starts that we plugged into the bottom and spent several days plugging plants. We irrigated to get plants started and now they are taking off. There is some native canary grass, barnyard grass and some other weeds we didn't plant that fill it in and has established well. In summary, have had some successful smallmouth reproduction, dredged pond and doubled the volume, fish habitat abundance and diversity has increased, stratification unit is doing what we need it to do, wetland is still unproven concept but hopefully in 2023 be able to run it and get more of an idea of how it will help us out in terms of water quality. At this point most of largescale modifications are done and it is a matter of monitoring and tweaking the system. Appreciate cooperative spirit of folks who contributed to project who have made it a success so far. No fish kills so hanging in there, so definitely a win. Commissioner Gfeller – Trout introduced in winter and what happens when water warms? Spalsbury – When it get too warm the ones that are left die off. Secretary Loveless – Urban fisheries are a real challenge, see synergy of cooperatives, a credit to Dave and our staff in terms of reaching out and working cooperatively. It is much different than doing something out in the middle of nowhere. Give a lot of credit to them for that. Every time I come through town there are kids around it, it is surrounded by houses and businesses, a true urban fishery which is a neat quality. It is terrific project. Because it is urban we have a unique opportunity to help neighbors understand their impacts and the choices they make in their yards and such and impact on water quality. Have we done anything with the city to help communicate and educate people about the role they can play in helping this be a better fishery? Spalsbury – We have talked about it but not put anything in place yet. There are several things that are major challenge and that is one of them. Another challenge, like with goldfish, is illegal public stocking. We have already had wipers turn up in there. Unauthorized stockings like that can really complicate management. The city has an active Facebook page and probably running news releases would be a good start. Ron Alexander, City Manager – Some of those conversations came up this summer and what about the weeds and grass growing up in the rocks around the edge? Kyle Lindberg, my parks director was very helpful in trying to educate the community but I don't think we got the word out enough that you can't just go in with a weed eater and chop that down because that goes into the water and it does something; can't spray Roundup because it goes into the water; my point is we need to look forward to working with you this spring and summer about communicating and educating our public. Chairman Lauber – Nice to see success.

4. South Fork Republican River Restoration Project – Kevin Klag, region one wildlife biologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K, PowerPoint – Exhibit L). This project is removing salt cedar, Russian olive and eastern red cedar in Cheyenne County in northwest Kansas. Goals are to improve wildlife habitat, improve health of the river system and control encroachment of woody invasives. There are a number of other benefits that I don't have listed but it does provide fire mitigation, fuel reduction, provides additional grazing land for ranchers, easier access for a number of things. There has been similar work done in Colorado and Nebraska and other projects in Kansas. We started back in 2015 with a grant and have had a few grants every year to continue and working on additional grants currently, an ongoing project. Twenty years or more ago this was originally a prairie with few to no trees; native grasses and

forbs with a few shrubs mixed in but has changed quite a bit since then. Through the project we have been able to cost shared 75% of expense to remove trees with the property owner providing the other 25% and using that for match for grants. Not only does that add additional money to our funds to clear more acres, but it also vests the landowner in it themselves. Advertised by word of mouth, local paper, mailing and meetings. Some challenges we have ran into is people like trees and wind breaks but the problem with leaving wind breaks is that is a seed source so we have to address that and work with them. Had contractor issues, getting them there as it is an isolated area. First phase, had skid steer with 60-inch ditch mulcher on it, does awesome job on small to medium size trees. If stumps aren't sprayed you might as well not cut it because it will come back. It can mulch larger trees but is slow going, takes more fuel and so a little more cost on big trees. We left cottonwoods but removed Russian olives. There is minimal disturbance and we had good vegetation response and mulch kept moisture in the soil. Have tract in walk-in hunting program and estimated we removed 4,000 trees. Not only did in enhance habitat for wildlife but helped keep property in the walk-in program because we prioritized walk-in tracts as first priority for this project. In addition, we had landowners signed up for walk-in so they qualified to enroll in this project. It is not a requirement but given first priority at limited funding. In second phase, same project but different grants we started piling medium to large trees. We have photo points on all the properties to monitor vegetation change. Other equipment we have used is forestry drum mulchers and grapple and tree saws. Again, mulchers do good job on small and medium trees and bigger trees were cut and piled.. The river runs across the county with St. Francis in the middle. (*Showed multiple before and after photos.*) When we spray trees we put blue dye in the chemical so we can see where we have sprayed. This project is providing benefit to the wildlife. The trees basically grow over the river and create a canopy that waterfowl can't come in and land as easily. Because of lack of water out here, they need all the help they can get. On turkeys, when cottonwood trees get mature they are favored roost sites but don't need other trees. What happens when you get dense understory the turkeys don't like it, they like to glide down from roost trees and that also serves as ideal predator habitat and they get the turkeys. If rangeland isn't overgrazed that also provides opportunity for nesting and brooding. From the landowner perspective because this is adding a lot of grazing acres for their cattle as well as fire mitigation and access. Just getting in there to spray noxious weeds and work on fence in some areas you had to almost crawl through it. Even though the contractor goes through with his equipment and cuts those trees and sprays the stumps you are going to have some resprouts so we have been going out and spraying the resprouts and encouraging the landowners to do so as well. Cut property, go out in September and spray resprouts and next year they are skeletons and usually have good vegetation response because we use herbicide. It takes three years of basic management to control the resprouts, ideal times to spray for those and stress that to the landowners too. Sometimes resprouts come up from the root, not the stump because it didn't get a good kill on the roots. It is more effective if stumps are sprayed in the fall instead of the spring. Russian olives are more like tall, thorny shrubs than trees. The landowner can burn the brush piles, it is not required but if they do I ask them to burn it in the winter when there is snowfall and check weather for a few days after to make sure ideal weather for that. Properties cleared, even three years after the resprouts are under control I tell them they are in dispersal and recruitment stage and will still have some trees moving in but a lot easier to spray a couple of trees. The hope is as we clear additional tracts it will lessen the seed sources and need for some of that management. The future of the project is to continue follow up management on properties and monitoring for invasives, continue removal on new tracts, pending funding; got a new grant last year which I have spent a chunk of and have a few additional grants in mind. One of the big parts of this project moving forward is RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) in the South Fork Republican River Compact which the Cheyenne County conservation district put in and it was awarded in April 2021 for \$2,766,234. The technical side of this hasn't all been

worked out so landowners can't apply yet but KDWP is partner on this. There are some other aspects like water facilities for livestock but bulk with help with river system by removing invasive trees such as Russian olives, salt cedars and eastern redcedar. We hope this is a project we can continue and eventually move elsewhere depending on funding. Want to thank all of our partners and contributors (North American Wetlands Conservation Act, KS Dept of Agriculture, KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks, Cheyenne County Noxious Weed Dept, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Cheyenne County Wildlife Inc, Pheasants Forever, Cheyenne County Conservation District, Cheyenne County NRCS and Kansas Forest Service).

Commissioner Sporer – What is average cost per acre? Klag – Varies, from \$100 to \$700 an acre, depends on density and size of the trees. There are probably some acres on these where they are paying higher when real dense \$1,500 an acre. Since we are clearing entire tracts I don't get a real detailed breakdown from contractor who has to consider his costs. It can get expensive, we have had some properties cost \$5,000, some \$75,000 to clear, so it varies. Secretary Loveless – Thoughtful approach, water benefits. People don't realize how much water that woody vegetation in the riparian uses up. Huge impacts on flows and improves brood habitat, replacing bad with good. The other thing I want to point out is the thoughtful application of incentives. I was in a meeting yesterday with a bunch of federal agencies and as they were talking about their programs often times they were a broad brush approach, just give people money. If you notice the way Kevin managed this project, it gets habitat work we want done but because it prioritized walk-in hunting it incentivized people to do that. A thoughtful approach to get multiple benefits. Klag – A good point and there are water benefits too. Those trees are using a lot of water so that is adding more water into that river system. Quite a few benefits to this.

Break

5. Birding Trail – Mike Rader, wildlife education coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit M, PowerPoint – Exhibit N). Kansas had attempted birding trails in the past but came with little fanfare or success. There was Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Alliance that tried to do that with help of Audubon of Kansas and utilized the Natural Kansas website. They met with limited success and some plans never really implemented. Birding trails promote ecotourism; connects people to birds and the environment; connects people to important outdoor recreational areas; promotes existing bird events and organizations; and connects new audiences to our agency. There was a recent wildlife viewer survey conducted with Kansas as part of multistate survey commissioned by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to determine the importance of wildlife viewing by the general public. Virginia Tech was contracted to develop survey questions done on nationwide basis and our agency was tasked with trying to get questions more specific to our state. Presentations are being conducted by researchers to different states, and another presentation in the near future outlining survey results and data collected so far. Ecological Services section in our agency serves as the point on this project. Found in Kansas that 50% of Kansas residents identify as being non-consumptive wildlife viewers. There has been a shift from consumptive to more non-consumptive users. That is why wildlife viewing is one of the fastest growing outdoor recreation activities we have. Some of the results from the survey states that feeding wild birds, visiting parks and natural areas and photographing wildlife are most popular forms of wildlife viewing. Birds and land mammals are most sought after for viewing practice. Family and friends were important social influences, an opportunity for family and friends to go out together and do things in the outdoors. Eighty percent of people in this survey identified as white and BIPOC (black indigenous people of color) viewers identified less strongly as white wildlife viewers but reported wildlife viewing as more important part of their lives. Other things that came out of survey was that we need to respond to the demand and develop programs to engage more

wildlife viewers. This Birding Trail project is a great example. This gives us opportunity to broaden our constituency of agencies through supporting viewing experiences for underserved groups. Develop opportunities for viewers to financially support their state agencies. Things we would like to consider; our agency recognizes the need to reach broader constituency, talked about it numerous times. We also need to look at a more diverse range of funding sources and how they might be implemented. Survey also shows the public see state wildlife agencies as one of the best sources of knowledge for all things wildlife related. Our agency is taking on the Birding Trail has been a good fit, using external and internal expertise to continue to make the project a success. I was asked to lead this project by Secretary Loveless in September 2021. There was a need determined so what I did first was research other states that had birding trails already. We put together a multi-generational team of birding experts, wildlife authors, wildlife photographers and more to form a committee to initiate this process. We assessed what the budget might be, scope, target audience, locations on the trail and marketing plan. Some of the challenges we saw was determining the exact goal of what project might be, had no defined initial budget, had to determine what trails and locations would provide high-quality birding experiences including accessibility issues, amenities, paved roads. This is a website-based program so had to have content production and editing for that and time to spend on the project. Obviously the people who worked on this project have full time jobs and this was ancillary to what they would normally do. We had a launch day on March 7, 2022 and the web address is www.ksbirdingtrail.com. I encourage you to write it down and go look at it. Mammoth Creative was a firm we contracted to build the website for us. They took care of design, through approval of myself and committee. We have 12 different trails. A trail is a misconception, most people think of trails as something you go out and walk on these are probably more accurately driving routes, not walking routes. We tried to be fair to all parts of the state. We have trails that go all across the state. There is one in this area that goes from Oakley to Garden City and has several stops along the way. There is a page that tells why people would want to come to Kansas to go bird watching. We wanted to be cognizant of public assessable property, when do this on private property there are different complications so we used public properties like state parks, city and municipal parks, county parks, public wildlife areas and those sort of things. Public wildlife areas presented a bit of an issue for us because we don't want to conflict of use during hunting seasons so part of recommendation is people are aware of seasons going on. What we are looking at as we move forward is to continue to improve the website, add locations as we go along and add more photos, ones habitat specific sites on the trails themselves. Most of the 12 trails have anywhere from 8 to 10 sites per trail. We want to be able to assess the usage of the trails to determine if we are meeting the demand, look at dedicated signage for each of the locations and at some point have some printed materials. Right now, this is totally web based so no brochures, will probably try to do some rack cards to put in tourism centers and places like that. We appreciate the opportunity and want to thank Secretary Loveless for pushing us in the right direction and providing support for this. Secretary Loveless – I get lots of good ideas but don't go anywhere unless we have quality people that make them happen, like Mike who took the bull by the horns and made this an exceptional project. One thing he didn't brag on is we have been very well received by a lot of different groups. There is a birding festival out here in western Kansas and a key component was talking about those trails. The public response is neat to this so appreciate our staff and all the work they did to make this happen. Rader – Asked Brody for information about our marketing campaign for this and want to read a short statement he put together. This Kansas Birding Trail campaign was aimed at creating awareness for trails and driving traffic to the website for this program where users could learn more about it. We created a logo, website, video and digital ads to get the word out. We have also focused on targeting people living in Kansas that have interests in other outdoor activities such as hiking, bird watching and other wildlife viewing. With this campaign we have generated more than 1.5

million impressions and drove 35,000 clicks to this to this birding trail website. Mammoth was pleased with the way it performed and think Brody and other staff in information section were pleased as well. Something we can hang our hat on.

6. Prairie Dog State Park Update – Luke VanSike, prairie dog state park manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit O, PowerPoint – Exhibit P). Overview of state park and updates we are working on. Full time staff at Prairie Dog State Park Staff includes myself, Luke VanSike, State Park manager, Wes Dubois, is our ranger, he is NRO 2 and firearms instructor and Jeff Porter, Administrative Specialist. We also have part-time staff working on a lot of projects and continuing maintenance. We have seasonal workers such as camp/cabin hosts and AmeriCorps members. Norton dam built in early 1960s, the lake filled up in one year to conservation level, as well as state park in early 1960s, and opened to the public in late 1964. In 1981 renamed for the Norton native that was a U.S. representative. “Keith Sebelius reservoir”, which is in the middle of Prairie Dog state park and Norton wildlife area. The park has 1,100 acres, six campgrounds with 87 utility sites and 45 primitive sites. The nature trail is 1.4 miles long. We have four cabins, a prairie dog town, historic sites, a basketball court, volleyball pit, beach, fishing dock, playground, two boat ramps and fish cleaning station. Amenities also includes a covered boat slip at the main boat ramp area. The prairie dog town is a 10-acre colony with 400 estimated population, a high attraction. Named after Prairie Dog Creek that fills up the reservoir and decided to bring in prairie dogs. There is an adobe home on site, in original location where it was built, land was purchased in 1890 and built the earth-stacked adobe home, well insulated and in summer is cool and warm in winter. It was last lived in in 1944; we conduct small tours there and host special events there. There is a 19th century one-room schoolhouse on the property which was built in 1885 just north of the park and was moved to the state park in 1968 for preservation. It is a lot of work to maintain these old buildings. The Lake View shelter is busiest in park and hosts weddings, family reunions, celebrations and musical concerts each summer. It holds a lot of people and overlooks the lake. The basketball court, sand volleyball court and playground next to the campground are busy places during the summer. Area used generally all weekend. There are six campgrounds, Prairie Dog, Shady Rest, Meadowlark, Cottonwood, Cedar Ridge and Branded Cedar. This is third year they have been booked every weekend as well as the four cabins, Prairie Dog and Eagle View are modern; Cottonwood and Cedar Crest are primitive. Cabins are also booked during the hunting season basically every weekend. Revenue at the park is up six percent over a five-year average with the highest revenue being in 2020. Visitation is up three percent over a five-year average and is directly related to revenue, about 70 percent. Visitation is also directly related to water levels. Special events include field trips and a youth pheasant hunt every January where the local Pheasants Forever chapter brings out about a dozen kids and this year had 19 birds harvested. Also, annual OK Kids Day, that had 14 stations, and kids come out with parents and we have trap shooting to fishing or outdoor education and anyone local will come out and have a booth; they meet back for lunch and this year we served 645 meals, had 341 kids registered and because of sponsors gave out 375 prizes. Recent projects include the Cedar Ridge campground, our first site with sewer, now has 10 full utility sites, first sites with sewer and is booked every weekend all summer; and the new Lake View shelter, was contracted out; as well as nature trail upgrades; a new disc golf course, money from memorial and used every weekend; pads for kiosks; shelter upgrades, hope to add water and electric to the primitive mushroom shelters; and main project is upgrading electric only to 30 amp campgrounds since most need 50 amps at some of the campsites. Prairie State Park is located four miles west of Norton on Highway 261. Secretary Loveless – Neat thing is proximity to the city and the relationship you have with them. You have done it best, talk about how you collaborate with them. Their contingent from Norton comes to Topeka twice a year to talk about how important the health of the reservoir is. VanSike – One

year we had every single school elementary and junior high class come for a field trip. The local travel and tourism says that on any weekend all the hotels in town have fishing boats parked there. All the prizes for OK Kids Day are bought in town. Most of them are campers so we see them most weekends all year long. They help out with projects and that works well for us.

C. Workshop Session

1. Antelope 25-Series Regulations – ~~Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist~~, Rich Schultheis, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit Q). Poor reproduction in Kansas and caused apparent declines in pronghorn population. We have considered reductions in harvest. It is a straightforward process for animals with a limited allocation, so we can reduce firearm and muzzleloader permits but a little more challenging for unlimited permits like archery. We have taken a number of steps for similar reductions for archery permits. Last year you approved a change that got rid of the possibility of having both an archery permit and also getting a point to use for possibility of a firearm permit for future years. We separated those to make sure you couldn't do both in one season. The recommendation we have for you to consider is getting rid of archery season for pronghorn two segments; we have early in September in later segment in October. We are proposing removing that later segment. That still maintains 90% of harvest, typically occurs in early season but provides opportunities to potentially reducing some of the harvest when we don't have quota to reduce that. The harvest season has concluded for this year but have not had a chance to look at cervid reports so more recommendations to come.

Because of changes like Dan spoke about, in both of these 25-series regulations are prime to make changes in the way we do things. We include in this regulation the year in it. A lot of regulations say "open Wednesday after Thanksgiving" or something like that. So even if we don't change anything in structure of the season we still have to approve every year and has to run through the system. I expect these might be the types of regulations you could see changes in the way we do things so if not changes proposed they won't have to go through the gamut Dan has to run through. That is 115-25-7.

2. Elk 25-Series Regulations – ~~Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist~~, Rich Schultheis, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit R). This is 115-25-8 and is a little more straightforward. The season is still ongoing. The Unit 2, which includes Fort Riley and surrounding area is a quota limited draw. We will present recommendation later but Matt wanted to note that we are not planning any structure changes to the elk season; seasons, bag limits and those types of things. The framework of how we are doing elk seasons will remain the same. Once we gather further information about harvest this year and work with Fort Riley staff on their population survey, Matt will come back with recommendations on permit numbers.

3. Big Game 4-Series Regulations – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit S). Focus on KAR 115-4-11, the only section with any changes recommended. Last year we approved the change in this regulation to limit pronghorn hunters from being able to get a preference point and an over-the-counter archery permit in the same year. When that went through the process there was some needed language changes that didn't happen that need to be addressed to make sure we clearly define our intent. We will be recommending adopting those changes at next meeting.

4. Deer 25-Series Regulations – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit T). Deer 25-series regulations is where we set seasons, and equipment usage dates. Based on changes in deer population and an increase in damage complaints including a visit to that unit to talk to landowners we have a proposed extended pre-rut whitetail antlerless season included here. That would let us better address the needs of landowners and potentially increase deer harvest at the time when we need it in an area with fairly high deer densities, the highest in the state of any of our units. Everything else follows previously approved season structures with youth and disability, September 2-10, 2023; early muzzleloader, September 11-24, 2023; archery, September 11, 2023 to December 31, 2023; regular pre-rut whitetail-antlerless-only (WAO), October 7-9, 2023, three days; and extended pre-rut whitetail-antlerless-only (WAO), October 7-15, 2023, similar to youth and disability season where we sandwich a full week in between two weekends. Part of the reason to increase that was with crop damage issues and how land ownership works in that area where many of these farmers own only the field and not the surrounding area it lets us target hunting when it could do the most good. That pre-rut season is approximately 98% use from residents. At this time, it would only be in DMU 12, but gives similar option to January season where it gives us different ranges of dates depending on what is going on. Regular firearm, starts traditional Wednesday after Thanksgiving, November 29, 2023 to December 10, 2023; first extended WAO, January 1-7, 2024; second extended WAO, January 1-14, 2024; third extended WAO, January 1-21, 2024; and extended archery (DMU 19), January 22-31, 2024. Because Unit 12 is already in longest January season there wasn't any days to add there. For most of our seasons these could be set up as we discussed, moving to more structure like regular firearm opening date hasn't changed in many years and potentially go to listing it as the first Wednesday following Thanksgiving. Adjusted with more permanent language rather than approving yearly dates.

Commissioner Escareno – Gentleman came last meeting from Montgomery and Chautauqua counties. Does the extended timeframe include those two counties to help him with his overpopulation? Jaster – Yes, Montgomery County is one of the main counties in Unit 12, along with Chautauqua County. I did not talk to him again but met with several other landowners from the same area. We toured farms and much of the damages exacerbated by drought, several of their fields looked like they were mowed off. A lot of it is that they own the crop field but not the surrounding upland habitat fields. Trying to give them some additional options and discussed options they could take themselves. In this case it is warranted to try and increase that hunting. It is a large enough area that it warrants doing it for management unit. Recommend people do what they can within regulations on their own property.

Commissioner Sill – Did you look at number of acres leased, how many acres available for public access, etc.? My concern is if there is substantial leasing with people not allowing resident access. They had an increase, last year 48% of antlered bucks taken by nonresidents. If we are not allowing resident access to hunt in general; a few people are suffering consequences of action of others. There needs to be a whole list applied to it not just an aspirin for a brain tumor approach. Did you look at that whole picture and not just those legitimate concerns? Jaster – We talked about many things in that unit. One of issue is building relationships with neighbors because land ownership changes rapidly down there. Often, talking with our biologists and landowners, see average of five years of ownership. We talked about different numbers of deer tags and there is support from those landowners to look at nonresident tags available. They understand nonresidents are not coming to Kansas to shoot antlerless deer. They have also taken step of putting some of these properties in walk-in hunting to open to public access. They clearly made the statement that hunting is a major part of the solution. We discussed other options they may be able to take outside of hunting. Not just relying on damage control permits, which are a band-aid in this case. Some are things they will have to take and we will help where we can.

Commissioner Sill – Is there a growing percentage of nonresident ownership that may be playing into this? Jaster – There is some of that but in

some cases rather than the percentage growing it is just high turnover rate, being owned by succession of nonresidents. They find it is difficult to maintain a good hunting property in another state or they have gotten what they came for. It is a difficult question because landowners need people in place to build relationships with and understand that deer management on their own property isn't just affecting their property. Commissioner Sporer – No CWD in Unit 12? Jaster – No, it is farther east and have so far avoided it, we have some not far from it. The other reason it would warrant considering reductions is in preparation to bring that herd down so when we do start seeing it there isn't a rapid spread; it is not necessarily density dependent on how CWD affects a deer herd but it is part of the equation. Bringing that back into balance is good and would bring a healthier deer herd. That area at times is probably higher than you would hope for as far as buck to doe ratio. It is also an area with very good quality habitat year after year. We have seen that whitetails are good at reproduction there.

5. KAR 115-25-5 Turkey; fall season, bag limits, permits & game tags – Kent Fricke, small game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit U, PowerPoint – Exhibit V). Typically, would have been voting on this at this meeting, and had set up schedule for that but not able to accomplish that. There are a few new things on what staff is recommending. All three regulations in this presentation 25-5, 25.6 and 4-11. In 115-4-11, the big game and turkey permit applications is to create an application period for nonresidents associated with the changes in the other regulations. Chairman Lauber – When would that be available or in affect? By spring season? Fricke – Depends on when we can vote on it. January meeting is same time as we have the draw period for Unit 4 permit applications, this year was January 10 through February 10. That January 12 date would already be in that timeframe so don't feel like we can get that enacted in time for spring 2023 season. Commissioner Gfeller – I have gotten a lot of feedback and context of people already having plans made for the 2023 season. Fricke – I have gotten a number of those questions and have a list of people to call once we know. There is also a wording change we need to make for fall season Unit 2 boundary definition. We want to reduce valid units for Unit 4 permits, which if currently valid for Unit 4 it is valid in adjacent units, Units 1, 2 and 5. Based on increased demand for those Unit 4 permits and landowner interest in trying to make sure we have ability to have landowners draw those permits we are looking to reduce that to Unit 4 permits are only valid in Unit 4. Turkey season dates, as Levi mentioned in terms of deer regulations, having specific dates in regulation of turkey season; we are currently set up in a way that youth/disabled starts April 1, archery begins Monday after first full weekend in April and regular season starts Wednesday after second full weekend in April. In the same way the fall season currently is open October 1 until November 10. Each year we presented these season dates just to make sure everybody know what is coming up in the next several years so we have some certainty if there were changes the staff and commission wanted to make. We have always had no change to this basic structure, not voted on it but discussed it to make sure everyone was aware. In 2023, this is earliest start date to regular season, April 12. We are not recommending any additional changes looking forward to 2024, one of the latest seasons, a switch from previous year. Start date of April 17 if no recommended changes. We have harvest strategy that guides most of our staff recommendations in terms of bag limits and open seasons. As discussed before there a number of factors keyed into this strategy and based on results from spring 2022 season, the recommendations were reductions in each of the six units, including Unit 4. Our recommendations for spring bag limit and quota recommendations is to reduce bag limit currently at two in Units 1 and 2, northwest and northcentral, to one bird; in each unit, outside of Unit 4, reduce nonresident hunters by approximately 25%. Additionally, in Unit 4, which is currently a 500 permit quota for Kansas residents only with 250 reserved for landowners; recommending reducing that by 25% as well to 375 permits with specific reservation of 200 permits for landowners. If those are not used up by

landowners those would become available to other applicants. Regarding the fall season, fall 2022 season just wrapped up on November 10 and fall turkey post season harvest survey was out earlier this week. There is a consistent trend of a reduction of 10-20% in each of the categories for the last several years. This year we saw that stabilize to where we had almost 3,000 hunters purchasing a permit for the fall season, a slight increase from last year. I think we may have hit a stabilization point in permit sales. Since 2017, when game tags were no longer available in the fall season, and 2020, the first shortened season from October 1 to November 10. We don't have harvest estimates yet for fall. For the same reasons we discussed previously we have the recommendation to suspend the fall season statewide. Our harvest strategy was recommending that for Units 3, 5 and 6. Also, know we are having issues getting regulations through the process we felt it was prudent to include this in this year's recommendation. While harvest during the fall season has declined quite a bit from highs in early 2010s, our primary concern biologically is harvest of hens during that season, especially when harvest is relatively low we still see proportion of hens in harvest at 50-60%. We continue to be concerned about that level of harvest and feel strongly that is a good recommendation to suspend that season moving forward. To summarize, we are clarifying Unit 2 boundary for fall; recommending suspending fall season statewide; removing adjacent unit allowance for Unit 4 permits; no change to spring season structures; reduce spring bag limits in Units 1 and 2 to one bird; reduce spring permit quotas in Unit 4 to 375 permits; create nonresident application period. Associated with that there is one other regulation that will need to be changed, KAR 115-2-1, the amount of fees regulation but we will present that in January. Create nonresident draw by unit with recommended quotas of 25% reduction. Commissioner Sporer – This is for 2023? Fricke – This is for whenever we can get it through. Chairman Lauber – Probably 2023. Fricke – It will depend. Our next meeting is in January and then March. If this is not voted on in January, by March meeting turkey permits will already be on sale. Additionally, Unit 4 applicants that are successful in late February already will have the opportunity, if spring bag limits are at two birds in Units 1 and 2, then those successful applicants in Unit 4 also have the opportunity to purchase their permit and get combo permit as part of that and have a valid game tag which would still be valid at that time for spring 2023 season. If it is not at public hearing and voted on in January 12 meeting then this will be effective for spring 2024 season. Commissioner Gfeller – Would that be true with bag limits as well or can you separate those issues? Fricke – Yes, that would be true for bag limits as well because we would already have permits on sale March 1. Commissioner Escareno – It would stay at existing bag? Fricke – Correct. We couldn't remove the bag limit for a tag we had already sold. Commissioner Escareno – Providing that it gets passed through the state after we approve it that is only if it goes through the process? Fricke – If not able to get through state process this won't be on the public hearing in January. Commissioner Escareno – I am talking about 2024. Providing we get it passed in March and it goes to the state and state approves it will go into effect in 2024? If it does not get through the state and process this could be as late as 2025? Chairman Lauber – We should be able to get in place for 2024 season, not the 2023 season. Legal Counsel Riley – These regs are next in line going in but limitation is only one set in the process. The public land ones have moved on, so turkey regs are going in next but there is a 60-day notice period and whatever other delays are on top of that. Commissioner Sporer – This is not going to be reality then? Correct Kent? Fricke – That is my assumption. Commissioner Gfeller – Does that change the fall recommendations? Fricke – The current recommendation is to get that through for the 2023 season. Just a reminder of where we are at in the process. We have been discussing turkey regulations since June, general discussion is to introduce regulations and overall turkey population status; don't have post season harvest survey back until about July 1, have turkey committee meeting in early July and get staff input on recommendation associated with the harvest strategy and overall regulations. Workshop in August and September 8 and had information session in September to make sure we had breadth of discussion we felt was

warranted with the Commission. So, ideally would have public hearing vote in November, that didn't happen. Hopefully we can get to public hearing by January but not likely to happen at this point. Those are some of the things I think about when we have seasons, when we get data back we can analyze and provide most up-to-date information on and tailor recommendations based on that and getting through the process. Commissioner Gfeller – You arrived at quotas by taking historic number of permits and reduced it by 25%? Fricke – Correct. Commissioner Gfeller – There is a wide variety of what units get what. Do you find when you go to a draw system do people move around on what units they make application for? Fricke – Never done a draw system for turkey before. The other thing we are recommending in this regulation change is that as part of the application process you apply for a single unit and cannot hunt adjacent units to be consistent across the state. I don't know how much that will factor in on individual level but on population level of hunters how much that will change through time. Commissioner Gfeller – They can only apply for one unit? Fricke – That is what we are tailoring regulations to. Commissioner Sill – Do they get a 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice? So, if they apply for Unit 1 and don't get it they could go to a different unit or pick one and done? Fricke – The way I thought about it was only for one. I would need to clarify that with licensing. Commissioner Sill – Does that leave possibility of any leftover permits then? Fricke – That may be the best work-around to that. I will check with licensing. Chairman Lauber – We want this to be ready to vote on as soon as we possibly can. When it comes to fall season, you have all heard my opinion. I stated at last meeting, if formal recommendation of staff that I would object to closing the fall season. If anybody else with issues talk about it now. If not, we will be prepared to vote in January if possible. Commissioner Gfeller – I think this year is going to be difficult for me based on feedback I have heard on which season the draw limit applies to. Chairman Lauber – I prefer it take place in 2023 season but don't think that is possible. I am afraid we aren't going to be able to get that done and if we are able to get it done it is going to be a problem. Commissioner Sporer – Don't you think it would get done in the summer 2023, and loss of fall season would happen in 2023 and reduction statewide to one tag would be spring of 2024? Chairman Lauber – Probably yes. Commissioner Sill – The upside to that is it gives people time to adjust. Chairman Lauber – I don't think we have any choice. Commissioner Gfeller - It is too bad. Sooner the better would be better for turkey population but also have lots of people who have made plans. That makes it difficult. Fricke – We are excited, we got a \$2 million research project approved for statewide study on turkeys. We are working with Kansas State University. Starting to look for field sites with field work starting winter/spring 2024. We have been working on that for several years and looking forward to getting more specific information for Kansas on what is going on in our population and adding to research literature.

6. KAR 115-25-6 Turkey; spring season, bag limits, permits & game tags – Kent Fricke, small game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit U, PowerPoint – Exhibit V). In 25-5 discussion above.

7. KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit – Kent Fricke, small game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit U, PowerPoint – Exhibit V). In 25-5 discussion above.

8. KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season (and associated reference document) – Bryan Sowards, fisheries division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibits W, X). This regulation is statewide creel and length limits but this is related to associated reference document. Heard nothing from public on any of these. Also refers to a few trout lake changes, King Lake in Emporia, add as type 1 trout water, stocking with trout this season for the first time; OJ Watson park in Wichita, adding as a type 1

water; and Wichita KDOT East, removing, so basically replacing KDOT East with OJ Watson park, a better fishery for trout. Type 1 means during November 1 to April 15 season you would need a trout permit to fish there for anything; Type 2 would be just if you are fishing for trout. Some of the smaller lakes where that is typically the reason the public is going there in that timeframe we call it Type 1 water for regulation purposes.

9. KAR 115-18-10. Importation and possession of certain wildlife; prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions. – Bryan Sowards, fisheries division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibits W, Y). This change would add rusty crayfish to the prohibited species list. We found them for the first time at McPherson State Fishing Lake.

10. KAR 115-7-10. Fishing, special provisions (and associated reference document outlining reference document K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807 – Kansas ANS Designated Waters) – Bryan Sowards, fisheries division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibits W, Z). If we add rusty crayfish to prohibited species list it would trigger an aquatic nuisance species designated water in the aquatic nuisance prohibits species reference document at McPherson SFL. We would like to clean up some language and remove any references to the term "Asian Carp" to be more specific with individual species, "Silver Carp" and "Bighead Carp". Also, add Lebo City Lake as an ANS Designated Water for zebra mussels.

11. KAR 115-8-1 Department lands and waters: hunting, furharvesting and discharge of firearms – Ryan Stucky, public lands assistant director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit AA). This covers public lands special use restrictions reference document and the main focus of this is the reference document. Subsection e covers the special use restrictions regulations, section 12, subsection a, refuge area closed to all activities year round, add two areas by Chetopa in Cherokee Lowland area. The two properties, Perkins east and Bogner center; Perkins property is about 208 acres and Bogner is 236 acres for a combination of 444 acres. Those properties in that area total about 2,084 acres and we don't have any refuge areas in Mined Land area north of there about 10 miles so staff looked at this whole area and picked out these two properties to put in refuge. Most of our wildlife areas have refuge areas and this area didn't have any. The river that runs between the two is the Neosho River and it is near Chetopa. Mined Land WA is about 21,000 acres and is just north of there, a lot of acreage open for hunting there. These two areas would be closed to all activities year-round. Chairman Lauber – The fact that we are using an online licensing system for all wildlife areas is not going to take effect until 2023? Stucky – This is one being run through the system so not sure when. Chairman Lauber – It is not in affect now? Stucky – No. That is second change we would like to have to the reference document. Adding all state fishing lakes and wildlife areas into the electronic check-in and check-out system for hunting activities only. This would exclude Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Big Basin Prairie Preserve and all state park properties. It does include all iWIHA. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Through this promulgation process these won't be voted on until 2023. Even when it is voted on and approved we spoke with Brandt licensing system and will phase in. We haven't decided if all at once, or in phases by region; it will be a process. Commissioner Sill – I have question for Colonel Kyser or somebody from law enforcement. After being out a couple of weeks ago on two different wildlife areas and some WIHA and hearing complaints, I am concerned about check-in process and what law enforcement's perspective is. Some of us it is an attitude, we don't like technology and don't want to deal with it. We just have to buck up. We need to change and comply and I do believe we need it. Some of it is competence, the first time I checked in last year it took me four days to figure out how to check out. So, there is issues of competence with technology, issues of equipment people for people who don't have smart phones. You can check in the night before but I went to two

different wildlife areas and three different WIHAs in one day, so if checked in the night before I am checked into the first place I went. How does that work for people that don't have access? The other thing is coverage. You say that we can call but if no service and cell phone doesn't work that isn't working either. These are legitimate issues for hunters. I know there are some hunters out there that are conscientious enough that realize they are checked in one place and can't go to another. There are a few of us who say, to heck with it I am going. I talked to guy last night and said he would call game warden every time he wants to go hunting. I want to hear from law enforcement on what their perspective is and how it is going to affect them for enforcement of this when there is legitimate issues. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Most of public lands staff is law enforcement certified and since this is a public lands program our department staff deals with this day in and day out. Everything you said is legitimate concerns we are trying to deal with. We have always viewed this as an educational process to begin with. We are not about to go out and write as many tickets as we can for violations. We want public and hunters to buy into this because it is vital information we are trying to garner from this system. We are experiencing a few more bugs because of change from i-Sportsmen to Brandt system to be all-inclusive system instead of two separate ones. We have identified a lot of those problems and are doing our best to work with hunters in the field with issues coming up and all the issues we have seen ourselves too. It is under consideration as we move forward with this proposal. Jason may be able to expand more on where we are at and what we are working on. People hear statewide implementation of this and it is concerning technology-disabled folks, like myself. We feel it is an important enough endeavor and program because the reporting data we get helps us all in this room make decisions to benefit everybody in the future. Jason Dickson – We are continuing to work on it, from IT and Brandt perspectives, there were different things being added and as December comes up on a new release of the app and the online side of it and different things added to the check-out system to help check in and check out when other options aren't available. We are continuing to work with contractor on fixing any bugs and issues coming up. Chairman Lauber – I hope there will be an abundance of tolerance and by the end of next year we will have a final release of app and bugs worked out. Commissioner Sill – Concern for some of people my age and older. I don't want it to be an impediment it is already getting harder to hunt, don't want hassle with check-in to be an impediment. Need to find a way to help them understand we really want and need this information but to not let that stop them or discourage them from going. All the app updates are great if your phone works. But if it doesn't you are still out of luck. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Exactly. That was probably forefront of internal discussions getting to this point. Our mission is public lands is access and opportunity and the last thing we want is to add roadblocks and hinderances to that. A major concern and when we do experience technical difficulties we worry about buy-in from the public. It continues to be a high priority for the department and fixing these. We want to make things as easy as we can. I am not a big tech guy but know there are technological advances out there and I would like to see us get to the point where we can do geofencing. Like if you go to a restaurant in the city, once you leave you get an alert on your phone to rate your visit. If can have that kind of technology on our properties, where they enter geofencing alerts them to check-in and when you leave it prompts you to check-out. Hopefully maybe we can get to something as simple as that. Commissioner Sill – Or something like a kiosk with a device right there onsite so they don't have to have a phone. Not at every parking lot obviously but that eliminates excuse for all of this. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Staff continues to help hunters onsite and office staff across the state help people create accounts and check-in and check-out before they check into a new property. We are doing the best we can to try and transition. Chairman Lauber – When a wildlife and parks law enforcement officer writes a ticket we don't get the fine; that goes to state or county with court costs. We get no financial incentive to write tickets. Commissioner Sporer – What kind of animals are we refuging, deer? Stucky – It is to all activity, but mainly deer, but to

all activities are prohibited there. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Typically we have refuge-designated areas on all our properties. That doesn't mean we couldn't conduct a special hunt on those properties. It is for all upland and waterfowl species, deer and turkey frequenting that area.

12. Pending Regulations– Dan Riley, chief counsel, presented this information. No presentation on these three items they have been presented multiple times (Exhibit BB). This is first example of change we were talking about. We will leave regulations on the agenda when they are in process but get them out of workshop process so they don't continue to wear everybody out. These three particular regulations have made it through the first phase, then head to Department of Administration and in the Attorney General's office now. We will continue to leave them on the agenda until they make it through the process and come back to the public hearing along with any other regs that make it to the external process. Hopefully we will be able to avoid unnecessary and redundant workshopping by doing that but maintain them on the agenda so nobody loses track of regulations in the works.

KAR 115-8-23 Baiting; (Public Lands Regulation) – Exhibit CC

KAR 115-8-9 Camping (Public Land Regulation) – Exhibit DD

KAR 115-8-25 Trail (Game) Cameras and other devices (New Public Land Regulation) – Exhibit EE

VII. RECESS AT 4:47 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Tymeson – As you know I now work for Safari Club International and we are a conservation partner with the agency. We do have a chapter in Kansas City and I am based out of Overland Park. Anytime you need help in the legislature; we submitted a couple of letters last year on issues in support of the Department's position and happy to do it again.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice Form and Attorney General Letter dated August 5 (Exhibit FF).

1. Cabin Rates – Steve Seibel, High Plains regional supervisor, presented this to the Commission, for information only, no vote required (Exhibit GG, handout – Exhibit HH) – This is review of KAR 115-2-3a, cabin camping and permit fees. The cabin fees are provided several times a year and are adjusted based on cabin occupancy rates. Based on these rates cabin prices may warrant an increase or decrease during certain times of the year. We are proposing rate changes. Some of these rates have been in place for over 15 years. One of the main reasons we are wanting to raise these rates is that the utility costs in the last five years have gone up 47% and maintenance costs, cleaning and seasonal salaries have gone up 34%. We feel it is time to go ahead and change our rates.

2. KAR 115-5-1 Furbearers and coyotes; legal equipment, taking methods and general provisions – Matt Peek, furbearer biologist, presented this regulation to the commission (Exhibit

II). On page 2, section c 4. We are proposing to allow laser sights to be used in the taking of furbearers treed with the aid of dogs, requested by Federation of Houndsmen. If it helps them shoot raccoons out of trees more accurately this is something we can support.

Commissioner Troy Sporer moved to approve KAR 115-5-1; Commissioner Lauren Sill seconded.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-5-1 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit JJ):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-5-1 as presented passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-25-11 Furbearers; open seasons and bag limits – Matt Peek, furbearer biologist, presented this regulation to the commission (Exhibit KK). Two changes are not underlined. First change in section b where we are recommending extending the general furbearer season by about two weeks by changing closure of the season from February 15 to the last day of February, adds about 13 days to the season during most years or two weeks during leap year. The other change is in section d, propose to increase otter season bag limit from five to 10 otters. Associated with that is we are also increasing the unit bag limits from two to five on the Verdigris and Missouri units and five to 10 on the Lower Neosho and Marais des Cygnes otter management units. Last year half harvested the quota. Some of the complaints that came in was that trappers could easily use their whole quota in one pond in some cases and have other ponds that people want them to trap on. That is some of the reason why we made this proposal.

Commissioner Warren Gfeller moved to approve KAR 115-25-11; Commissioner Phil Escareno seconded.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-25-11 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit LL):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-25-11 as presented passed 7-0.

Chairman Lauber – Basically you are going to suggest we revoke all the five of these regulations regarding mussels. Jordan Hofmeier – As I understand it, they each individually need a vote so I will go through them.

4. KAR 115-17-6 (revocation) Commercial mussel fishing license; license application and requirements, authority, reports, general provisions and license revocation – Jordan

Hofmeier, aquatic ecologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit MM). Currently establishes harvest and salvage, proposing revocation. We have workshopped all of these several times.

Commissioner Lauren Sill moved to revoke KAR 115-17-6; Commissioner Troy Sporer seconded.

The roll call vote to revoke KAR 115-17-6 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit PP):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-17-6 as presented passed 7-0.

5. KAR 115-17-7 Commercial harvest of mussels; legal species, seasons, size restrictions, daily limits and possession limits – Jordan Hofmeier, aquatic ecologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit NN). Outlines provisions and restrictions to commercially harvest freshwater mussels. We are proposing to strike all of existing language and replace with, “The commercial harvest of all species of mussels shall be prohibited under all circumstances and in all locations.” Chairman Lauber – I am assuming that the fact that we have no known commercial harvesters is immaterial but we don’t want anyone to start.

Commissioner Warren Gfeller moved to approve KAR 115-17-7; Commissioner Lauren Sill seconded.

The roll call vote to approve KAR 115-17-7 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit PP):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-17-7 as presented passed 7-0.

6. KAR 115-17-8 (revocation) Commercial harvest of mussels; legal equipment, taking methods and general provisions – Jordan Hofmeier, aquatic ecologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit OO). Outlines legal equipment and taking methods relating to commercial mussel harvest; proposing revocation.

Commissioner Phil Escareno moved to revoke KAR 115-17-8; Commissioner Warren Gfeller seconded.

The roll call vote to revoke KAR 115-17-8 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit PP):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
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Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-17-8 as presented passed 7-0.

7. KAR 115-17-9 (revocation) Commercial mussel fishing; open areas – Jordan Hofmeier, aquatic ecologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit QQ). Established open areas for commercial mussel harvest; proposing revocation.

Commissioner Troy Sporer moved to revoke KAR 115-17-9; Commissioner Delia Lister seconded.

The roll call vote to revoke KAR 115-17-9 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit SS):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-17-9 as presented passed 7-0.

8. KAR 115-17-14 (revocation) Commercial mussel dealer permit; permit application and requirements, authority, reports, general provisions and permit revocation – Jordan Hofmeier, aquatic ecologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit RR). Establishes mussel dealer permits, application and requirements; proposing revocation.

Commissioner Warren Gfeller moved to revoke KAR 115-17-14; Commissioner Phil Escareno seconded.

The roll call vote to revoke KAR 115-17-14 as recommended was as follows (Exhibit SS):

Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Escareno	Yes
Commissioner Gfeller	Yes
Commissioner Lister	Yes
Commissioner Sill	Yes
Commissioner Sporer	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion to approve KAR 115-17-14 as presented passed 7-0.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

Marty Birrell, director Prairie Park Nature Center – I am member of outreach team for black-footed ferret recovery plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Update, as a team,

which includes USFWS, who leads the team, and stakeholders, which includes KDWP on that recovery team. We released 26 black-footed ferrets on recovery site in Logan County in September. A 15-year successful recovery program in Kansas. Participated by USFWS, family which controls the Butte Creek Recovery site and all stakeholders including KDWP. Recovery team went in lead by USFWS in October and surveyed the site with successful number of 28 ferrets, a quarter of those released this year. We recorded recovery of surviving ferrets, also ferrets going back four years and reproduction on the site. This is 15th year, one of most successful of all the 29 sites in the U.S. We reported reproduction and survivability. And successful evidence of reproduction on all of the acreage. We were able to recover wild born, tagged and vaccinated them. USFWS happy about numbers on the site. One of the reasons reporting on this is a request that I address the commission in June regarding need for KDWP to join other states in developing a working group and working plan to assist USFWS in being able to support and assist in habitat assessment and surveying in the future. The assistance with that has been proposed to be funded by the Recovering of America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) that is now going through the U.S. Senate and likely to be approved by bipartisanship sometime in December. Funding will be made available to each state. Possibility to assist USFWS with some of those funds to support black-footed ferret recovery. Not only with that critically endangered species but also protection of shortgrass prairie habitat to benefit many species in that area of Logan County and potentially throughout the state. While don't know how many ferrets exist on the site, survey shows both recovery, survivability and annual reproduction on site in Kansas, only one in U.S. that is plague free and shows that kinds of success annually. This survey was led by USFWS. Hope commission would support and promote development of working group through the state and working plan with the state to support the goals of this recovery project for ferret and habitat that supports the ferret and many other species.

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

January 12, Wichita, Great Plains Nature Center (starting at noon)

March 9, Topeka, Ramada Inn Downtown Convention Center

April 27, Kansas City area, Wyandotte County Historical Museum at WY Co Park, Bonner Springs

June 22, TBD (possibly Junction City, tour of Milford Lake area)

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Public Hearing

There are no public hearing items at this meeting.

Secretary's Remarks

Agency and State Fiscal Status

No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting

Legislative Update

No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting

General Discussion

Commission Permits Update

Background

K.S.A. 32-970 allows the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission to issue up to seven Commission Big Game Permits each year to raise money for conservation. One elk permit, one antelope permit, or up to seven any deer permits may be issued through a lottery draw to qualifying conservation organizations. The first permits were awarded in January 2006, when seven conservation organization applicants drew one elk and six deer permits.

Only nonprofit conservation organizations and local chapters based or operating in Kansas that actively promote wildlife conservation and the hunting and fishing heritage are eligible. An organization or chapter can receive a permit only once in a three-year period. Winning organizations can then sell the permits to the highest bidders. Once sold, the cost of the permit is subtracted, and 85 percent of the proceeds are sent to KDWP, along with a conservation project proposal. The organization retains 15 percent to spend at its discretion. After the conservation project is approved, the money is sent back to the organization to complete the project.

Since 2006, almost \$1.4 million has been raised for conservation. That first year, 59 applications were received and the permits sold for \$49,000; in 2007, there were 119 applicants and permits raised \$26,974; 2008, 113 applied and \$24,200 was raised; 2009, 111 applied and \$34,951 was raised; 2010, 108 applied and \$47,000 was raised; 2011, 100 applied and \$41,700 was raised; 2012, 104 applied and \$41,811 was raised; 2013, 93 applied and \$53,200 was raised; 2014, 101 applied and \$57,515 was raised; 2015, 164 applied and \$53,826 was raised; 2016, 138 applied and \$64,550 was raised; 2017, 142 applied and \$72,850 was raised; 2018, 154 applied and \$77,600 was raised; in 2019, 176 applied and \$83,450 was raised; 2020, 209 applied and \$146,080 was raised; 2021, 208 applied and \$218,000; and in 2022, 176 applied and \$304,500 was raised.

In 2022, seven deer permits were issued to three Ducks Unlimited Chapters Independence, Leavenworth and Upper Republican; one Pheasants Forever Chapter, McPherson; one Safari Club International, Kansas City; and one Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National chapter. Those permits sold for a record average of \$43,500, with the highest one sold for \$55,000.

The highest price ever bid on a deer permit was \$55,000 in 2022, and an elk permit sold for \$23,000 in 2006. Antelope permits have only been awarded in two drawings, and both were traded for a deer permits. Organizations have spent the money on projects such as “Bring Back The Bottoms,” the Pheasant Initiative, youth sport shooting programs, and youth special hunt programs.

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Briefing Item Webless Migratory Game Bird Regulations

January 12, 2023

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) develops frameworks annually, from which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state specific migratory game bird seasons. General stability in federal frameworks allows the inclusion of webless migratory bird regulations, bag limits, and season dates in KDWP permanent regulations, summarized below.

Species	Regulation	Regulation Summary
Crow	KAR 115-25-16	Crows; open season, bag limit, and possession limit
	KAR 115-20-1	Crows; legal equipment, taking methods and possession
Dove	KAR 115-25-19	Doves; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits
	KAR 115-20-7	Doves; legal equipment, taking methods, and possession
	KAR 115-20-2	Exotic doves; legal equipment, taking methods, possession, and license requirement
Sandhill Crane	KAR 115-25-20	Sandhill crane; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and permit validation
Snipe, Rail, & Woodcock	KAR 115-25-21	Snipe, rail, and woodcock; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits

Discussion

Federal frameworks for webless migratory game birds are unchanged for the 2023-24 season. No changes are currently being proposed for webless migratory game bird regulations, but final staff recommendations will be presented at the March commission meeting. A summary of seasons and bag limits currently included in regulation is summarized below.

Proposed 2023-24 Webless Migratory Game Bird Bag Limits and Season Dates

Species	Bag/Possession Limit	Season Dates
Crow	no limit	November 10 – March 10
Migratory Dove	15/45	September 1 – November 29
Exotic Dove	no limit	year-round
Sandhill Crane	3/9	West Zone; October 21 – December 17 Central Zone; November 8 – January 4
Snipe	8/24	September 1 – December 16
Rail	25/75	September 1 – November 9
Woodcock	3/9	October 14 – November 27

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS BRIEFING ITEM

2023-24 KANSAS WATERFOWL SEASON DATES, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS

January 12, 2023

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops frameworks from which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. The following is pertinent background material and USFWS frameworks with which Kansas may establish Kansas' 2022-23 waterfowl hunting seasons.

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON - Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most migrating through Kansas from August through October, often prior to the opening of general duck seasons. Green-winged teal are also early migrants but are commonly found in Kansas throughout the fall and winter. Cinnamon teal are occasionally found mixed with flocks of blue-winged teal in Kansas. Special teal seasons were initiated to provide additional harvest opportunities for blue-winged and green-winged teal when their populations are above certain thresholds. States can offer a 9-day September teal season when the blue-winged teal breeding population index (BPI) is above 3.3 million and a 16-day season is permitted when the blue-winged teal BPI exceeds 4.7 million. The most recent blue-winged teal BPI allows for a 16-day season for 2022. In the High Plains Unit of Kansas (west of Highway 283), the liberal package framework allows for 97 days of general duck season. Coupled with two youth hunting days, the addition of a nine- or 16-day teal season would exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's (MBTA) maximum allowance of 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. Thus, when the liberal package for the regular duck season is available and a teal season can be held, it is necessary to either reduce the High Plains Unit teal season to eight days or reduce days in the High Plains Unit general duck season to 96 days in order to not exceed 107-day MBTA limitation. For the past 10 seasons, a nine-day teal season coupled with a 96-day regular duck season has been selected in the High Plains Unit to satisfy this criterion.

DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS - Since 1995, Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been adopted for setting duck hunting regulations in the United States. The AHM approach provides the framework for making objective decisions through four regulatory packages listed below. Optimal AHM strategies are calculated using: (1) harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights for midcontinent mallards. The four AHM regulatory alternatives are:

- **Liberal Alternative**
 - o Season Length: 74-day Low Plains Season, 97-day High Plains Season
 - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Moderate Alternative**
 - o Season Length: 60-day Low Plains Season, 83-day High Plains Season
 - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Restrictive Alternative**
 - o Season Length: 39-day Low Plains Season, 51-day High Plains Season
 - o Daily bag limit: 3 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Closed Alternative**

GOOSE SEASONS - Harvest prescriptions for the Central Flyway's goose populations are based on population and harvest objectives as specified in population specific management plans.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. Youth waterfowl hunting days do not count against framework season dates but the total hunting days for any one migratory species cannot exceed 107 hunting days.

VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. Veterans and active military waterfowl hunting days do not count against framework season dates but the total hunting days for any one migratory species cannot exceed 107 hunting days.

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON - In addition to general waterfowl seasons, falconers may take migratory game birds during the special "extended" falconry season. The combined total number of days of take (i.e., teal season, general waterfowl season, and falconry) cannot exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act imposed maximum allowable 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. This generally allows for additional 15 hawking days for waterfowl in Kansas Low Plain zones.

2023-24 WATERFOWL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

- *Season Dates*: Between September 1 and September 30
- *Season Length*: Not to exceed 16 consecutive days
- *Daily Bag Limit*: 6 teal (any combination of teal)
- *Possession Limit*: Three times the daily bag limit
- *Shooting Hours*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split*: No zones or splits options

DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS

- *Season Dates*: Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and January 31.
- *Season Length*:
 - *High Plains Mallard Management Unit*: not to exceed 97 days. The last 23 days must run consecutively and may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 10).
 - *Low Plains Unit*: not to exceed 74 days
- *Daily Bag Limit*:
 - *Duck and Merganser*: any combination of 6 ducks and/or mergansers, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, and 1 scaup.
 - *Coot*: 15 coots
- *Possession Limit*: Three times the daily bag limit.
- *Shooting Hours*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split*:
 - *High Plains* – no zones and up to two segments
 - *Low Plains* – Three zones with each having up to two segments or no zones with three segments Ducks zones are visited every five years. Next zone configuration window will be in 2026.

GOOSE SEASONS

- *Season Dates*:
 - *Dark Geese* (all geese except Ross's and snow geese): Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 23) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 12).
 - *Light Geese* (Ross's and Snow): Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 26) and March 10.
 - *Light Goose Conservation Order*: Between January 1 and April 30. (KAR 115-18-16).
- *Season Length*:
 - *Dark Geese*:
 - *Canada geese or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese*: not to exceed 107 days

- *White-fronted geese*: states may select either a season of:
 - Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3
 - Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2
- *Light Geese*: not to exceed 107 days
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons

Daily Bag Limit:

- *Dark Geese*:
 - Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) 8 geese
 - White-fronted geese - states may select either a season of:
 - Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3
 - Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2
- *Light Geese*: 50 light geese
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: No daily bag limit

Possession Limit:

- *Dark Geese*: Three times the daily bag limit
- *Light Geese*: No possession limit
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: No possession limit

Shooting Hours:

- *General Goose Seasons*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Light Goose Conservation Season*: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Zones/ Split:

- *General Goose Seasons*: No zones and up to two segments
- *Light Goose Conservation Season*: No zones or splits

SPECIAL YOUTH AND VETERAN/ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

- *Season Dates*: The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days must be held outside any regular duck season on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. Both sets of days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.
- *Season Length*: may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” and two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days.” The days may be held concurrently or separately.
- *Daily Bag Limits*: The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules. The daily bag limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season frameworks except in States that are allowed a daily bag limit of 1 or 2 scaup during different portions of the season, in which case the bag limit is 2 scaup per day. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.
- *Shooting Hours*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- *Participation Restrictions for Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*: States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters must be under the age of 18. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp).

- *Participation Restrictions for Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days:* Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate. All hunters must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp).

EXTENDED FALCONRY WATERFOWL SEASON

- *Season Dates:* Between September 1 and March 10
- *Season Length:* For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area.
- *Daily Bag Limit:* No more than 3 migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate
- *Possession Limit:* Three times the daily bag limit
- *Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split:* Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of three segments

KDWP Season Setting Decision Process - The setting of waterfowl seasons is a bio-political process, balancing not only biotic factors but also social implications. Season dates are a preference for where, when, how, and what one hunts. The season setting objective is to align season dates that allow greatest opportunity for participation and harvest for Kansas' diverse waterfowling. When developing waterfowl seasons, KDWP evaluate a variety of considerations. deriving their season date recommendations on spatial and temporal distribution of waterfowl abundance, timing of potential high hunter participation, peaks of harvest opportunity, climatic factors, as well incorporating hunter feedback. With stabilized federal frameworks over the past 27 years, KDWP is striving to establish consistency in its season date selections. Beginning in 2021, KDWP has been incorporating decision tools to assist in the season setting process by identifying important season date parameters for each of Kansas waterfowl seasons. This process is to develop season selection stability, reduce bias, and add transparency in the season date selections. Below are season date parameters in order of priority.

September Teal Season – Where 16-day season is permitted, open the second Saturday of September and end on the last Sunday of September. Where 9-day season is permitted, open the third Saturday of September and end on the last Sunday of September.

Youth, Veteran, Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days – To be held 1 week prior to the opening day of duck season in each of the respective Kansas duck zones.

Early Zone Duck Season – Where 74-day season is permitted, to open the second Saturday of October, end the season the Sunday on or after January 1st, split the season whereas the first segment 58 days and the second segment has 16 days.

Late Zone Duck Season – Where 74-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, open the season on the last Saturday of October, split the season with first segment having 65 days and last segment 9 days, and the season split to be 19 days.

Southeast Zone Duck Season – Where 74-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, split season where the first segment ends on the Sunday on or after January 1st, open the season the Saturday closest to November 8th.

High Plains Duck Unit Season – Where 97-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, open the season on 2nd Saturday of October, split season with first segment closing on the Sunday closest to or on January 1st and last segment 10 days.

White-fronted Goose Season – Where 88-day season is permitted, open with the Late Zone Duck Season, close the season on the Sunday closest to February 15th, split the season with the first segment ends on the Sunday closest to January 1st.

Canada and Light Goose Season – Where 107-day season is permitted, open with the Late Zone Duck Season, close the season on the Sunday closest to February 15th, the second segment to be 103 days and the first segment to have 2 days.

Extended Falconry Waterfowl Season – to be held 15 days ending the season on March 10th.

Table 1. Kansas September Teal Season Dates and September Teal Harvest from 1992 to 2022

Year	Low Plains Dates	Hunting Days	High Plains Dates	Hunting Days	Bag Limit	Green-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Total Harvest
1992*	Sept 12-20	9	Sept 12-20	9	4	4,267	12,902	17,169
1993*	Sept 11-19	9	Sept 11-19	9	4	1,081	5,604	6,685
1994*	Sept 10-18	9	Sept 10-18	9	4	2,217	7,083	9,300
1995*	Sept 16-24	9	Sept 16-24	9	4	1,896	10,227	12,123
1996*	Sept 14-22	9	Sept 14-22	9	4	1,415	17,115	18,530
1997*	Sept 13-21	9	Sept 13-21	9	4	2,367	14,858	17,225
1998*	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 12-20	9	4	8,454	19,727	28,181
1999	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 11-19	9	4	3,052	28,022	31,074
2000	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 9-16	8	4	4,621	27,724	32,345
2001	Sept 15-30	16	Sept 15-22	8	4	1,790	10,741	12,531
2002	Sept 21-29	9	Sept 21-28	8	4	3,783	8,723	12,506
2003	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-27	8	4	9,024	21,393	30,417
2004	Sept 18-26	9	Sept 18-25	8	4	2,901	19,173	22,074
2005	Sept 17-25	9	Sept 17-24	8	4	2,200	10,387	12,587
2006	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 16-23	8	4	4,733	23,664	28,397
2007	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-22	8	4	4,534	25,582	30,116
2008	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 13-20	8	4	7,200	15,120	22,320
2009	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-26	8	4	2,775	15,165	17,940
2010	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 18-26	9	4	1,812	16,829	18,641
2011	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	4	1,748	22,562	24,310
2012	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-23	9	4	4,298	19,420	23,718
2013	Sept 7-22	16	Sept 14-22	9	6	2,323	28,213	30,536
2014	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-28	9	6	2,806	36,736	39,542
2015	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-27	9	6	3,620	28,504	32,124
2016	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	6	3,172	22,910	26,082
2017	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 16-24	9	6	4,821	13,329	18,150
2018	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-23	9	6	3,091	33,918	37,009
2019	Sept 14-29	16	Sept 21-29	9	6	2,240	18,666	20,906
2020	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-27	9	6	5,547	36,054	41,601
2021	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 18-26	9	6	9,899	26,868	36,767
2022	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	6	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**
1999-2021 Average						4,000	22,161	26,161

* Years prior to 1999, harvest estimates are based on USFWS Mail Survey Questionnaire.

Harvest estimates from 1999 to current are based on Harvest Information Program (HIP).

** Harvest Data is not available until August.

Figure 1. Kansas Duck Hunting Zones

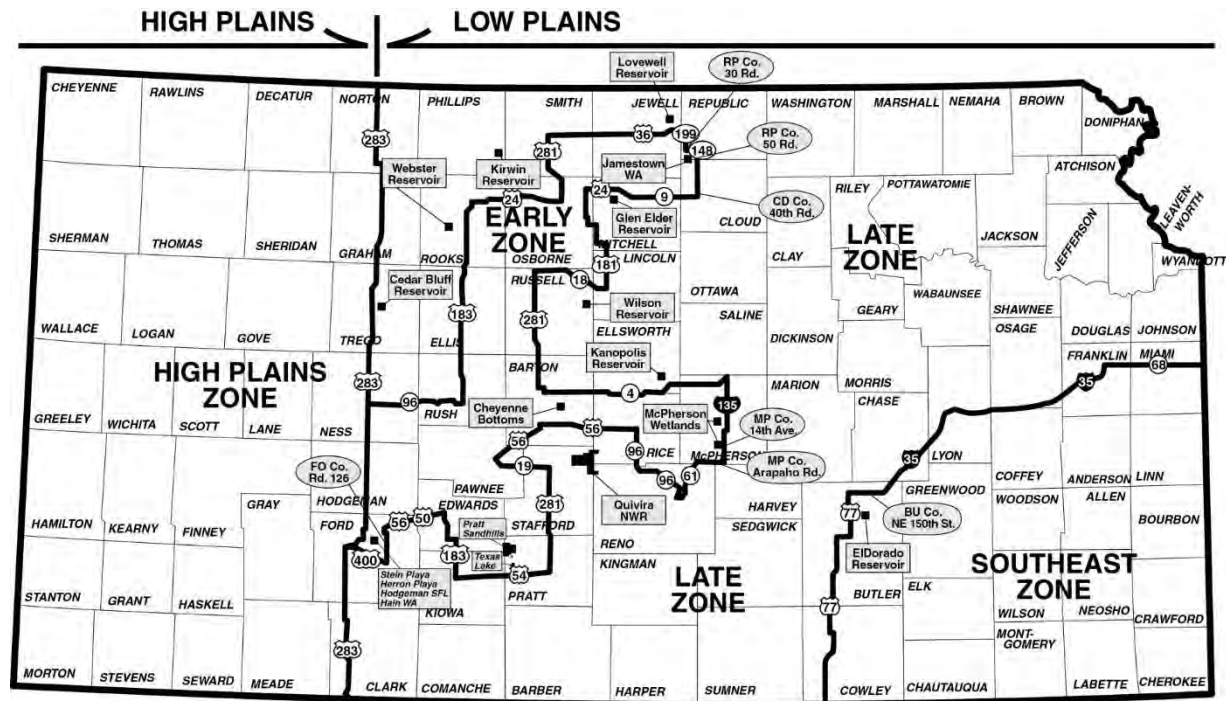


Table 2. Kansas duck hunting season dates by zone from 2011 to 2022

Year	Season Days	High Plains	Low Plains Early	Low Plains Late	Low Plains Southeast
2011	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 2 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 5 - Jan 8 Jan 21 - Jan 29
2012	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 6 - Dec 2 Dec 15- Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Nov 15 - Jan 27
2013	74 +23 HP	Oct 5 - Dec 2 Dec 21 - Jan 26	Oct 5 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Jan 5	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Nov 2 – Nov 3 Nov 16 - Jan 26
2014	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Dec 8 Dec 20 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Nov 01 – Jan 04 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Nov 8 – Nov 9 Nov 15 - Jan 25
2015	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 – Jan 4 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 – Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Nov 14 – Jan 3 Jan 9 - Jan 31
2016	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 – Jan 1 Jan 20 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 – Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 12 – Jan 1 Jan 7 - Jan 29
2017	74 +23 HP	Oct 7 – Jan 1 Jan 20 - Jan 28	Oct 7 - Dec 3 Dec 16 - Dec 31	Oct 28 – Dec 31 Jan 20 - Jan 28	Nov 11 – Dec 31 Jan 6 - Jan 28
2018	74 +23 HP	Oct 13 – Dec 31 Jan 12 - Jan 27	Oct 13 - Dec 16 Dec 22 - Dec 30	Oct 27 – Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Nov 10 – Jan 6 Jan 12 - Jan 27
2019	74 +23 HP	Oct 12 – Jan 5 Jan 17 - Jan 26	Oct 12 - Dec 8 Dec 14 - Dec 29	Oct 26 – Dec 29 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Nov 9 – Jan 5 Jan 11 - Jan 26
2020	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 – Jan 3 Jan 22 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 – Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Nov 14 – Jan 3 Jan 9 - Jan 31
2020	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 – Jan 3 Jan 22 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 – Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Nov 14 – Jan 3 Jan 9 - Jan 31
2021	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 – Jan 2 Jan 21 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 5 Dec 18 - Jan 2	Oct 30 – Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Nov 6 – Jan 2 Jan 15 - Jan 30
2022	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 – Jan 1 Jan 20 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 – Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 5 – Jan 1 Jan 14 - Jan 29

Table 3. The 2022 duck population and pond estimate from the annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey and comparison to 2019 and long-term average (1955-2019). Numbers are in millions. The 2020 and 2021 population and pond estimates were not conducted due to COVID 19.

Species	2022 (million)	2019 (million)	% Change from 2019	% Change LTA
Mallard	7.2	9.4	-23%	-9%
Gadwall	2.7	3.3	-18%	+30%
American Wigeon	2.1	2.8	-25%	-19%
Green-winged Teal	2.2	3.2	-32%	0%
Blue-winged Teal	6.5	5.4	+19%	+27%
Northern Shoveler	3.0	3.7	-17%	+15%
Northern Pintail	1.8	2.3	-21%	-54%
Redhead	1.0	0.7	+35%	+36%
Canvasback	0.6	0.7	-10%	-1%
Scaup	3.6	3.6	0%	-28%
Total Ducks	34.2	38.9	-12%	-4%
May Pond Counts	5.5	5.0	+9%	+4%

Figure 2. Sales of Kansas Waterfowl Permit May 1, 2005 to December 20, 2022.

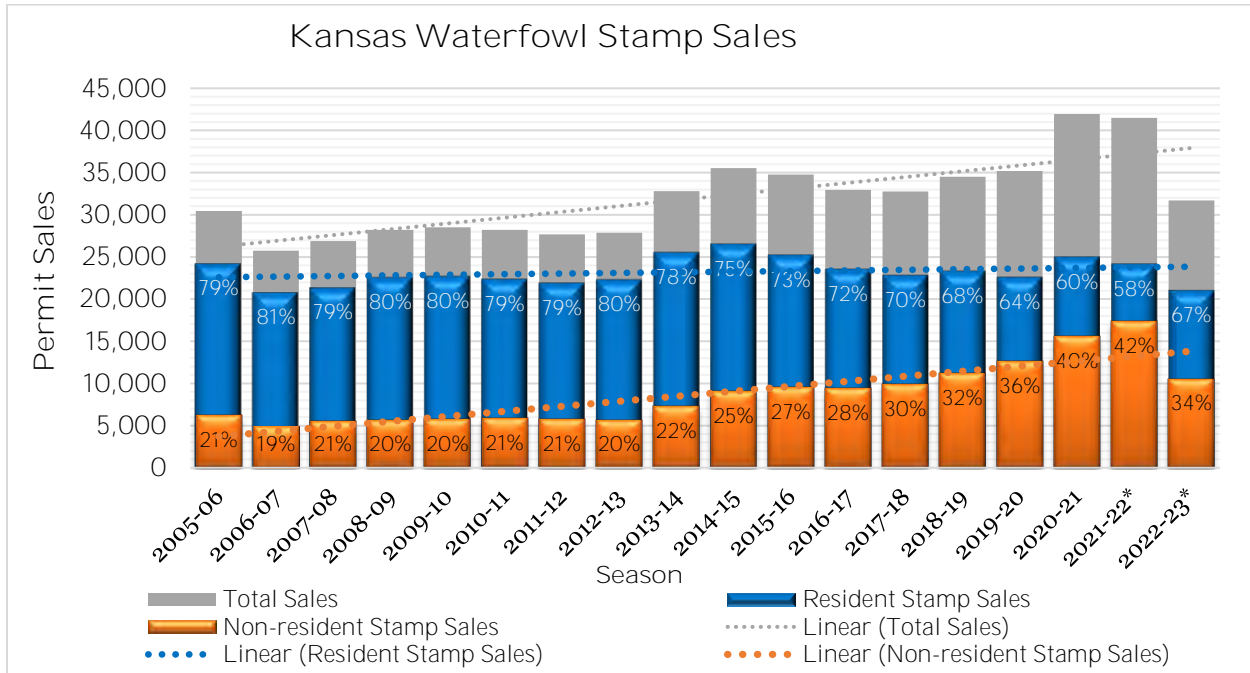


Figure 3. Estimates of active duck hunters, duck hunting days and duck harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 based upon the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until August.

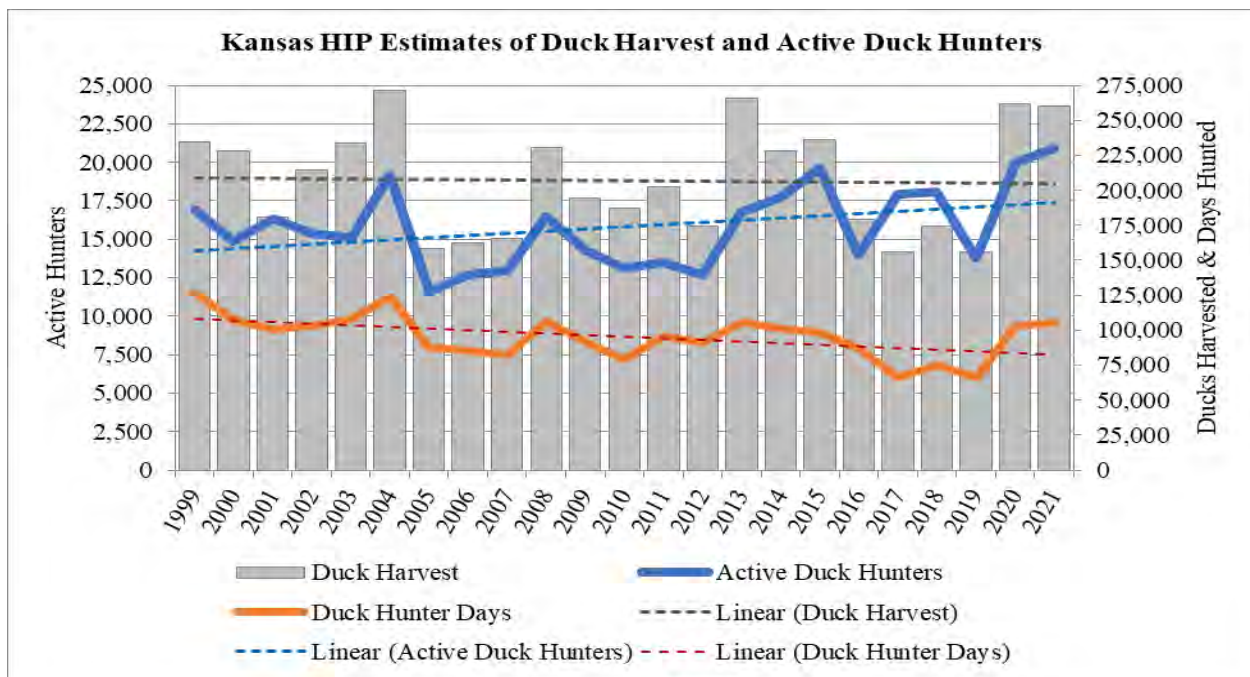


Table 4. All Seasons (teal and regular) estimates of active duck hunters, season duck harvest, and average duck per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, and total duck hunter days in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until August.

Year	Active Duck Hunters	Duck Harvest	Average Duck Hunter Days	Average Seasonal Duck Bag	Duck Hunter Days
1999	16,900	234,300	7.5	13.9	126,800
2000	14,900	227,900	7.2	15.2	107,400
2001	16,344	180,800	6.2	11.1	100,989
2002	15,426	214,600	6.7	13.9	102,744
2003	15,100	233,600	7.1	15.5	107,600
2004	19,200	271,200	6.5	14.2	124,000
2005	11,600	158,000	7.6	13.7	87,700
2006	12,663	162,100	6.7	12.8	85,416
2007	13,021	165,800	6.3	12.7	82,149
2008	16,531	230,400	6.4	13.9	106,154
2009	14,259	194,400	6.5	13.6	92,081
2010	13,053	187,100	6.1	14.3	79,064
2011	13,534	202,400	7.1	15.0	96,138
2012	12,739	174,600	7.1	13.7	90,851
2013	16,847	265,900	6.3	15.8	105,344
2014	17,700	228,300	5.8	15.9	101,802
2015	19,600	236,200	5.0	12.1	98,300
2016	14,000	179,200	6.2	12.8	87,300
2017	17,900	156,100	3.7	8.7	66,100
2018	18,100	174,600	4.1	9.7	74,900
2019	13,800	156,300	4.8	11.3	66,000
2020	20,000	261,700	5.2	13.1	103,000
2021	20,900	260,200	5.1	12.5	105,600
1999-2021 Average	15,825	206,770	6.1	13.2	95,537
% Change from 2020	5%	-1%	-2%	-5%	3%
% Change from LTA	32%	26%	-18%	-5%	11%

Table 5. Duck species composition in the Kansas regular duck season harvest from 1999 to 2021 and as estimated by the Harvest Information Program. The 2021 harvest data is not available until August.

Year	Total Duck Harvest	Mallard	Gadwall	Green-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Pintail	American Wigeon	Northern Shoveler	Wood Duck	Diving Ducks*
1999	203,226	114,167	27,189	21,918	6,936	5,410	7,075	4,578	4,439	10,404
2000	195,555	102,846	29,363	27,872	2,385	7,453	12,520	1,789	2,683	7,154
2001	168,267	97,739	19,154	20,049	1,074	7,339	6,265	3,401	3,938	8,055
2002	202,093	93,112	36,572	31,423	3,468	4,624	13,032	3,783	3,153	10,614
2003	203,184	95,711	41,063	24,536	4,258	4,157	15,513	4,258	3,751	8,315
2004	249,126	133,582	41,374	29,012	6,812	3,280	13,371	5,298	3,027	10,595
2005	145,413	84,193	21,629	13,197	1,588	3,666	7,332	4,277	1,589	7,453
2006	133,701	55,780	30,594	11,156	1,183	2,704	7,944	6,254	2,874	14,198
2007	135,523	61,041	27,687	22,182	1,296	2,591	6,638	4,210	1,133	7,125
2008	208,056	98,160	34,080	22,560	3,840	6,872	17,760	2,400	3,600	16,864
2009	176,862	80,574	27,589	23,569	3,654	5,664	11,511	7,674	3,106	11,876
2010	168,422	76,639	30,940	15,276	3,366	5,437	8,415	9,321	3,366	14,369
2011	178,112	85,163	29,553	18,113	4,131	5,243	8,262	8,262	2,224	14,777
2012	150,901	78,157	32,473	9,232	1,910	6,367	7,959	2,706	1,114	9,869
2013	235,335	94,432	34,188	32,861	20,414	12,115	9,460	12,945	2,655	15,435
2014	188,655	114,417	13,648	22,067	11,225	4,847	4,975	4,592	1,531	10,716
2015	204,053	112,358	31,068	17,193	11,312	6,033	9,803	4,524	1,508	8,897
2016	153,083	95,986	13,981	16,566	4,699	5,169	3,760	3,290	1,645	6,578
2017	137,833	65,323	19,380	15,126	3,025	4,160	7,185	7,468	1,512	11,818
2018	137,540	72,553	14,722	18,219	4,636	3,335	4,880	4,474	1,464	10,410
2019	135,394	67,012	17,826	15,960	1,734	3,453	5,600	8,213	2,053	10,132
2020	219,983	89,442	30,623	24,151	9,014	8,667	7,511	13,867	3,467	31,894
2021	223,433	121,261	20,151	32,525	27,575	7,954	8,838	4,773	5,126	30,581
1999-2021 Avg	180,599	90,854	27,167	21,077	6,068	5,502	8,940	5,755	2,650	12,663
% Change prev.	2%	36%	-34%	35%	206%	-8%	18%	-66%	48%	-4%
% Change LTA	24%	33%	-26%	54%	354%	45%	-1%	-17%	93%	141%

* Includes redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup, greater scaup, goldeneye and ruddy duck

Table 6. Kansas goose hunting seasons from 2006 to 2022

Season	Canada Goose	Days/ Daily Bag Limit	Light Goose	Season Days/ Daily Bag Limit	White-fronted Goose	Days/ Daily Bag Limit
2006	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	105/3	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	105/20	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Jan 07 Feb 10 - Feb 18	72/2
2007	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	105/3	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	105/20	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Jan 06 Feb 09 - Feb 17	72/2
2008	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	105/3	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	105/20	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Jan 04 Feb 07 - Feb 15	72/2
2009	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	105/3	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	105/20	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Jan 03 Feb 06 - Feb 14	72/2
2010	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	105/3	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	105/20	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Jan 02 Feb 05 - Feb 13	72/2
2011	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	105/3	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	105/20	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Feb 04 - Feb 12	74/2
2012	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	105/3	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	105/20	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Feb 02 - Feb 10	74/2
2013	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	105/3	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	105/20	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Feb 01 - Feb 09	74/2
2014	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	105/3	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	105/50	Nov 01 - Dec 14 Jan 17 - Feb 15	74/2
2015	Oct 31 - Nov 01 Nov 04 - Feb 14	105/6	Oct 31 - Nov 01 Nov 04 - Feb 14	105/50	Oct 31 - Jan 03 Jan 23 - Feb 14	74/2
2016	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 04 - Feb 12	105/6	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 04 - Feb 12	105/50	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 21 - Feb 12	74/2
2017	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	105/6	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	105/50	Oct 28 - Dec 31 Jan 27 - Feb 18	88/2
2018	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	105/6	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	105/50	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 26 - Feb 17	88/2
2019	Oct 26 - Oct 27 Nov 06 - Feb 17	105/6	Oct 26 - Oct 27 Nov 07 - Feb 16	105/50	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Jan 25 - Feb 16	88/2
2020	Oct 31 - Nov 1 Nov 04 - Feb 14	105/6	Oct 31 - Nov 1 Nov 04 - Feb 14	105/50	Oct 31 - Jan 03 Jan 23 - Feb 14	88/2
2021	Oct 30 - Oct 31 Nov 03 - Feb 13	105/6	Oct 30 - Oct 31 Nov 03 - Feb 13	105/50	Oct 30 - Jan 02 Jan 22 - Feb 13	88/2
2022	Oct 29 - Oct 30 Nov 02 - Feb 12	105/6	Oct 29 - Oct 30 Nov 02 - Feb 12	105/50	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 21 - Feb 12	88/2

Figure 4. Estimates of active goose hunters, goose hunting days and goose harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 based upon the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until August.

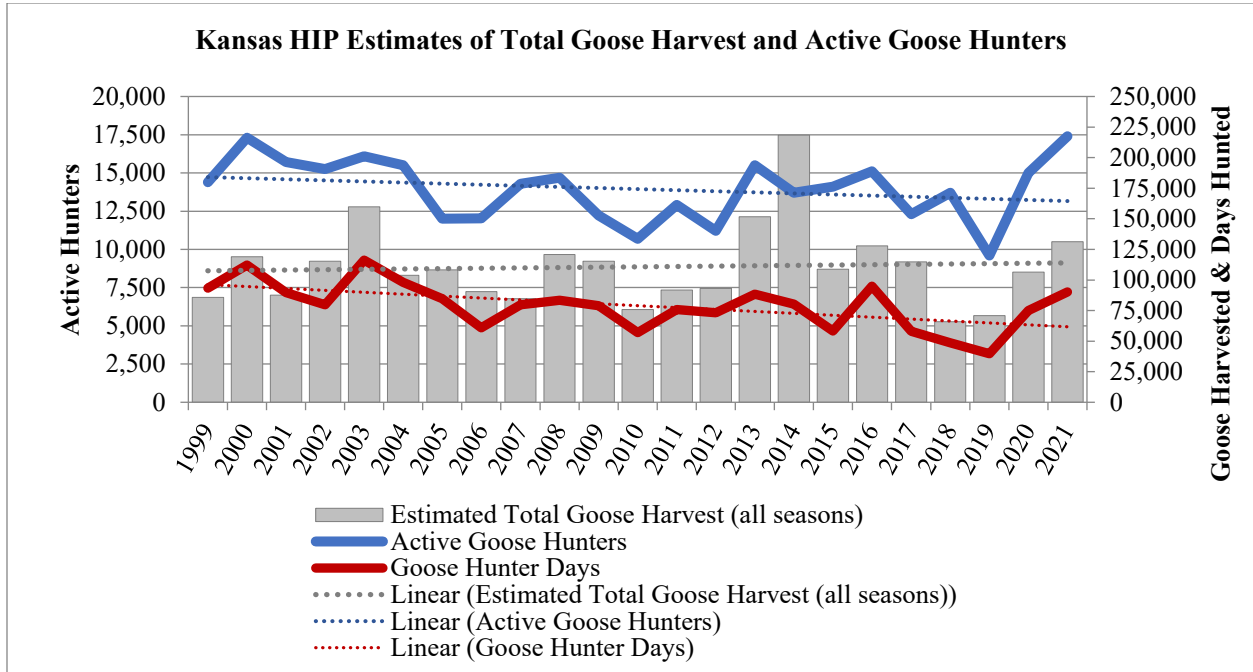


Table 7. Estimates of active goose hunters, goose harvest, average goose per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, total goose hunter days, and regular season harvest for Canada, light geese, and white-fronted geese in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 based upon the by the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until August.

Year	Active Goose Hunters	Total Goose Harvest	Avg. Goose Hunter Days	Avg. Goose Seasonal Bag	Goose Hunter Days	Canada Goose Harvest	Light Goose Harvest	White-fronted Goose Harvest	Light Goose Conservation Season
1999	14,400	85,700	6.5	5.9	93,300	66,255	12,048	5,476	11,165
2000	17,300	119,000	6.5	6.9	112,200	98,005	8,164	11,303	11,937
2001	15,715	87,499	5.7	5.6	89,663	72,707	4,405	4,721	35,138
2002	15,248	115,400	5.2	7.6	79,771	80,982	18,222	8,966	17,087
2003	16,100	159,700	7.2	9.9	116,200	123,866	19,263	9,735	65,608
2004	15,500	103,700	6.3	6.7	98,000	80,118	16,481	5,688	25,272
2005	12,000	108,300	7.1	9.1	84,800	99,178	3,689	970	18,802
2006	12,038	90,400	5.1	7.5	60,994	59,566	12,848	2,336	12,711
2007	14,294	84,699	5.6	5.9	79,723	59,968	10,943	13,788	4,260
2008	14,692	120,900	5.7	8.2	83,525	87,067	12,540	16,325	11,924
2009	12,213	115,201	6.5	9.4	78,955	92,267	4,267	12,267	15,244
2010	10,700	75,800	5.3	7.1	56,936	66,494	4,459	4,847	53,863
2011	12,900	91,653	5.9	7.1	75,795	51,900	19,876	19,877	62,092
2012	11,207	92,367	6.5	8.3	73,084	72,204	13,016	7,127	72,447
2013	15,543	151,837	5.7	9.8	88,386	108,657	27,253	15,927	92,825
2014	13,700	218,300	5.9	15.9	80,287	166,812	32,409	19,064	55,271
2015	14,100	108,900	4.1	7.7	58,200	71,175	21,928	15,817	41,416
2016	15,100	127,998	6.3	8.5	95,000	96,863	14,222	16,913	45,501
2017	12,300	114,800	4.7	9.3	57,900	95,786	14,255	4,752	73,295
2018	13,700	65,800	3.5	4.8	48,500	50,579	12,864	2,339	78,285
2019	9,600	70,800	4.1	7.3	39,700	50,037	15,582	5,194	68,238
2020	15,000	106,400	5.0	7.1	75,100	78,030	19,570	8,781	81,671
2021	17,400	131,200	5.2	7.5	90,300	90,108	21,969	6,050	56,674
1999-2021 Avg	13,944	110,736	5.6	8.0	78,971	83,418	14,468	9,490	44,073
% Change from previous	16%	23%	4%	6%	20%	15%	12%	-31%	-31%
% Change LTA	25%	18%	-8%	-6%	14%	8%	52%	-36%	29%

Furbearer Regulations

KAR 115-5-Series; Furbearers and coyotes. KAR 115-6-1; Furdealers. KAR 115-13-4; Field Trial Permit, furbearer and coyotes. KAR 115-25-11; Furbearer seasons.

Background:

The following regulations referencing furbearers are permanent regulations not considered every year. They were last in front of the Commission in 2022 but are being brought forth again this year to fulfill the Department's commitment to reconsidering the components of the coyote night vision hunting season following the third open season.

K.A.R. 115-5-1. Furbearers and coyotes; legal equipment, taking methods, and general provisions.

- The specifics of the coyote night hunting season are described in this regulation

K.A.R. 115-5-2. Furbearers and coyotes; possession, disposal, and general provisions.

K.A.R. 115-5-3. Furbearers and coyotes; management units.

K.A.R. 115-5-4. Nonresident bobcat hunting permit; tagging, disposal, legal equipment, shooting hours, and general provisions.

K.A.R. 115-6-1. Fur dealer license; application, authority, possession of furs, records, and revocation.

K.A.R. 115-13-4. Field trial permit; furbearers and coyotes.

K.A.R. 115-25-11. Furbearers; open seasons and bag limits.

Discussion and Recommendations:

- Immediately following the conclusion of the 2023 season, a night vision hunter survey will be conducted. Pending those results, the Department will review the various aspects of the night vision season and return to the Commission sometime after March with recommendations on how to proceed.
- The Furbearer Committee will also be reviewing the night vision season as well as regulations pertaining to other aspects of furbearer harvest.
- We are not yet making recommendations but want to notify the Commission and the public that these items will be under review soon.

Public Lands Regulations

General Discussion

January 12, 2023

At this time, staff from the Public Lands Division will not be proposing any new changes to our Public Lands Regulations.

However, there are several issues continuing to be discussed within Public Lands that could potentially lead to proposed regulation changes being brought forward to the Commission over the coming months. The main issue being discussed continues to be the concern of too much hunting pressure on Public Lands and relative negative impacts on the resource and hunter satisfaction, as well as discussion over potential recommendations to address those concerns.

K.A.R. 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley, and Fort Leavenworth

Background

This regulation has typically been brought to a Public Hearing in June. Personnel at Fort Riley requested this later period to finalize the seasons because the schedule for military training activities were occasionally unknown at the time KAR 115-25-9 was approved. The regulation has also been used to address legislative actions pertaining to deer hunting that were made after KAR 115-25-9 was approved.

Discussion

We shall address all deer season on military subunits under one regulation. Personnel at Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth have been contacted and we have received preliminary information on the season dates that they prefer.

Smoky Hill ANG has requested to have deer hunting seasons at the same dates as the seasons established in KAR 115-25-9.

- A deer hunter in Smoky Hill ANG subunit 4A may use up to five white-tailed deer antlerless-only permits.

Fort Riley has requested the same seasons as those established in KAR 115-25-9 with the following exceptions:

- Additional days of firearm hunting opportunity for antlerless white-tailed deer only, from November 24, 2023 through November 26, 2023.
- Firearm season dates of December 16, 2023 through December 23, 2023.
- A deer hunter may use one white-tailed deer antlerless-only permit in Fort Riley.

Fort Leavenworth has requested the same deer hunting seasons described in KAR 115-25-9 with the following exceptions:

- The open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be November 11, 2023, through November 12, 2023, November 18, 2023 through November 19, 2023, November 23, 2023 through November 26, 2023, December 2, 2023 through December 3, 2023, and December 9, 2023 through December 10, 2023.
- An extended firearm season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 1, 2024 through January 21, 2024.
- An extended archery season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 22, 2024 through January 31, 2024.
- A deer hunter may use up to five white-tailed deer antlerless-only permits in Fort Leavenworth, subunit 10A.

Recommendation

The proposed dates for the firearm season at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard subunit, Fort Riley subunit and at the Fort Leavenworth subunit will be reviewed at Workshop Session in March. Final action on those seasons shall be completed at the Public Hearing in June.

General Discussion: Amount of Fees (K.A.R. 115-2-1)

Historically, KDWP has not reviewed or increased the amount of fees charged for licenses and permits on a regular basis. The last fee increase was passed in 2015 and implemented in 2016. Prior to this, Kansas' hunting and fishing license fees had not increased since 2002, and resident deer and turkey permits had remained unchanged since 1986.

We have been able to continue operations under such conditions in the past by finding ways to reduce expenditures from the Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF). These have included cutting costs where we are able and finding alternative funding sources to supplement the WFF. In doing so, we have managed to underspend our legislatively appropriated WFF budget annually. Currently, if we were to expend the extent of our WFF budget, it would exceed our annual revenue. In other words, even prior to recently increasing costs, we were only able to keep from dipping into our WFF balance each year through cost cutting measures.

To review fees more regularly, and in response to the hyper-inflation we have all been experiencing, we will be completing an analysis of the fees within K.A.R. 115-2-1 in total. This will include identifying which fees are already at their statutory caps, which fees have room for potential increases, a comparison of current and proposed fees with other states, further justification of the need for some increased fees, and finally, specific recommendations for increases.

Included in the following pages for reference are K.A.R. 115-2-1 and the pertinent statutes regarding fee caps (K.S.A. 32-988), permit types and required pricing (K.S.A. 32-937 & 32-969).

115-2-1. Amount of fees. The following fees and discounts shall be in effect for the following licenses, permits, and other issues of the department: (a) Hunting licenses and permits.

Resident hunting license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	\$25.00
Resident hunting license (valid for five years from date of purchase).....	100.00
Resident disabled veteran hunting license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 30 percent or more service-connected disabled).....	12.50
Resident senior hunting license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 65 years of age through 74 years of age).....	12.50
Resident youth hunting license (one-time purchase, valid from 16 years of age through 20 years of age, expiring at the end of that calendar year).....	40.00
Nonresident hunting license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	95.00
Nonresident junior hunting license (under 16 years of age).....	40.00
Resident big game hunting permit:	
General resident: either-sex elk permit	300.00
General resident: antlerless-only elk permit.....	150.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): either-sex elk permit	125.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): antlerless-only elk permit.....	50.00
Landowner/tenant: either-sex elk permit	150.00
Landowner/tenant: antlerless-only elk permit.....	75.00
Hunt-on-your-own-land: either-sex elk permit.....	150.00
Hunt-on-your-own-land: antlerless-only elk permit.....	75.00
General resident: deer permit.....	40.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): deer permit.....	10.00
General resident: antlerless-only deer permit.....	20.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): antlerless-only deer permit.....	7.50
Landowner/tenant: deer permit	20.00
Hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit	20.00
Special hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit.....	85.00
General resident: antelope permit	50.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): antelope permit	10.00
Landowner/tenant: antelope permit.....	25.00
Antelope preference point service charge.....	10.00
Any-deer preference point service charge.....	10.00
Application fee for elk permit	10.00
Wild turkey permit:	
General resident: turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	25.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	5.00
Resident landowner/tenant: turkey permit (1-bird limit)	12.50
Nonresident: fall turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	50.00
Nonresident tenant: fall turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	25.00
Nonresident: spring turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	60.00
Nonresident tenant: spring turkey permit (1-bird limit)	30.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey permit (1-bird limit).....	10.00
Resident: turkey preference point service charge	5.00
Wild turkey game tag:	
Resident: turkey game tag (1-bird limit).....	15.00
Resident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey game tag (1-bird limit).....	5.00
Nonresident: turkey game tag (1-bird limit)	30.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey game tag (1-bird limit).....	10.00
Spring wild turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit, must be purchased before April 1 of year of use):	
General resident: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit)	35.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey permit and game tag combination	

(2-bird limit).....	10.00
Resident landowner/tenant: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	17.50
Nonresident: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	85.00
Nonresident tenant: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	42.50
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	20.00
Nonresident big game hunting permit:	
Nonresident hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit.....	85.00
Nonresident tenant: deer permit.....	85.00
Nonresident: deer permit (antlered deer).....	400.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): deer permit (antlered deer).....	75.00
Nonresident: deer permit (antlerless only).....	50.00
Nonresident: combination 2-deer permit (antlered deer and antlerless white-tailed deer).....	415.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): combination 2-deer permit (antlered deer and antlerless white-tailed deer).....	90.00
Nonresident: antelope permit (archery only).....	300.00
Nonresident tenant: antelope permit.....	85.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): antelope (archery only).....	100.00
Nonresident tenant: either-sex elk permit.....	300.00
Nonresident tenant: antlerless-only elk permit.....	150.00
Nonresident: deer permit application fee.....	25.00
Nonresident: mule deer stamp.....	150.00
Field trial permit: game birds.....	20.00
Lifetime hunting license.....	500.00
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	67.50
Migratory waterfowl habitat stamp.....	8.00
Sandhill crane hunting permit: validation fee.....	5.00
Disabled person hunt-from-a-vehicle permit.....	0
(b) Fishing licenses and permits.	
Resident fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	25.00
Resident fishing license (valid for five years from date of purchase).....	100.00
Resident disabled veteran fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 30 percent or more service-connected disabled).....	12.50
Resident senior fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 65 years of age through 74 years of age).....	12.50
Resident youth fishing license (one-time purchase, valid from 16 years of age through 20 years of age, expiring at the end of that calendar year).....	40.00
Nonresident fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	50.00
Resident calendar day fishing license.....	3.50
Nonresident calendar day fishing license.....	7.50
Three-pole permit (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	6.00
Tournament bass pass (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	12.00
Paddlefish permit (six carcass tags).....	10.00
Paddlefish permit youth (under 16 years of age) (six carcass tags).....	5.00
Hand fishing permit.....	25.00
Lifetime fishing license.....	500.00
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	67.50

Five-day nonresident fishing license.....	25.00
Institutional group fishing license	100.00
Special nonprofit group fishing license.....	50.00
Trout permit (valid for one year from date of purchase)	12.00
Youth trout permit (under 16 years of age, valid for one year from date of purchase).....	4.50
(c) Combination hunting and fishing licenses and permits.	
Resident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	45.00
Resident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for five years from date of purchase).....	180.00
Resident disabled veteran combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 30 percent or more service-connected disabled)	22.50
Resident senior combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 65 years of age through 74 years of age)	22.50
Resident combination youth hunting and fishing license (one-time purchase, valid from 16 years of age through 20 years of age, expiring at the end of that calendar year).....	70.00
Resident lifetime combination hunting and fishing license	960.00
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	130.00
Resident senior lifetime combination hunting and fishing license (one-time purchase, valid 65 years of age and older)	40.00
Nonresident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	135.00
(d) Furharvester licenses.	
Resident furharvester license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	25.00
Resident junior furharvester license (valid for one year from date of purchase)	12.50
Lifetime furharvester license.....	500.00
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	67.50
Nonresident furharvester license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	250.00
Nonresident bobcat permit (1-bobcat limit per permit)	100.00
Resident fur dealer license	100.00
Nonresident fur dealer license	400.00
Field trial permit: furbearing animals	20.00
(e) Commercial licenses and permits.	
Controlled shooting area hunting license (valid for one year from date of purchase)	25.00
Resident mussel fishing license.....	75.00
Nonresident mussel fishing license	1,000.00
Mussel dealer permit	200.00
Missouri river fishing permit.....	25.00
Game breeder permit.....	10.00
Controlled shooting area operator license	200.00
Commercial dog training permit	20.00
Commercial fish bait permit (three-year permit)	50.00
Commercial prairie rattlesnake harvest permit (without a valid Kansas hunting license)	20.00
Commercial prairie rattlesnake harvest permit (with a valid Kansas hunting license or exempt from this license requirement).....	5.00
Commercial prairie rattlesnake dealer permit	50.00
Prairie rattlesnake round-up event permit.....	25.00
(f) Collection, scientific, importation, rehabilitation, and damage-control permits.	
Scientific, educational, or exhibition permit	10.00
Raptor propagation permit	0

Rehabilitation permit.....0
Wildlife damage-control permit.....0
Wildlife importation permit10.00
Threatened or endangered species: special permits.....0

(g) Falconry.

Apprentice permit.....75.00
General permit.....75.00
Master permit75.00
Testing fee.....50.00

(h) Miscellaneous fees.

Duplicate license, permit, stamp, and other issues of the department0
Special departmental services, materials, or supplies At cost
Vendor bond
For bond amounts of \$5,000.00 and less.....50.00
For bond amounts of more than \$5,000.00.....50.00
plus \$6.00 per additional \$1,000.00 coverage or any fraction thereof.

(i) Discounts.

Discount for five or more licenses, permits, stamps, or other issues of the department purchased by an individual at the same time..... five percent of the total price
This regulation shall be effective on and after January 1, 2021. (Authorized by K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-988; implementing K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807, K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-988, and K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-9,100; effective Dec. 4, 1989; amended Sept. 10, 1990; amended Jan. 1, 1991; amended June 8, 1992; amended Oct. 12, 1992; amended April 11, 1994; amended Aug. 29, 1994; amended June 5, 1995; amended Aug. 21, 1995; amended Feb. 28, 1997; amended July 30, 1999; amended Jan. 2, 2002; amended Jan. 1, 2003; amended Jan. 1, 2004; amended Feb. 18, 2005; amended Jan. 1, 2006; amended May 1, 2006; amended Jan. 1, 2007; amended Jan. 1, 2008; amended Jan. 1, 2009; amended Jan. 1, 2010; amended Aug. 1, 2010; amended Jan. 1, 2011; amended Jan. 1, 2013; amended April 19, 2013; amended Nov. 15, 2013; amended Jan. 1, 2015; amended Jan. 1, 2016; amended Jan. 1, 2018; amended April 26, 2019; amended Sept. 20, 2019; amended Jan. 1, 2021).

2021 Kansas Statutes

32-988. Fees. (a) The secretary is authorized to adopt, in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, rules and regulations fixing the amount of fees for the following items, subject to the following limitations and subject to the requirement that no such rules and regulations shall be adopted as temporary rules and regulations:

Big game permits

Resident (other than elk permit): maximum \$100 Nonresident (other than elk

permit): maximum \$400 Elk permit: maximum \$350

Nonresident mule deer stamp: maximum \$150 Nonresident

applications: maximum \$25 Combination hunting and fishing licenses

Resident: maximum \$50

Lifetime: maximum \$1,000; or 8 quarterly payments, each maximum \$150 Nonresident: maximum \$200

Commercial dog training permits: maximum \$25 Commercial guide permit or

associate guide permit Resident: maximum \$250

Nonresident: maximum \$1,000

Commercial harvest or dealer permits: maximum \$200 Commercial prairie

rattlesnake harvesting permits

Resident or nonresident with valid hunting license: maximum \$5

Resident or nonresident nonfirearm without valid hunting license: maximum \$20 Controlled shooting area

operator license: maximum \$400

Duplicate licenses, permits, stamps and other issues of the department: maximum \$10 Falconry

Permits: maximum \$300 Examinations: maximum \$100

Field trial permits: maximum \$25 Fishing licenses

Resident: maximum \$25

Lifetime: maximum \$500; or 8 quarterly payments, each maximum \$75 Nonresident: maximum \$75

Five-day nonresident: maximum \$25 Institutional group:

maximum \$200 Special nonprofit group: maximum \$200

Twenty-four-hour: maximum \$10

Fur dealer licenses Resident: maximum \$200

Nonresident: maximum \$400 Furharvester licenses

Resident: maximum \$25

Lifetime: maximum \$500; or 8 quarterly payments, each maximum \$75 Nonresident: maximum \$400

Game breeder permits: maximum \$15

Handicapped hunting and fishing permits: maximum \$5 Hound trainer-breeder

running permits: maximum \$25 Hunting licenses

Resident: maximum \$25

Lifetime: maximum \$500; or 8 quarterly payments, each maximum \$75 Nonresident 16 or more years of age: maximum \$125

Nonresident under 16 years of age: maximum \$75 Controlled shooting area: maximum \$25

Forty-eight-hour waterfowl permits: maximum \$25 Migratory waterfowl habitat stamps: maximum \$8 Mussel fishing licenses

Resident: maximum \$200 Nonresident: maximum \$1,500

Rabbit permits

Live trapping: maximum \$200 Shipping: maximum \$400

Raptor propagation permits: maximum \$100 Rehabilitation permits: maximum \$50

Scientific, educational or exhibition permits: maximum \$10 Wildlife damage control permits: maximum \$10

Wildlife importation permits: maximum \$10 Wild turkey permits

Resident: maximum \$100 Nonresident: maximum \$400

Resident turkey tag: maximum \$20

Nonresident turkey tag: maximum \$30

Special permits under K.S.A. 32-961: maximum \$100 Miscellaneous fees

Special events on department land or water: maximum \$200 Special departmental services, materials or supplies: no maximum Other issues of department: no maximum

Vendor bond: no maximum

(b) The fee for a landowner-tenant resident big game or wild turkey hunting permit shall be an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a general resident big game or wild turkey hunting permit.

(c) The fee for a big game or wild turkey hunting permit for a resident under 16 years of age shall be an amount not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a general resident big game or wild turkey hunting permit.

(d) The fee for a furharvester license for a resident under 16 years of age shall be an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a resident furharvester license.

(e) For a resident who is at least 65 years of age, but less than 75 years of age:

(1) The fee for an annual hunting license shall be an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a general annual hunting license;

(2) the fee for an annual fishing license shall be an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a general annual fishing license; and

(3) the fee for an annual combination hunting and fishing license shall be an amount equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the fee for a general annual combination hunting and fishing license.

(f) The secretary may establish, by rules and regulations adopted in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, different fees for various classes and types of licenses, permits, stamps and other issuances of the department which may occur within each item as described under subsection (a).

(g) The provisions of subsection (e) shall expire on June 30, 2020.

History: L. 1978, ch. 152, § 14; L. 1981, ch. 174, § 2; L. 1982, ch. 175, § 9; L. 1985, ch. 131, § 3; L. 1985, ch. 134, § 3; L. 1986, ch. 149, § 4; L. 1986, ch. 151, § 1; L. 1987, ch. 144, § 1; L. 1989, ch. 119, § 1; L. 1989, ch. 118, § 105; L. 1989, ch. 274, § 2; L. 1990, ch. 141, § 2; L. 1990, ch. 139, § 2; L. 1993, ch. 139, § 2; L. 1994, ch. 245, § 2; L. 1995, ch. 164, § 4; L. 1999, ch. 98, § 2; L. 1999, ch. 149, § 3; L. 2000, ch. 165, § 4; L. 2001, ch. 17, § 2; L. 2001, ch. 211, § 9; L. 2003, ch. 121, § 2; L. 2004, ch. 99, § 8; L. 2007, ch. 133, § 7; L. 2012, ch. 154, § 7; Jan. 1, 2013.

2021 Kansas Statutes

32-937. **Big game permits; deer crossbow hunting pilot project.** (a) When used in this section:

(1) "Landowner" means a resident owner of farm or ranch land of 80 acres or more located in the state of Kansas.

(2) "Tenant" means an individual who is actively engaged in the agricultural operation of 80 acres or more of Kansas farm or ranch land for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or livestock and who: (A) Has a substantial financial investment in the production of agricultural commodities or livestock on such farm or ranch land and the potential to realize substantial financial benefit from such production; or (B) is a bona fide manager having an overall responsibility to direct, supervise and conduct such agricultural operation and has the potential to realize substantial benefit from such production in the form of salary, shares of such production or some other economic incentive based upon such production. Evidence of tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the department and may include, but is not limited to, natural resource conservation services records, farm service agency records, or written agricultural contract or lease documentation.

(3) "Regular season" means a statewide big game hunting season authorized annually which may include one or more seasons restricted to specific types of equipment.

(4) "Special season" means a big game hunting season in addition to a regular season authorized on an irregular basis or at different times of the year other than the regular season.

(5) "General permit" means a big game hunting permit available to Kansas residents not applying for big game permits as a landowner or tenant.

(6) "Nonresident landowner" means a nonresident of the state of Kansas who owns farm or ranch land of 80 acres or more which is located in the state of Kansas.

(7) "Nonresident permit" means a big game hunting permit available to individuals who are not Kansas residents.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the secretary and in addition to any other license, permit or stamp required by law or rules and regulations of the secretary, valid big game permits are required to take any big game in this state.

(c) The fee for big game permits and game tags shall be the amount prescribed pursuant to

K.S.A. 32-988, and amendments thereto.

(d) Big game permits are valid throughout the state or such portion thereof as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto.

(e) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the secretary, big game permits are valid from the date of issuance and shall expire at the end of the season for which issued.

(f) The secretary may adopt, in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, rules and regulations for each regular or special big game hunting season and for each management unit regarding big game permits. The secretary is hereby authorized to issue big game permits pertaining to the taking of big game. Separate big game permits may be issued for each species of big game. No big game permits shall be issued until the secretary has established, by rules and regulations adopted in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, a regular or special big game hunting season.

(g) The secretary may authorize, by rules and regulations adopted in accordance with

K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own- land big game permits.

Members of the landowner's or tenant's immediate family who are domiciled with the landowner or tenant may apply for resident big game permits as

landowners or tenants, but the total number of landowner or tenant regular hunt-on-your-own-land permits issued to a landowner or tenant and a landowner's or tenant's immediate family members for each big game species shall not exceed one permit for each 80 acres owned by such landowner or operated by such tenant. Evidence of ownership or tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the department. Such permits and applications may contain provisions and restrictions as prescribed by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto.

(h) Special hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits may be issued to a landowner's or tenant's siblings and lineal ascendants or descendants, and their spouses, whether or not a Kansas resident, by paying the required fee for a general deer permit. The total number of regular and special hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits issued to a landowner's or tenant's siblings and lineal ascendants or descendants, and their spouses, shall not exceed one deer permit for each 80 acres owned by such landowner or operated by such tenant. Evidence of ownership or tenancy, and sibling or lineal ascending or descending relations, if requested, shall be provided to the department.

(i) Fifty percent of the big game permits authorized for a regular season in any management unit shall be issued to landowners or tenants, provided that a limited number of big game permits have been authorized and landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits for that unit have not been authorized. A landowner or tenant is not eligible to apply for a big game permit as a landowner or as a tenant in a management unit other than the unit or units which includes such landowner's or tenant's land. Any big game permits not issued to landowners or tenants within the time period prescribed by rules and regulations may be issued without regard to the 50% limitation.

(j) The secretary may issue, by rules and regulations adopted in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, resident deer hunting permits available on a limited basis and valid for a designated species and sex in designated units, and antlerless-only deer permits in designated units as necessary for management purposes, and, any of the following options:

(1) Either sex white-tailed deer permits valid statewide during any season with the equipment legal for that season;

(2) either species, either sex archery permits valid statewide;

(3) either species, either sex muzzle loader permits valid in designated units; or

(4) either species, either sex firearm permits valid in designated units.

(k) The secretary may issue permits for deer to nonresident landowners, but any such permit shall be restricted to hunting only on lands owned by the nonresident landowner.

(l) The secretary may issue deer hunting permits to nonresidents, subject to the following limitations:

(1) The total number of nonresident deer permits that may be issued for a deer season in a management unit and which may be used to take antlered deer shall be established with the goal of meeting demand for those permits, using a formula developed by the department that will consider adjustment factors, including deer population trends, deer-related vehicle accidents, age structure in the harvest, deer damage, landowner desire for nonresident deer permits, general public desires and health of habitat. The 2008 permit numbers shall be based on the adjustment factors and an average of nonresident demand for permits in each management unit from the previous six years, establishing at least a 10% increase but not more than 50% increase in permit numbers in each management unit, except in unit 16, where permit numbers shall not increase more than 100%. In subsequent years, the formula shall be used to determine permit allocations based on demand and the adjustment factors.

(2) Nonresident deer permits may be restricted to a particular deer species.

- (3) Nonresident deer permits shall be restricted to two adjacent deer management units.
- (4) Nonresident deer hunters shall select one season at the time of application.
- (5) For an additional fee, nonresident deer hunters applying for a whitetail either sex archery or muzzle loader permit in a designated mule deer unit may also apply for one of the limited number of mule deer stamps. If they are successful in both drawings, they would be issued a permit that will allow them to take either a whitetail deer or a mule deer in that unit.
- (m) A big game permit shall state the species, number and sex of the big game which may be killed by the permittee. The secretary may require any big game permittee to provide survey information at the conclusion of the open season.
- (n) (1) Prior to April 30, 2013, the secretary shall develop and implement a combination antlered and antlerless deer permit and adopt rules and regulations for the administration thereof.
- (2) Prior to April 30, 2013, the secretary shall develop and implement a pre-rut antlerless deer rifle season by deer management unit. The provisions of this paragraph shall expire on July 1, 2015.
- (3) The secretary shall develop and implement a deer crossbow hunting pilot project. Such pilot project shall be implemented in no more than four deer management units. The secretary of wildlife, parks and tourism shall study the effects of such pilot project on the deer population and the number of crossbow users in such deer management units and report to the house committee on agriculture and natural resources and the senate committee on natural resources prior to January 31, 2014. The provisions of this paragraph shall expire on January 31, 2014.
- (o) The permittee shall permanently affix the carcass tag to the carcass of any big game animal immediately after killing and thereafter take such killed game to a check station as may be required in the rules and regulations, where a check station tag shall be affixed to the big game carcass if the kill is legal. The tags shall remain affixed to the carcass until the carcass is processed for storage or consumption. The permittee shall retain the carcass tag until the carcass is consumed, given to another or otherwise disposed of.
- (p) The provisions of this section do not apply to big game animals sold in surplus property disposal sales of department exhibit herds or big game animals legally taken outside this state.

History: L. 1963, ch. 245, § 4; L. 1965, ch. 270, § 1; L. 1969, ch. 214, § 2; L. 1973, ch. 178, § 4; L. 1975, ch. 227, § 1; L. 1978, ch. 152, § 11; L. 1981, ch. 176, § 3; L. 1981, ch. 178, § 1; L. 1981, ch. 179, § 1; L. 1985, ch. 135, § 1; L. 1986, ch. 149, § 3; L. 1986, ch. 151, § 2; L. 1989, ch. 118, § 69; L. 1990, ch. 139, § 1; L. 1994, ch. 245, § 1; L. 1997, ch. 127, § 3; L. 1998, ch. 180, § 1; L. 1999, ch. 98, § 1; L. 2000, ch. 104, § 1; L. 2000, ch. 159, § 5; L. 2002, ch. 96, § 4; L. 2003, ch. 121, § 1; L. 2004, ch. 99, § 5; L. 2007, ch. 133, § 1; L. 2012, ch. 154, § 6; July 1.

2021 Kansas Statutes

32-969. Wild turkey permits; tags; definitions. On and after January 1, 2005:

- (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the secretary and in addition to any other license, permit or stamp required by law or rules and regulations of the secretary, a valid wild turkey permit and game tags are required to take any wild turkey in this state.
- (b) The fee for wild turkey permits and game tags shall be the amount prescribed pursuant to K.S.A. 32-988, and amendments thereto.
- (c) A wild turkey permit and game tags are valid throughout the state or such portion thereof as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the secretary in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto.
- (d) Unless otherwise provided by law or rules and regulations of the secretary, a wild turkey permit and game tags are valid from the date of issuance and shall expire at the end of the season for which issued.
- (e) The secretary may adopt, in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, rules and regulations for each regular or special wild turkey hunting season and for each management unit regarding wild turkey permits and game tags. The secretary is hereby authorized to issue wild turkey permits and game tags pertaining to the taking of wild turkeys. No wild turkey permits or game tags shall be issued until the secretary has established, by rules and regulations adopted in accordance with K.S.A. 32-805, and amendments thereto, a regular or special wild turkey hunting season.
- (f) A wild turkey permit shall state the number and sex of wild turkeys which may be killed by the permittee. The secretary may require a wild turkey permittee to provide survey information at the conclusion of the open season.
- (g) If required by the secretary, the permittee shall permanently affix the carcass tag to the carcass of any wild turkey immediately after killing, in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the secretary. Thereafter, the permittee shall take such killed wild turkey to a check station as may be required in the rules and regulations, where a check station tag shall be affixed to the wild turkey carcass if the kill is legal. Any tag shall remain affixed to the carcass until the carcass is processed for storage or consumption. The permittee shall retain the carcass tag until the carcass is consumed, given to another or otherwise disposed of.
- (h) Fifty percent of the wild turkey permits authorized for a regular season in any management unit shall be issued to landowners or tenants, provided that a limited number of wild turkey permits have been authorized. A landowner or tenant is not eligible to apply for a wild turkey permit as a landowner or as a tenant in a management unit other than the unit or units which include such landowner's or tenant's land. Any wild turkey permits not issued to landowners or tenants within the time period prescribed by rule and regulation may be issued without regard to the 50% limitation.
- (i) Members of the immediate family who are domiciled with a landowner or tenant may apply for a resident wild turkey permit as a landowner or as a tenant, but the total number of landowner or tenant wild turkey permits issued to a landowner or tenant and a landowner's or tenant's immediate family shall not exceed one permit for each 80 acres owned by such landowner or operated by such tenant. Evidence of ownership or tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the department.
- (j) As used in this section:
 - (1) "Landowner" means a resident owner of farm or ranch land of 80 acres or more located in the state of Kansas.

(2) "Tenant" means an individual who is actively engaged in the agricultural operation of 80 acres or more of Kansas farm or ranch land for the purpose of producing agricultural commodities or livestock and who: (A) Has a substantial financial investment in the production of agricultural commodities or livestock on such farm or ranch land and the potential to realize substantial financial benefit from such production; or (B) is a bona fide manager having an overall responsibility to direct, supervise and conduct such agricultural operation and has the potential to realize substantial benefit from such production in the form of salary, shares of such production or some other economic incentive based upon such production. Evidence of tenancy, if requested, shall be provided to the department and may include, but is not limited to, natural resource conservation services records, farm service agency records, or written agricultural contract or lease documentation.

(3) "Regular season" means a statewide wild turkey hunting season authorized annually which may include one or more seasons restricted to specific types of equipment.

(4) "Special season" means a wild turkey hunting season in addition to a regular season authorized on an irregular basis or at different times of the year other than the regular season.

(5) "General permit" means a wild turkey hunting permit available to Kansas residents not applying for wild turkey permits as a landowner or tenant.

(6) "Nonresident permit" means a wild turkey hunting permit available to individuals who are not Kansas residents.

History: L. 2004, ch. 99, § 12; L. 2007, ch. 133, § 6; L. 2008, ch. 17, § 1; July 1.

Workshop Session

KAR 115-25-7

Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits

Background

This regulation pertains to seasons, bag limits, unit boundaries, permits and tags for pronghorn antelope.

Western Kansas pronghorn antelope populations have supported a hunting season since 1974. The firearm pronghorn season has been four days long since 1990, starting on the first Friday in October. The archery pronghorn season was nine days long from 1985 to 2004, and included the two weekends prior to the firearm season. Since 2005, the archery season has reopened on the Saturday following the firearm season and continued through the end of October. A muzzleloader season was initiated in 2001. It has begun immediately after the archery season and ran for eight days, the last four overlapping the firearm season. With the exception of annual adjustments in permit allocations, this regulation has changed minimally in recent years.

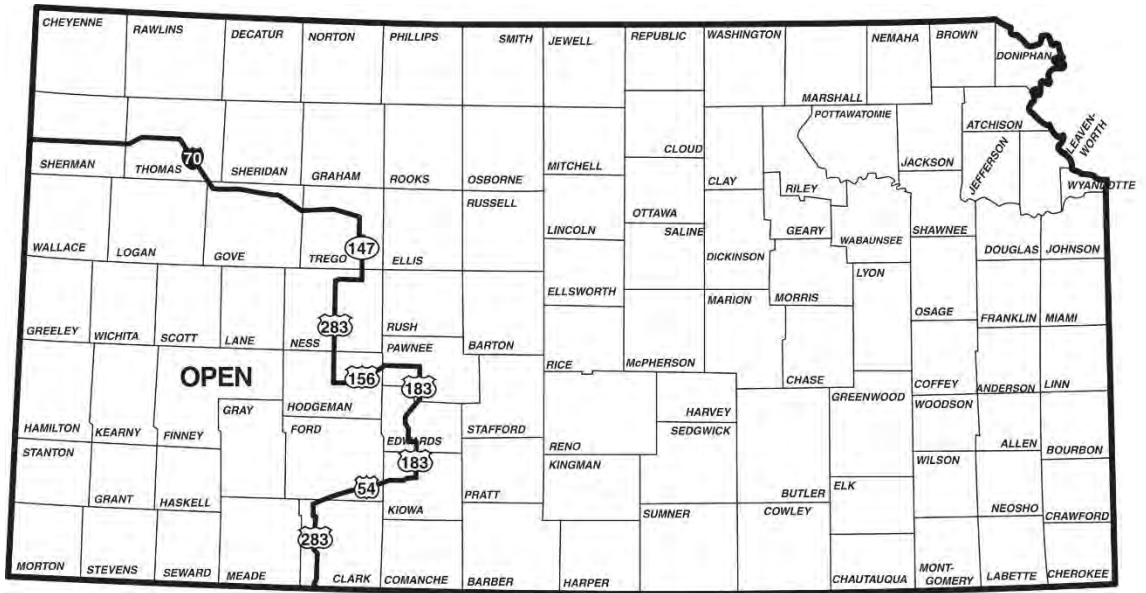
Discussion & Recommendations

Due to changes in the way in which KDWP regulations are being enacted, we recommend altering the description of season dates in this regulation from the actual calendar dates to a season framework which is not year-specific. For example, rather than listing firearm season dates of “October 6, 2023 through October 9, 2023” the season would be described as “from the first Friday in October through the following Monday.” This would allow standard materials such as the hunting regulations summary to be published on time and the season to proceed even if the new season’s regulation had not been passed due to unexpected delays in the regulations process.

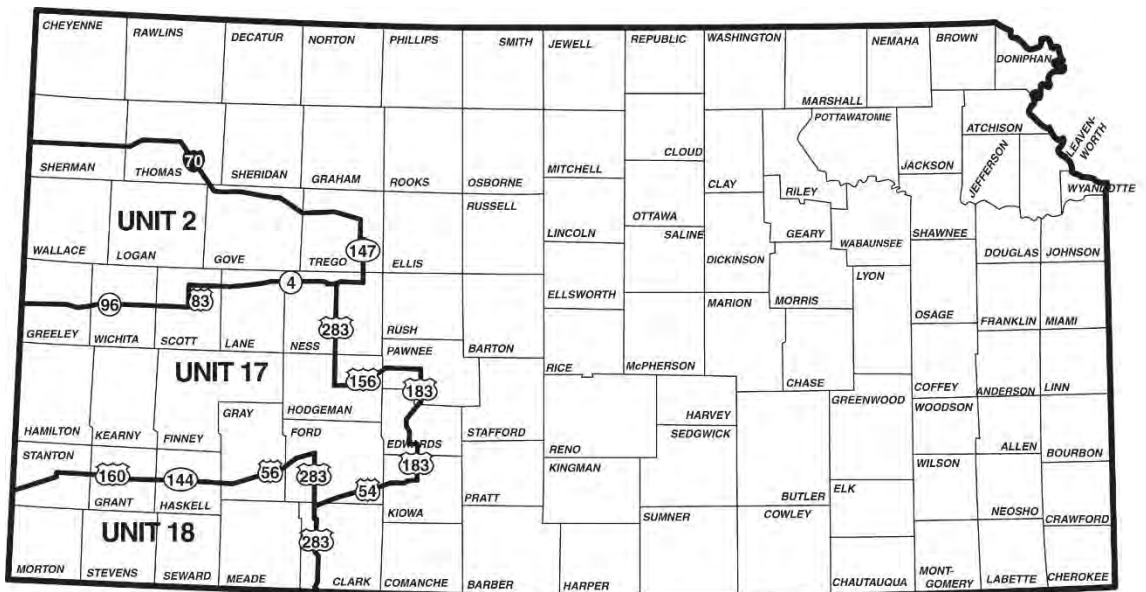
Poor production in Kansas and rangewide have caused apparent declines in pronghorn populations in many areas. In Kansas this year, this can be partially attributed to drought. As such, the Department is considering several approaches to reducing harvest. Limited permit allocations are easily reduced, but unlimited archery permits require other actions. We did make a change to K.A.R. 115-4-11 that eliminates the ability for hunters to both apply for a limited permit or purchase a preference point and purchase an archery permit during the same year. For this regulation, we recommend eliminating the late archery season which has accounted for about 8% of the archery harvest. No change to the season structure for other seasons is recommended.

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.

Archery Pronghorn Unit



Firearm, Muzzleloader Pronghorn Units



KAR 115-25-8

Elk; open season, bag limit and permits

Background

This regulation pertains to seasons, bag limits, unit boundaries, permits and tags for elk hunting.

Elk were first reintroduced onto Fort Riley in 1986, and a hunting season was initiated in 1990. Most of the hunting opportunity in the state occurs on the Fort. However, elk do exist on private lands, though unpredictably in most of the state, with parts of southwest Kansas being the main exception. Elk also occur in the vicinity of Cimarron National Grasslands, but these elk are primarily found in neighboring states, and the Grasslands have been closed to elk hunting since 1995, following several years of heavy harvest pressure.

Since 1999, longer seasons and less restrictive permitting options have been authorized except near Fort Riley and the Grasslands. This framework is intended to allow for elk that may be causing crop damage or other conflicts on private land to be harvested, and for landowners to have the opportunity to maintain elk at desirable numbers on their own property while at the same time allowing the Fort Riley and Cimarron herds to be maintained.

Discussion & Recommendations

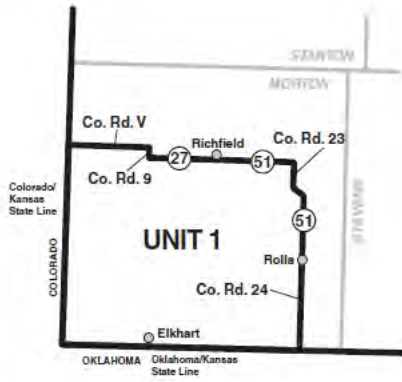
Due to changes in the way in which KDWP regulations are being enacted, we recommend altering the description of some of the season dates in this regulation from the actual calendar dates to a season framework which is not year-specific. For example, rather than listing firearm season dates of “November 29, 2023 through December 10, 2023” the season would be described as “from the Wednesday after Thanksgiving through the second Sunday after the opening date.” For those seasons lasting an entire month, we would simply remove the year. These changes would allow standard materials such as the hunting regulations summary to be published on time and the season to proceed even if the new season’s regulation had not been passed due to unexpected delays in the regulations process.

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

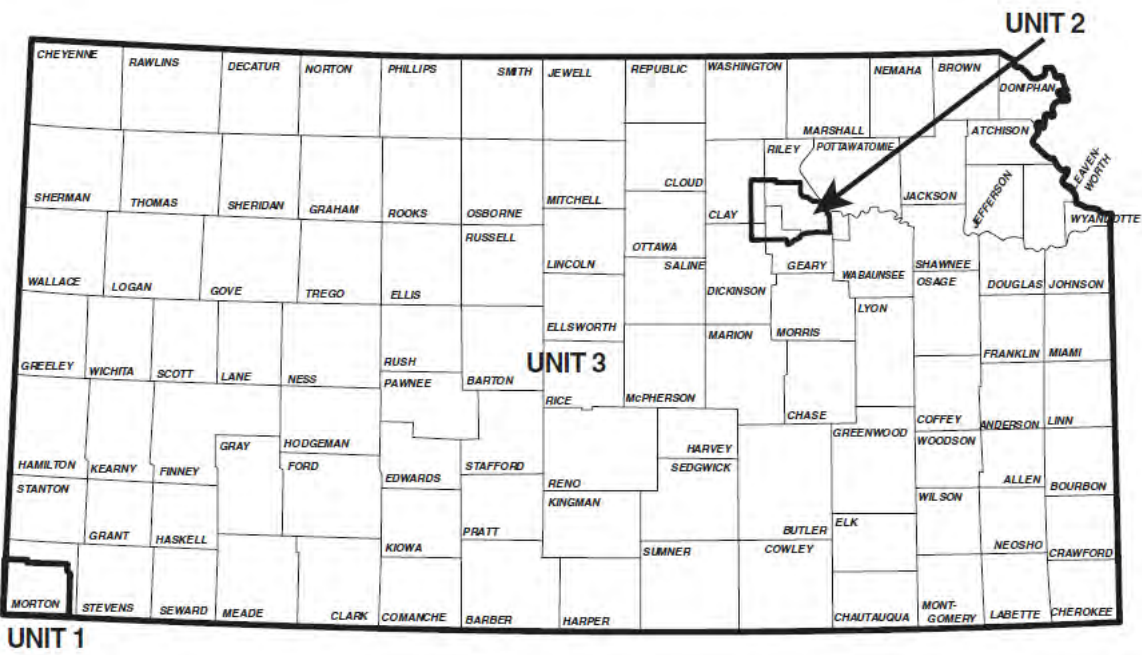
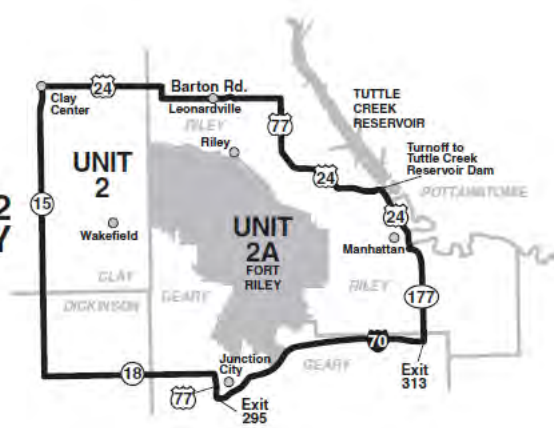
Unit boundaries are defined in K.A.R. 115-4-6b. Units 2 and 3 will be open to hunting.

Elk permits will be available only to Kansas residents, and permit applications will be separated into military and nonmilitary applicants. Unit 2 permit recommendations will be determined at a later date. An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only and either-sex elk permits will also 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.

Elk Units



NEW UNIT 2 BOUNDARY



VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

3. Big Game Permanent Regulations.

All permanent regulations dealing with big game will be discussed together at this meeting. In recent years these regulations have been brought forward in the General Discussion portion of the Commission Meeting in August to allow public comments and to determine if further review was needed.

a) K.A.R. 115-4-2. Big game; general provisions.

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

- Information that must be included on the carcass tag
- Registration (including photo check) needed to transport certain animals
- Procedures for transferring meat to another person
- Procedures for possessing a salvaged big game carcass
- Who may assist a big game permittee and how they may assist, including the provisions for designated individuals to assist disabled big game permittees.

Discussion

In 2020, changes to this regulation included modifying proof-of-sex regulations for antlerless deer and elk to allow hunters to voluntarily help prevent spreading chronic wasting disease by leaving the most infective parts of a carcass, the head and spine, at the site of harvest.

b) K.A.R. 115-4-4. Big game; legal equipment and taking methods.

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

- Specific equipment differences for hunting various big game species.
- Specifications for bright orange colored clothing, which must be worn when hunting during certain big game seasons.
- Accessory equipment such as calls, decoys, and blinds.
- Shooting hours
- Special restrictions on the use of horses or mules to herd or drive elk.

Discussion

New hunting equipment continues to be created and people request changes in the regulation to allow novel equipment. Historically changes in this regulation have attempted to balance a potential benefit of allowing new equipment to benefit a few people against the added complexity caused by changing the regulation, which may confuse other hunters. Typically, the department has changed this regulation after a review for a period of years rather than annually.

c) K.A.R. 115-4-6. Deer; firearm management units.

Background

This regulation established the boundaries for the 19 Deer Management Units in Kansas.

Discussion

Recent changes were implemented to correct this regulation for recent road name changes that occurred on the boundary roads of some management units.

d) K.A.R. 115-4-11. Big game and wild turkey permit applications. FY2023 big game regulation review cycle.

Background

This regulation describes general application procedures, including the establishment of priority drawing procedures when the number of applicants exceeds the availability of authorized permits. The regulation also authorized hunters to purchase a preference point for future applications.

Discussion

During the 2021-2022 review cycle this regulation was changed to limit pronghorn antelope hunters to receive either a draw permit, preference point or over-the-counter permit each year as opposed to being able to get a preference point and an over-the-counter permit in the same year. Some additional modification of the language in this regulation is needed to clearly define the limitations set forth in this regulation regarding acquiring pronghorn antelope permits or preference points in the same year.

Recommendation

Adopt the changes in language needed to clearly state the action of the regulation regarding acquiring pronghorn antelope permits or preference points.

e) K.A.R. 115-4-13. Deer permits; descriptions and restrictions.

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

- Creates permit types that include:
 - White-tailed deer, either-sex (WTES) permit or white-tailed deer antlerless only (WTAO) permit for residents of Kansas. These permits are valid during all seasons with equipment authorized for that season.
 - White-tailed deer, either-sex permit for nonresidents valid for one equipment type and one unit. Nonresident hunters may designate one adjacent unit where they may hunt.

- Either-species, either-sex permit, restricted to a season or seasons and units where they may be used by resident and nonresident deer hunters.
- Hunt-on-your-own-land permits, including resident HOYOL, nonresident HOYOL, and special HOYOL permits for certain direct relatives of the landowner or tenant.
- Each deer permit is valid only for the species and antler category specified on the permit.
- Antlerless deer are defined as a deer without a visible antler plainly protruding from the skull.

Discussion

Starting with the 2016 season, Either-species Antlerless Only Permits (ESAO) were no longer issued in Kansas. This was done to address the changing mule deer population to reduce harvest of female mule deer. Mule deer population status in other DMUs within the East and West mule deer hunt zones currently are stable at low density or in decline.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

4. Deer 25-Series Regulations.

Background

The regulation contains the following items:

- Dates of deer seasons when equipment such as archery, firearms, or muzzleloader may be used.
- Provisions when seasons may occur on military subunits within management units.
- Dates for a special firearm deer season and extended archery seasons in urban units.
- Dates of deer seasons for designated persons.
- Dates and units when extended firearm seasons are authorized and the type of permits and changes in the species and antler categories of those permits.
- Limitations in obtaining multiple permits.

Discussion

Abundant deer populations in some deer management units potentially allow for additional whitetail antlerless only hunting opportunity as part of deer population management. To address abundant deer populations in DMU 12 and increasing deer damage complaints, additional whitetail antlerless hunting is warranted, and extending the Pre-Rut WAO season provides this additional opportunity that may increase antlerless deer harvest during a period that better addresses the issues caused by overly abundant whitetail deer.

Recommendation

The proposed season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2023-24 are as follows:

Youth and Disability	Sept. 2, 2023 – Sept. 10, 2023
Early Muzzleloader	Sept. 11, 2023 – Sept. 24, 2023
Archery	Sept. 11, 2023 – Dec. 31, 2023
Pre-Rut WAO	Oct. 7, 2023 – Oct. 9, 2023
Extended Pre-Rut WAO	Oct. 7, 2023 – Oct. 15, 2023
Regular Firearm	Nov. 29, 2023 – Dec. 10, 2023
1 st Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2024 – Jan. 7, 2024
2 nd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2024– Jan. 14, 2024
3 rd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2024 – Jan. 21, 2024
Extended Archery (DMU 19)	Jan. 22, 2024– Jan. 31, 2024

Workshop Session (#7)

5. Public Lands Reference Document (KAR 115-8-1)

January 12, 2023

KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting furharvesting, and discharge of firearms.

Background

Subsection (e) of this regulation covers the Department's Public Lands Division Special Use Restrictions.

Discussion

This reference document within the regulation is reviewed annually for revisions.

The Department is discussing amendments to the following sections:

I.) Access Restrictions

After Cheyenne Bottoms staff discussed further, no additional restrictions are being recommended at this time.

XII.) Refuges *(Add tracts listed below in Region 3)*

The following properties have portions of the area designated as a refuge during specific periods of the year, or year-round. Access and activity restrictions are for refuge management, special hunts, or special permits.

a.) Refuge Area Closed to All Activities Year Round

Region 1

- Cedar Bluff WA (Operations Area East of Dam)
- Cheyenne Bottoms WA-Pool 1
- Lovewell WA (designated land area)

Region 2

- Benedictine WA
- Jeffrey Energy Center-Area #3
- Marais des Cygnes WA

Region 3

- Fall River WA
- McPherson Wetlands - South Refuge
- Mined Land WA Bison Pen located on Unit 1
- Byron Walker WA; around headquarters and archery range
- Cherokee Lowlands WA (Perkin's east and Bogner center tracts)

XV. Daily Hunt Permits

After extensive internal discussions, the Department is recommending adding all Public Lands properties (state fishing lakes and wildlife areas) into the electronic check-in/check-out system. This requirement would be for hunting activity only.

Electronic ~~D~~daily use permits are required ~~on the following properties~~ through the department's licensing system for hunting activity on the following properties:

Region 1

- ~~-Cheyenne Bottoms WA - In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~
- ~~-Glen Elder WA~~
- ~~-Isabel WA~~
- ~~-Jamestown WA - In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~
- ~~-Lovewell WA - In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~
- ~~-Talmo Marsh~~
- ~~-Texas Lake WA~~

Region 2

- ~~-Benedictine Bottoms~~
- ~~-Blue Valley WA~~
- ~~-Bolton WA~~
- ~~-Clinton WA~~
- ~~-Dalbey WA~~
- ~~-Douglas SFL~~
- ~~-Elwood WA~~
- ~~-Hillsdale WA~~
- ~~-Jeffrey Energy Center WA Area # 2~~
- ~~-Kansas River WA~~
- ~~-La Cygne WA~~
- ~~-Lyon SFL~~
- ~~-Marais des Cygnes WA~~
- ~~-Melvern WA~~
- ~~-Milford WA~~
- ~~-Oak Mills WA~~

~~-Perry WA~~

~~-Tuttle Creek WA~~

Region 3

~~-Berentz/Dick WA~~

~~-Marion WA~~

~~-McPherson Wetlands~~

~~-Neosho WA~~

~~-Slate Creek Wetland~~

Statewide

-iWIHA

-All Department managed lands and waters (Wildlife Areas and State Fishing Lakes)

*Excluding Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Big Basin Prairie Preserve, and all State Parks

XVI. Daily Use Permits

~~Electronic~~ Daily use permits are ~~available~~ required electronically through ~~I-Sportsman e-permit~~ the department's licensing system for ALL activities.

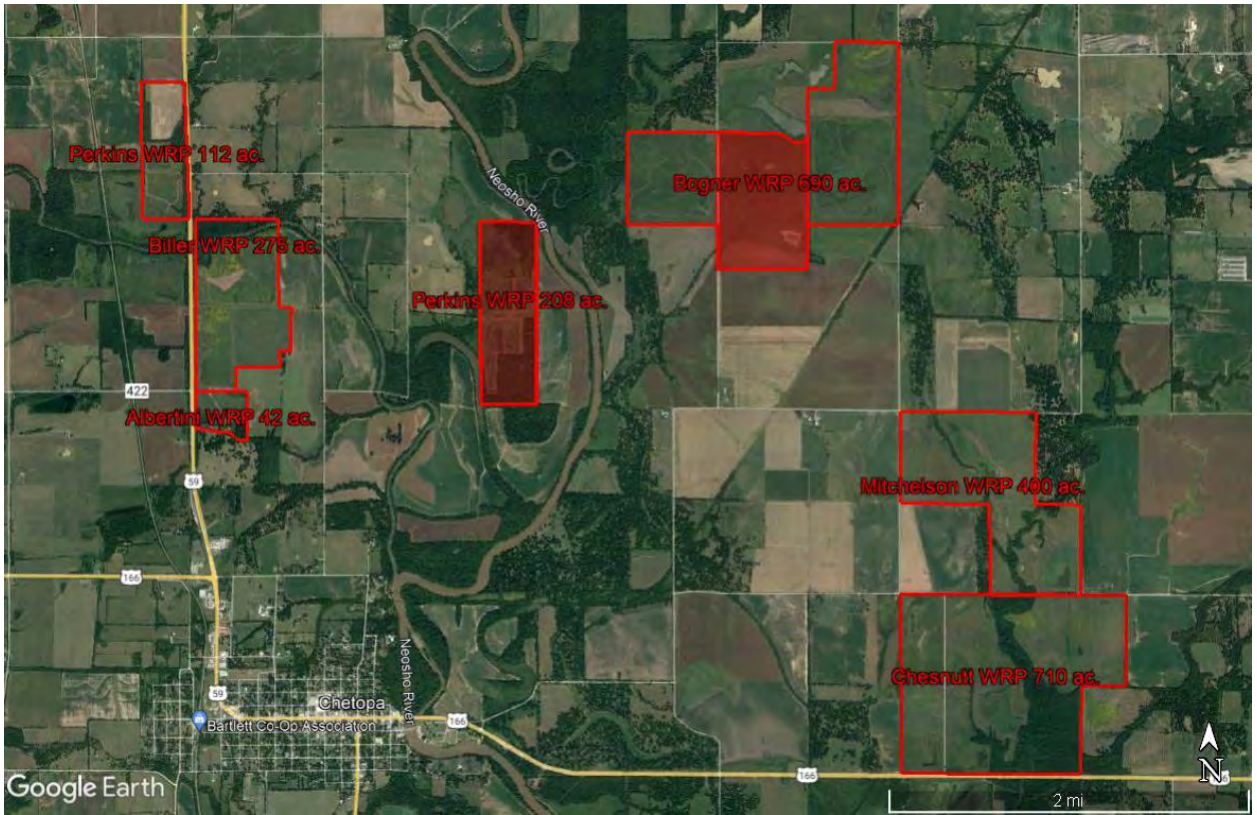
Region 2

-Buck Creek WA

-Noe WA

*The Department is considering implementing electronic daily use permits for our river access sites on department lands and waters. This would be an effort to learn more about non-motorized vessel use.

***After discussing internally with staff who coordinate and plan hunts through the Department's Special Hunts Program, for the 2022-2023 fall and winter hunts, 75% - 80% of those Special Hunts will be restricted to Kansas residents only.**



Pending Regulations (the items below will have no presentation, they have been presented multiple times – regulation included in briefing book for your convenience)

KAR 115-8-23 Bait; hunting (public lands)

KAR 115-8-9 Camping (public lands)

KAR 115-8-25 Trail (Game) Cameras and other devices (public lands)

KAR 115-25-5 Turkey; fall season, bag limit and permits

KAR 115-25-6 Turkey; spring season, bag limit and permits

KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications

KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season (and associated reference document)

KAR 115-18-10. Importation and possession of certain wildlife; prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions

KAR 115-7-10. Fishing, special provisions (and associated reference document outlining reference document K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807--Kansas ANS Designated Waters)

Workshop Session #7

Public Lands Baiting Regulation

January 12, 2023

KAR 115-8-23 **Baiting**

Background:

This regulation outlines the provisions and restrictions of baiting on department lands.

Discussion:

Department staff have discussed amending this regulation to prohibit baiting on department lands and waters for **all activities**, not just for hunting or preparing to hunt as the current regulation states. Department officers are reporting a trend of bait being placed on department lands and WIHA for “wildlife viewing or photography” with the bait being hunted over.

Recommendation:

The Department recommends adding language to the existing regulation that would prohibit placing bait on department lands and WIHA/iWIHA for all activities.

This would not apply to licensed furharvesters as permitted in KAR 115-5-1.

115-8-23. Baiting; ~~hunting.~~ (a) No person shall place, deposit, expose, or scatter bait ~~while hunting or preparing to hunt~~ on department lands or place, deposit, expose, or scatter bait in a manner that causes another person to be in violation of this regulation.

(1) This regulation applies to WIHA and iWIHA properties

(2) This shall not apply to licensed furharvesters as permitted in KAR 115-5-1.

~~(b) Hunting shall be prohibited within 100 yards of any bait placed, deposited, exposed, or scattered on department lands. Bait shall be considered placed, deposited, exposed, or scattered on department lands for 10 days following complete removal of the bait.~~

~~(e)-(1)~~ **(b)** Nothing in this regulation shall prohibit the hunting or taking of wildlife over any of the following:

(A) Standing crops, grain found or flooded standing crops, including aquatic crops.

(B) standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation.

(C) flooded harvested croplands.

(D) lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural planting, harvesting, postharvest manipulation, or soil stabilization practice; or

(E) standing or flooded standing agricultural crops over which grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed wildlife.

(2) The taking of wildlife, except migratory waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over any lands or areas meeting the following conditions shall not be prohibited:

(A) Are not otherwise baited; and

(B) have grain or other feed that has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations, or scattered solely as the result of normal weather conditions.

(d) For the purposes of this regulation, “bait” shall mean any grain, fruit, vegetable, nut, hay, salt, sorghum, feed, other food, or mineral that is capable of attracting wildlife. Liquid scents and sprays shall not be considered bait. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2012 Supp. 32-807; effective July 20, 2012; amended July 26, 2013.)

Workshop Session #7

Public Lands Camping Regulation

January 12, 2023

KAR 115-8-9 Camping

Background:

This regulation covers the provisions and restrictions for camping on department lands and waters.

Discussion:

Department staff have discussed reducing the current 14-consecutive-day camping stay limit at state fishing lakes and wildlife areas. Area managers are faced with the ever-growing issue of vagrant and homeless people basically living at state fishing lakes and wildlife areas. This has required extra enforcement and maintenance man-hours combating the issues that arise. Degradation and destruction of the natural resources and conflicts with traditional users are growing problems, and there is also the financial burden associated with removing abandoned personal property left at this camping areas.

The main complaint from primary constituents is that they eventually avoid using these areas.

Recommendation:

The Department is recommending reducing the number of consecutive camping days allowed at state fishing lakes and wildlife areas from 14 to seven days.

This would NOT affect state parks.

Managers at state fishing lakes and wildlife areas would still have the discretion to post their campgrounds or issue a permit allowing 14-day camping, if warranted.

115-8-9. Camping. (a) Camping shall be allowed only in designated areas on department lands and waters and shall be subject to provisions or restrictions as established by posted notice.

(b) All campers and camping units **in state parks** shall be limited to a stay of not more than 14 consecutive days in a campground unless otherwise established by posted notice or as otherwise authorized by the department.

(1) Upon completing 14 consecutive days in a campground, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from that campground for at least five days.

(2) One extended camping stay of not more than 14 additional consecutive days at the same campground may be granted through a written permit issued by the department if vacant camping sites are available. Upon completing 28 consecutive days at the same campground, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the department-managed area for at least five days, except as authorized in subsection (b)(3).

(3) Long-term camping in state parks shall be allowed on designated camping sites for six consecutive months through a written permit issued by the department if vacant long-term camping sites are available. Upon completing six consecutive months at the same state park, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the state park for at least five days.

(c) All campers and camping units **at a state fishing lake or wildlife area** shall be limited to a stay of not more than seven consecutive days ~~in a campground~~ **on that property** unless otherwise established by posted notice or as otherwise authorized by the department. **Upon completing seven consecutive days on the same property, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the department-managed area for at least five days.**

(1) One extended camping stay of not more than seven additional consecutive days ~~at the same campground~~ **on the same property** may be granted through a written permit issued by the department if vacant camping sites are available. Upon completing 14 consecutive days ~~at the same campground~~ **on the same property**, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the department-managed area for at least five days.

(d) Unless authorized by the department or located on a prepaid state park campsite reserved through the department's electronic reservation system, camping units shall not be left unoccupied in a campground for more than 24 hours.

(e) Except as ~~Unless~~ authorized by the department or located on a prepaid state park campsite reserved through the department's electronic reservation system, vehicles or other property shall not be left unattended upon department lands or waters for more than 24 hours.

(f) Except as authorized by the department, any property unoccupied or unattended for more than 48 hours, unless the property is on a prepaid state park campsite reserved through the department's electronic reservation system, and any property abandoned upon department lands or waters shall be subject to removal by the department and may be reclaimed by the owner upon contacting the department.

(g) A campsite shall not be left unoccupied in a campground for more than 24 hours, unless the department so authorizes, or the campsite is a prepaid state park campsite reserved through the department's electronic reservation system. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807; effective March 19, 1990; amended Feb. 10, 1992; amended Oct. 12, 1992; amended Sept. 12, 2008; amended Nov. 14, 2011.)

Workshop Session #7

Public Lands Trail (Game) Camera Regulation

January 12, 2023

KAR 115-8-25

Trail (Game) Cameras and Other devices:

Background:

There is no current regulation specifically addressing the use of trail cameras on department lands and waters nor is there any related regulation that would cover the use of trail cameras on department lands and waters.

This regulation would be a new Kansas Administrative Regulation (KAR) and would cover the provisions and restrictions for the use of trail (game) cameras on department lands and waters.

Discussion:

Department staff have been discussing the use of trail (game) cameras on department lands for several years. Research has been conducted as to what other states do or do not allow on public lands. Many Kansas public lands, including WIHA and iWIHA, are being inundated with trail cameras. Constituent reports of camera theft and misuse of trail cameras on public lands are on the rise.

Staff discussions have also considered the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the concept of fair chase, specifically, the use of new or evolving technology and practices that provide hunters with an improper or unfair advantage.

Other related discussion points included: conflicts in the field among public land users, the growing number of trail cameras on the landscape (monopolizing PL's), and the potential disturbance to wildlife of frequent visits to set and check trail cameras.

States with existing trail camera regulations include: Arizona, Nevada, and Utah (Private and public lands); Montana, New Hampshire, and Alaska (partial ban = no wireless or cellular cameras during any open hunting season)

Recommendation:

The Department recommends enacting this regulation prohibiting trail (game) cameras on department lands and waters.

K.A.R. 115-8-25. Trail (Game) Camera's and other devices. (a) No person shall place, maintain, or use a trail camera, or images and video, including location, time, or date from a trail camera on department lands and waters, for any purpose.

(1) This regulation also applies to WIHA and iWIHA properties.

(b) No person shall use images of wildlife produced or transmitted from a satellite for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife or locating wildlife for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife on department lands and waters.

(1) This subsection does not prohibit the use of mapping systems or programs.

(2) For this subsection, the definition of take is adopted as outlined in KSA 32-701.

(3) This subsection also applies to WIHA and iWIHA properties.

(c) For this regulation, the definition of trail (game) camera shall be any remote motion-activated or infrared camera where the shutter is activated via sound triggers, proximity sensation, radio transmitters, or the self-timer built into the camera.

(d) This regulation shall not apply to any trail (game) camera that is owned by the department or a designated agent and is used for department operations or research on department lands and waters.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop

KAR 115-25-5 Turkey; fall season, bag limit and permits

KAR 115-25-6 Turkey; spring season, bag limit and permits

KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications

Background

The 2022 spring turkey season was open April 1-May 31 and included 3 segments: youth/disabled, archery, and regular. The fall 2021 season was open October 1 to November 10. Hunting regulations are set within 6 management units for both spring and fall seasons (Figure 1).

For the spring 2022 season, 32,034 hunters purchased 39,692 carcass tags. Nonresidents accounted for 43 percent of Kansas' spring hunters. Estimated spring harvest was 12,893, a 22% decrease from 2021 (Table 1). Statewide spring hunter success declined to 40% (Table 1).

Population Status and Productivity

Turkey abundance in Kansas has been declining since the late 2000s (Figure 3). Nesting and brood rearing seasons in 2022 in eastern Kansas were likely been impacted by heavy precipitation in April and May with very dry conditions in June and July. In central and eastern Kansas, production was low in 2022. Production was low in most areas of Kansas in 2022. Reduced turkey production is a trend that has been noted throughout the Midwest in the past 15 years and is a primary concern as turkey populations decline across the region.

Harvest Management

The department utilizes an adaptive harvest strategy to help guide staff recommendations on wild turkey permit allotments during both the spring and fall seasons. The intent of the strategy is to maintain high hunter success in each management unit while maintaining relatively high populations. The strategy provides a consistent and transparent method of developing staff recommendations and includes a hierarchy of regulation packages for both the spring and fall seasons as well as established triggers for when and how changes to bag limits will be recommended. The strategy has been in place now for 12 years and includes data for the last 19 hunting seasons.

An analysis of the spring 2022 harvest data revealed that resident hunter success was below thresholds in all 6 hunt units during the spring season for two or more seasons.

Recommendations

KAR 115-25-5 Fall season, bag limits and permits

Unit 2 boundary definition

Upon review, a slight language adjustment will need to be made to correctly define Unit 2 as described in KAR 115-25-05:

(2) Unit 2. Unit 2 shall consist of that area bounded by a line from the Nebraska-Kansas state line south on federal highway US-81 to its junction with interstate highway I-135, then south on interstate highway I-135 to its junction with federal highway US-56, then west on federal highway US56 to its junction with state highway K-96, then west on state highway K-96 to its junction with federal highway US-183, then north on federal highway US-183 to its junction with the Nebraska-Kansas state line, and then east along the Nebraska-Kansas state line to its junction with federal highway

US-~~81 183~~, except federal and state sanctuaries. An unlimited number of permits shall be authorized for unit 2.

Fall bag limits

The number of fall turkey hunters statewide has decreased substantially since 2015, at a rate of approximately 20% per year. In 2019, the statewide fall turkey season dates were reduced from October 1-January 31 to October 1-November 10, beginning in fall 2020. Estimated annual statewide fall harvest is less than 500 birds. While this is a small proportion of the statewide population, fall harvest is an additive source of mortality for turkeys—especially when hens are harvested.

Staff recommend suspending the fall season statewide, beginning with the 2023 season.

KAR 115-25-6 Spring season, bag limits and permits

Spring bag limits and permits

To reduce overall turkey harvest, **staff recommend reducing bag limits in Unit 1 (northwest) and Unit 2 (northcentral) from 2 birds to 1 bird.**

To reduce overall hunting pressure and reduce turkey harvest, **staff recommend reducing nonresident hunters by 25% in each unit by utilizing a draw system.**

Estimated number of active nonresidents in each hunt unit.

Year	Estimated Active Nonresidents						
	Northwest	Northcentral	Northeast	Southwest	Southcentral	Southeast	Statewide
2017	1,326	2,652	3,836	118	1,066	4,428	15,533
2018	972	3,392	4,178	103	1,324	4,488	14,912
2019	1,036	3,180	3,751	143	929	4,716	14,540
2020	290	618	733	39	328	849	3,011
2021	980	3,720	3,475	178	1,537	3,274	14,991
2022	643	3,235	3,324	44	1,241	2,637	13,383
5-Yr Avg (w/o 2020)	991	3,236	3,713	117	1,219	3,909	14,672
75% of 5-Yr Avg	744	2,427	2,785	88	915	2,931	11,004
75% (nearest 100)	700	2,400	2,800	100	900	2,900	11,000

In Unit 4 (Southwest), a resident-only draw with a quota of 500 is in place. **Staff recommend decreasing the quota to 375 (75%).** By state statute, if a draw is in place for residents, at least 50% of the quota must be offered for landowners. **Staff recommend setting the landowner quota for Unit 4 at 200 to ensure all landowners can hunt on their own property.** If applications are unfilled for landowner/tenants, they do become available for general resident applicants.

Recommended nonresident quotas:

Non-resident draw, specific to the unit that is applied for, with the following quotas:

- **Unit 1 (northwest) 700**
- **Unit 2 (northcentral) 2,400**
- **Unit 3 (northeast) 2,800**
- **Unit 4 (southwest) no nonresident permits (no change)**
- **Unit 5 (southcentral) 900**

- **Unit 6 (southeast)** 2,900
Total available **9,700** (13,383 active nonresidents in 2022, 27.5% reduction)

Unit 4 Permits in Adjacent Units

Currently, Unit 4 permits are valid in adjacent units—similar to draw deer permits. For several years, staff have heard from some residents in Unit 4 that they are no longer able to successfully apply for Unit 4 permits. Prior to 2018, most years did not see all permits allocated in Unit 4. Since 2018, the number of general resident applications has risen significantly. It is understood that some of these successful applicants take advantage of the adjacent unit allowance, especially when they also have a game tag. With the objective of ensuring Unit 4 residents have the utmost opportunity to successfully apply for a Unit 4 permit, **staff recommend removing the allowance of Unit 4 permits being allowed in adjacent units.**

Season Structure

In 2013, the Commission voted to create three segments to the spring turkey season, which were implemented beginning in 2015. The current structure is as follows:

- Youth / Disabled begins April 1
- Early Archery begins the Monday after the first full weekend in April
- Regular begins the Wednesday after the second full weekend in April

Staff do not recommend any season structure changes, which would result in the following 2024 Spring Turkey season dates:

- Spring
- Youth / Disabled April 1 - 16
 - Early Archery April 8 - 16
 - Regular Firearm April 17 - May 31
-

115-4-11 **Big game and wild turkey permit applications**

Add text to create an application period in January-February for non-residents to apply for a specific hunt unit (Units 1, 2, 3, 5 or 6) in which to be entered for a draw and—if successful—to receive a permit valid for that hunt unit.

To finalize a nonresident spring turkey draw process, KAR 115-2-1 (Amount of fees) will also need to be amended to create wild turkey application fees and a preference point service charge. Staff anticipate introducing proposed changes to KAR 115-2-1 in January.

Table 1. Kansas wild turkey permit sales, total harvest, and hunter success for each of the last 5 seasons, 2017-2022.

Year	Spring			Fall			
	Permits & Game Tags	Total Harvest	Success (%)	Permits & Game Tags	Total Harvest	Hen Harvest (%)	Success (%)
2017	65,818	30,441	51	6,262	1,183	36	25
2018	60,545	22,639	43	5,475	1,275	35	30
2019	56,388	23,568	47	4,570	487	29	35
2020	32,324	12,645	46	3,459	506	45	20
2021	45,263	16,476	45	2,779	313	51	16
2022	39,692	12,893	40	--	--	--	--

Success: percentage of active hunters harvesting ≥ 1 bird

Table 2. Spring turkey permit and game tag sales for 2021 and 2022.

Permit Type	2021	2022	Difference
Carcass Tags	45,263	39,692	-12.3%
Permit Buyers	35,587	32,034	-10.0%
Game Tags	9,676	7,658	-20.9%
Resident Permit Buyers	20,306	18,274	-10.0%
Nonresident Permit Buyers	15,281	13,760	-10.0%
Resident Game Tags	3,727	2,996	-19.6%
Nonresident Game Tags	5,949	4,665	-21.6%

Table 3. Spring turkey season resident hunter success (%), 2018-2022.

Year	Northwest (Unit 1)	Northcentral (Unit 2)	Northeast (Unit 3)	Southwest (Unit 4)	Southcentral (Unit 5)	Southeast (Unit 6)	Statewide
2018	37.8	41.8	37.3	37.5	44.3	35.5	36.9
2019	56.3	56.0	40.7	57.1	47.1	42.9	42.9
2020	61.1	58.2	45.7	69.6	44.8	37.7	45.6
2021	43.8	43.4	41.3	52.4	40.5	35.6	39.1
2022	25.0	39.2	39.9	50.0	39.1	34.2	35.9

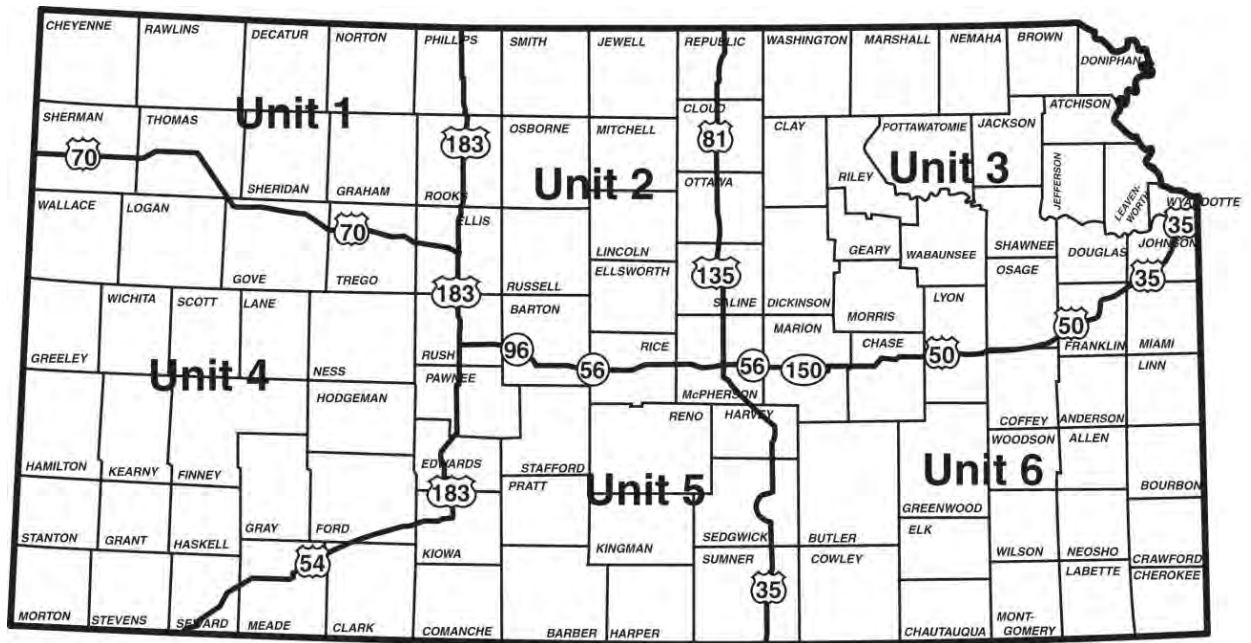


Figure 1. Kansas turkey hunt units.

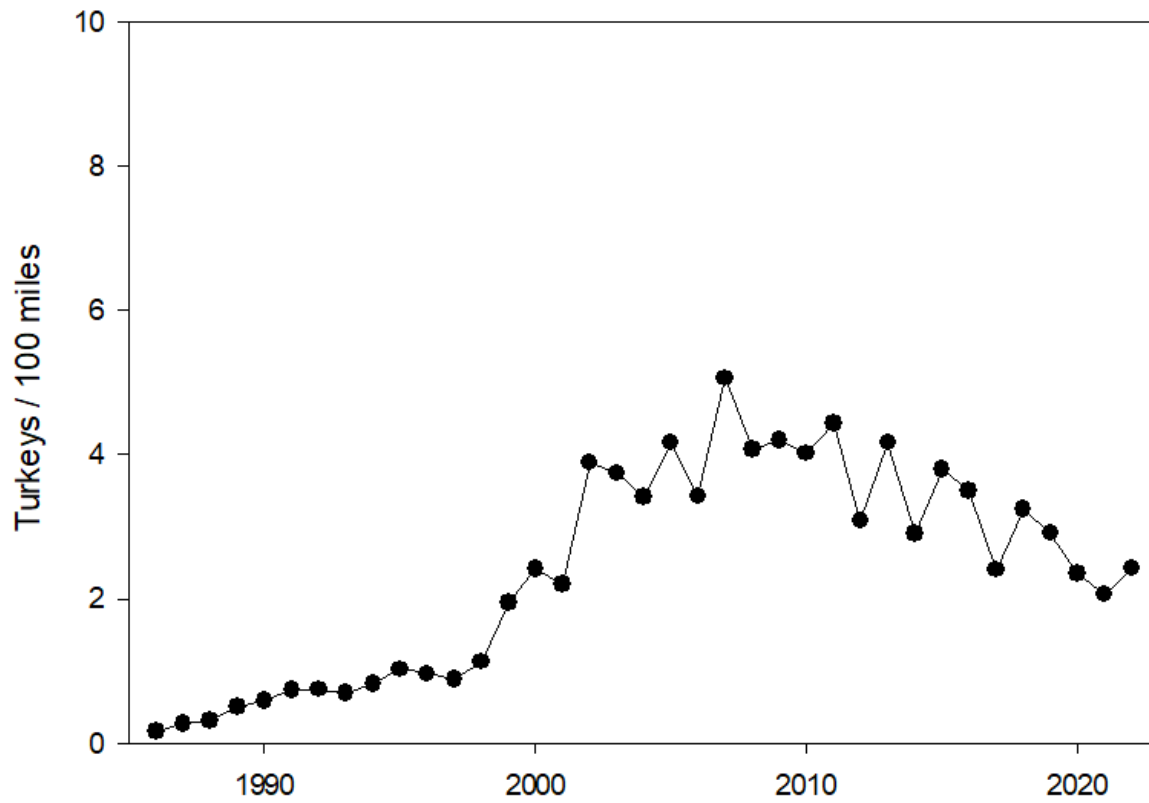


Figure 2. Statewide turkey spring rural mails carrier survey index, 1986-2022.

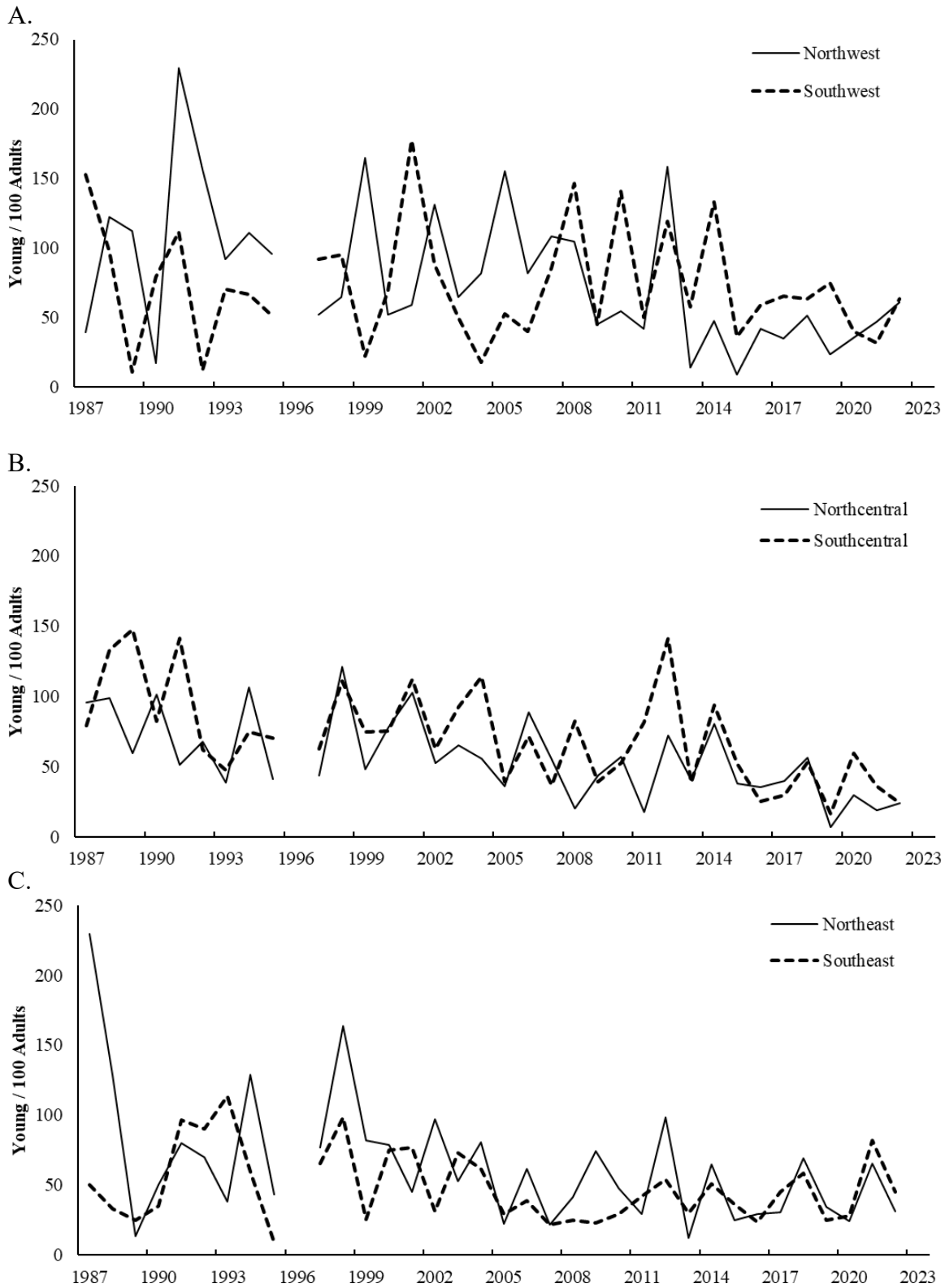


Figure 3. Turkey production indices for western (A), central (B), and eastern (C) Kansas, 1987-2022. Data from Summer Rural Mail Carrier Survey.

2023 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits

**January 12, 2023 Commission Meeting
Wichita, KS**

KAR 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season. (and associated reference document).

Overview of length and creel limits as a fisheries management tool.

- Cedar Bluff Reservoir – Remove 10” minimum length limit on crappie
- Ford State Fishing Lake – Change to an 18” minimum length limit on Largemouth Bass
- Graham County-Antelope Lake – Change to a 6-inch to 9-inch protected slot on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, a 5/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and unlimited creel number for fish under 6 inches.
- Pomona Reservoir – Change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on saugeye
- Melvern Reservoir – Change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on saugeye
- Jeffrey Energy Center – Change to a 15-inch minimum length limit and 2/day creel limit on Sauger
- Centralia City Lake – Change to a creel limit of 10/day on Channel Catfish
- Yates Center City Lake – Change to 15-inch to 21-inch protected slot, creel of 5/day on Largemouth Bass
- Garnett City Lake (North) – Change to 15-inch to 21-inch protected slot, creel of 5/day on Largemouth Bass
- Madison City Lake – Change to an 18-inch minimum length limit, creel of 2/day on Largemouth Bass

King Lake – Emporia – add as a Type 1 trout water

OJ Watson Park – add as a Type 1 trout water

Wichita KDOT-East – remove from trout waters list

Other 2023 Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes.

115-7-10. Fishing; special provisions. C. amend the ANS reference document.

ANS reference document:

remove the term "Asian Carp" and switch to either Bighead Carp or Silver Carp. Add McPherson State Fishing Lake to ANS reference document due to documentation of Rusty Crayfish. And add Lebo City Lake to reference document due to documentation of zebra mussels.

115-18-10. Importation and possession of certain wildlife; prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions. Add Rusty Crayfish to the list of prohibited species.

115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season. (and associated reference document)

- *This change will introduce length and creel limit proposals at individual waters*
- *This change will also change some trout waters*
 - *King Lake-Emporia – add as a Type 1 trout water*
 - *OJ Watson Park – add as a Type 1 trout water*
 - *Wichita KDOT-East – remove from trout waters list*

115-7-10. Fishing, special provisions (and associated reference document outlining reference document K.S.A. 2019 Supp. 32-807--Kansas ANS Designated Waters)

-This change will add Lebo City Lake as an ANS Designated Water (Zebra Mussels), add McPherson SFL to the prohibited species list (given Rusty Crayfish are added to the prohibited species list as noted above)

-This will also remove the term "Asian Carp" to a more descriptive "Silver Carp" and "Bighead Carp"

115-18-10. Importation and possession of certain wildlife; prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions.

-This change would add Rusty Crayfish to the prohibited species list

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

7. 115-2-3. Camping, utility, and other fees.

Annual Camping Review:

K.A.R. 115-2-3. Camping, utility, and other fees.

Annual Camping Permit (April 1 through September 30) \$250

Annual Camping Permit (October 1 through March 31) \$200

This permit is being reviewed on the number of permits sold and how it is used. Increased camping occupancy has elevated the review of this permit and what changes are necessary to resolve capacity and storage of RV campers.