

AGENDA
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS
COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, March 9, 2023
Ramada Hotel and Convention Center
Grand Ballroom
420 SE 6th St, Topeka, KS
including a
Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option

Instructions for Virtual Portion of Commission Meeting, March 9, 2023 at 12:00 pm:

A) Log Into Zoom

1. Visit <https://ksoutdoors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlqc-mvqTsuG9JvcJ66iotrsVMePZ3UsK1v>
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: 867 4077 0416#
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 January 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Public Hearing

1. Secretary’s Orders for Deer (Levi Jaster)
2. KAR 115-8-9 Camping (Ryan Stucky)
3. KAR 115-8-23 Bait; hunting (Ryan Stucky)
4. KAR 115-8-25 Trail (Game) Cameras and other devices (Ryan Stucky)

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. Printable Tags (Jason Dickson)**
- 2. Habitat First Update (Wes Sowards)**
- 3. CWD Updates (Shane Hesting/Levi Jaster)**
- 4. Upland Bird Populations, Predators, and Furharvest (Jeff Prendergast/Kent Fricke/Matt Peek)**

D. Workshop Session

- 1. Furbearer Regulations (Matt Peek)**
- 2. Public Land Regulations (Ryan Stucky)**
- 3. KAR 115-25-9a Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Ft. Riley (Military Deer Seasons) (Levi Jaster)**
- 4. KAR 115-2-1 Amount of Fees (Jake George)**
- 5. KAR 115-2-3 Camping, utility, and other fees (Linda Lanterman)**
- 6. KAR 115-25-7 Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits (Matt Peek)**
- 7. KAR 115-25-8 Elk; open season, bag limit and permit (Matt Peek)**
- 8. KAR 115-4-11 Big Game permit applications (Levi Jaster)**
- 9. KAR 115-25-9 Deer; open season, bag limit and permits (Levi Jaster)**
- 10. KAR 115-8-1 Hunting, furharvesting and discharge of firearms (reference document) (Ryan Stucky)**
- 11. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations (Richard Schultheis)**
- 12. Waterfowl Regulations (Tom Bidrowski)**

- 13. Pending Regulations (no presentation, presented multiple times) (Dan Riley)**
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)

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 April 27, 2023, Wyandotte County Historical Museum, 631 N 126th, Bonner Springs, 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, January 12, 2023
Great Plains Nature Center Auditorium
6232 E 29th St N, Wichita, KS
including a
Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

The January 12, 2023, meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Lauber – This is the first time in a while we started meeting at noon. We have a public hearing as the first business item; we don't have any today, then general public comments on non-agenda items.

Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Troy Sporer, Phil Escareno, Lauren Queal Sill, Warren Gfeller and Emerick Cross were present. Delia Lister was absent.

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 – Revised agenda to add Free Park Entrance and Free Fishing Days by Secretary's Resolution to the Public Hearing, Stuart Schrag will present. (Agenda - Exhibit B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE November 17, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Lauren Sill moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Warren Gfeller seconded. *Approved* (Minutes – Exhibit C).

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

1. Free Park Entrance and Free Fishing Days Secretary's Resolutions - Stuart Schrag, Assistant Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit D). I will not go over these in detail with every date. This covers 2023 free park entrance and 2023 free fishing days, June 3 and 4. The free park entrance events run through all the months for different parks. There is no action to take other than the Secretary's signature on both of these.

VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ben Bickel - I fish at Glen Elder. The water is not running in right now. The chumming needs to stop. Guides are cleaning the lake out and don't have to pay to fish there. Should be charged for that. I gave you some pictures (Exhibit E). Goes on 3-4 times a day every day during channel catfishing. They have 8-10 guys on a pontoon. They have soybean piles all over in different parts of the lake and they chum every day and night. If you sit on the bank, you won't catch anything. Been going on for 30 years. It has two rivers running in, they put a post up on one side of the river so you can't drive down there anymore, you have to walk about an eighth of a mile. Things need to be done at that lake. They have a pipe going into the lake when they grind the fish and it needs to go in farther. The chummers run the fish grinder all the time just for them and that is why it is always wore out. You need to charge the guys doing the chumming and guiding up there. They are all over the lake and they need to be paying something. Chairman Lauber – Part of the problem is that is a federal impoundment, which Glen Elder is, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and we have no ability to regulate activities. That has to come from the feds. We can encourage but not much we can do. As far as fish cleaning, it was my understanding that KDHE has some involvement in fish cleaning stations and try to minimize inappropriate discharge. One at Lake Perry has been shut down for several years because of continued use by the catfisherman, who have it figured out with soybeans. I don't know if having no chumming across the state (is the answer), not sure what we can do. Have staff look into this and see if (there are) things we can do to minimize this. Not the first person to make this observation. Not breaking laws, but not guilty of modest harvest. Secretary Brad Loveless – Bryan, our fisheries chief, could you speak to that? Bryan Sowards – This has been brought to our attention before and we've asked staff to look into it. We're looking at it from a population standpoint, I'm not sure on the fish cleaning side of things. In terms of catfish harvest, we have looked at it over the years and are still looking at it. So far, catch has been steady from year to year, it has dropped a little bit overall but size has increased. Quality fish are increasing but numbers may be increasing. Recruitment is maintaining every year. We have tools in our toolbelt, which would be to decrease the limit from 10 to 5, or something like that... We try to stay away from getting rid of opportunities whenever we can. Looking at it from a population standpoint, so far, it's fairly healthy. Commissioner Cross – Is there a limit on how much you can chum? Sowards – Not to my knowledge. Assistant Secretary Schrag – We have a BOR coordination meeting in March and will bring this up at that meeting. Chairman Lauber – At one point, I was told by biologists that on a productive reservoir, anglers don't have much effect on total number of channel catfish. That does not mean you are not right in your analysis. Give this a look and also see what the Bureau has to say about guiding on their public lands.

Norman Mantle, Salina – What authority do you have over fish on federal waters? Do you have any enforcement powers? Chairman Lauber – Yes, we have state laws. Go ahead with questions, I may have you direct more specific questions to appropriate staff. Mantle – Issue about trail cams, it is about trophies, about records and bragging rights... Why is this being allowed to be done? Another issue, selling wild game meat on page 6 of your pamphlet... When is it wild game and when is it processed game? Chairman Lauber – To me that is obvious. Mantle – Why are we allowing them to shoot and kill wild game if it's illegal? Chairman Lauber – Go on to your next question. Mantle - When do I get an answer? Chairman Lauber – We will see how many of these you have. It is my experience you are not bashful and have lots of things to talk about. Mantle – Why don't we give wildlife the respect it deserves? Chairman Lauber – I think we do. Mantle – We don't. It is about money and greed. We need to stop this. You need to read a documentary on Damnation, about dams, not only in Kansas. On the west and east coasts, they are taking them out. They are a contradiction on the laws of nature, wildlife and aquatic life cannot migrate upstream. They took out some in Washington and Oregon; there are four in

northern California and southern Oregon and they are taking out one this year and the other three are coming. All of these dams in the United States should not be there. They are taking them out in Maine, it's not just West coast issue. The dams in Kansas will all come out; they are appropriating the money and lawsuits are being filed. I watched it and they put 800 pounds of dynamite in the dam in Washington, the Klamath Dam; it is in the December 19, 2022, issue of the Western Livestock Journal. Camping, stop camping, everyone should have equal opportunity to obtain camping spots, it is public property, taxpayer's property. You are denying everyone the opportunity to obtain a camping site. Let's close the parks and put buffalo and elk in there. Chairman Lauber – Are you serious? Mantle – Yes, it is being done out west. Chairman Lauber – There is not any way we are really going to be able to answer these and I encourage you to direct (your comments) to Secretary Loveless and Assistant Secretary Schrag, rather than the Commission, because there is no way to answer some of these. Mantle – I know it is about politics. You will be fighting an uphill battle. Chairman Lauber – Thank you. Secretary Loveless – We will exchange numbers. I know a lot of this is your perspective but there are some questions in there, so we will share information and follow up.

Barry Raugust, Wichita – I am a bowhunter. I support use of e-tags and e-permits, a wonderful addition to what we have as hunters to not only document harvest but give that information to wildlife biologists to use. I would like to discourage use of printable tags. We have given poachers a tool to appear to be legitimate when they harvest an animal. You can print multiple copies, go out and affix a copy to the animal and take it home and if not stopped by a conservation officer on the way home, you are safe; you grab another copy, go back out and repeat. The only chance of them ever being detected is if they are stopped more than once by a conservation officer, which is not going to happen. I have been checked by a conservation officer once in my 50 years of hunting. The only other possibility of being caught is to brag on social media and post pictures of more than one animal, more than you have tags for. Every sportsman I have talked to is willing to pay extra to have a notch-able tag. If it is about saving money, sportsmen are willing to pay extra to have a tag that can only be used one time. If convenient, I'd like to have a tag we can put on a mount as a keepsake of the hunt. It is hard to hang on to a paper copy in the field and keep it affixed on the carcass if it's raining or you're dragging through the woods. If it is about convenience, I know there is something about instant gratification but there is also something to be said about planning ahead and not doing it at the drop of a hat or an ill-prepared hunt at the last minute. Plan ahead and harvest effectively. Please do away with printable tags, an inconvenience and convenience and cost savings are at expense of our Kansas wildlife. Chairman Lauber – I don't think any of us have received a call that someone likes the new system. I understand why we had to do that and we have printers all over the state trying to keep up. If you go to a place where you traditionally buy a license and that printer doesn't work, then they can't give you a permit. Encourage staff to look into something with more solid material. I tried to write my name on it and punched holes through it. A work in progress. Secretary Loveless – We have had all those conversations and continue to have them. Glad to mark this as an agenda item for next time and share what we know and what other states are doing and come up with the best solution. We're not at an end point but we're trying to make progress. Comments help us. Chairman Lauber – I would like to have that be an agenda item. Commissioner Sill – What are other states doing that use the same vendor? Raugust – You could mail the tags before the season starts. Chairman Lauber – Are other states using tags or printed paper? Jason Dickson – A lot of states are moving to printed paper and there has been some talk in different states of using pull tab, hard-card-type where you the clip tabs off and tag deer. Many states are moving to e-tagging and printable tags. On ours, like the gentleman mentioned, from a nonresident standpoint that is what we do: we send them something different, not on

green paper but it is different when they apply and win the draw. Paper tags are for residents, we have always had paper tags if you bought it online anyway. When the new system came up, there was a push because of so many printer issues with green paper printers at our agents, there was a push to do that, so went to 8 ½ x 11 paper. We are looking at it internally and seeing what it would take to go in a different direction.

Matt Shook, Bentley – Keep tele-check/e-check, to get rid of problems with printed tags you could mass produce sticky back tags, or a notch tag like used in other states, wrap that around the animal. All it is is a carcass tag. If they get stopped and an animal has a carcass tag, they can check to see they checked the animal correctly online. I love e-check, gives biologists a lot of great information on what is being harvested, when and where. I don't like the paper tag. They can be mass produced, can be dated or not so they can be reused. They are a waxed, sticky back tag that can be picked up when purchasing a tag. A lot better than the system we have now. I'd like to talk about mule deer. Any push to ever, with advancements in technology, make archery and muzzleloader a draw with mule deer? You can still shoot a mule deer doe but you have to use your primary tag. The last record I looked at from 2021 was that 128 mule deer does died. I've seen a lot of social media this year; guys were getting roasted for shooting does, but the consensus was not to go home empty handed. Ten years ago, I could have shown you 300 mule deer on a 20- to 25-acre section area. This year? Four does. K-State had a study, the big thing was the stress and pressure we are putting on them. Mass migration of eastern hunters who chase mule deer for 3-4 days... If they had to buy a mule deer stamp, that would help. Western Kansas folks don't go east to hunt whitetail. I like to go out but every weekend there is 50-60 guys running mule deer and they are so spooky; and taking does. Draw for archery and muzzleloader on mule deer and somehow on big game permit don't make it either species, either sex, give mule deer their own tag. They are in such a decline they are not going to be here in 10 years.

Chairman Lauber – In decline and the more decline, the more the demand and numbers are dropping. I don't know how much is harvest and how much is other factors, but we will consider that. Levi might have something to add on whether either-sex tags are affecting the population.

Levi Jaster – Related to going to a draw for any mule deer tags, we have been having some internal discussions, so we're continuing that. Either-sex tags for mule deer, the number is low and relative to population for does. I don't know if it's a local issue for high numbers in an area but if spread across the range, it's not been identified as an issue. K-State did identify some things going on. A big one was grasslands; any fawn that survived in that study was in grass knee to waist high. Go to western Kansas and find fields like that. Our deer population tracks well with CRP and when it increased in Kansas, growth rates between deer populations and CRP acres increased and match well. Going to a tag specific to mule deer presents other problems. In western Kansas, you can kill a mule deer if you're not particular about which mule deer. If we give people a tag specifically for mule deer, they will kill one, but having that either-species tag, often times, they will fill with a whitetail deer instead. A hunter is happy he killed a deer but he has not killed a mule deer. That doesn't mean people don't get that tag and their goal is a mule deer only. Look at immensely restrictive tags if specific and possibly a separate season to keep harvest down to where we are or reduce more.

Shook – The reason I was asking for a stamp or draw for archery and muzzleloader season is to possibly reduce stress off of mule deer, they may still chase them and if they don't get one, they will go whitetail hunting. They get pushed off of prime habitat. Some areas there is a vehicle every mile, during rut and rifle season and put stress on the animals at a time they don't need to be stressed. Looking for way to reduce hunting pressure so they're not so stressed.

Jaster – Hunters do have to sacrifice for muzzleloader or rifle tag, if they draw a rifle tag as a resident, they are limited to those zones. That is one thing with an archery tag, they have statewide privileges.

Shook – Guys I know that don't draw, they just go

out and buy an over-the-counter muzzleloader tag. Put archery and muzzleloader in a draw. Jaster – To help with stress, we need to be getting more grass on the landscape; deer in western Kansas heavily use CRP fields and that tall grass structure to hide. We had a tough year last year and concerned with this next year. I have talked to landowners in western Kansas and they feel the same way. It's about being able to have grass on the landscape, and we need rain. That's one of the biggest things that came out of that study, how to put that back out there and protect what we've got because that has exacerbated some of these issues. Getting habitat back out there is the key to recovery. And we'll work on the other stuff as we can. Commissioner Escareno – Had Kyser family farms contact me, he had a trophy buck he had been watching for 3-4 years, felt it was time to shoot it. I didn't realize we go out and count deer at night and use spotlights. He complained that when we count, we spooked deer out of his farm ground and had issues with all the deer moving from his property and he felt we were at fault for spooking them out. I visited with Levi on this and tried to explain it to him. Thought it would be a good time to bring that up so we know this happens at night. I felt they should have given him respect and given him a call that they would be on his property, so he knows that is happening and that it's not someone poaching. Chairman Lauber – Aren't those done on public roads? Jaster – That is done on public roads. We've tried that on certain routes if we can. Crews change each year and full time staff do the same routes every year. The number of people we would have to contact is too many and I would have to hire 2-3 more people just to call each one. It has not been my experience that deer flee and stay away. I would be concerned that something else is going on beyond that because I have gone back and spotlighted the same route multiple nights in a row and the deer are still there. Some deer run away from lights but come back. In the Western half of Kansas, deer home ranges are huge, we are talking 10-12 square miles for home range for whitetails and mule deer. There is a limited resource if they have to spread out that much. When you start thinking about an average home range being 10-12 square miles, some are up to 20 square miles. Most people don't own that much property to keep deer's entire home range on one property. It's possible they are moving around to whatever resource they need. We try to minimize impacts, we go down the road, see deer, collect data and move on. We have been investigating other techniques for eastern Kansas urban areas, like trying thermal equipment to not have to shine a light, but the problem is expense. Crews talk to a lot of people at night. It is one way we can cost-effectively get a population estimate every year or so... We're trying to address issues that have arisen and will continue to do so.

Kyle Adams, Wichita – Thank you for all you do, a thankless position... I've seen proposals shot down at the state level and we see that as sportsmen. Also, I want to say "thank you" to wardens and biologists who are spread too thin and doing the best they can. My question revolves around the "Stop the Spread" campaign. I want to know if there have been any proposals or thought given to elimination of baiting statewide for cervids. It is rampant, not just CWD but baiting. Secretary Loveless – That conversation has been evolving lately. Jaster – We've discussed this lately and are investigating it deeper. It is probably the goal but how do we get there from here? At one time, we did not bait in Kansas at all. Assistant Secretary Schrag – When we opened to nonresidents, prior to that, we didn't have a culture of baiting before that time. Jaster – It is a complicated topic, not just from the wildlife biologist opinion or wildlife disease standpoint, but because it has become a cottage industry for feeders, corn and other grain, so how do we address that? Not just shut down right away and being told "We can't do that if it comes from the legislature." We need to get landowners on board, too. We can address it on public land but not on private land, so how do we build support, or even 50% support, to limit it? So, we have to address that through education, "Stop the Spread" ads were mostly related to CWD but that was part of that. After September, when we had a morning panel discussion on CWD, we talked

about building an educational campaign to try to get more information out and into hunter's hands, so they understand why it is important and this is something we need to address. Adams – If there's anything we as sportsmen can do to facilitate that, I know several that would be interested. Secretary Loveless – To Levi's comment, if we talk with you and tried to make "no more baiting" after a certain date, it would be a huge mess... (We're focusing on) education and working to start down this road and start with people who will voluntarily do it and give people plenty of warning that it is what we are thinking. We are having those conversations and will use everybody's best advice on how we can constructively move ahead. It wasn't that long ago that there wasn't good science on the connection between baiting and CWD. That has changed and with that, and good science, we will change our policy.

Jackie Augustine, executive director for Audubon of Kansas – We are supportive of wildlife license plates. Curious if that is part of updates today. We were excited about Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA) and how that was emphasizing greater focus on nongame wildlife. Now that it didn't make the last federal budget, we hope the Commission still has focus on nongame wildlife.

Matt Yancey, Sterling – It's in the regulations now that you can use a drone to scout for hunting, but not hunt for 24 hours on that property. Why isn't recovering animals same as that with the same exclusion of not being able to hunt? Secretary Loveless – Why can't you use a drone to recover an animal to find an animal after you shoot it; I don't know the exact answer to that, we will follow up on that. My speculation would be that every time we put a regulation in place, we have to figure out how to effectively enforce it. If drone use is closely related to a hunt, the worry would be that you wouldn't be using it to locate an animal that has been shot, you may be trying to blur the line. Officers have a difficult time being fair in the field and they want to be fair. We're worried about hunters misusing that drone and using it to actually hunt. We can get your contact information and have a conversation with law enforcement about that and get back with you. Yancey – Even if blurring the line, at that point, it goes back to scouting regardless, and you shouldn't hunt that property for 24 hours after any drone flight whatsoever. No way to really blur it. If you wounded it at that point, you are scouting. Does that make sense? If you fly with intention of locating an animal wounded or not wounded, it would fall under same statute of a 24-hour ban from hunting the property once you put up the drone. Secretary Loveless – You are saying you shouldn't be able to use a drone for anything after scouting? Yancey – Whether scouting or recovering, either way. If you wounded an animal, a warden could say you are scouting at that point and if not mortally wounded, it is still a 24-hour ban with no hunting. It would be tough to know when a drone left the air and what a 24-hour period is. Like e-logs, you could log it in the drone and register to fly it, but still a 24-hour ban. Chairman Lauber – We will review those issues when this comes up again. Sometimes things seem fair and easy to pass and then you get a group of knowledgeable people who come up with lots of reasons it may not work. We will give it consideration.

Tyler Grauberger (online) – CWD and what the plan is moving forward. I'm an out of stater, who comes to Kansas to hunt deer every year for over 20 years now; seeing CWD on the rise. My deer I shot in November tested positive and I just got the results. Not only am I out \$600 on a deer tag now, I'm out the money to process the meat and I don't know what to do with the meat. Do you have anything moving forward that is going to reassure that you are taking the appropriate steps to manage herds so this doesn't keep happening? Chairman Lauber – Like to see instant test and there aren't any. There is not a lot we can do. Secretary Loveless – We're doing what we can, as well as other states we are working with, to speed up that testing. A lot of

us have dealt with the same thing. To your point of trying to get rid of CWD, we are changing management and had a good discussion in September and are figuring out next actions to reduce levels of CWD. There's no technology to get rid of it unfortunately but we are working on a management plan to keep it low enough to not become catastrophic. A faster test is what everybody needs and we're working as hard as we can on that. Chairman Lauber – We neither encourage nor discourage consumption of that meat if an animal tests positive. There are no known cases where it has jumped from a deer to a human. And there's no way to solve that problem or to quantify what we do if that happens. It's a risk if you shot a deer and it was feverish or had internal organs damaged... Tyler – An officer was explaining to me that there was a monkey that contracted CWD from consuming meat in the past 6-8 months. His suggestion was to not eat it because there were concerns that it might be mutated more towards Mad Cow Disease. It is discouraging when I spent close to \$1,000 to come to your state and hunt. I was told they were sorry that it had been two months and I had paid for processing, better luck next year. Is the two-month delay because of the number of tests you are submitting or based on the number of tags? What is the two-month delay? Chairman Lauber – That doesn't have anything to do with tags. You get a test, send it in and labs are a two-week turn around. Tyler – So it took six weeks for my test to get there? Chairman Lauber – I am unfamiliar with that. Tyler – I am from Colorado, here we have a reimbursement program because of the delay. Nobody is going to keep deer in their freezer on bone two months to see if a deer tested positive, it's a waste to me. Colorado has a reimbursement program if your deer tests positive, they suggest you throw it away. Is that something Kansas may move towards to help take care of the hunter in this situation? Jaster – Some of the delays had to do with lab staffing. Even the best time we have had, as well as other states with their own labs, has been two weeks turn around. A week of shipping and week in the lab is the ideal conditions. It takes time to set up the test. Bare minimum of a lab technician getting their hands on the sample to having the sample results ready has been 72 hours. The processes take time. Now we have more issues, lab staffing, enough for the number of samples, switched labs with one of our research projects from doing it in Missouri to a Colorado state lab because of the time it takes; Missouri lab was taking a month. There are new tests coming around that may be faster but they're not ready to go into production, they're in the trial phase of figuring out how to mass produce them and test them. The last few years there have been major developments in CWD research from this standpoint, so we'll see where we are going. It is disheartening but there is not a lot to be done at this point. States address this in different ways. Every state has to look at the best solution they can put into place for the conditions they have. Commissioner Gfeller – Labs in Kansas are not Wildlife and Parks managed? Jaster – No, they are mostly the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, outside of our current research project, is where our samples go. Hunters are also welcome to submit samples directly to them, but they would be responsible to pay for that themselves. Going into a new year, so prices will probably be changing... We have no lab that is KDWP-controlled. Most of that is several millions of dollars to set up. Commissioner Gfeller – Samples have to be cultured before tests are final? Jaster – The process for the test, they have to get lymph nodes, sliced thin and dyed; dye has to set and then a technician has to look at that. What they are looking for is clusters of the prions. They have to do more than one sample to be sure it's not an anomaly, and it takes time for the dye to set and to slice them thin. Most labs, to be cost effective, have to do them in large batches, too. In talking to researchers in other places, sometimes even if they only have one or two samples to look at, that may delay it because they wait for more samples to come in. Some of the medium they deal with you pay the same amount whether you do one sample or 50 samples. Commissioner Gfeller – Until there's a reliable field test with instant results there is not much we can do to speed the process. Right? Jaster – Yes. In the last couple of weeks, we have seen some presentations on preliminary research results that

are exciting on some new testing, but they're still in early testing phases. If that comes about, that will help. A potential field test is what everybody is looking for.

Kaitlin Lospinoso (online) – I moved to Kansas a few months ago from North Carolina. I have slowly been getting into hunting and trapping and getting the lay of the land. I was out on Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area last Saturday, off of McIntyre Creek Road, and I was intending to set a trap line but walked across a field and found where a hunter had been out that morning and there were about 100 crow carcasses left all over on the field. He was using a downed tree as a blind and had a bucket for a seat, surrounded by all of his empty shot shells he had left. He had piles and piles of carcasses left on a piece of public land. Some of the piles were rotting away and some were fresh. This is probably something he does weekly out there. I wasn't sure of the rules on wanton waste in Kansas. I contacted Ben Jedlicka, my local warden, he came and talked to me. I used the guy's bucket to pick up some of them and found two crows still alive, only 15-20 yards from his blind. If they made an effort, it would have been easy to find them. One was with a broken wing, and one with a broken leg. I took them home and one died before I could take it to a rehabber, Operation Wildlife. Ben came to my house the day before yesterday and asked me to come speak at this hearing. He gets a lot of calls about these crows. Crows are considered webless migratory birds, they have season dates but no bag limit. They're treated like game but regarding carcass disposal and wanton waste, there is no regulation on them. They can be disposed of in any manner and wanton waste laws don't apply to them as far as making sure you put down crippled or wounded game, and clean carcasses and dispose of them in a respectful manner. In addition, there is no non-toxic shot requirement for crows, even on public land where there are no restrictions for toxic shot; Tuttle Creek is one of those wildlife areas with no toxic shot requirement. You are talking about an animal with no bag limit, no non-toxic shot requirement and no carcass disposal laws. That was a field full of 100 crow carcasses filled with lead shot that are sitting there. Some were in the nearby creek, so lead shot was in the creek because carcasses are rotting in the creek. They are all left out where raptors or whatever else could pick on the carcasses... My main concern, left on public land, it can have its own restrictions; it is statewide the crow regulations are such that hunters can leave crow carcasses out and not clean them up, not use non-toxic shot and do whatever. That could be a statewide regulation but with regards to public land, there are people out there who are not hunters or trappers, they're just going out to enjoy nature. Then they come across something like that. Most people don't mind hunting and trapping if done according to regulation and done respectfully. What I came across was enough to turn anyone against hunters. It was enough to make me frustrated at who did that and at the regulations allowed that to happen. Ben said the only thing he could go after was littering, for left shot shells and not for the carcasses. I wanted to understand if there is anything we were missing with the regulations and that is behavior that is legal to do? If so, is that something that can be changed? If we could get more regulation on disposal and non-toxic shot at least on public land, if not statewide. Chairman Lauber – We will give that consideration, Rich Schultheis, our webless waterfowl manager, will look at that. Thank you for bringing that to our attention. Assistant Secretary Schrag – We haven't had a meeting in a while between public lands and the law enforcement division due to the pandemic, but we plan to start those coordination meetings back up. That is a topic that would be a good discussion. We will undertake that.

V. DEPARTMENT REPORT (continued)

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status Report – Brad Loveless, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission. Our 2023 budget year started July 1 and are just under \$99 million for all divisions. Report is through end of December. Park fee fund (PFF), is derived from entrance and camping fees and annual vehicle passes at state parks. The total year to date revenue is \$4.3 million. This is approximately \$2.7 million less than same period last year. Obviously we have come through COVID and that was an unusual time for us. What we are doing with PFF, as well as our other funds, is tracking them based on comparisons to last couple of years and looking at pre-COVID levels to be realistic in comparisons. We will be analyzing this and having internal discussions based on longer term data. Cabin revenue, from parks and public lands, is under half million dollars, down about 40% from previous year. There is about \$245,000 less than previous three years in comparison. Wildlife fee fund (WFF), comes from sale of hunting and fishing licenses, big game permits, tags, etc. WFF revenue for fiscal year to end of December is about \$7.1 million, a third decline from previous year. This includes \$2.7 million deficit in month of July due to delay in reimbursement, to unsuccessful big game applicants. Ordinarily that reimbursement would have occurred earlier but because we changed our licensing system it fell in different year. In long term we will develop an accurate perspective. WFF cash balance was \$22.5 million, \$11 million down since beginning of fiscal year. That fund is always being added to and subtracted from, basically a bank account. The fact that we are about \$10 million down isn't alarming, the question is timing of the reimbursement. Boat fee fund (BFF) is revenue from boat registrations and what we use to provide boating safety education and access infrastructure to support boating public. FY 2023 receipts through the end of the year are \$480,000, a decline of 26% from previous year. Again, COVID boat activities were higher than usual. Governor's budget recommendation released this morning. We made proposals to the Governor, review with staff starting tomorrow on how we are doing. For the future we have requests for higher spending authority as well as funds from State general fund (SGF) or from EDIF lottery revenues for running our department. We will update you in the future. Right now, they are just out and we will be analyzing them in next couple days.

2. Legislative Update – Dan Riley, Chief Legal Counsel, presented this update to the commission. Legislature just got rolling this week. One bill introduced of interest and potential direct impact on us. HB 2006 (Exhibit F), line 29, has language that states, "it would be unlawful for any person to", do a number of things related to spotlights, headlights or artificial light sources. Also, on page two, line 6, states "Any rule or regulation promulgated to the contrary is void." As introduced this bill would have a direct impact on existing regulation 115-5-1 (Exhibit G), section d, adopted by you in August 2020, which provides, from January 1 through March 31 there is a special hunting season for coyotes that allows artificial light sources. So, bill is directed at that particular regulation. Chairman Lauber – Is this a desire to take away our ability to have those rules, or to take away our ability to have any rules? Chief Counsel Riley – Hard to infer intent from the language. It appears to be fairly clear that language would have intended impact on that provision in that regulation. What intent to do so, I couldn't say. Commissioner Sporer – Who is Carmichael and why would he present this? Chief Counsel Riley – He is a legislator that is familiar to us and historically has been friendly to our issues. Chairman Lauber – Where is he from? Chief Counsel Riley – From Wichita. Commissioner Sporer – 92nd district. Chief Counsel Riley – It is difficult to infer intent from a piece of legislation. We can connect dots to see what impact it would have on our regulations but wouldn't want to infer what someone's purpose was. It would definitely impact 115-5-1. Commissioner Gfeller – The way I read this, artificial lights, scopes, thermal imaging, night hunting is still ok as long as it is not done from a vehicle or done on public lands. Am I reading that right? Under (d) (1), (2) and (3). Commissioner Sporer – Does this document have anything to do with the House bill or is this a separate issue? Chief Counsel

Riley – This is our regulation because the language in the bill will directly impact that. In terms of the direct impact and intended application of the language, I don't know that it only applies to use of devices from a vehicle. I didn't read it that way but I haven't dissected it line by line either. I've not dug into it much, because it was just introduced this week. Chairman Lauber – At first glance you would think it means they want to protect coyotes but that doesn't make sense. Chief Counsel Riley – Not much, no. I would be hesitant to infer any intent. Historically Representative Carmichael has been an ally of ours when we needed support. He is on the rules and regs committee, so I deal with him frequently there and has been someone who has been good for us to work with. We wanted to make you aware of it and we will keep an eye on it. Commissioner Sill – Could you address the license plate issue that Ms. Augustine brought up? Update the public on where we stand with those. Chief Counsel Riley – As everyone is probably aware, we did get legislation approved to authorize four license plates. The second phase of that process is submitting designs to the Department of Revenue. What we found was that the plate design itself had to be reviewed for clarity. It was explained to us that the license plates purpose was to identify the vehicle so clarity is a major issue. The Department of Revenue has a multi-layer process, in terms of establishing that and part of that includes being reviewed by the Highway Patrol. When our four plates were reviewed, the comment was that they were beautiful but unfortunately some of our designs diminished the clarity and we didn't pass that test. Before we can move into the next phase we will have to redesign to some extent to increase clarity to get it approved. We are hung up at that point right now until we meet the standards of visibility and clarity.

B. General Discussion

Assistant Secretary Schrag – Follow up on deer carcass tag issue and comments from two gentleman. Everything they brought up has been part of our conversations. What it boils down to is validating legal harvest, even with green Tyvek tags or the printable at home tags there has always been a means of not doing things legally. You could have affixed that Tyvek tag to an animal, not filled out the information, cut off and reuse it. Our officers dealt with that. We need to address validating that legal harvest in manner that is beneficial not only for the hunter but the officer in the field checking that. Along with e-tagging and transporting that animal home legally and what that looks like. Some states require as simple as just a wrap of duct tape around the animal with the e-tag confirmation number written on it. That is a way to validate it was a legal harvest. It gives the hunter a piece of mind that they are transporting a legal animal. The processor that animal might be delivered to as well. I wanted to reassure you we will make this an agenda item and that will be part of conversation.

1. Commissioner Permit Update and Drawing – Stuart Schrag, Assistant Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H). Done once a year and up to seven big game permits are drawn and issued 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. The first permits were awarded in January 2006, when seven conservation organizations applied and drew one elk and six deer permits. Now we are averaging around 200 applications from these conservation organizations. Since 2006 we have raised almost \$1.5 million for conservation efforts. A beneficial program. In 2022, seven deer permits were issued to several conservation organizations, which included Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Those permits sold for a record average of \$43,500, with the highest one selling for \$55,000, the highest price ever for a deer permit. Money is raised for

conservation programs like “Bring Back The Bottoms,” the Pheasant Initiative, youth programs, and things like that.

Drawing Winners (Exhibit I):

Commissioner Emerick Cross – (1) – #32, Ducks Unlimited, Derby #065 (deer)

Commissioner Warren Gfeller – (2) – #2, Ducks Unlimited, Salina #015 (deer)

Chairman Gerald Lauber – (3) – #137, Ducks Unlimited, Smoky Hill #083 (deer)

Commissioner Lauren Queal Sill – (4) – #162, RMEF Tri-Rivers/Salina #16326 (deer)

Commissioner Phil Escareno – (5) – #143, Ducks Unlimited, NKC Shooters #090 (deer)

Commissioner Troy Sporer – (6) – #183, Ducks Unlimited, Marais des Cygnes Valley #038 (deer)

Commissioner Delia Lister (drawn by Chairman Lauber) – (7) – #120, Ducks Unlimited, Western Kansas #006 (deer)

Sheila Kemmis – Permits are numbered as they come in so there may be a group of Ducks Unlimited chapters that comes in, then other organizations, then another group of Ducks Unlimited. There are more DU chapters in the state than any other organization. That is why it leans toward DU.

2. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Richard Schultheis, assistant director of wildlife division, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit J). Here to introduce process for webless migratory game birds for 2023/24 regulation cycle. Regulations for doves, cranes, snipe, rails, woodcocks and crows must adhere to federal frameworks similar to process we follow for waterfowl. Unlike waterfowl, stability in federal frameworks allows us to include webless migratory bird seasons and bag limits in our permanent regulations. For the 2023-24 season there have been no changes to those federal frameworks. We are not anticipating any proposed changes to webless regulations as far as seasons and bag limits, but final staff recommendations will be presented at the March commission meeting. Summary of proposed season dates is in the briefing item. The issue that came up earlier about crows and wanton waste on public lands is not a new issue. It is a difficult issue to wade through as far as regulations and interpretations. I would be happy to discuss further with individual who had the question and talk to commission about it in the future. Always happy to look at better ways to resolve some of those issues. Commissioner Sporer – Looking on the internet and under crows it says, legally taken crows can be possessed without limit and time and disposed in any manner. Secretary Loveless – Larry Hasting, captain with law enforcement here and Rich here and a lot of folks with experience. How often do these kinds of things come up? Schultheis – Every few years or so we will have a question about crows, specifically on public lands where you have multiple users. The issue that comes up is leaving them on public lands and how that is interpreted. As far as regulations, it is correct that crows are handled differently than most of our migratory birds we hunt, as far as wanton waste issue. Regulations are different than if duck or pheasant or something like that but there are still some things that pertain to them as far as leaving anything out on a public wildlife area, shell hulls, lunch garbage or anything. I think there are some things that could be done on that. It has come up in the past and similar situations on public lands. Commissioner Gfeller – Is this time and place to consider crow disposal question? The comments the person made are valid, even if rare, one time visible to visitors on public lands is an impression that is not a good one and not helpful to ethics of hunting. If situations rare, want urgency on dealing with something like that. When and how do we go about doing something about that? Assistant Secretary Schrag – On public lands, unfortunately it is not just crow issues. Public lands are the dumping grounds for a lot of things. The best manner in which we discuss this and move this forward to address this is public lands and law enforcement officers getting together, talking about this issue and what the best process. If we should look at amending

regulations, adding regulations and enforceability of that. If commissioners advise amending that we will discuss in our LE/PL meeting. Chairman Lauber – I think that makes sense to go ahead and do that. Assistant Secretary Schrag – We can do that. Like Rich said, it depends on the county attorneys and how they view trash or littering and things like that. We can try to enforce that under our littering regulation. Obviously the other trash we do. There is still some gray areas on shell hulls in some counties. That is an issue public lands has been talking about. If it is a severe case like that we can always make the case and present it to the court and let them decide if a pile of crows like that is littering along with totality of the evidence with other trash.

Commissioner Gfeller – That is a good plan but the language Commissioner Sporer read, is there any way to take away no disposal required by any means? Can we remove that language and then deal with public lands issue. Schultheis – As far as crows that is something we can look into. There is wanton waste in crows in the history of crows, depredation, control, sport hunting; a long history as far as crow hunting and some complex issues there. But we can certainly take a look at that, provide background and come up with the options. Commissioner Gfeller – Intent of the language is you don't have to eat them if you don't want to. That doesn't mean leave them lay either. Commissioner Sill – I believe the implication is that they will be disposed of and not left lying. They can go in your trash can instead of the fridge. To me there is an implication that you will be responsible in addition to the ethics of it. Commissioner Cross – Any other animals we deal with like that? Rich – The one that comes to mind for me is components of animals in furbearer circumstances. Matt Peek – There is wanton waste law but there are others that may be disposed in that way. Chairman Lauber – Maybe language like, be disposed of in any manner but not left in the field, or something like that. Look into it and see what you can do because it merits some discussion. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Public lands and law enforcement will include Rich and his staff in this conversation as well.

Chairman Lauber – Tom, could you reiterate the time sequence, or timing of when this gets from workshop to public hearing and what meeting those are so we know how much time we need before we have to vote. Bidrowski – Today is our scoping meeting, staff recommendations will be presented at March commission meeting, then put to consensus vote for April meeting and season dates are due to the Fish and Wildlife Service May 1. Chairman Lauber – We will vote on ducks in April and in March have first staff recommendations. Bidrowski – Correct.

3. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, waterfowl program manager, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit K). Presenting waterfowl bag and possession limits and seasons. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with input from Flyways, 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. A briefing item was prepared for the commission packet regarding development of Kansas 2023-2024 waterfowl seasons. Included are the proposed USFWS frameworks and other background materials. There are no proposed changes in federal frameworks from previous years. This is scoping meeting and staff recommendations will be presented at March meeting. Chairman Lauber – Have other commissioners received complaints from southeast Kansas this winter? I have not.

Commissioners all stated they had received none. Bidrowski – We had a little different migration this year and we have gone to framework for how staff recommendations so it does have shifting season framework. Next year will be slightly different than this season. That is covered on third page of briefing item. Chairman Lauber – Have you heard anything Troy? Commissioner Sporer – I haven't heard anything from the southeast Kansas boys. We are still getting pressure on

public lands. I went from harvesting 800 ducks a year at Cedar Bluff to three years ago I had 80, last year I had 40 and I am at 14 this year. My duck hunting career is just about over. Nonresident plates around the lake are ten to one, only one local hunter on Cedar Bluff the rest were nonresidents. I went so far as wanting to rent my cabin and my side-by-side. Commissioner Sill – Anything helpful for us to know about in preparing for recommendations from next meeting? As far as impacts of drought, impacts of Cheyenne Bottoms being shut down; did that push hunters to other places? How has that impacted things? Is there history we need to know today to help us be prepared to be wise as we listen at the next meeting? Bidrowski – I will provide a season synopsis of this year. Drought conditions through most of Kansas. We just finished mid-winter waterfowl survey and even in southeast Kansas only about 40% of the wetlands have water in them so that displaced a lot of hunters and displaced ducks and geese as well. Ducks were seen in abnormal places and that was partly due to the drought and weather patterns but also hunting pressure. A lot when into our migration. We had weather events that moved birds earlier in the year and those birds quickly wised up when they came to Kansas, for the ones that stayed around. Commissioner Sill – Did those factors impact situations like Mr. Sporer is seeing with pushing hunters to places where the water was and ducks were. The guys and gals that normally hunt Cheyenne Bottoms; did they just take a year off or hunt someone else? Did that exacerbate what he has been seeing in his pocket of the world? There are multiple factors but I am curious, especially on Cheyenne Bottoms thing, where did they go? Bidrowski – Hunters are highly mobile; they go where the ducks go and that was based on permanent water sources like reservoirs and other places in the state with more reliable water sources. That did displace them. We did see a drop in number of nonresident permit sales, from 42% last year to 34% this year, which is where it was about five years ago. The Bottoms usually has about 12,000 hunters that got displaced this year. This is the second time in 15 years it has been dry. Commissioner Sporer – The people that normally would go to the Bottoms ended up at Cedar Bluff and they will tell you that. Generally speaking, the Bottoms would close the second weekend in December and those people hunting there would then come to Cedar Bluff, Wilson or Webster. What has changed with waterfowling and the pressure is so intense on public lands that ducks become nocturnal earlier in the season, maybe before Thanksgiving and maybe before that in first week of the season. They will set on refuge and not come out to feed until sunset. It is an un-huntible population of ducks. It has changed the whole idea of waterfowling on public lands because of so much pressure. I value a duck, but 30,000 ducks on Cedar Bluff that sit on refuge all day and feed at night, that is not duck hunting that is bird watching. Until we curb pressure nothing is going to change. Commissioner Gfeller – I have a request. Last time we did this you brought good data on resident/nonresident and specific data on waterfowl areas in the state and the pressure. I know we will have that discussion again. I ask that you refresh that data, update it where you can and make it part of your presentation. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Due for another roundtable discussion to include updated numbers and Ryan Stucky will be talking about this under public lands regulations. We will have some comments and hopefully some of the items you mentioned will be addressed better shortly.

4. Furbearer Regulations – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented these regulation to the Commission (Exhibit L). We are opening up furbearer regulations back up for discussion for review and public comment. These are permanent regulations that are not brought forward every year. They were last year but are being brought forth again this year to fulfill the Department's commitment to review the night vision coyote hunting season following the third open season. The third season is currently open until March. Our timeline is we will conduct hunter survey in early April, analyze data and have discussion in house and bring back to the commission at the April meeting and have recommendations. The Furbearer Committee will also

be looking at other aspects of furbearer management and furbearer harvest, particularly looking for ways we might facilitate the harvest of furbearers given the comments and interest expressed in time of low pelt market. We are not yet making recommendations but want to notify the Commission and the public that these items will be under review soon. From first two seasons of night vision permit. Between first and second year, the number of night vision permits sold decreased 25%, from 5,776 to 4,351. The reason for that is a lot of people either bought permit and didn't hunt or weren't successful like they thought and didn't purchase it the second year. About 80% of permit hunters are active, about 3,500 active night vision hunters out of total 35,000 total estimated coyote hunters in the state, about 10%. The night vision hunters are more effective than day hunters, they took an average of 7.8 coyotes total during night vision season where average daytime hunter in recent years would take 3.5 to 4 coyotes. I say it appears that they are more effective, but it is certainly likely they are more committed and dedicated coyote hunters who would have harvested more than daytime hunters. More analysis could be done. The effectiveness of nighttime hunters increased from first to second season because use of equipment changed from 24% decreased of using lights and number of hunters using nighttime permits used thermal imaging equipment instead, it increased by 21%. Hunters who are buying the permit are gravitating more towards the most effective lighting technique, which is thermal imaging equipment. More information from survey I will present at a future meeting. There is a lot of interest by the people who have these permits in expanding their opportunity to more than just coyotes, for more than three months, on more than just private land. They basically want this completely opened up whereas there is some opposition to this out there. This House bill was news to me. Heard from daytime coyote hunter who felt it was harder for him because of nighttime hunting. Not everybody out there supports it. We will have a lot of different things to consider in the coming meetings. Chairman Lauber – Anecdotally, I heard this week that Iowa is considering opening raccoon season year-round. Are you aware of that? Peek – I had not heard that. Chairman Lauber – Maybe worth checking into. I think they are responding to comparable problem with too many raccoons. Commissioner Sporer – What happened to fur trade and what is economics of it? Peek – I think foreign relations with China and Russia have not been good and the worldwide economy, as a result of COVID is very detrimental in some cases is a luxury item. In other cases, like our raccoons, would primarily go to Russia for a utilitarian coat for warmth in extremely cold climates, so there is a utilitarian component. There is all types of worldwide market and trade things that go into this. Also, I think that the opposition to fur may have gained some traction in some places. For several years there was a good coyote market, primarily going to Canada Goose coats and Canada Goose quit using wild fur on their jackets and now the coyote market has crashed. There is a couple of good things in the market, one decent thing, as result of Yellowstone series there is an interest in Stetson cowboy hats, which are made of beaver pelt. Probably still below the cost of production but you have a decent market for beaver. Little things like that crop up. Bobcats decent in Kansas because they are being used in bedspreads that heavier western cats are too heavy for, so little things like that makes ups and downs for individual species. As a whole, the large scale fur trade has a lot to do with what was going on in other countries. When the market was good ten years ago, China was a major buyer of almost all wild fur. It is also worth mentioned that the North American fur auctions, originally the Hudson Bay Company that had been in business for 350 years, went bankrupt a few years ago. So, we lost one of the two major North American auction houses, a big hit to the industry. COVID issue resulted in depopulating mink farms, which you might think of as competition to the wild fur industry but a lot of the worldwide pro-fur marketing was funded by ranch mink industry and ranch fur industry constitutes 85% of the worldwide fur trade. So, when some of those countries lost \$17 million mink they also lost money into international fur federation and some of the groups that promote fur use worldwide. Series of things going on that are mostly

detrimental, except Yellowstone series is good for business. Commissioner Sporer – My concern is upland game; we are going to be in a fight for our lives to keep upland game at a huntable level in next few years with the drought. I am concerned about increased population of raccoons and depredation of nests. I would like to hear in a future meeting how true that is and how big a deal that is. Are the coons getting our turkey, pheasant and quail eggs? Is that viable situation, is that something we need to take over as far as night vision to take some of the stress off of upland game? Chairman Lauber – I would be interested in a more refined analysis of it. The short answer is they have an effect. Whether it is the reason it is hard to say. There is certainly a balance problem between raccoons and game birds. Secretary Loveless – Follow up with discussion, if you list to our biologists, most start with habitat and whether it is adequate then predators have difficult time hunting, so room for birds to nest safely and raise young. As you squeeze the habitat it is easier to work by single coyote or raccoon so it makes a tough situation worse. We typically talk long and hard about better habitat and if you look at programs we do on our own lands and private lands across the state that is always our focus, better and more habitat. I promise we will loop back on this and have better discussion next time on the role of predators, because they do play a role. And our perspective on best approach to manage. Commissioner Sporer – We don't have any control over rain but maybe there is an opportunity to take a piece of property that maybe had 3-4 coons on it that now has 30-40 coons on it. Maybe that is the only opportunity we have to control this, is predation. I get the habitat issue but it is something we can't control. Chairman Lauber – Reduced habitat coupled with more nest raiders is a bad formula. Commissioner Sporer – When more coyotes than pheasants I believe that is an imbalance. Secretary Loveless – A couple years ago South Dakota was passing out traps to encourage people to trap more, there budget was \$1 million and they quickly spent that but didn't notice any changes that I am aware of. We visited with a landowner in Butler County who had considerable land holdings and was concerned about upland nest predators for almost 20 years, they actively trapped nest predators consistently and saw consistent harvest but it never knocked them down. What happened was they harvested predators, but when you create a vacuum the neighboring predators come in. They were not able to get below baseline level even though they worked hard at it. Chairman Lauber – Don't know if we harvest enough coons to make a difference. We can liberalize the season and take some but that would show we are doing something. Come up with recommendations and discussion points. Commissioner Gfeller -There is a direct relationship between habitat shrinking and predation problems increasing because safe zones are smaller and predators have an easier job. Curious how you deal with that? I assume habitat is what it is and influenced by federal programs, CRP and other things so maybe we have to assume the worst and manage for that. Secretary Loveless – We are glad to talk about our Habitat First program which is a great way to put more habitat on the ground with cooperating landowners. Glad to address that. Commission Sill – I would like to see that expand to look at not just silos, habitat goes across the board, but we have upland and furbearers and there is more to the discussion and some hard topics to discuss like deer feeders, whether bait or feeding, what impact those do. You have decreasing habitat and increasing congregation and food resources within that habitat, habitat decreasing, food sources are rampant. Please address the full scope of it, not too many siloed approaches. Matt, back to night vision and coyotes. The demographics of those night vision hunters. Are they spread equally across the state or do they tend to be concentrated in specific regions of the state; what is that demographic? Peek – I have not done any analysis on location. I can do that. Commissioner Sill – I would be curious as to where they are hunting and being successful if statewide or in certain pockets. Peek – I believe statewide based on people I have talked to who have mentioned it going on around them, from far east to far west. I know there are some people statewide but whether that is group of coyote hunters as a

whole I don't know. Commissioner Sill – Thank you and thank you for explanation of fur trade, that was interesting.

5. Public Land Regulations – Ryan Stucky, public lands assistant director, presented these regulation to the Commission (Exhibit M). This is the time of year we propose new changes or updates, edits or additions to the public lands regulations. We don't have anything for today. We still have four that have workshopped seven times. We are having internal talks on several issues and one of the main issues being discussed continues to be the concern. Too much hunting pressure on public lands and relative to negative impacts on the resource and hunter satisfaction. Stuart wants to mention a couple things he has been working on over the last year or year and half on reaching out to other states to see what they are doing. Assistant Secretary Schrag – When conversation started a few years ago, when we started seeing influx of nonresidents and over-pressure issues started to come to light, we made decision to not make knee-jerk decisions, we are about evaluating things and looking at numbers, listening to staff in the field and continue to evaluate and look at it over coming years. One question was, is this because of pandemic or is this the new normal? From what we are hearing we feel it is new normal. Here we are new Arkansas when it comes to waterfowl hunting and need to look at taking some action. Staff continues to discuss this. At point now, want to emphasis this is not an overcrowding issue, but overpressure issue It is not that we have too many hunter bodies in the marshes, it is a switch in the culture. Seeing an influx of a group of 6-12 individuals from out east that stay 30-50 days or come out every weekend and are there every day all day, never leave the marsh and are shooting constantly and creating issues for the resource ducks, like Commissioner Sporer said. Making them more nocturnal and that circles back to hunter satisfaction too. We are at the point where staff is passing around ideas for recommendations. For transparency, I have heard shot shell limits per property, days per year that nonresidents can hunt, allotting the first couple weeks of each segment to residents-only. A whole host of things that have been discussed. One of the things we have to take into consideration if we are going to make recommendations is that going to be through the commission process at regulation level or have to occur at legislative level under state statutes, which would be more time consuming and could take longer to get passed and implemented on the ground. Commissioner Sporer – Saw numerous times this year, on several different areas; a group of nonresident hunters would come in, two pickup loads of guys, and 4-6 guys would hunt public lands for 4-5 days. They would have a day or two they were successful and go back home and have another circle of friends that came behind them and they were dropping pins as to where the good spots were to hunt. So scouting wasn't even part of it, they would step in and start hunting immediately. Technology has changed how those people do that versus me going to another state and has to scout for a few days then hunt for two days. It is difference in technology and how they hunt. If they are not hunting they are hunting for a place to hunt by getting in motorized boat and drive the banks of the lake and push the birds out of what would be a good hunting spot and move the birds around and then the birds end up on a refuge where there is basically no hunting. I had one situation this year. I spent a couple days looking and finally found a couple hundred mallards in a cove on Monday. Went to check on them on Tuesday in my vehicle so I didn't scare them but there were already hunters from Arkansas there hunting them, so obviously I didn't get to hunt. It is an aggressive style of hunting, and it doesn't take a lot on a 6,000-acre reservoir, it only takes one or two groups hunting that way to put birds into a situation where they become nocturnal and impossible to hunt. Nocturnal birds didn't just happen this year, they have been doing it for years but used to not happen until around Christmas. Today, as some of refuge managers last year in the roundtable commented that birds were already nocturnal when they got to their area. It is a relatively new concept but coming on. It is something we need to address because it is different

than it used to be. Assistant Secretary Schrag – Where do we go from here then? We have been talking with other states, Arkansas, the Dakotas and getting dialog on what is working or not working for them to help us move this forward. What I foresee is getting to a point where internally we have had the conversations and vetted it through myself and Secretary Loveless, Rich, Tom and everybody that should be involved to have a sound plan in place with some potential recommendations whether regulatory through the commission or state statute. Then have another panel discussion to bring those forward to discuss. We have made some changes over the last couple years, with boating regulations at the Bottoms and entering the marsh times at Neosho so we have been making some successful impacts. If we truly believe this is the new norm than we need to take that further and keep this moving forward. Commissioner Sporer – I have been trying to get you to stop waterfowl counts since I got on this commission and I haven't been successful I encourage commission and staff to dig into waterfowl counting system and how refuge managers do that. You go to the website, click on hunting, go to reports and forecasts and then you can look at each region and what you see is if you have a public lands area where the public lands manager is a duck hunter the counts are soft balled, virtually don't have a count. Then others give a conditions report and then you have one land manager that lists 20,000 to 30,000 every week consistently. Where are you going to go if you are a hunter from Arkansas? Are you going to go to Tuttle Creek where they are counting 800, go to Jamestown with no count; Travis and Monte are not counting at Neosho, they quit counting last year. You get that one person that gives a big count and it causes that public land to get over-pressured quickly. I think it is time to stop waterfowl counting. I know there was a concern last year about what happens to the secretaries in the offices when all the hunters are calling wanting to know how many ducks or geese are in the area? It is simple, say you don't know and quit responding to it. Tell them to come scout and look for themselves. That is the way the local people do it. I am disheartened about why we continue. Having a conversation about over-pressuring wetlands and then you have big numbers come out and it makes it worse. It is not helping our cause. Assistant Secretary Schrag – That conversation continues to occur within the public lands division and is part of this conversation and decision making as we move forward. We have varying opinions amongst our wetland managers on waterfowl reports. It is discussed frequently and will be part of this project moving forward. Commissioner Sporer – I think that is something you could do tomorrow, you don't have to have legislative or commission approval, you just do it. Assistant Secretary Schrag – We would also get a slew of complaints if we don't post those numbers too. We have to weigh all the arguments in the discussion. Commissioner Sporer – Obviously it is not important to the numbers because over half of the refuge managers aren't posting the numbers they are just giving a conditions report, just say hunting is poor.

Break

6. Military Deer Seasons (KAR 115-25-9a) – Levi Jaster, big game biologist, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit N). This regulation first introduced today and typically voted on in June. Done separately than KAR 115-25-9, which is statewide seasons to allow for setting the seasons around the military needs on those units in case they have something going on that would prevent access. 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 24-26, 2023; regular firearm season dates of December 16-23, 2023; follow statewide seasons otherwise, a change from past years; and a deer hunter may use one

white-tailed deer antlerless-only permit in Fort Riley. Fort Leavenworth has requested the same statewide deer hunting seasons with the following exceptions: the open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be November 11-12, 2023, , November 18-19, 2023, November 23-26, 2023, December 2-3, 2023 and December 9-10, 2023; still 12 days like regular statewide season but different dates; an extended firearm season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 1-21, 2024; and utilize extended archery season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 22-31, 2024; and a deer hunter may use up to five white-tailed deer antlerless-only permits in Fort Leavenworth, subunit 10A.

7. KAR 115-2-1 Amount of Fees – Jake George, wildlife division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit O). No specific recommendations today, those will be in subsequent meetings. I would like to lay some of the groundwork for the reason we are looking at some specific fee increases as well as what we have been doing in the past to keep things going in light of revenue shortfalls we have been seeing for several years. We are a fee funded agency, meaning the funds we have to work from are generated from our hunting, fishing and furharvest license sales. We have seen increasing costs just like everyone has. Between vehicles, increased costs on vehicles such as fuel costs and construction costs, ween labor shortages and increased materials costs a lot of our capital improvement projects, which we have a significant backlog of at the moment, bids are coming in anywhere from two to four times of what was originally estimated and budgeted. Some projects are being reprioritizing or putting those on hold and others we are attempting to move forward. In addition to that, necessary and appreciated, cost of living adjustments we received, increased costs to us; they don't come with additional cash, utilizing same revenue for those increases. Those are appreciated from recruitment and retention of employees in the current job market but another increased cost. From budget planning standpoint, we attempt to identify the needs for developing our fee fund requests. The way that process works is we put together what we anticipate for need for salaries, O&M and capital improvements; those requests go to the legislature as well as the Governor's office for approval; we get an appropriation from that. That gives us the spending authority to utilize a certain amount of those funds in any given fiscal year. The last several years we have not been spending the full amount of our spending authority or appropriation from the wildlife fee fund (WFF). On average we have only been spending 85%. The reasoning behind that is because our annual revenue is less than our appropriations. The easy way of looking at that, if we were to expend the full amount authorized by the legislature we would be slowly chipping at the WFF balance we are currently maintaining. As fiscally responsible individuals we have been limiting ourselves to what we have been bringing in for revenue and keeping it fairly neutral and not eating away at that WFF balance and in contrary have been able to build it up some of the last several years to spite rising costs. Some of that is identified in the briefing book narrative is due to us using other funding sources, either to fund projects or fund some staff time to alleviate pressure on WFF. Long story short, what we have is a revenue shortfall. If we are attempting to accomplish what we have identified in any fiscal year we are currently running salaries, O&M and capital improvements at a revenue shortfall of \$4 to \$6 million on an annual basis; and have been for the last several years. I was tasked with identifying solutions to this shortfall and that brings us to discussions on the fees we are currently charging, the sole source for WFF revenue. The statutes which were included in briefing book specify both caps and specific levels we can establish fees for licenses and permits. The initial task was to review statutes and identify and compare to where current fee regulations are set for specific licenses and permits, where we have ability to make increases and where we can't. An interesting exercise. Out of that came both pluses and minuses. The plus was, there are not many of our current fees that are at the statutory cap with the exception of resident hunting and fishing and furharvesting licenses. We do have

room for increases essentially across the board to some extent. The downside is that leaves options for fee increases and as something that is never popular. Being faced with a lot of options we don't want to go across the board increase. We didn't feel that would be appropriate. Because of this we will be developing specific recommendations that consider several things, including impacts to residents versus nonresidents, current level of demand for specific licenses and permits and those are what we will be coming forward with in future meetings, those specific recommendations. In the meantime, what we would like to do is alleviate the shortfall. For several years we have been implementing cost cutting measures to make ends meet and trying to be fiscally responsible in respect to the WFF. At some point something is going to have to give the increasing prices and that \$4- to \$6-million shortfall we need to make up if really only going to get us to where we need to be now, but not where we need to be in the future. This will not be the end to some of these discussions rather the beginning and hopefully a more frequent review of what we have for regulations on fees going forward. To give you a little history, 2015 and 2016 is when we reviewed and made some of the last major changes to licenses and permits. Prior to that the last time the actual fee caps were changed with the legislature was in 2002. Prior to the changes to permit types, such as resident deer and turkey permits, those were modified in 2015 and implemented in 2016. The last time those were changed before that was 1986; 30 years is a long time to go with no increases even when you are talking about normal inflation when it is your sole source of revenue. Need to do better monitoring and keeping up with that.

Commissioner Gfeller – A big increase is more noticeable than a little one, obviously, so a more regular approach to this with small incremental increases will be better received than one big one. We can't change what we have done but as we move forward, make more frequent review.

Chairman Lauber – I agree but, my first boss would have referred to this as cutting off dogs tail by inches instead of all at once. You have a certain amount of flack every time you raise it and sometimes better just to raise it all at once and move on. I don't know what the answer is.

Commissioner Gfeller – Make it so it is not noticeable. Chairman Lauber – Make it so not noticeable, painless and brings us money.

C. Workshop Session

1. Antelope 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit P). Change since last presented, a technical edit in the way season dates are described. Rather than providing actual calendar dates in this regulation we would like to describe a season framework in a way that is not year specific. For example, rather than listing firearm season dates of October 6, 2023, through October 9, 2023, we would list them as the first Friday in October through the following Monday. They would not be year specific. We are making this recommendation due to changes in the way in which regulations are going through. The season would be able to proceed even if we had some unexpected delays to the regulation process. In addition to the seasons still being held we would still be able to go ahead with the printing of our regulations summary and publications and would be able to advertise season dates. Again, if some type of delay happened we wouldn't be stuck without an established season date for the coming year. It is a technical thing and season dates will remain the same as they have been but will allow us to work in the current system with a lot more confidence. The one substantial change, that I did present at last meeting, was we are proposing to eliminate the late archery season which opens up typically around October 15 after the firearm and muzzleloader seasons have concluded. It is easy for us to reduce harvest of limited permits by reducing permit allocations. If we want to cut harvest of firearm permits we just issue fewer firearm permits. As long as archery is unlimited we have to come up with some other way to address them and this is a good way to still retain unlimited archery opportunities but cut back on

harvest by 8%. Other components of this regulation are standard relative to previous seasons and we will come up with permit allocations at a later date. Barry Raugust – Is it possible to cut back on animals harvested by restricting crossbows and keeping the second season for archery, but limit crossbows? They account for 28% or 29% of archery harvest. Peek - With only 8% of harvest coming from that late season, by limiting them I am assuming that would only amount to one or two animals a year, so that wouldn't get it done. If other bow types are responsible for 70% of remaining harvest then 70% of that 8% would still be taken, six of the eight, or whatever it is. Raugust – If you move crossbows to second season only that would reduce there. Peek – At this time I don't think we are ready to make any type of move on separating out archery equipment types. They are all bows and all the same season. Until success rates or stuff like that separate out more we are still dealing with all the bowhunters as a single group. Raugust – My concern was that at some point they would affect the number of days that more traditional archers would be able to hunt. This would be the ramifications of that. If we could separate that out would be more satisfying to me. Peek – The number of traditional archers is more than doubled of what it was, so traditional archers are having a substantially larger impact on harvest than what they did before. Crossbows are adding to it but not solely responsible. As I have mentioned before, the modern compound bow is a lot different than what it was 15 years ago as well.

2. Elk 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit Q). We are proposing the same technical edit to the season structure as I presented for pronghorn. So, if unexpected delay in the regulation process and getting this through the commission this season would already be set and we would be able to handle things as we currently do. As far as other components we are not currently recommending any changes to season structure, bag limits or permit types. All aspects of the proposed regulation are standard relative to recent years. No change other than technical edit to the way seasons are being presented in the regulation itself.

3. Big Game 4-Series Regulations – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit R). This is the permanent regs for big game, I will focus on KAR 115-4-11, the only one with a proposed change. You should have also received a handout (Exhibit S) that I put out earlier. These are some technical edits to clarify language in this regulation. Current text with the second and third pages that we are making changes to and the second page is what the technical edits will be. I have highlighted the parts to show you the location where edits will be and the highlighted areas will be corrected. Some language left in when edits were made in the past, what it was supposed to change to is there but some of the old text was left. We are also removing some of the unnecessary underlines. The other change is, as Matt mentioned earlier, edits to remove actual dates, such as number seven on the first page, where it says October 30; if you look at number seven on the second page that would be replaced with “the last day of the season.”

4. Deer 25-Series Regulations – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit T). The 25-series sets our season dates for deer statewide. Typically, this was the last workshop and was voted on in March but we are behind in process now. Generally, following what we have done in the past, we have saved that in certain unit specifically DMU 12, there is an option for proposed extended pre-rut whitetail antlerless season, which includes the normal three days, October 7, 8 and 9 and extends it through the next Sunday so it makes it nine days. Generally, that season is one that is heavily used by residents. Nonresidents only account for about three percent of hunters that take advantage of that season.

This is to help with additional harvest landowners would like to see down in that area. Otherwise, the youth and disability will be, September 2-10, 2023; early muzzleloader, September 11-24, 2023; archery, starts concurrently with muzzleloader on 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; 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. Commissioner Sill – Will these go to dates that are not specified, like first Wednesday after Thanksgiving? Jaster – Yes, we are moving in that direction.

5. 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 U). Jason Deal, public lands regional supervisor out of region 3, covering central, south-central and southeast Kansas, will also speak. Workshopping reference document requests for the seventh time. It didn't join the rest of them because I wanted to talk about them and questions brought up at the last meeting. We talked about most of public lands department managed lands and waters, wildlife areas and state fishing lakes, excluding Maxwell Wildlife Area and Big Basin Prairie Preserve and all the state parks into the electronic check-in and check-out system. Since we moved from i-Sportsman to Brandt we have been experiencing some growing pains. So, we are still working on some of the issues that came up in transfer from one vendor to the other. At this time, we are asking to not make any changes to our check-in/check-out system as far as adding any properties. We would like to leave them as they are now and as an item to be discussed in the future. Until we can get some of the issues worked out with the new we ask that not be included. The second item is we were asking to add two refuge areas down in the Cherokee Lowland just south of Mined Land wildlife areas and just north of the town of Chetopa. The two properties are the Perkins East and Bogner. The question was why we want to put two areas in as refuge areas and Jason is the one who was working with this in the past and working with his managers and he can explain better than I could why these have been requested to be put in as refuges. Jason Deal – Not all wildlife areas are created equal but it is our typical management strategy on public wildlife areas to have designated refuge areas. I am glad the pressure and stressed animals was brought up earlier in the discussion because that is the reason why we have refuge areas because wildlife areas receive a lot of pressure. That gives the animals a place to escape, rest avoid some of the pressure and remain on wildlife area landscape rather than being pushed off to other properties. As it pertains to Cherokee Lowlands wildlife area, Perkin and Bogner, Neosho Wildlife Area is in close proximity to the north where we have a refuge designated as well. Cherokee Lowlands is primarily a wetland and waterfowl area and waterfowl don't typically hang around very long unless there is an area for them to rest, refuel, recharge and escape pressure. Unlike Neosho, where approximately a little over 24% of that area is refuge area. When we designate these properties on Cherokee Lowlands, Perkins and Bogner are approximately 18% of the wildlife area will be designated as refuge. It also serves not only as an escape area for waterfowl to keep them on the landscape and provide an opportunity to hunters but primary goal, when it pertains to waterfowl, is to give them an area to rest, refuel, recharge, maintain good body condition so they can continue their migration. That is primary goal for refuges on waterfowl areas.

Norman Mantle – In reference to what Mr. Peek said about capabilities of compound bows. We need to reduce capability of compound bows, reduce capability of firearms. Guys come out here

with a 300 Weatherby and shoot a little 250-pound deer. In the military, I learned one kill, one shot. Chairman Lauber – We have had this discussion; this is a different topic.

6. Pending Regulations – Dan Riley, chief counsel, presented this information. No presentation on these three items they have been presented multiple times (Exhibit V). We have nine on the list of pending regulations. As we discussed previously these regulations are not being actively workshopped anymore because they have been to the commission multiple times already. I will tell you where these regulations are in the process:

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

KAR 115-8-9 Camping (Public Land Regulation)

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

These are the public lands regulations that deal with a prohibition on baiting, regulations related to camping and prohibition on trail cameras and other devices. These are in public comment period now and open for public hearing at the March 9 meeting, beginning at noon. I want to emphasize again, that public comment period is open now. Anyone that wishes to make public comment on these three regs, this is the time to do so.

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

The turkey regulations are in the review process. Just completed the first phase of that process at the Department of Administration and will now be headed to the Attorney General's office. No hearing date established for those, as that doesn't happen until we finish the review process.

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)

The fishing regulations are in process, in the works, and have not been submitted to the Department of Administration. We're still making internal changes at this time as well as the reference document associated with 7-10. Chairman Lauber – Will any of these be workshopped at the next meeting? Riley – No, these have all moved into the next category in the process. The next time you see any of these will be in Public Hearing.

7. Annual Camp (KAR 115-2-3) – Linda Lanterman, parks director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit W). Last time I had Steve introduce our annual camp permit process. As we are looking at those, and starting a new year, we have had some complications with the annual camp program. Have a PowerPoint (Exhibit X). The annual camp permit was implemented in Kansas state parks in the 1980s. That was done because we needed to get people into our system, camping not as high as today. The thought was people would not use it as often as they are doing it today. There is only two states with annual camp program, Kansas and New Mexico. We started to see a change and our reservation company is able to track those permits. We are able, with our reservation system, to track that on and our 14-day. In the past used paper permits and self-pay and it was hard to get a handle on it. We know now, and through the pandemic, that a significant number of users started using the annual camp permit. This is good but with inflation and other things we are starting to see increased costs, so annual camp deserves another look. In 2020-2021, 4,500 permits were sold, in 2021, those permits, which are \$200 if bought before March or \$250 after March. In 2022 it came down to normal, maybe a

little less than previous years. Annual camp revenue, in 2021 we had a significant increased revenue, just for the permit only and in 2022, when permits went down we reduced that amount. You take the number of people that bought those times the \$200 or \$250 and that is the cash revenue we received. If you look at use this is for camping only, not utilities. Average nights used by someone camping; in 2022, those fewer people who bought them started using them at an average of 60 days. That wasn't the intent when we put annual camp in there. You are looking at a significant rise in people coming to our state parks and camp, which we are tickled they are there, but the use and number of nights used, we are a losing significant amount of money. Looking at unrealized revenue by us having that annual camp for 2022, we are well into \$1.2 million in unrealized revenue from that annual camp permit. As salaries go up and we continue to put more amenities in our state parks, it is not a feasible option for us anymore. We use that annual camp for our seasonal camp program, which allows somebody to have a 30-day contract with us, March through November. It is through a draw, they buy an annual camp and then they also pay by the month, these fees. For smaller parks, one utility only costs \$371 a month, for bigger parks, three utilities is \$600 a month and they also have to buy annual camp. If we did away with annual camp, we would be looking at these fees again because it would be reduction in seasonal program. I had Alan pull participants of our seasonal camp program; it went down in 2022 to about 350 users. The revenue for them buying annual camp in addition to this was over \$70,000, not a lot of money in reality but it is O&M and pays for utilities for someone so it does become significant. Our thought is we would look at a different type of permit for these individuals and still have a fee and possibly do away with our annual camp. We have a 14-day we are looking at, which is a \$2 a night discount. Looking at other states and what they charge for daily camping. I looked at Oklahoma, Nebraska, Missouri, Colorado, Arkansas, Iowa and Wyoming, the states that surround us. We are \$10 a night camping, we raised it 5-6 years ago; it is the same as Corps of Engineers charges. We are a little bit different situation because somebody has a choice; they can go to the Corps of Engineers as opposed to Kansas state parks. When look at other states we are significantly lower. The lowest primitive rate was Arkansas, Nebraska and Missouri at \$15. Their utilize, when you look at site that has electric only and camping we are still \$2-3 a night less than them. We are \$10 a night less than some other states. I wanted to present this as it is something we need to look at. Jake brought up today about fees and we are no different. What we did through the pandemic was keep our fees low so people could participate, which brought out new users. Many of them didn't know how to use an RV and went and bought one, but we want them to come back. We will have some, if we raise our fees or get rid of annual camp that won't come for a while. When I look at comparisons to other states and their number of camping public it continues to be high. I think it is an option we ought to consider. Commissioner Sporer – Are you still doing the program where they can get in and sign up the after New Year's Day, to make reservation? Lanterman – We did that in December. I heard your comments earlier about people coming in and not using those sites. I think doing away with the annual camp that will make that harder for them to do. When we do a launch in our reservation's system they will buy the annual camp and make multiple reservations throughout the year. They may not do that quite as much because it will cost them a little more. They would have to pay that up front which is good for us. We do have the lowest reservation fee in the nation. Doing away with that annual camp and look at 14-day also. The nice thing about it is the 14-day does give us an option for a discount for some people. That would eliminate so many reservations because have to pay for camping. Commissioner Sill – Do you track when reservations are made and people don't show? Do you track if annual camp or reservation? Who tends to not show? Lanterman – We are doing an analysis right now on when they come in . Still running some reports. When we look at that it is interesting that we have a high rate of people that don't come and don't get their money back. Typically, if they don't come

they are going to want some type of refund. The ones doing the no-shows are not getting refunds. We are going to look at exactly that, how many are annual camp or 14-day campers. Then if we could change that refund window and reservation window where it would be more appealing to let us know and give them some type of refund back. Commissioner Sill – You probably talked to the same person I did, the complaint was they had to have a 14-day notice to cancel. The impression I got was why should the state benefit from keeping my money and getting someone else's money. There didn't seem to be any compassion for the next camper who uses the site. Like it was punishing the parks department when it is just punishing other campers. Is that part of this same conversation? Lanterman – It is. Other states across the nation have reservation systems, I have asked Aspira to look at what other states are doing and what that window is of cancelation and what they give them as far as a refund. Also, can we decrease that window to where they still get a refund and they let us know. Some of it needs to be on our team to call if we can get ahold of them. We are still pulling reports and will be making some changes in business rules for sure. Commissioner Sill – Do you have sites that are non-reservable for travelers? Lanterman – We do have some walk-in sites and also looking at same-day reservations. So, they can make a reservation right then, kind of like a hotel system. Staffing is a problem. It would happen in prime season only. Jackie Augustine – Comparing to Army Corps of Engineers, are your facilities comparable or better than those sites? Lanterman – I would like to think we have better facilities but it is in the eye of the beholder. The Corps of Engineers receives quite a bit of federal funding so they put in a lot of new facilities. If you talk to managers that share those areas they will always tell you that they don't want to be priced out. As a management tool, we need to look at everything. Good question but I am not sure I can answer who is better. Kansas state parks has done an incredible job. Augustine – What do you know about annual permit users, if staying 60 days. Are they retired folks or are they people who can't find affordable housing? Lanterman – The latter. That is what we are starting to see. We will see nonprofits or churches buy annual camp permits for individuals to come out into state parks. I want to be careful what I say because they are still our users. It needs to be affordable and what that does is takes up a site that is available for somebody else that camps for recreation. When we go back to our vision of what we are, we are a recreation area not a housing area. That will be one tool we hope can help minimize some of those purchases. Norman Mantle – What do you base fees on? Based on size of vehicle that comes in or what? Pay more for bigger vehicles, depending on size and weight. There is a source of revenue. Lanterman – We don't do that today, this is a different permit system, that is vehicles, not camping. The vehicles when they come in they have one set fee and you can get that at your DMV when you renew your tag. I encourage you to do that. Mantle – Some of these people have a \$150,000 camper, they can afford more money. Lanterman – I don't judge them that way, they are still campers. Mantle – It is about revenue, that is what our government is.

VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Matt Shook – Fort Riley elk, my son drew a tag. A question about Fort Riley elk tags is last year there was a hunter mortally wounded one and was able to keep pursuing another bull. Those are really hard tags to get. Any chance to write a stipulation that if you draw blood on Fort Riley that tag is punched, instead of wounding one, then another and finally getting a bull? That was a real hot topic on social media. The guy said he shot one and wounded it and asked if he should have punched his tag or not. It had 50,000 comments. Secretary Loveless – The person knew the animal was mortally wounded? Shook – Yes. Secretary Loveless – That is unethical hunting. Shook – I agree. I think they were upset the guy kept going. If we could write a provision in there somewhere. I don't know if that is possible. On Fort Riley, that special of a tag, if you

wound a bull and draw blood, like in Alaska, your hunt is done. Chairman Lauber – The problem you are going to have is everybody shoots and someone says that they didn't draw blood, that they missed. It didn't stop the Facebook talk. Shook – Here is what happened when my son drew a tag. You end up meeting everybody that has hunted there, they all call and want to give you advice, a pretty tight knit group. I would think that 90% of the hunters, if they draw blood, are going to hold of somebody. It would be pretty hard to keep that a secret. Chairman Lauber – You have a good point. Shook – With that being such a limited tag, I don't know if they could write a provision that if they draw blood, that was their tag and they are done. I know that was a contentious deal with everybody that had drawn a tag at Fort Riley before. We didn't get a chance to hunt that much, but meeting everyone who had hunted there previously was a big deal to stay in contact with everybody. When this happened, it caused a firestorm. Secretary Loveless – We can discuss that.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

None

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

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, Milford, Acorn Lodge (planned events for Milford Lake area)

Chairman Lauber – The new meeting time didn't seem to inhibit any discussion.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Public Hearing

SECRETARY'S ORDERS
2023 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

The Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, as authorized by K.A.R. 115-25-9,
hereby establishes the 2023 deer season permit quotas in the following deer management units:

2023 RESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

ANTLERED DEER PERMITS

STATEWIDE; ARCHERY ONLY:

Either Species Either Sex..... open availability
c

STATEWIDE; ARCHERY, FIREARMS &
MUZZLELOADER:

White-tailed Deer Either Sexopen availability
c

HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND:

UNITS 1-19:

Either Species Either Sex..... open availability c

WESTERN MULE DEER:

UNITS 1, 2, 17, & 18:

Firearms Either Species Either Sex 1170 c
Muzzleloader Either Species open availability c

EASTERN MULE DEER:

UNITS 3, 4, 5, 7, & 16:

Firearms Either Species Either Sex 75 c
Muzzleloader Either Species open availability c

ANTLERLESS DEER PERMITS

HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

PAWNEE; UNIT 5:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a

SOLOMON; UNIT 7:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a

TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a

KAW; UNIT 10:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a

OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

RED HILLS; UNIT 16:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a

CIMARRON; UNIT 18:

KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

^a One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

^b Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

^c Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

SECRETARY'S ORDERS
2023 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS
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2023 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	585
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	35
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	379
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	27
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	902
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	5
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	494
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	1
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

PAWNEE; UNIT 5:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	712
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	1
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	544
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a

SOLOMON; UNIT 7:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1582
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp.....	0
Whitetail Antlerless Only	^a & ^b

REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1900
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a

TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1132
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a

KAW; UNIT 10:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1296
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a

OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	3360
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a & ^b

CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	2243
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a & ^b

LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	587
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a & ^b

FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1961
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a & ^b

NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:

Whitetail Either Sex.....	1584
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	^a & ^b

^a One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

^b Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

^c Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

SECRETARY'S ORDERS
2023 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS
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2023 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS (Continued)

RED HILLS; UNIT 16:

Whitetail Either Sex..... 1814
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms
Mule Deer Stamp.....0
Whitetail Antlerless Only^{a & b}

WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:

Whitetail Either Sex..... 656
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms
Mule Deer Stamp.....45
Whitetail Antlerless Only^a

CIMARRON; UNIT 18:

Whitetail Either Sex..... 258
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms
Mule Deer Stamp..... 20

KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:

Whitetail Antlerless Only^{a & b}
Any non-resident deer hunter with a whitetail either sex deer permit valid in Unit 9, 10, 11 or 14 may also hunt in unit 19.

HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND;

UNITS 1-19:

Either Species Either Sex.....^c

_____ Secretary

_____ Date

^a One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

^b Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

^c Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

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, as defined in K.A.R. 115-1-1, 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 written permit from the department, as follows:

~~(e)~~ (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.

~~(d)~~ (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 (e)~~ paragraph (b)(3).

~~(e)~~ (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 on that department managed land unless otherwise established by posted notice or authorized by written permit from the department. Upon completing seven consecutive days on the same campsite, each person and all property of each person shall be absent from the department-managed area for at least five days.

An extended camping stay of not more than seven additional consecutive days at the state fishing lake or wildlife area may be granted by written permit from the department if vacant

camping sites are available. All property of each person shall be removed and remain absent from the department managed area and campsite for a period of at least five days before beginning another stay.

(~~f~~) (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.

(~~g~~) (e) 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.

(~~h~~) (f) Except as authorized by the department, ~~any~~ all 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~~ all property abandoned upon department lands or waters shall be subject to removal by the department ~~and~~. Any unoccupied, unattended, or abandoned property may be reclaimed by the owner upon contacting the department.

(~~i~~) (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; amended P-_____.)

115-8-23. Bait; 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 shall include those areas designated by the agency as Walk-in Hunting Areas (WIHA) and Integrated Walk-in Hunting Areas (iWIHA).

(2) This shall not apply to licensed furharvesters as permitted in K.A.R. 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.~~

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

(A) Standing crops, grain or crop residue following harvest, 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)~~ (c) 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; amended P-_____.)

115-8-25. Trail or game cameras and other devices. (a) No person shall place, maintain, or use a trail or game camera on department lands, or any images or video from a trail or game camera including location, time, or date, for any purpose on department lands and waters including walk-in hunting areas (WIHA) and integrated walk-in hunting areas (iWIHA).

(b) For the purpose of this regulation, “trail or game camera” shall include any remote motion-activated or infrared camera in which the shutter is activated by sound triggers, proximity sensation, radio transmitters, or a self-timer built into the trail or game camera.

(c) No person shall use any images of wildlife produced by or transmitted from a satellite to take or aid in the taking of wildlife or to locate wildlife to take or to aid in the taking of wildlife on department lands and waters, including WIHA and iWIHA.

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

(2) For the purpose of this subsection, “take” shall have the meaning specified in K.S.A. 32-701, and amendments thereto.

(d) This regulation shall not apply to any trail or 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. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807; effective P-_____.)

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

Printable Tags

No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting

Habitat First Update

One of the Agency's missions is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural heritage, its wildlife, and its habitats – to assure future generations the benefits of the state's diverse, living resources. In a state whose land is under 98% private ownership, that task becomes difficult. For the past 50+ years the Wildlife Division has addressed this obstacle by providing landowners with cost-sharing assistance for developing wildlife-friendly habitat practices on their land. The Wildlife Division employs 29 Wildlife Biologists that work directly with private landowners, providing technical guidance on best management practices, and creating habitat management plans through the Division's *Habitat First* program as well as a multitude of practices offered through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Through a contributory agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) our staff provide expertise to NRCS and their producers on projects relative to identified wildlife resource concerns on their land. We provide conservation planning, wildlife assessments, practice implementation, and wetland compliance reviews through a myriad of federal Farm Bill programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) program. The Wildlife Division also works very closely with many other great conservation partners through grant proposals and agreements to implement landscape-level conservation projects that benefit wildlife throughout Kansas.

Habitat First, our keystone wildlife habitat conservation program, has only been split-funded with Wildlife Restoration dollars since 2018. This change has allowed us to leverage our state funds with federal WSFR allocations to increase our footprint on private land in Kansas and allow for increased implementation of beneficial wildlife habitat practices. Since 2018 we have been able to treat approximately 115,808 acres of private land in Kansas. The Wildlife Division spends about \$400,000 annually on contracts with landowners to implement wildlife conservation plans and practices on their property. Prior to 2018, the Division could only implement about \$150,000 to \$200,000 in any year with state wildlife fee funds. While we are able to accomplish much more today we are still budgeting the same amount of wildlife fee funds.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. General Discussion

Upland bird populations, predators, and furharvest

Recent declines in turkey and upland game bird populations have elicited discussion about management strategies for these species. At the same time, pursuit of furbearers and furbearer harvest has declined due to diminished pelt prices. Concerns about perceived furbearer over-population and potential impacts on prey species have become prominent. The Department has received many comments from constituents interested in strategies to increase furbearer harvest as a method to increase game bird populations. Staff will address this issue by discussing game bird and furbearer ecology, including factors limiting game bird populations, the role of predators, and the status of furbearer populations and harvest in Kansas.

Wanton Waste

No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting

CWD Updates

No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting

Workshop Session

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications. (FY 2023 big game regulation review cycle.)

a) K.A.R. 115-4-11.

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.

CURRENT TEXT

(8) Applications for antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through January 30 of the following year.

(9) Each nonresident applicant for a regular deer permit shall have purchased a nonresident hunting license before submitting the application or shall purchase a nonresident hunting license when submitting the application.

(c) antelope permit applications. In awarding antelope permits, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference points. Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(1) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining an antelope permit.

(2) If the individual fails to submit at least one application or purchase one preference point within five consecutive years, all earned points shall be lost.

(3) If an applicant obtains an antelope permit by a priority draw system, all earned points shall be lost.

(4) If the number of applicants with the most preference points exceeds the number of permits for specified units or permit types, then a drawing shall be held to determine the successful applicants.

(5) If an individual wants to apply for a preference point for an antelope permit that and does not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a preference point by paying the preference point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one preference point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(6) Applications for resident permits shall be accepted in the Pratt office from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday of June.

(7) Applications for resident and nonresident archery permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through October 30.

(8) If there are any unfilled permits after all timely applications have been considered, the application period may be extended by the secretary.

(9) Any applicant unsuccessful in obtaining a permit through a drawing may apply for any permit made available during an extended application period, or any other permit that is available on an unlimited basis. If the applicant receives a permit made available during an extended application period or on an unlimited basis, that individual shall not receive a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual received that other permit.

(d) Elk permit applications.

(1) An individual receiving a limited-quota elk permit shall not be eligible to apply for or receive an elk permit in subsequent seasons, with the following exceptions:

(A) An individual receiving an any-elk or a bull-only elk permit may apply for and receive an antlerless-only elk permit in subsequent seasons.

(B) An individual receiving a limited-quota, antlerless-only elk hunting permit shall not be eligible to apply for or receive a limited-quota, antlerless-only elk permit for a five-year period thereafter. Subject to this subsection, however, this individual may apply for and receive an any-elk or bull-only elk permit without a waiting period.

(C) When a limited number of elk permits are awarded by a random draw system, each individual shall have an additional opportunity of drawing for each bonus point earned by the individual in addition to the current application. Bonus points shall be awarded as follows:

(i) One bonus point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a random draw system, an elk permit that allows the taking of an elk.

(ii) If an individual fails to make at least one application or purchase one bonus point within five consecutive years, all earned bonus points shall be lost.

(iii) If an applicant obtains, by a random draw system, an elk permit that allows the taking of an elk, all earned points shall be lost.

(iv) If an individual wants to apply for a bonus point for an elk permit that allows the taking of elk and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a bonus point by paying the proper application or bonus point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one bonus point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a bonus point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(D) Each individual who is the final recipient of a commission elk permit shall be eligible for a limited-quota elk permit, subject to the provisions of this subsection.

(E) Limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits and limited-quota either-sex elk permits shall be awarded from a pool of applicants who are Fort Riley military personnel and applicants who are not Fort Riley military personnel.

(2) Applications for hunt-on-your-own-land and unlimited over-the-counter elk permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through March 14 of the following year.

(3) Applications for limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits and limited-quota either-sex elk permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday in June.

(4) If there are leftover limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits or limited-quota either-sex permits after all timely applications have been considered, the application periods for those permits may be reopened by the secretary. Leftover permits shall be drawn and issued on a daily basis for those application periods reopened by the secretary. Any applicant unsuccessful in obtaining a permit through a drawing may apply for any leftover permit or any other permit that is available on an unlimited basis.

(5) Any individual may apply for or obtain no more than one permit that allows the taking of an elk, unless the individual is unsuccessful in a limited-quota drawing and alternative permits for elk are available at the time of subsequent application or the individual obtains a commission permit pursuant to this subsection.

(e) Wild turkey permit applications.

(1) When awarding wild turkey permits in units having a limited number of permits, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who did not receive a permit in a limited wild turkey unit during the previous year. All other applicants shall be given equal priority.

(2) In awarding a limited number of wild turkey permits by a priority draw system, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference points. Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(A) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a priority draw system, a wild turkey permit.

(B) If the individual fails to submit at least one application or purchase one preference point within five consecutive years, all earned points shall be lost.

(C) If an applicant obtains, by a priority draw system, a wild turkey permit, all earned points shall be lost.

(D) If the number of applicants with the most preference points exceeds the number of permits for specified units or permit types, then a drawing shall be held to determine the successful applicants.

(E) If an individual wants to apply for a preference point for a wild turkey permit and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a preference point by paying the preference point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one preference point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(3) Fall wild turkey permits for unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, youth turkey permits, and game tags for unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 may be purchased over the counter at designated locations,

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

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.

Changes to the process and timing needed to promulgate regulations, particularly outside of KDWP, indicate a need to move this regulation to a more durable format. This would eliminate the need for the Commission and some staff to invest valuable time in reviewing this regulation, except when a change is proposed; which is unlike the current practice of reviewing and discussing the regulation annually even when the only modifications are adjusting to the variation of the calendar (i.e. keeping opening day of firearms season occurring on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving). Staff would still present the upcoming season dates to the Commission, possibly in a similar method to how Secretary's Orders are presented. Potentially the greatest benefit would be that anyone with an interest in the timing of the Kansas deer season segments may be able to more reliably predict season dates beyond the coming year.

115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits. (a) The open season for the taking of deer shall be as follows:

(1) Archery season.

(A) The archery season in all deer management units shall begin on second Monday following the first Saturday in September and shall through December 31 of the same calendar year.

(B) Archery deer permits also shall be valid during the portion of the extended firearm seasons beginning on January 1 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended firearm season and shall be valid with any legal equipment authorized during a firearm season but shall be valid only for antlerless white-tailed deer during those dates.

(C) The number of archery deer permits shall be based on a review of deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information.

(D) The urban antlerless-only white-tailed deer archery season shall begin on the third Monday following January 4 and shall continue until and include January 31 in all units designated as an urban deer management unit.

(2) Firearm season.

(A) The regular firearm season dates in all deer management units shall begin the Wednesday following Thanksgiving and shall continue for 12 days including the opening day.

(B) The pre-rut white-tailed deer antlerless-only season in all deer management units shall begin on the Saturday immediately preceding Columbus Day and shall continue three days including the opening day.

(C) The extended pre-rut white-tailed deer antlerless-only season in deer management unit 12 shall begin the Tuesday immediately following Columbus Day and continue six days including the opening day.

(D) During the regular and extended firearm deer seasons, white-tailed either-sex deer permits issued for a deer management unit adjacent to or encompassing an urban deer management unit shall be valid in both the designated unit and the urban deer management unit.

(E) The number of firearm deer permits for each management unit shall be based on a review of deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information.

(3) Muzzleloader-only season.

(A) The muzzleloader-only season in all deer management units shall begin on the second Monday following the first Saturday in September and shall continue 14 days including the opening day. Muzzleloader deer permits shall also be valid during the established firearm seasons using muzzleloader equipment, except that during the portion of the extended firearm season beginning on January 1 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended firearm season, these permits shall be valid with any legal equipment authorized during a firearm season. During an extended firearm season, only muzzleloader deer permits for deer management units open during these dates shall be valid, and only for antlerless white-tailed deer.

(B) The number of muzzleloader deer permits issued for each management unit shall be

based on a review of deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information.

(4) Season for designated persons.

(A) The season for designated persons to hunt deer shall begin on the first Saturday of September and shall continue for 9 days including the opening day.

(B) Only the following persons may hunt during this season:

(i) Any person 17 years of age or younger, only while under the immediate supervision of an adult who is 18 years of age or older; and

(ii) any person with a permit to hunt from a vehicle issued according to K.A.R. 115-18-4 or a disability assistance permit issued according to K.A.R. 115-18-15.

(C) All resident and nonresident deer permits shall be valid during this season.

(D) All persons hunting during this season shall wear blaze orange according to K.A.R. 115-4-4.

(5) Extended firearm seasons.

(A) Each unfilled deer permit valid in unit 6, 8, 9, 10, or 17, as applicable, shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning on January 1 and continuing through the first Sunday occurring after January 3.

(B) Each unfilled deer permit valid in unit 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 14, or 16, as applicable, shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1 and continuing through the second Sunday occurring after January 3.

(C) Each unfilled deer permit valid in unit 10A, 12, 13, 15, or 19, as applicable, shall be valid in an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1 and continuing through the third Sunday occurring after January 3.

(D) Only antlerless white-tailed deer may be taken.

(E) Permits restricted to a specific unit shall remain restricted to that unit during the extended firearm season.

(F) Equipment legal during a firearm season shall be authorized with any permit.

(b) Unlimited resident hunt-on-your-own-land, special hunt-on-your-own-land, and nonresident hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits shall be authorized for all units. These permits also shall be valid during the portion of the extended firearm season beginning on January 1 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended or special extended firearm season, but shall be valid only for antlerless white-tailed deer during an extended or special extended firearm season.

(c) Any individual may apply for and obtain multiple deer permits, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Any individual may apply for or obtain no more than one deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer, except when the individual is unsuccessful in a limited quota drawing and alternative permits for antlered deer are available at the time of subsequent application.

(2) Any individual may obtain no more than five antlerless white-tailed deer permits. One antlerless white-tailed deer permit shall be valid statewide, except in unit 18, including lands managed by the department. Four additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 19 on lands not managed by the department, except Berentz-Dick, and Elk City Wildlife Areas.

(3) Any resident may obtain no more than one either-species, either-sex permit through the application period described in K.A.R. 115-4-11.

(4) Nonresidents shall be eligible to obtain antlerless white-tailed deer permits. Otherwise, a nonresident shall be eligible to apply for and obtain only those permits designated as nonresident deer permits.

(5) No resident or nonresident shall purchase any deer permit that allows the taking of antlerless-only deer without first having obtained a deer permit that allows the taking of antlered deer, unless the antlerless-only deer permit is purchased after December 30.

(6) Any individual may obtain one antlerless-only either-species deer permit, subject to the number of antlerless-only either-species deer permits authorized.

(d) The bag limit for each deer permit shall be one deer, as specified on the permit issued to the permittee.

(e) No deer permit shall be valid after January 31 following the date of issuance.

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807 and K.S.A. 32-937.)

Recommendation

Adopt the proposed durable language that sets the start and end dates for the various segments of deer hunting season.

Utilizing the proposed start and end dates for each deer season segment, the season dates 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

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.

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.

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.

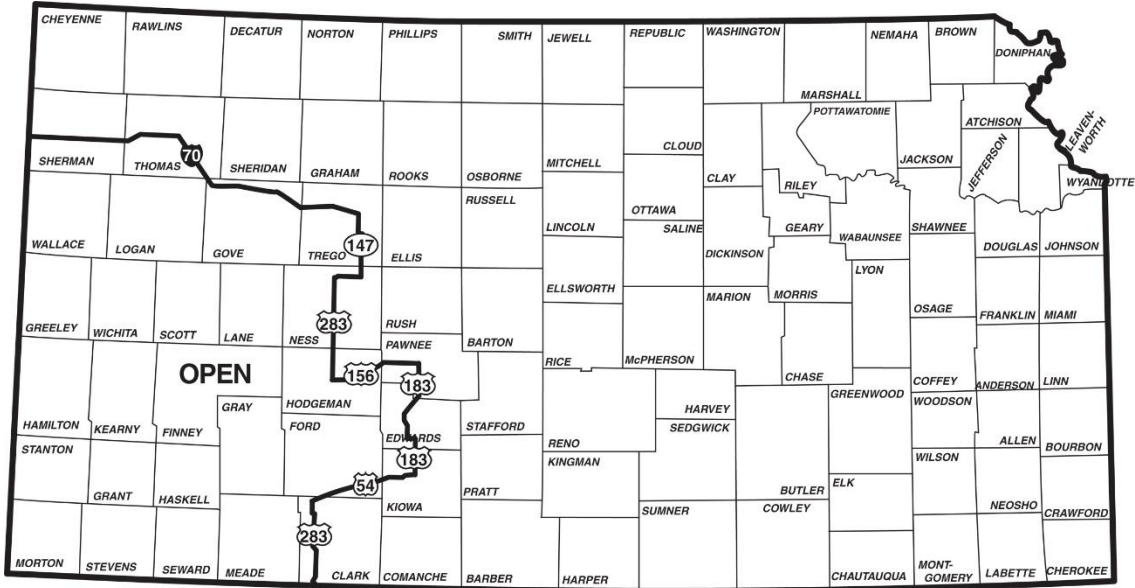
Discussion & Recommendations

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.

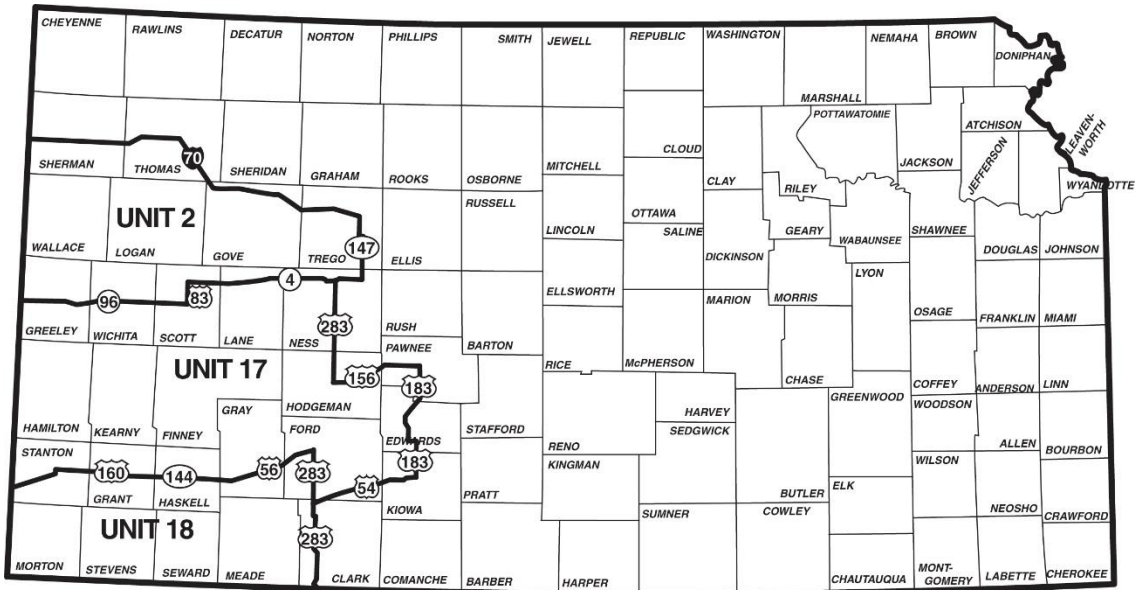
Poor production in Kansas and rangewide have caused apparent declines in pronghorn populations in many areas. In Kansas this year, this can be partially attributed to drought. As such, the Department is considering several approaches to reducing harvest. Limited permit allocations are easily reduced, 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

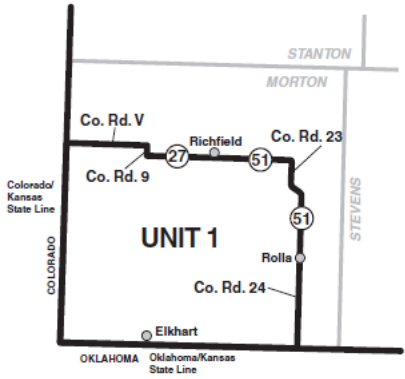
Due to changes in the way in which KDWP regulations are being enacted, we recommend altering the description of some of the season dates in this regulation from the actual calendar dates to a season framework which is not year-specific. For example, rather than listing firearm season dates of “November 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.

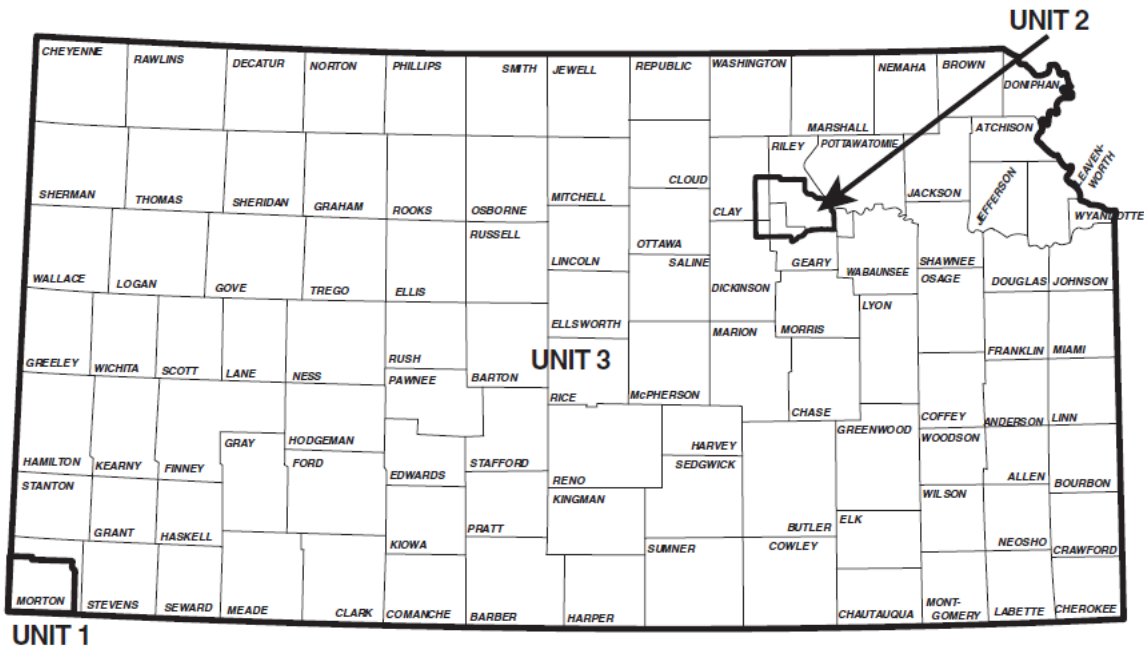
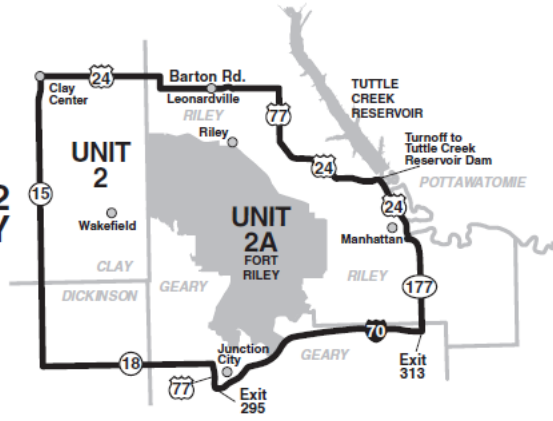
Unit boundaries are defined in K.A.R. 115-4-6b. Units 2 and 3 will be open to hunting.

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



Public Lands Regulations

Workshop Session

March 9, 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.

Workshop Session

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

March 9, 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

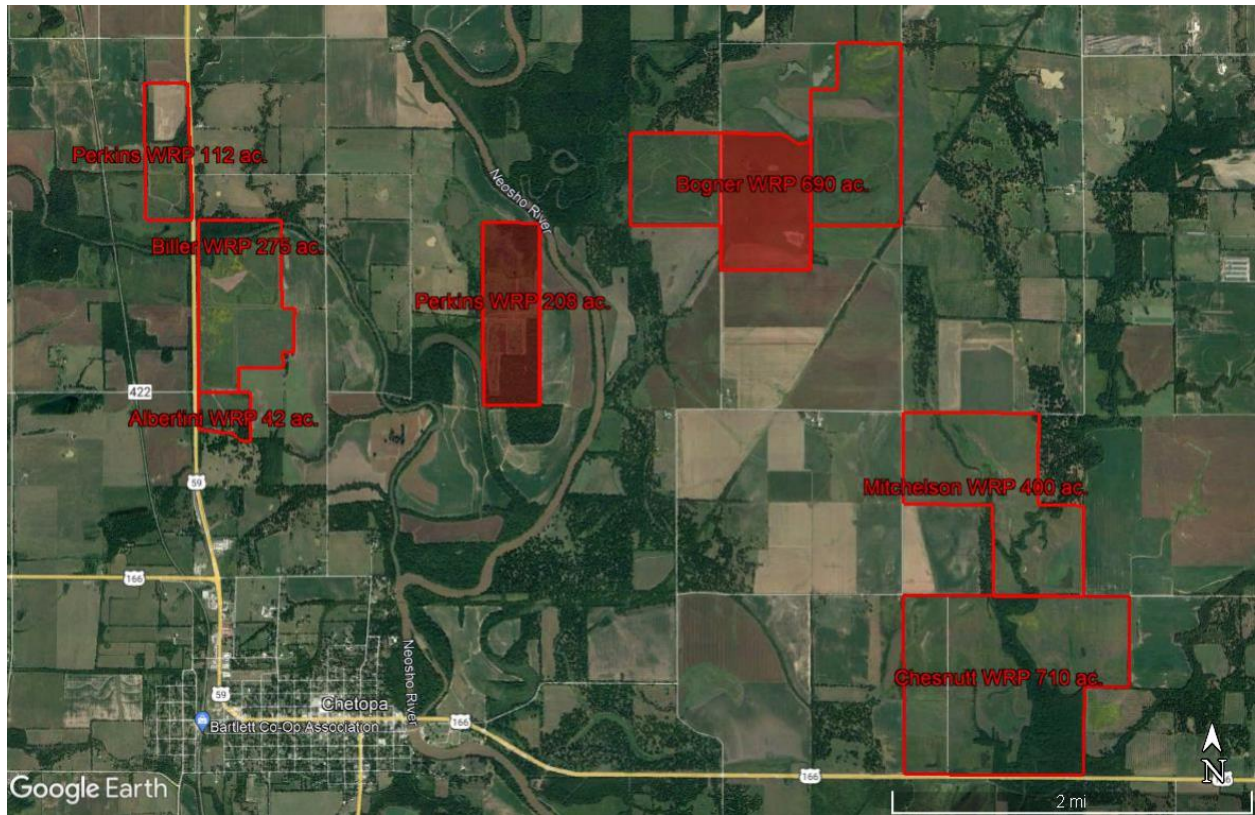
~~Electronic~~ daily use permits are ~~available~~ required electronically through ~~I-Sportsman e-permit~~ the department's licensing system for ALL activities.

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.



Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Briefing Item

Webless Migratory Game Bird Regulations

March 9, 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 recommended for webless migratory game bird regulations. 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

March 9, 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

- Season Length: 74-day Low Plains Season, 97-day High Plains Season
- Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.

- Moderate Alternative

- Season Length: 60-day Low Plains Season, 83-day High Plains Season
- Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.

- Restrictive Alternative

- Season Length: 39-day Low Plains Season, 51-day High Plains Season
- 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.

KDWP STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS' 2023-24 WATERFOWL SEASONS

September Teal Season

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

- High Plains Unit Sep. 16 to Sep. 24
- Low Plains Zones Sep. 09 to Sep. 24

Youth, Veterans and Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days

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

Duck, Merganser, and Coot Seasons

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

- High Plains Unit: Oct. 07 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 19 to Jan. 28
- Low Plains Early Zone Oct. 07 to Dec. 03 and Dec. 23 to Jan. 07
- Low Plains Late Zone Oct. 28 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 20 to Jan. 28
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Nov. 11 to Jan. 07 and Jan. 13 to Jan. 28

Canada, White-fronted, Brant, and Light Geese

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

- White-fronted geese: Oct. 28 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 20 to Feb. 11
- Dark and Light Geese: Oct. 28 to Oct. 29 and Nov. 02 to Feb. 11
- Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 12 to Apr. 30

Extended Falconry Waterfowl Season

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

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

SYNOPSIS OF KANSAS' 2022-23 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASONS

Pre-hunting season – Habitat conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region of North America improved from last year, particularly in Dakotas. This led to improved duck productions and hence more young-of-year in the fall flight, however total duck population estimates were still 28% below long-term average. Through much of the summer and into early fall, Kansas experienced extreme drought. Lack of precipitation greatly impacted wetland, agricultural and reservoir levels across the state. In addition to reduced agricultural yields, many crops have been harvested earlier for silage. Most reservoirs statewide were well below conservation pool, reducing duck habitat and huntable areas.

September Teal Season – For many areas of Kansas, September teal seasons sets the tone for the rest of the season. The 2022 September teal season was poor with low number of teal present and even fewer hunting opportunities. For hunters that were able to find some water, found fair success but for most there wasn't much of a teal season. With Cheyenne Bottoms dry, many hunters were displaced. Jamestown WA, McPherson WA, Texas Lakes, WA, Neosho WA, and the state reservoirs reported low bird numbers and higher hunting pressure. Statewide September teal harvest is expected to be very low.

Early Season (October) - Dry conditions remained statewide with more severe conditions in the western half of the state. Cheyenne Bottoms remained dry and for many other places, water levels receded as the season progressed throughout the Early Zone. Low bird counts for early October in Kansas coupled good duck counts in the US Gulf states indicated that many early season migrating waterfowl quickly passed through Kansas. The northern prairies did receive a few October snowstorms that sent mid-season migrant south early as well. Unfortunately, conditions remained very dry for Kansas and few birds staged in latter half of October. While there were some rains in October, they were not enough to break drought conditions.

Mid-Season (November/December) – In early November, a large snow event throughout the northern prairies of Canada and US pushed ducks and geese into Kansas just prior to the Southeast Zone opener. Often Kansas peak duck migration is near Veteran's Day, this year push was more notable and truncated with few migrating birds after Thanksgiving. High hunting pressure even with newly birds arriving, birds quickly fall into "old or stale" patterns. With given habitat conditions and hunting pressure, birds were difficult to pattern. Most temperatures were mild in late November and December. Seasonal temperature resumed late December with hard freeze up.

Late Season (January) - At this time of year local freeze / thaw cycles dictates bird behavior and hunting success. A good freeze just before Christmas and rethawed at New Years is typical this time of year but bird numbers were inconsistent. Habitat conditions reported during the 2023 Mid-winter Waterfowl Survey were very dry across most of the state and birds were concentrated in abnormal locations. This was likely due to dry conditions, weather, and hunting pressure.

Goose Season - Duck and Goose season Outlook – With dry conditions, Kansas goose migration had shifted noticeably eastward and were more dependent on reservoirs, sandpits, and water treatment ponds. Similar to ducks, geese were difficult to pattern and hunt due to reduced water sources, food availability and high hunting pressure.

Conclusion – 2022-23 dry conditions concentrated birds and hunters. This led to high hunting pressure and birds adjusting behavior. Overall, it was a tough season for Kansas. For some who found water, had good hunting opportunities. Statewide harvest will not be available until August, but harvest is expected to be low, especially compared to recent high harvest years like 2020 (3rd highest). Harvest is expected to be record lows in High Plains Unit and Early Zone. North-central and Eastern reservoirs were more favorable in addition to areas around Emporia. Goose harvest expected to remain above average, with good numbers of geese in eastern half of Kansas. Hunter pressure is increasing and likely impacting bird behavior. While the drought greatly impacted this season, there is some future benefits for ducks and duck hunters. Part of natural wetland cycles is to be dry not only seasonally but occasionally for longer durations. Management wise it enables staff to repair infrastructure, address undesirable vegetation, reconsolidate soils, and etc. One rain event can have dramatic effect on the waterfowl landscape.

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

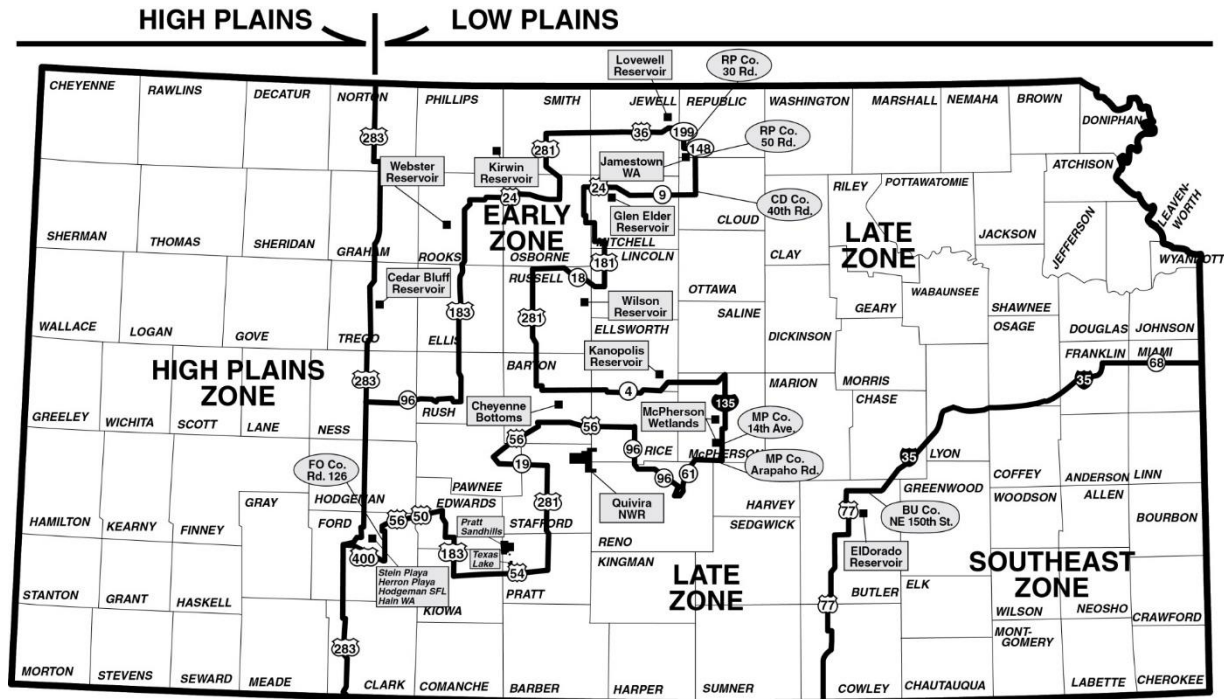


Table 2. Kansas duck hunting season dates by zone from 2011 to 2022

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.

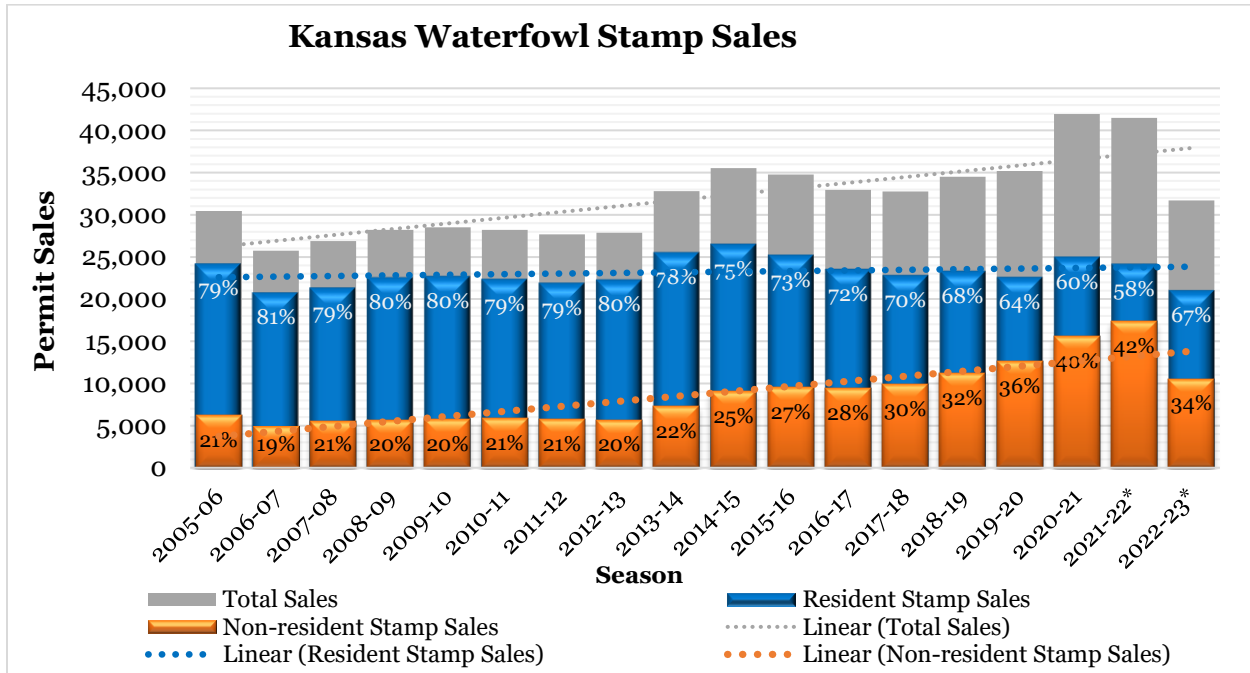


Figure 3. Estimates of active duck hunters, duck hunting days and duck harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 based upon the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until August.

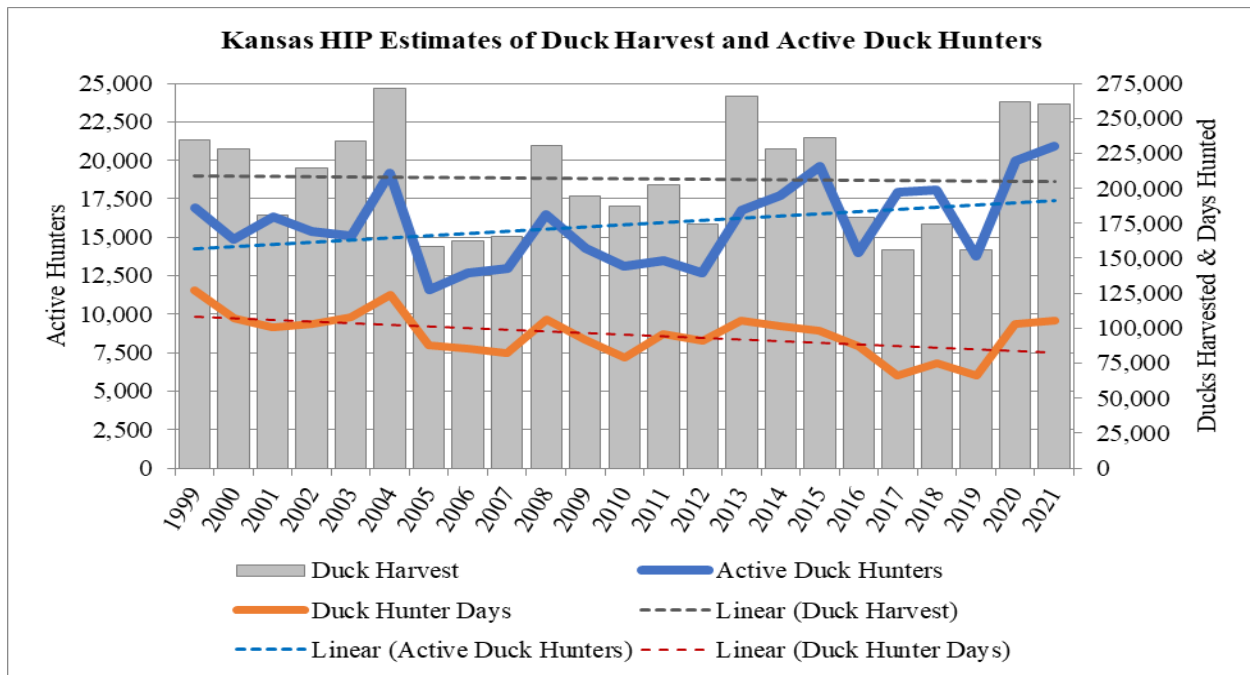


Table 4. All Seasons (teal and regular) estimates of active duck hunters, season duck harvest, and average duck per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, and total duck hunter days in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program. The 2022 harvest data is not available until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

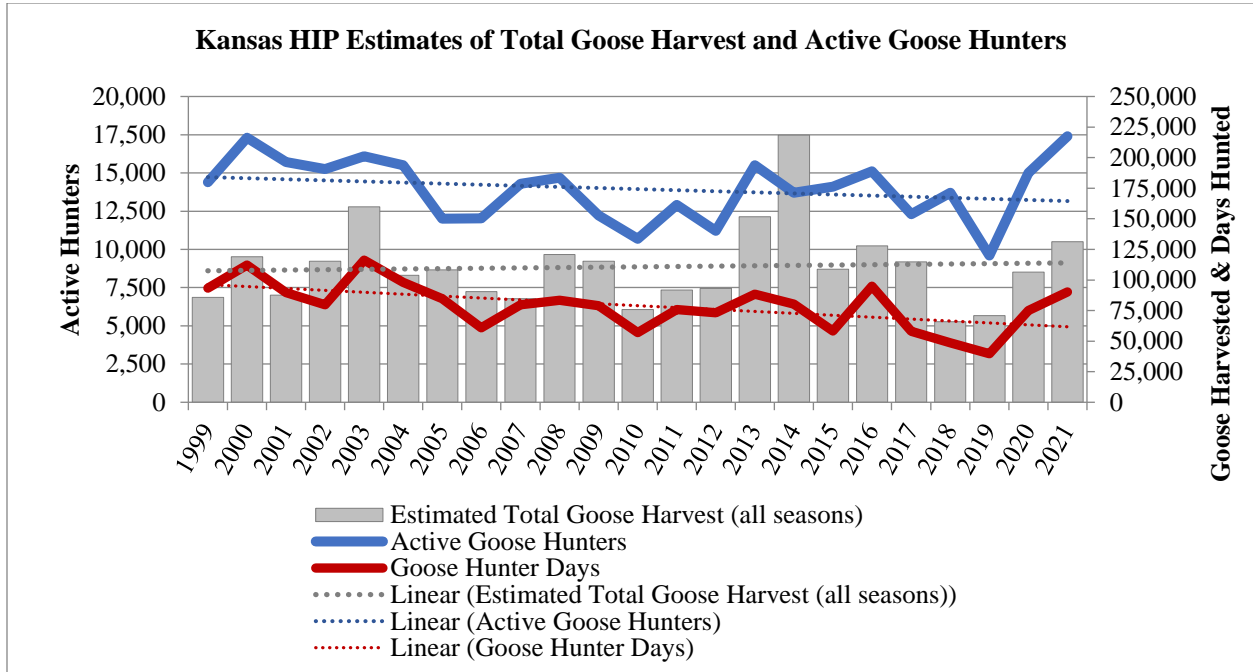


Table 7. Estimates of active goose hunters, goose harvest, average goose per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, total goose hunter days, and regular season harvest for Canada, light geese, and white-fronted geese in Kansas from 1999 to 2021 based upon the by the Harvest Information Program. The 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%

Workshop: 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.

K.A.R. 115-2-1 Initial Review

The following pages include a modified version K.A.R. 115-2-1, with an added column to identify the statutory caps to the right of our current fees. **Those fees in bold are already at our statutory cap.** All other fees have room to increase within the current caps. **The fees that we are initially proposing increases to are highlighted.** *The addition of the application fee for nonresident turkey permits is in italics.*

During the next workshop, we will plan to cover specific proposed amounts of these increases, including comparison of fees with similar states, and a review of the current demand for identified licenses and/or permits with proposed increases.

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.

	Cap
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
(1/2Gen)	
General resident: antlerless-only deer permit.....	20.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): antlerless-only deer permit	7.50
(1/2Gen)	
Landowner/tenant: deer permit	20.00
(1/2Gen)	
Hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit	20.00
(1/2Gen)	
Special hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit	85.00
(=Gen)	
General resident: antelope permit	50.00
General resident youth (under 16 years of age): antelope permit.....	10.00
(1/2Gen)	
Landowner/tenant: antelope permit.....	25.00
(1/2Gen)	
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
(1/2Gen)	
Resident landowner/tenant: turkey permit (1-bird limit)	12.50
(1/2Gen)	
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
<i>Nonresident: turkey permit application fee</i>	<i>TBD</i>
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	120.00

(2-bird limit)	10.00	60.00
Resident landowner/tenant: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	17.50	60.00
Nonresident: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	85.00	430.00
Nonresident tenant: turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	42.50	430.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): turkey permit and game tag combination (2-bird limit).....	20.00	430.00
Nonresident big game hunting permit:		
Nonresident hunt-on-your-own-land: deer permit	85.00	400.00
Nonresident tenant: deer permit	85.00	400.00
Nonresident: deer permit (antlered deer)	400.00	
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): deer permit (antlered deer)	75.00	400.00
Nonresident: deer permit (antlerless only).....	50.00	400.00
Nonresident: combination 2-deer permit (antlered deer and antlerless white-tailed deer)	415.00	800.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): combination 2-deer permit (antlered deer and antlerless white-tailed deer).....	90.00	800.00
Nonresident: antelope permit (archery only)	300.00	400.00
Nonresident tenant: antelope permit.....	85.00	400.00
Nonresident youth (under 16 years of age): antelope (archery only).....	100.00	400.00
Nonresident tenant: either-sex elk permit.....	300.00	350.00
Nonresident tenant: antlerless-only elk permit	150.00	350.00
Nonresident: deer permit application fee	25.00	
Nonresident: mule deer stamp	150.00	
Field trial permit: game birds	20.00	25.00
Lifetime hunting license	500.00	
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	67.50	75.00
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	125.00
Resident disabled veteran fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase, 30 percent or more service-connected disabled)	12.50	N/A (25.00)
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	125.00
Nonresident fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase)	50.00	75.00
Resident calendar day fishing license.....	3.50	10.00
Nonresident calendar day fishing license.....	7.50	10.00
Three-pole permit (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	6.00	No Max
Tournament bass pass (valid for one year from date of purchase)	12.00	No Max
Paddlefish permit (six carcass tags).....	10.00	No Max
Paddlefish permit youth (under 16 years of age) (six carcass tags).....	5.00	No Max
Hand fishing permit.....	25.00	No Max
Lifetime fishing license	500.00	
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	67.50	75.00

Five-day nonresident fishing license	25.00	
Institutional group fishing license.....	100.00	200.00
Special nonprofit group fishing license.....	50.00	200.00
Trout permit (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	12.00	No Max
Youth trout permit (under 16 years of age, valid for one year from date of purchase)	4.50	No Max
(b) Combination hunting and fishing licenses and permits.		
Resident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	45.00	50.00
Resident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for five years from date of purchase).....	180.00	250.00
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	N/A (50.00)
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	25.00
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	250.00
Resident lifetime combination hunting and fishing license.....	960.00	1000.00
or eight quarterly installment payments of.....	130.00	150.00
Resident senior lifetime combination hunting and fishing license (one-time purchase, valid 65 years of age and older).....	40.00	N/A (25/yr)
Nonresident combination hunting and fishing license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	135.00	200.00
(c) 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	75.00
Nonresident furharvester license (valid for one year from date of purchase).....	250.00	400.00
Nonresident bobcat permit (1-bobcat limit per permit).....	100.00	
Resident fur dealer license	100.00	200.00
Nonresident fur dealer license	400.00	
Field trial permit: furbearing animals.....	20.00	25.00
(d) 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	200.00
Nonresident mussel fishing license.....	1,000.00	1,500.00
Mussel dealer permit.....	200.00	
Missouri river fishing permit.....	25.00	200.00
Game breeder permit.....	10.00	15.00
Controlled shooting area operator license	200.00	400.00
Commercial dog training permit	20.00	25.00
Commercial fish bait permit (three-year permit).....	50.00	200.00
Commercial prairie rattlesnake harvest permit (w/o 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	
(e) Collection, scientific, importation, rehabilitation, and damage-control permits. Scientific, educational, or exhibition permit		
Raptor propagation permit	0	100.00

Rehabilitation permit.....	0	50.00
Wildlife damage-control permit	0	10.00
Wildlife importation permit	10.00	
Threatened or endangered species: special permits	0	100.00
(b) Falconry.		
Apprentice permit.....	75.00	300.00
General permit.....	75.00	300.00
Master permit	75.00	300.00
Testing fee.....	50.00	100.00
(c) Miscellaneous fees.		
Duplicate license, permit, stamp, and other issues of the department	0	10.00
Special departmental services, materials, or supplies	At cost	No Max
Vendor bond		
For bond amounts of \$5,000.00 and less	50.00	No Max
For bond amounts of more than \$5,000.00.....	50.00	No Max
plus \$6.00 per additional \$1,000.00 coverage or any fraction thereof.		
(d) 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).

115-2-3. Camping, utility, and other fees. (a) Each overnight camping permit shall be valid only for the state park for which it is purchased and shall expire at noon on the day following its effective date.

(b) Any annual camping permit may be used in any state park for unlimited overnight camping, subject to other laws and regulations of the secretary. This permit shall expire on December 31 of the year for which it is issued.

(c) Any 14-night camping permit may be used in any state park. This permit shall expire when the permit has been used a total of 14 nights, or on December 31 of the year for which it is issued, whichever is first.

(d) Camping permits shall not be transferable.

(e) The fee for a designated prime camping area permit shall be in addition to the overnight, annual, 14-night, or other camping permit fee, and shall apply on a nightly basis.

(f) Fees shall be due at the time of campsite occupancy and by two of any subsequent days of campsite occupancy.

(g) Fees set by this regulation shall be in addition to any required motor vehicle permit fee specified in K.A.R. 115-2-2.

(h) The following fees shall be in effect for state parks and for other designated areas for which camping and utility fees are required:

We would like to look at all our camping permits to adjust to a more market level and to remove the annual camping permit.

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

KAR 115-25-5 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)

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:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| <u>Spring</u> | |
| • 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

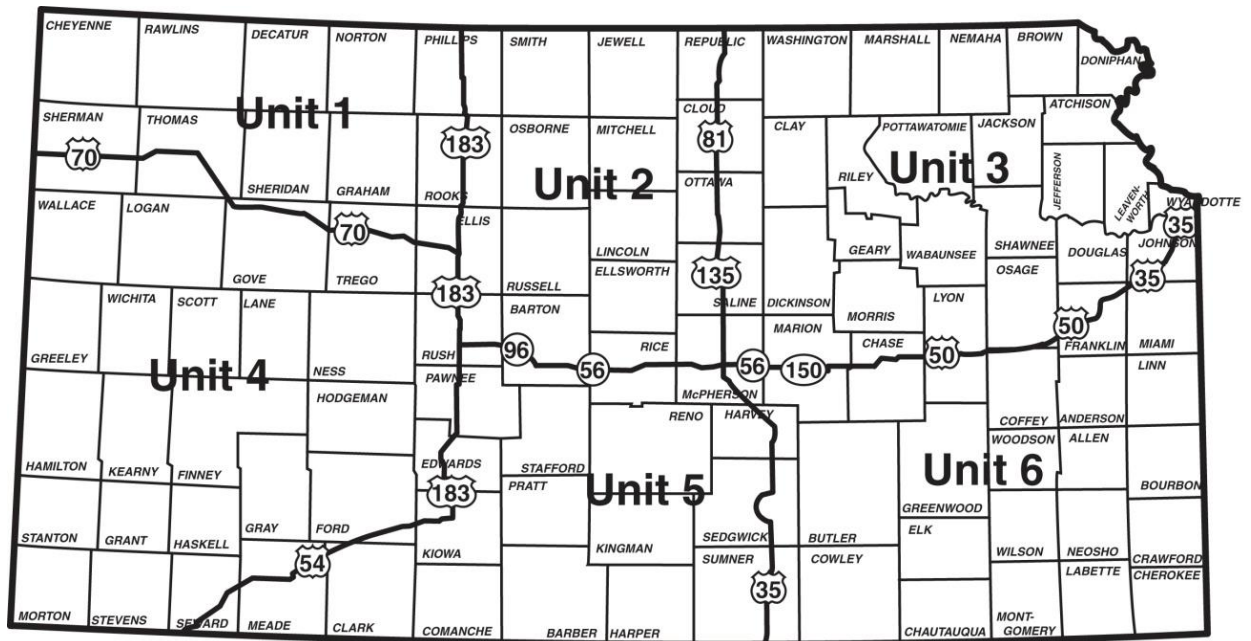


Figure 1. Kansas turkey hunt units.

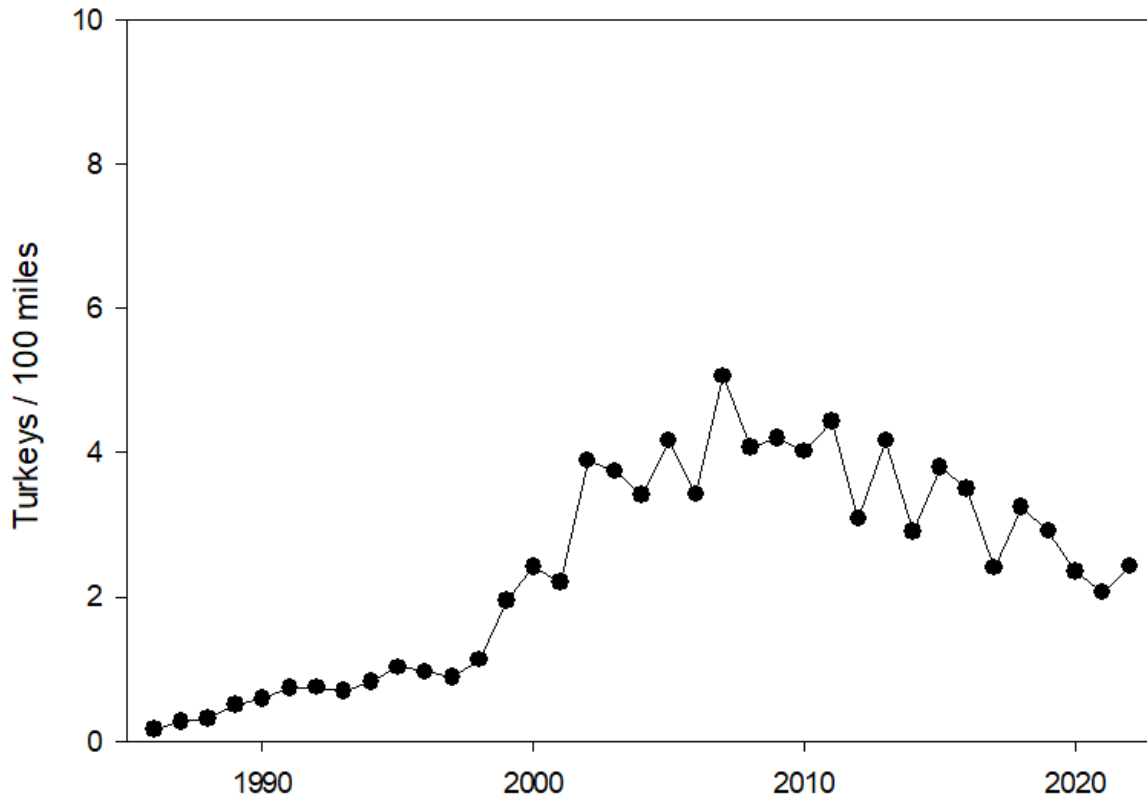


Figure 2. Statewide turkey spring rural mails carrier survey index, 1986-2022.

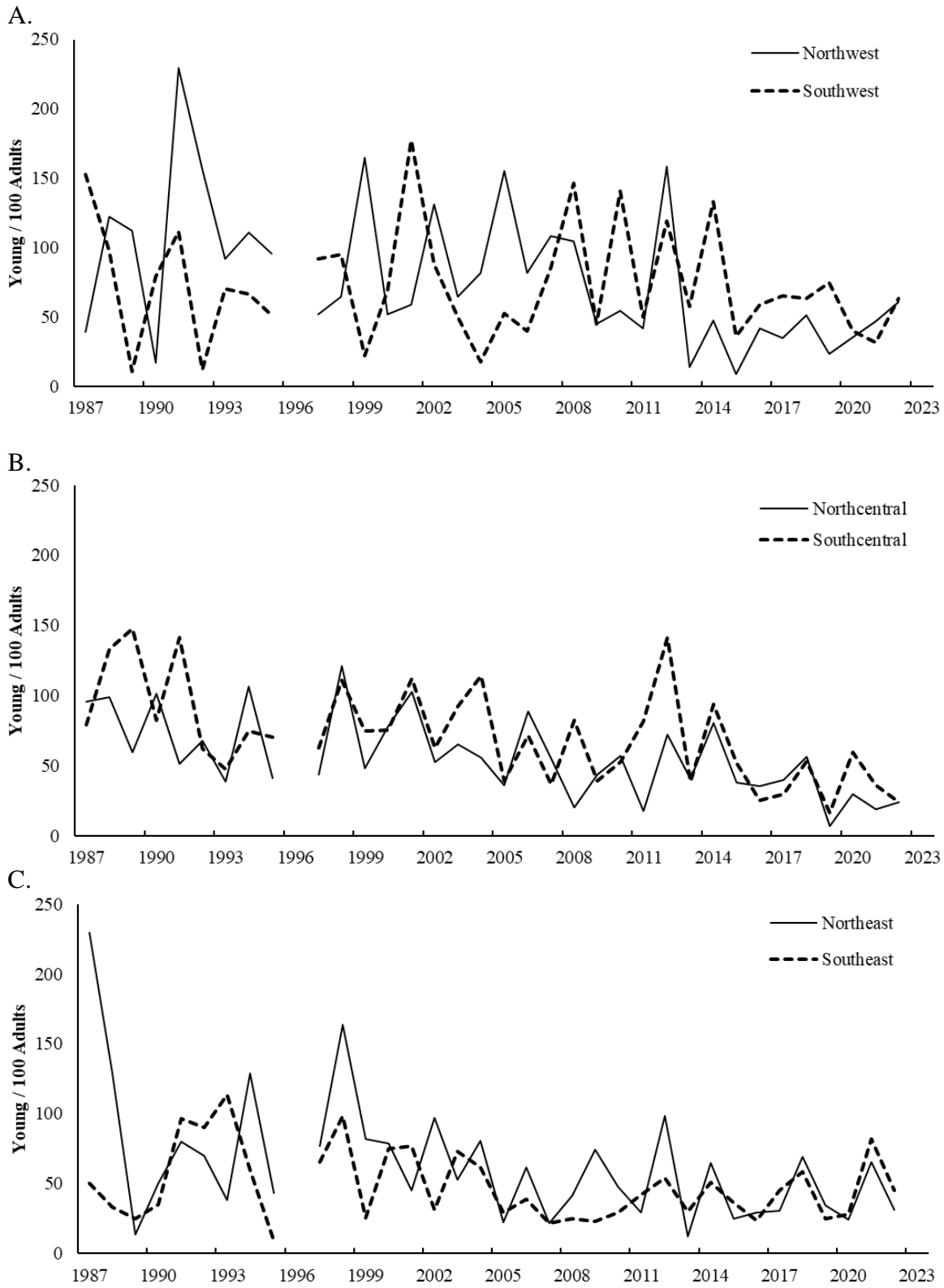


Figure 3. Turkey production indices for western (A), central (B), and eastern (C) Kansas, 1987-2022. Data from Summer Rural Mail Carrier Survey.

2023 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits

March 9, 2023 Commission Meeting
Topeka, 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