

REVISED AGENDA
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM
COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, April 23, 2015
Great Plains Nature Center
6232 E 29th St N, Wichita, Kansas

- I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:00 p.m.**
- II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**
- III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE March 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**
- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
- VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Park Award - Civilian Commendation (Brian Haug)

A. Secretary's Remarks

- 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Robin Jennison)**
- 2. 2015 Legislature (Chris Tymeson)**

B. General Discussion

- 1. Tourism Update (Linda Craghead)**
- 2. Park Regulations (Linda Lanterman)**
- 3. Fishing Regulations (Doug Nygren)**
- 4. Fisheries Management Update (Doug Nygren)**
- 5. National Water Trail – Arkansas River Update (Jessica Mounts)**
- 6. Zebra Mussels Discussion (Jessica Howell)**

C. Workshop Session

- 1. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. (Lloyd Fox)**

- VII. RECESS AT 5:00 p.m.**

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Statewide Habitat Award Presentation (Jake George)

B. General Discussion (continued)

7. Late Migratory Bird Seasons (Tom Bidrowski)

C. Workshop Session (continued)

2. Webless Migratory Birds (Rich Schultheis)

3. Early Migratory Bird Seasons (Tom Bidrowski)

4. Duck Zone Boundaries (Tom Bidrowski)

D. Public Hearing

1. Cabin Rates (Linda Lanterman)

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

If necessary, the Commission will recess on April 23, 2015, to reconvene April 24, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at the same location to complete their business. Should this occur, time will be made available for public comment. 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, June 18, 2015 at Fort Hays State University, Robbins Center, One Tiger Place, Hays, KS

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 26 2015
Kansas Historical Society History Center
6425 SW 6th Ave, Topeka, Kansas**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

The March 26, 2015 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at Bonner Springs Parks & Recreation. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall and Aaron Rider were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis - Dustin Mengarelli will be doing the Public Land update in the workshop session in place of Brad Simpson.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE January 8, 2015 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Tom Dill second. Approved. (Minutes – Exhibit B).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Pearce – Question for Kevin Jones, did feature story on game warden situation in Kansas, most thinly covered area in the state, main reason poor pay; anything changed in that? Jones – Have progressed, in process of filling open positions. We have put an officer in Finney County and other open locations, but still have six vacancies, partially due to retirements including two captains. Still have vacancy in Scott, Atchison and Miami counties. Have investigators position we will be filling in southcentral part of state. Pearce – Getting quality applicants? Jones – We are, last three we hired are high quality. Pearce - Training still the same? Jones – First KLTC, then new officer training that takes another 12-14 weeks to complete. Pearce – When researching this story I went to three officers that went to other states and they said it was due to the pay. Any changes in that? Jones – Trying to work through that. Chairman Lauber – Do we set number of officers by geography or population vote? Also, when officer is gone does someone cover that area? Jones – Look at several criteria, like year-round pressure and what work requirement throughout the year would be, distance between officers, response time. Also, look at higher priority areas, spread out in the west. At current time, first level supervisors, each lieutenant has 5-6 officers each. For instance boating activity, not much in western part of state, use those officers from there in other parts of the state during that season

and the same with antelope. We have 70 field-level officers.

Ken Kreif – Working with zebra mussels since 2009, work with Jessica Howell from your staff. Share zebra mussel info and cover points you brought up in January. (Handout – Exhibit C; Powerpoint – Exhibit D). *Went over slides* – Kansas is in the lead as far as westward migration. Kansas should be concerned in downstream drift, we passed contamination to Oklahoma. Every time more contamination tax payers pay, Council Grove paid \$885,000 to rejuvenate their water supply, the mussels were seven feet deep and two inches thick in the hole. Department allows uninspected baitfish in Kansas controlled waters. This issue is not about controlling private ponds. Your decision in 2012 was to allow bait fish to be moved. We are reactive state not proactive state. If we stop movement of uninspected baitfish we will stop the contamination. Political issue is unclear what fishing people want and how many are driving the need to move private pond baitfish to KDWPT controlled waters. Petition was lost. Senator Olson was supporting this petition, but no response from his office. Working with Governor’s Constituents Service on this issue. Also, unclear why limited concern for downstream contamination of neighboring states; may involve Lacey Act because zebra mussels are considered injurious species. States west of Kansas have declared us high-risk for aquatic nuisance species. Most of bait fish coming from Arkansas. There is scientific evidence to stop movement. Moving bait fish from one body of water to another can also move zebra mussels, larva, veliger, juvenile and adult mussels; listed in Sea Grant, VA Dept Game and Inland Fisheries, SD Aquatic Nuisance Species; USGS, KDHE, 100th Meridian Initiative, 2014 Lake George Aquatic Invasive Species prevention program., Aquatic Invasive Species, Quagga-Zebra Mussel Action Plan for Western U.S. Waters, USFWS Region 6, Jessica Howell KDWPT employee, even KDWPT commercial says don’t transfer live bait. It only takes one, video on silence the invaders with Dr. Russell Cuhel, Doug Jenson and Byron Karns who put together this video (*showed short clip*), it only takes two, one male and one female. We need to be proactive and stop movement of uninspected/uncontrolled bait fish from private ponds to KDWPT controlled waters. We recommend KDWPT controlled waters “only use bait fish where caught.” Pearce – How prevalent are zebra mussels in private waters? Robin Jennison – You would have to ask Doug and he is not here. Chairman Lauber – Aren’t all states that have the red dots high risk? Kreif – No, Oklahoma is, Texas and Nebraska are not. Chairman Lauber – If using PowerPoint in the future it needs to be on the agenda, don’t mind handouts, but can cause problems. Kreif – I can follow your protocol. Chairman Lauber – Like to have our agency take a look at this, similar to Asian carp issue. Have bait dealers with monopoly on trot line bait is an issue. I hear what you are saying; our people recently addressed this and hope they will continue. Commissioner Budd – Are you asking Commission to do something? Kreif – Yes, remove “except blue gill and green sunfish”. Budd – Was this going to be looked at again? Jennison – If you would like presentation from Doug or aquatic nuisance staff we can do that. Budd – We would like that.

Steve Wilts, Lake Kahola Homeowners Association - Ken is chairman of our zebra mussel committee, he has been asking for change for just over a year now. We sent a letter (Exhibit E) and never got any response back from you. Interested in your feelings about this subject? We allow live bait, but we have rule that you have to buy from certified bait dealer. We have set of rules that are stringent and inspection of boats before they can be put on lake and have a cleaning process. We have quarantine of boats if you move the boat off and bring it back. Chairman Lauber – Stopping the movement of private water is difficult. Most of areas tend to be around a

lake and seems to be a boat that brings them in. Your success is in the moving of boats. Wilts – Not talking about boats, but moving green sunfish or blue gill. I want to hear from each of you so we know where to proceed? Commissioner Budd – Robin is going to bring a presentation from the staff. Jennison - Important to understand when we pass more restrictive regulation in 2012 there are two sides to this issue and we were going to error on the side of caution and heard from a lot of fisherman. Focus on western lakes that don't have zebra mussels, probably spread by boats, not to say not spread by bait. We will have a presentation and talk to Sheila and Chris and try to do at the next meeting.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). The last time we met we reported that when the budget office took a look at our budget, for reasons we never completely understood, they took \$375,000 out of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and \$300,000 out of our Cabin Fee Fund. We have visited with the legislature about that and those issues have been rectified in the current bills, not to say it couldn't be changed in a conference committee, but it is highly doubtful. The Governor and budget office did reduce EDIF funding by \$500,000; they told us that was going to happen so they gave us the spending authority in the Park Fee Fund (PFF) so it did not decrease the parks budget but transferred spending authority and available monies. Senate passed budget and are adjourned until Monday, House is yet to pass theirs. The thing holding them back the most was what was going to happen to K-12 education funding and they have passed a block grant until a new formula could be worked out; schools made estimates and then found out there were more at-risk or title-one children and other issues and needed more money. Gave handouts for both the park fee fund (PFF) and the wildlife fee fund (WFF). In the PFF down in February, but have increased balances year to year and getting better each month. Budget is pretty flat year to year, except February which we think was weather; still running about six percent ahead. We did modify revenue projections based on first four months of the year, so we are on track to do that. WFF balances are down, part of that is the drought has finally affected the revenues, watching this closely, should be fine. South Dakota saw a year before we did. House took \$300,000 from our budget for land acquisition, but Chris will speak about that in his legislative report. Chairman Lauber – Is EDIF lottery money or casino money? Jennison – Yes, EDIF is Economic Development Initiative Fund, which is lottery money, casino money is ELRF (Expanded Lottery Revenue Fund) money; we do not get any casino money. Chairman Lauber – How many agencies participate in EDIF money? Jennison – Not sure, lottery retains some, and some of it goes into Corrections, Regents Institutions, Commerce and maybe some others. Chairman Lauber – Annual scuffle on getting money or set amount? Jennison – Didn't used to be; it is a scuffle, parks used to get general fund, but moved to EDIF because not scrutinized as much, but with challenges in the last four years it is watched more so don't know if we saved ourselves that much.

2. 2015 Legislative Update – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. First year of two-year cycle. Conference committees met today and possibly tomorrow. Have Easter break for three weeks than come back for veto session April 29. I track a

lot more bills than I put on website, I am tracking 115. A few have made it okay, but some have floundered, but none that we needed this year. SB45 is about concealed carry and no permit, as you recall we allow concealed carry when hunting and fishing and don't have to have a permit. Passed Senate with 26 co-sponsors, went to House and passed and now on its way to the Governor. Also, followed other firearms bills, but everything has to come from conference committee now. SB46 – Domestic deer, identification and modernizing the statute and allowing Dept of Agriculture to determine how animal is marked, Governor signed; we provided comments for this bill. SB50 dealt with property tax and bed and breakfast, part of tourism, no hearing. SB59 magistrate judge jurisdiction, have jurisdiction over wildlife and parks crimes. Bill passed Senate and House committee but will have to come in through conference committee attached to another bill, believe amended to larger bill that deals with courts. SB97 – large dangerous animals, passed statutes several years ago (lions, tigers and bears), prohibiting contact with dangerous animals, using some arbitrary size limit, for example use for pictures or shows. Passed 23-17 and referred to Ag and natural resources and did not get a hearing, still alive for next year. SB112 - department initiative, writing citations, subject to dismissal if they made a mistake, like wrong date or something, a bit aggressions. Don't believe we have to write a ticket for an individual to be charged. We have other ways to deal with mistakes, like Civil Service Board, combined with SB113, don't have to give up phone or iPad if license is on that and it is revoked; passed House almost unanimous, in conference committee. New procedure, joint bundling to pass bills out, four bills can be bundled together. Don't know if required to pass ours, but depend on whatever passes with ours. SB120 – On land acquisition, took \$300,000; changes buying less than 640 acres without Senate approval; last year money from trustees, not much sense to seek approval for non-department funds to be spend. Limited to four counties and reduced 320 acres to 160 acres without permission. An attempt to make it so we couldn't buy any land at all without approval; going to Governor for signature. SB132 – add to dangerous animals to restrict more species like apes and wolves. SB134 – regarding noxious weeds, we are on advisory panel. SB 169 – State fish symbol, no official fish and we proposed the channel catfish and the bill did not receive a hearing. SB178 – Valuation of Ag land which would have made taxes go up four to five hundred percent didn't go anywhere. SB190 – sail boat classes, can use sunfish sailboats, have trailing boat instead of having to be on boat with them. We opposed boater education portion. As of this morning, routed to committee, can put back on and exempt from deadlines if they come back on general orders. SB262 - charitable activities, like bingo and raffles, Governor vetoed last year, voters approved it and they have to pass another statute, not moved much, but expect to move before end of year. SB268 – prohibiting stream maintenance and obstruction clearing in SG County, remove nongame and endangered species conservation act permit, opposed, working with SG County, alive but expect no movement. SB269 – want eastern spotted skunk removed from T&E species, also out of SG County, not done in statute. SB65, HB2074 and 2087 are other firearms bills, sales tax and not allowing local government from regulating firearms dealers out of business. HB2116 - House version of state fish as catfish. HB2117 – phase in boater education, not interested. HB2155 – charitable gaming bill passed House, placed in a gutted bill. HB2168 – taxation on outbuildings beside bed and breakfast, not moving. HB2341 – antler bill – return antlers in our possession for last 10 years, department opposed, but blessed and routed to a different committee and they worked the bill, sent to House floor and passed 82-43 yesterday. It has been routed to the Senate natural resources. There is one on movement of employees from classified to unclassified, case law out there. Also, one on compensation for final average salary, not use annual leave time. House Concurrent Resolution

5008, did not get a hearing, constitutional right to hunt and fish, changed my mind from 15 years ago, feel we should support. Chairman Lauber – Antler bill have to go back to Senate or is it done? Tymeson – Not done until the last day, routed from one committee to another and sent out by a committee that didn't know any of the facts; so anything can happen. Chairman Lauber – North American model concept defied. Commission Rider – Final action on land acquisition? Tymeson – 640 acres in four counties, 160 acres in general acquisitions. Our typical practice is pay appraised value. Commissioner Rider – We are like fiftieth state in the nation on state percentages. Tymeson – Forty-ninth, only Rhode Island behind us.

Break

B. General Discussion

1. Strategic Plan Briefing - Steve Adams, Natural Resources Coordinator, present this report to the Commission (Exhibit G). Drafting a plan, expect a couple of pages when complete, must be something that is doable and convey message; theme will be recruit, retrain and reactivate; churn is something we struggle with already, 40 percent of license buyers buy only one of every three years. We need to educate and inform people we are not reaching now. Enhance opportunities, protecting and conserving resources and nurture positive relationships. Diversity, more urban than 50 years ago and society has changed in many ways. How do we reach out? How do we enforce the rules of the agency, treated in fair, consistent and congenial manner? Create direction that has a positive impact and assess how successful we have been, measurable need to be identified. Have a draft and next few months will bring in broad cross section of agency to review. Easy to identify actions, but sheer numbers tend to be overwhelming so we want to limit to one or two items in order to succeed. Ask management to be observers and invite Commission to be a part of this effort. Jennison – The plan we have moving forward, idea is to have each segment worked through and handled by a facilitator and to tape meetings. Target achievable measures and objectives that let us hit the goals. Look at Kansas population and diversity of groups; socially, culturally and ethnically. Hopeful that not something that sits on the shelf, but hope meetings create enough thought process within the department employees. Commissioner Dill – Anticipated timeframe? Adams – Have completed by fall, with facilitated process to begin in next few months. Commissioner Marshall – Catch us at a meeting as opposed to a separate date.

Linda Craghead – Introduced park staff here – Jeff Bender and Tony Reitz, park supervisors; and Dale Schwieger, park manager. Linda Lanterman was nominated for a prestigious award and was selected a distinguished fellow for Kansas by Kansas Park and Recreation Association board. She has done a great job leading and bringing the team together. May 4 is beginning of Travel and Tourism awareness week and we will be having a large media event in Overland Park with the Governor and the Secretary to showcase what we have going on in Kansas. Also, kicking off media event to showcase the 70th anniversary of the Kansas Magazine, it will be the “bucket list.” June 5 is second capital campout in conjunction with Coleman at Cedar Crest, which will kick off get outdoors campaign and media campaign for state parks. On May 12-14, we will be host to the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers cast and blast event in southeast Kansas. Also, hosting Society of American Travel Writers, Central States Chapter from June 5-15. Commissioner Marshall – Where are the events? Craghead – The cast and blast Great Lakes

Outdoor Writers will be hosted in Parsons area and American Travel Writers will begin in Wichita and will go to Manhattan, Kansas City, Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, and will participate in the Symphony in the Flint Hills on June 13.

2. Tourism Update – Kelli Hilliard, Tourism Travel Development Manager, presented this update to the Commission (*reviewed website*, flyer - Exhibit H). Kansas at your Service is a statewide standardized customer service training that can be taken by anyone who wants to improve their customer service skills with a company called Red Global. It emphasizes the importance of quality customer service in the tourism and hospitality industry and equips employees of Kansas with tools and resources to better serve our visitors so they will return time and time again. Training for the web-based certification is offered at no charge at KansasAtYourService.com. It is available in Spanish and English and will take about two hours to complete and an additional 20 minutes if you complete individual destinations (Manhattan and Great Bend). We have had 460 people complete; 52 complete byway course and 59 have completed Manhattan course; including Secretary Jennison and several of our staff. (*Watched "Nellie No Care" video on website.*) Now that program is launched, promotion is the key and Andrea Johnson will be working on that. Looking at additional local reward programs; Great Bend is offering anyone from there who completes the certification a chance to win three \$100 cash prizes and businesses will be entered for a company picnic. Would like to try to implement into curriculum plans. Entirely online program. Commissioner Marshall – Interactive or pre-recorded? Hilliard – It is pre-recorded. Jennison – It is user-friendly because if I can do it anyone can.

3. Preview of New Department Website - Ron Kaufman, Information Services Division director, presented this report to the Commission (*showed website*). Have two sites, ksoutdoors.com and travelks.com. Introduced Jason Dickson and Jason Calhoun, both are experts at using application behind our website. Also, have Randy Oller and Dan Gasswint back in Pratt. Also, here is Mike Miller and Nadia Marji, with Dustin Teasley, graphic designer back in Pratt. It is a group effort. Website is six years old with some things are difficult to find. New site with new visual look header, thanks to Nadia. Navigation on left stays the same no matter what page you are on. Places boxes on first page and when you go to landing page more options to look at. *Navigated to several of the pages.* Website is also mobile responsive, less graphics; have calendar for events. Commissioner Dill – This site looks much more user-friendly. Kaufman – Intend to launch early to mid-May.

4. Webless Migratory Birds - Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I). Although webless migratory birds are subject to the same federal framework process with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as waterfowl, stability in season dates and bag limits allows us to include webless regulations, bag limits, and season dates as permanent regulations. Webless migratory game bird regulations are set in 115-25-16 crows, 25-19 dove, 25-20 sandhill crane, and 25-21 snipe, rail and woodcock. No changes are recommended at this time and we will follow last year's dates. Season dates are listed at bottom of the page.

5. Early Migratory Bird Seasons - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit J). Federal frameworks establish

maximum bag, possession limits and season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state specific migratory game bird seasons. September Teal Season Frameworks are published in late-June, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and recommendations from Flyway Councils are completed. Blue-winged teal (8.5 million) are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most passing through Kansas from late August through September, prior to the opening of the general duck season. Green-winged teal are also early migrants, and many arrive in September and October, but they are commonly found in Kansas throughout the winter, depending on weather conditions.

Bidrowski – Will cover next two items in same PowerPoint presentation.

6. Update on Federal Changes and Timeline for Migratory Birds - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K). This presentation covers this year's migratory game bird season setting process, duck zone discussion schedule and season setting timeline for the 2016-17 season, and beyond. This year's timeline is similar to past regarding to setting of dates; the early season selection is due to USFWS by July 1. In 2013 the USFWS released an EIS that addressed the timing of season setting process. Regulations allowing the hunting of waterfowl, doves, cranes, snipe, woodcock, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens currently are promulgated annually. These annual regulations include framework regulations and special regulations, and take into consideration factors that change from year-to-year, such as abundance and distribution of birds, times of migration, and other factors. Beginning the 2016-17 season, the process will change to: biological information is gathered, analyzed, feds place into the models, and model output is reviewed. KDPWT may consider the following migratory game bird timeline: January general discussion on webless and waterfowl regulation; March workshop; and move to public hearing in April. There are other alternatives, but the dates described here would be latest due to the April 30th deadline.

7. Duck Zone Boundaries - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K). Kansas' last changes to its duck zone boundaries were in 2011. The next federal open season on duck zone boundaries will allow for changes in the Low Plains Zones beginning in the 2016-17 season however, zone boundary changes must be submitted by December 1, 2015. Zoning is the establishment of independent seasons in two or more areas (zones) within states for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity for hunters throughout the state. An important condition is zoning shall not detrimentally change the harvest distribution pattern among species or populations at either the state or flyway level. Because of this, most zoning initiated in the 1970s was experimental. Until recently, few requests for zoning have been denied by the Service and no penalties currently are in place when zones are selected. Zoning is utilized extensively in all flyways. Many states use both zones and split seasons in combination to most effectively position seasons within the established framework dates. Federal guidelines require zones to be contiguous and are only for regular duck season (not during teal season, etc.). The high plains are not eligible (more on that later). Kansas does not have any grandfathered boundaries and they will be set for another five-year period based on the three options listed. 1) No more than four zones with no splits; 2) split seasons (no more than three segments) with no zones; or 3) no more

than three zones with the option for two-way (two-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones. Kansas duck zones are based geographically for habitat features contained in that zone rather than a latitude or longitude justification. The irregular shapes are to capture these features in a contiguous boundary required by the USFWS. There are two units – the high plains and the low plains and Hwy 283 delineates the two units that were created in 1972. The high plains unit has no zones and consists of the area of the state west of US Hwy 283, with a 97-day season; we are able to offer great opportunity for a variety of hunting preferences from those who wish to take advantage of early migrants. The additional 23 days of hunting available in the high plains are due to differential harvest of mallards associated with the High Plains east of the 100th meridian. The USFWS notified KDWP that any changes to duck zone boundaries are due by December 1, previously we were told May 1, 2016. These changes will not be in effect until the 2016-17 season. Dates and locations for public meetings are not set yet and we are designing a survey instrument as well. If Kansas cannot make the December 1 deadline, it has the option to submit any boundary changes May 1; however those changes would not go into effect until the 2017-18 season. Commissioner Budd – All zones on same five-year cycle? When was last zone change, other than five years ago when we added Southeast zone? Bidrowski – Small tweak in early zone in 2011, prior to that 1996 when we separated early and late zones. Commissioner Budd – Have feds ever denied a zone change request? Bidrowski – No, they give us a set of frameworks and as long as changes fit that criteria, they have usually been accepted. Tymeson – There was a small change proposed on the inclusion of federal reservoirs and they said no, so there was a denial. Bidrowski – That was regarding the High Plains Unit which was separate from these duck zones where we tried to include Cedar Bluff Reservoir into the High Plains Unit and that was denied back in 2011 based off a different set of criteria. Commissioner Budd - Ever asked the feds, since half of Kansas, or one-third of Kansas, is already in the High Plains zone at 97 days, maybe they should consider giving us 97 days for the whole state? Bidrowski – Currently at 74 days with the liberal package, but hesitant to make changes due to going to the new process in 2016. Commissioner Budd – Is it just because you have drawn a line in the sand and decided this is pretty much it, but what percentage of chance? Bidrowski – When we made the judgment on Cedar Bluff that affected only a few hunters, they said no, this is the agreement and they were afraid of creep, we would take small amount, then want more in the next five years, so they said no. That is something that doesn't have to go under a five-year process and we have asked the last few years and it has never made it to the SRC. Commissioner Dill – When do expect public meeting dates to be set? Bidrowski – Throughout May and early part of June and shortly after that have an internet-based survey going out to those that purchased a waterfowl stamp last year and have results at August meeting. Commissioner Budd – Like to see meeting date and survey in southeast zone, particularly Marais des Cygnes area. Bidrowski – Have proposed sites. Commissioner Budd – Place Marais des Cygnes area in other. Bidrowski – That can be done. Commissioner Dill – Getting a lot of duck emails.

In 2013, federal process proposed changes (*from PowerPoint 2013 final supplemental environmental impact statement – read completely*). Change in federal schedule compared to what we have now will identify regulatory action first in April rather than last in August. Commissioner Budd – Understandable for anyone now so that is great. Do you or your staff have opinions on season dates or boundaries at this point? Bidrowski – Boundaries based on season dates in a way. Allowed to January 31, latest ever except for 2009, this was the same date. Commissioner Budd – In low plains zone why three zones and what was purpose of last zone?

Bidrowski – To cover four waterfowling areas; late zone covers 40 percent of hunting area, southeast zone carved off in 2007, forego some wood ducks by later season dates. Commissioner Budd – When you submitted southeast zone to feds did you give reason why? Bidrowski – Hunter satisfaction, habitat and migration. Commissioner Budd – It has come a long way, the bottom line is where the hunters are coming from. I hope by end of process all are feeling like that. Bidrowski – Any of season dates can satisfy a particular hunter. Commissioner Budd – Appreciate you coming down to southeast Kansas this last year. Bidrowski – A strong desire to keep holiday dates in that zone. Commissioner Budd – If we can draw a line to appease the ones that need to appease as long as we don't hurt the majority of the hunters. Chairman Lauber – Consensus in emails seems to be confusion on whether changing dates or season dates. My suggestion is to lower northern tier of southeast zone boundary, but emails seem to want to keep it. Commissioner Budd – If you send surveys in off season, responders will be really for it or really against it. We have all come to realize the southeast zone likes a later season, ultimate question is do you tweak northern boundary of northeast zone or tweak other boundaries? Chairman Lauber – We have to decide what we want and present that to the feds. Commissioner Budd – Do we as a commission vote on recommendation we make to feds? Bidrowski – As long as recommendations meet their criteria. Commissioner Budd – Hope to get options on zone boundary, not try to figure out at a public meeting. Chairman Lauber – Get clear sense of what people want. Emails I received different than what I had heard in the past. They seem to be tying zone and season together. Chairman Lauber – staff can make decision on where “other” meetings will be. Commissioner Rider – SE zone runs border to border, move north boundary of SE zone, push west and make sure it doesn't go all the way down to Oklahoma. Bidrowski – Have heard some of that. Commissioner Budd – Target Marais des Cygne area to get their input on SE zone. Pearce – When are season dates set? Bidrowski – June meeting. Pearce – As far as duck zones? Bidrowski – June or August meeting. Pearce – When will public meetings be set? Bidrowski – In next two weeks.

8. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. - Lloyd Fox, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit L). This regulation covers deer seasons at Fort Riley and has typically been used to address deer issues which developed during the legislative session. Shawn Stratton from Fort Riley is here today. Looking at reducing pressure on whitetail deer through extended season and number of permits hunters can obtain on antlerless season. A three-day season includes three more units, 2, 8 and 16, from trend information these are adjustments. In addition, in those units we are recommending a single whitetail antlerless permit, not two. In Unit 2, five permits can be used as a result of Cedar Bluff, but drop back to a three-day season. The rest remain the same as last year. Season dates are: October 9-12 for youth and designated people (disabled). November 27-29, December 19-23, and December 26-29. Archery hunting for September 1-13, and January 11-31, 2016.

Shawn Stratton – Firearms dates are tricky, training is number one mission, but like to provide opportunity around those training dates. Five year average is 1,000 hunters per year, 101,000 acres, 76,000 open for use. Success rate is about 330 deer total per year. Buck/doe ratio is one buck to every two does. We appreciate the support and opportunity the department has given us.

C. Workshop Session

1. Public Land Regulations – Dustin Mengarelli, public lands section, presented this regulation to the Commission. We have no changes being recommended at this time.

VII. RECESS AT 4:06 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Statewide Habitat Award Presentation (Cancelled due to no-show of recipient).

Robin Jennison – We have come to recognize the importance of connectivity in streams to maintaining our native fish and wildlife resources in Kansas (Exhibit M). Obstructions break this connectivity by creating a physical barrier that interferes with migration and successful reproduction of many of our native species. Also, structures by design alter the hydrology of a stream and we have also come to recognize that hydrology and biology of stream ecosystems that cannot be separated. When you change the hydrology, you affect the biological community. About two weeks ago I was reading a bulletin in 1939 that Sheila has scanned onto our intranet history site, it made reference to something happening pre-1900s, while we recognize it today and an interesting story was connected to it. A fellow out around Ellsworth was doing research and got California salmon eggs, put boxes in the stream and a flood came up and washed his experiment away, he was not upset as he figured the eggs were still in the water somewhere; they had gone down the Kaw and up the Delaware where salmon were found, which could not happen today because of the fracturing. We want to present awards to two individuals who have been great partners, Norman Bowers and Wayne Stancill. Mr. Bowers has been a tireless partner working on a variety of projects; all in all, Mr. Bowers facilitated the implementation of 11 road crossing and stream restoration projects in Kansas, one of which would not have been completed without his negotiations with the project sponsor. Mr. Bowers was recognized for a National Fish Passage Program Award by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service this year for his contributions to stream connectivity and we feel it is a great honor to be working with Mr. Bowers and have his expertise and guidance right here at home. Mr. Stancill has been a long-term partner with the state for many years and has worked on a variety of projects in Kansas, as well as many other states in the region. One notable project that Mr. Stancill has been involved with is the renovation of the Lincoln Street Dam in Wichita. This project involves not only fish passage but boat passage as well, and is the largest in the State of Kansas. Mr. Stancill has a long-term commitment to improving health of our streams and the fishery resources they provide in Kansas and across the region as well. Beyond the project in Wichita, Mr. Stancill has worked on nine completed projects and is currently assisting with six other projects. We look forward to working with him in the future. We would like to recognize two individuals whom have been great partners and have put considerable effort into working with the department to reconnect streams and rivers in Kansas. Both these individuals have portrayed the importance of partnerships at the local, state and federal levels and how cooperation among these entities leads to great accomplishments in natural resource management.

The awards read: “In recognition of outstanding contribution and dedication to conservation, sustainable development, and natural resource stewardship in the State of Kansas”

We are honored to present these awards to Norman Bowers and Wayne Stancill for their work in stream and river connectivity in the State of Kansas.

Norman Bowers - Engineers and biologists talk but don't communicate. Wayne Stancill – None of this would be successful without partners. I've been with the USFWS 23 years and still no one knows me. I am just the guy next to Norm.

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Letter and Attorney General Letter (Exhibit N).

1. KAR 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits. - Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). Archery permit numbers have increased from 110 to 380, but now are tapering off below 350, which we feel we can support. About a ten percent increase. The firearm season is allowing 104 resident firearms permits for unit 2; 36 for unit 17; and 14 for unit 18. Muzzleloader-only season is authorized for 26 resident muzzleloader permits for unit 2; 10 for unit 17; and 8 for unit 18. The bag limit shall be one antelope of either sex. Pearce – Ten percent across the units, lumped together? Peek – Yes.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve KAR 115-25-7 before the Commission. Commissioner Don Budd second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-7 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit P):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-25-7 passed 6-0.

2. KAR 115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit, and permits. - Matt Peek, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). Testing for CWD, but not in regulation any longer so we want to strike that, but no other changes to recommend. In the briefing book recommended 10 any elk and 15 antlerless elk for Unit 2a (Ft. Riley). An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in units 2 and 3. A hunt-on-your-own-land permit shall be valid during any open season. An unlimited number of over-the-counter antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in unit 3. Commissioner Rider – If elk with CWD, what is the protocol? Does hunter get to keep the head and antlers? Peek – Yes, recommend they not eat the meat, but can mount it or use the cape and work with them on disposal of the rest of

the animal. Commissioner Rider – Some hunters might not reach out to us if they think they could lose the animal. Peek – That is not the case. Continue to sample suspect animals.

Commissioner Roger Marshall moved to approve KAR 115-25-8 before the Commission. Commissioner Tom Dill second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-8 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit R):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-25-8 passed 6-0.

3. KAR 115-4-13. Deer permits; descriptions and restrictions. – Lloyd Fox, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit S). Modifying antlerless whitetail first permit which is valid statewide and add statement “unless otherwise specified in these regulations.” We have taken Unit 18 out of KAR 115-25-9 and that supersedes this regulation so that is confusing, so need to do that here. Chairman Lauber – Does this have to do with wildlife areas? Fox – No, last year we eliminated use of WAO in Unit 18 for all hunters in 25-9, but still had part of sentence, but we could eliminate them in any specific unit if we so desire.

Commissioner Don Budd moved to approve KAR 115-4-13 before the Commission. Commissioner Aaron Rider second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-4-13 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit T):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-4-13 passed 6-0.

4. KAR 115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits. – Lloyd Fox, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit U). We have completed harvest survey, up 4.8 percent from year before. Harvest on mule deer was down about 11 percent. Deer vehicle accidents were also up last year. Extended firearm seasons are for unfilled deer permit valid in units 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, or 17, and shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1 - 3, 2016 in those units. Each unfilled deer permit valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, or 14, shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1 - 10, 2016 in those units. Each unfilled deer permit valid in units 10A, 15, or 19, shall be valid in an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1 - 17, 2016 in

those units. Permits restricted to a specific unit shall remain restricted and equipment legal during a firearm season shall be authorized with any permit. 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, 2016 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended or special extended firearm season. Any individual may obtain no more than five antlerless white-tailed deer permits with one antlerless white-tailed deer permit valid statewide, except in unit 18, including lands managed by the department and four additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 19 on lands not managed by the department, except Cedar Bluff, Glen Elder, Kanopolis, Lovewell, Norton, Webster, and Wilson Wildlife Areas and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge. Pearce – For number of antlerless permits, none in 18, one in units with short antlerless season and everything else is up to five? Fox – That is correct. Commissioner Budd – There were concerns last year about this. Fox – We did this last year, can't hunt in Unit 18. Harvest opportunities are the same. Commissioner Dill – Unit 2 and 16 we moved from longer season? Fox – Yes, shifted to short season, three days and one permit. Commissioner Hayzlett – Thanks for answering emails that came from my area. In Unit 17, how many allowed? Fox – One and season is only three days. Can use WAO during any season and hunt with unused other permits in that three-day season. Commissioner Hayzlett – Still concerned about not seeing any deer, mule deer or whitetail. Appreciate it when you respond to those emails. Pearce – At one time had another unit that went with 15, was that 7? Fox – It was 7, 8, 15 and 19; dropped back to three-day season. Commissioner Budd – Do you think this addresses the issue in your area? Commissioner Hayzlett – It is a good start. Commissioner Dill – Reduced the season, but overall the actual number of permits we issued we have not decreased? Fox – Whitetail either-sex permit will still be available. Will talk about reductions in Secretary's Orders. Chairman Lauber – To address perceived and real decline you are reducing number of days, rather than number of permits? Fox – That is correct. Few hunters buy more than one WAO permit.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to approve KAR 115-25-9 before the Commission. Commissioner Roger Marshall second.

The roll call vote on KAR 115-25-9 to revoke was as follows (Exhibit V):

Commissioner Budd	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Doll	Absent
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Marshall	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented on KAR 115-25-9 passed 6-0.

5. Secretary's Orders for Deer – Lloyd Fox, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit W). In 2014, in draw permits, we allowed 2,770 permits; we are reducing to 2,315, a 16 percent reduction in number of firearm permits for either species, either sex. Units 3, 4, 5, 7, and 17 have no either-species antlerless permits, and we are reducing the number of either-species antlerless percent by 20 percent in the West Zone; we are also reducing the quota for nonresident whitetail either sex by five percent in Deer Management Units 8 and 6. This should not result in a reduction in hunting opportunity for our residents. They can still obtain whitetail permits. Pearce – How would you characterize mule deer in last few years? Fox

– Moving west over last 20 years. Pearce – Hunter I hunt with says we are down to 20 percent in mule deer numbers in western zone. Declining in most states, why do we have permits for antlerless mule deer? Pearce – Aren't there depredation permits for those other types of issues? Fox – Not for hunters. Pearce – What was reduction, from what to what? Fox – Twenty percent, nine percent reduction in hunting pressure in keeping place with harvest decline. Commissioner Hayzlett – Used to hunt mule deer in Wallace County, can't find any there now. A little troubling to be able to hunt mule deer does at all. Fox – We are reducing the number. This last year, antlerless whitetail harvest was 56 percent of total whitetail harvest; corresponding value in mule deer was 19 percent and we are going to cut that back even more. We are seeing shift of mule deer back to the west; don't understand why. We reduced it a little bit last year too. Chairman Lauber – As eastern zone reduces mule deer are whitetail increasing there? Fox – There may be some increase, usually tend to inhabit different habitats, but not in Kansas. Don't know if whitetail is filling niche or whitetail is outcompeting mule deer. Commissioner Dill – Would it be too dramatic to eliminate mule deer antlerless completely for a few years? Fox – That would be our next step, could be in 2016, but not in 2015.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

April 23, 2015 – GPNC, Wichita

June 18, 2015 – Fort Hays State Robbins Center, Hays

August 20, 2015 – Wetland Education Center, Great Bend

October 22, 2015 – Burlington or Emporia

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)
Exhibit X – 2015 Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award

Presentation

Park Award – Civilian Commendation

Secretary's Remarks

Agency and State Fiscal Status
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

2015 Legislature

No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

General Discussion

Tourism Briefing

No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Park Regulations

No changes at this time – possible park presentations

2016 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits:

- Melvern Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish; change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on spotted bass and sauger.
- Clinton Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish; change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.
- Elk City Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish.
- El Dorado Reservoir -- remove the 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass; change to a 25- to 35-inch slot length limit and 5/day creel limit with no more than 2 fish 35-inches long or longer on blue catfish.
- Tuttle Creek, John Redmond, LaCygne, and Pomona Reservoirs -- change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish
- Bone Creek Reservoir -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit and 2/day creel limit on saugeye.
- Winfield City Lake -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.
- Osage State Fishing Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on largemouth bass.
- Severy City Lake -- change to a 13- to 18-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass.
- Olpe City Lake -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass.
- Pleasanton City Lake - Old -- remove the 10-inch minimum length limit and the 10/day creel limit on crappie.
- Leawood - Ironwoods Park Pond -- change to a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Lenexa - Resurrection Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Louisburg - Lewis Young Park Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Louisburg City Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - East High School Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Heatherstone Park Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Oregon Trail Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Stagecoach Park Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Shawnee - Monticello Springs Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Gridley City Lake -- change to a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye.
- Lawrence - Sandra Shaw Community Health Park Pond -- add a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Osage City Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish and a 50/day creel limit on crappie.
- Mt. Hope - Oak Street Park Pond -- Change name to Mount Hope Woodland Park Pond.
- Lansing City Lake #2 -- Change name to Lansing - Billy Blackwell Lake.

- Manhattan - Anneberg Park Pond -- Change name to Manhattan - Jerry Dishman Lake.

Other Proposed 2016 Fishing Regulation Changes.

Change 115-7-1 (6) to address the take of paddlefish eggs for caviar.

Extracted paddlefish eggs may not be possessed while on waters of the state or adjacent banks, and may not be transported. They also may not be bought, sold, or offered for sale.

Change 115-1-1 (54). Definition of a setline.

Current definition of a setline: "Setline" means that a string or cord that is anchored at one point, does not have more than two hooks, and is not associated with a hand-operated mechanical reel.

We propose that if a setline is set in a location where there is no suitable permanent anchor, there must be at least a weight of 25 pounds at the end of the setline to be considered "anchored." We also propose that if a float is used with a setline, float material shall be constructed only from plastic, wood, or foam and shall be a closed-cell construction.

Change 115-7-2 (c). Fishing; general provisions.

Modify the regulation to read that all trotlines, setlines, tip-ups, floatlines, and unattended fishing lines shall be tagged at or above the water surface with name and address or KDWPT number.

Fisheries Management Update

A presentation will be made on some of the new fisheries initiatives underway. Topics include the early spawn largemouth bass stocking experiment, blue catfish in federal reservoirs, Fishing's Future, Synthetic Fish Habitat Modules, changes in walleye production and management, and the new Kansas Aquatic Biodiversity Center at the Farlington Hatchery.

National Water Trail - Arkansas River

Jessica Mounts
District Fisheries Biologist

Following the success of the Kansas River being named a national water trail by the National Park Service (NPS) in July 2012, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is seeking the same designation for a portion of the Arkansas River in Kansas. That goal is a little closer to being achieved thanks to technical assistance KDWPT will receive from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop the designation application. The ultimate goal is national water trail recognition for the Arkansas River Water Trail from Great Bend downstream to the Oklahoma border, which includes a network of public river access points providing recreational and conservation opportunities. Another benefit of the recognition includes enhancing prospects for communities and businesses to attract enthusiastic river-goers and boost local revenues. This portion of the river has consistent flows and passes through six counties - Barton, Rice, Reno, Sedgwick, Sumner and Cowley.

Like the Kansas River, the Arkansas River is classified as a “navigable water,” and this stretch provides more 180 miles of publicly navigable water and riparian wildlife habitat. The public may use the waterway between the ordinary high-water marks on each bank, but people aren’t allowed to trespass on private property adjacent to the river. As a result, it is important to establish reasonably-spaced public access points. Currently, the Arkansas River Water Trail includes more than 15 public access sites established in partnership with cities, counties and private landowners. KDWPT will work with the NPS to engage additional partners and stakeholders, set priorities to analyze issues and opportunities, improve public information resources, and achieve the national water trail designation.

Application to the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

In 2007, partnerships were formed between the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) and Reno, Sedgwick and Sumner counties and the cities of Hutchinson, South Hutchinson, Wichita, Derby and Oxford. The partnerships resulted in the Arkansas River Corridor Access plan (ARCAP), a 123-page comprehensive plan designed to increase recreational access to the river. In the ARCAP, existing and potential access sites were identified and prioritized, community input was recorded and addressed, safety concerns such as dams and obstructions were identified, and stream flow data was collected. The existing access points within the City of Wichita are more closely spaced, with additional sites above and below the city providing for longer float distances. The partnership of the ARCAP has continued for the last seven years and resulted in two new access points so far; but there is much more work to be done. While another 12 access points were identified in the ARCAP, consistency and organization of directional signage is lacking, and the development of several of the 12 potential access points would enhance the recreational opportunities beyond the City of Wichita. Evaluation of the use of the water trail by paddlers, anglers and wildlife viewers is also a priority for making future decisions to serve the users of the water trail.

In addition to the previous improvements made to access, there is a strong community support for water quality, conservation, safety and the health of the river. Several local groups and one large corporate sponsor have initiated annual river trash cleanups. A local paddling group organizes and hosts monthly floats on the river that are open to the public, providing both kayaks and instruction to novice and experienced boaters. Most recently, a multi-million dollar dam renovation at Lincoln Street in Wichita was completed, which included funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coast Guard and KDWPT and resulted in a fish passage and safe passage for boaters included within the new dam structure – as well as parking and put-in/take-out ramps above and below the dam. This project addressed two major river connectivity issues: safe passage for boaters downstream and the migration of native fishes upstream.

The dedication for the Lincoln Street project is planned for May 1, 2015 at 1:30 pm.

Aquatic Nuisance Species in Kansas

Background

Non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems for water users in North America. ANS have spread beyond historic ranges and have adversely affected infested waters by threatening the integrity of these water resources. As the introduction and spread of ANS continues, the associated problems intensify and create a wide variety of problems for water users.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is greatly concerned with the risk ANS pose to the natural environment. To protect the natural resources of Kansas and to prevent the spread of ANS through public uses of these resources, KDWPT has worked to address the spread of ANS by recreational boaters; the commercial bait industry; as well as through baitfish collection, transport, and use. Part of addressing these concerns included developing and implementing regulations that specifically target known pathways for ANS spread. Through the Commission, several regulations were adopted in 2011-2013 that greatly enhanced the ability of our agency to combat the spread of ANS, with the understanding that a few gaps in effectiveness existed. A review of the KDWPT ANS related regulations and an identification of known gap will be presented.

Workshop Session

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop Session

1. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley.

Background

K.A.R 115-25-9a lists additional deer hunting days available only on the Fort Riley subunit. It will be brought back in a Workshop Session in April.

Discussion

Fort Riley personnel have requested regular archery season dates and regular muzzleloader season dates listed in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

Fort Riley personnel have requested that the pre-rut white-tailed deer antlerless only firearm season should be closed on unit 8a.

Fort Riley personnel have requested additional days to those listed in K.A.R 115-25-9 for designated persons (i.e., 16 years or younger and people with a permit issued according to K.A.R. 115-18-4 or K.A.R. 115-18-15). They have requested the additional period from October 9, 2015 through October 12, 2015.

Fort Riley personnel have requested season dates for firearm deer hunting at Fort Riley to be from November 27, 2015 through November 29, 2015, December 19, 2015 through December 23, 2015, and December 26, 2015 through December 29, 2015.

Fort Riley personnel have requested additional archery hunting days before the regular archery season and also in January when individuals authorized by Fort Riley to hunt and take antlered deer. The days requested are from September 1, 2015 through September 13, 2015 and from January 11, 2016 through January 31, 2016.

Recommendation

Input and comments on this regulation have been received from staff at Fort Riley. A regulation will be prepared based on that input and comments from the public and the Commission. A public hearing is scheduled for June.

Presentation

2015 Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation Award

The Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation (KWHC) Award is a statewide award, modeled after the county-level soil conservation awards, which recognize farmers and ranchers who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources such as soil, water, and energy. The purpose of KWHC award is to stimulate interest in wildlife management by recognizing an individual who has exhibited outstanding progress in the development and stewardship of wildlife resources on their property.

Nominations for this award are accepted from biologists across the state, reviewed by committee, and a winner's selected based on overall habitat quality, quantity, maintenance, and enhancement on the property. Additionally, if the criteria are met, the KWHC award winner is nominated for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies National Private Lands Fish & Wildlife Stewardship Award.

The 2015 winner, and the fifth ever recipient of the KWHC statewide award, is the Stotts Ranch. Caleb Stotts and his father became involved in the ranch management in 2003. The ranch is located within the cross timbers ecoregion in southeast Kansas where prairie savannah was the historical vegetation. Caleb was concerned with the expansion of post oak and blackjack oak in this oak/savannah grassland community, and he was also seeing increased areas where the oaks were the dominant vegetation outcompeting the native grasses. There were also areas in the uplands where Osage orange and locust trees had become established. He had witnessed aerial spraying of herbicides to kill trees in these situations and thought there must be a better control and management method.

Caleb partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to reduce tree invasion by the use of cutting and stump herbicide treatment followed by prescribed fire. His goal was to not only reduce tree coverage, but also restore a more historically accurate prairie-savannah community. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program administered by NRCS and Partners for Wildlife Program (USFWS) provided technical and some financial assistance for this management. The results are producing more grass for livestock and improved conditions for grassland birds, including bobwhite quail.

Caleb has also adjusted grazing rates and time of grazing to improve the prairie grass vigor. One of the first results of this management has been prescribed fires that are more effective in controlling re-sprouts and other trees. Caleb monitors the cut areas very carefully and when needed, will also follow up with ground treatments of herbicide to kill re-sprouting trees that are so thick the prairie grass is nearly absent.

Caleb also involved Emporia State University Biology professor, William Jensen, to monitor the change in habitat conditions with grassland bird use. Numerous students have utilized the Stotts Ranch to conduct bird research and further the information base of grassland bird use in oak-savannah habitat.

Several other properties in the area have benefitted from Caleb's experience on his ranch. Caleb started an additional business of cutting trees for others to supplement his ranch business. He has performed work at the Woodson State Wildlife Area and several privately owned properties to restore oak-savannah prairie. He has worked closely with range conservationists, wildlife specialists and foresters to determine the "right" mix of trees and grass.

Caleb also recognizes the crucial role that fire plays in this unique grassland community. He is working to make fire effective and burn at times when he can most effectively kill trees.

This is an ongoing project, but progress is obvious. Satellite imagery shows the changes in vegetative cover and on-the-ground surveys illustrate the increase in grassland habitat where trees have been removed.

General Discussion (continued)

2015-2016 LATE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS

April 23, 2015

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The USFWS frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within the frameworks when establishing state-specific waterfowl seasons. Late migratory game bird frameworks are published in August, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and other population and harvest data become available and recommendations from the various Flyway Councils are reviewed at the USFWS Service Regulation Committee (SRC) Meeting (July 29-30, 2015). Working within the confines of the USFWS frameworks, KDWPT annually establishes general waterfowl seasons, youth hunter waterfowl days and falconry waterfowl seasons during the late migratory game bird season setting process.

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.

AHM Regulatory Packages

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

The 2015-2016 Federal Frameworks for ducks, mergansers and coots will not be determined until the July 30th USFWS/SRC Meeting. However, based on the 2014 duck population estimate of 49.2 million ducks (48 percent above the long-term average), 10.9 million mallards (42 percent above the long-term average) and a May Pound Count in the Prairie Pothole Region 7.2 million ponds (40 percent above the long-term average), we will likely continue in the liberal package for Federal Frameworks for the 2015-16 season. Kansas has been in these liberal frameworks since 1996.

Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks as prescribed by the liberal regulatory package.

Outside Dates:

- Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and the last Sunday in January (January 31 in 2016)

Season Length:

- *High Plains Unit:* 97 days. The last 23 days may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 12 in 2015)
- *Low Plains Unit:* 74 days

Bag & Possession Limit:

- *Duck:* The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, and 1 canvasback
- *Merganser:* The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. States have the option to include mergansers in the duck daily bag limit in which case the daily limit of merganser would be the same as the duck bag limit (6), of which two may be hooded mergansers
- *Coot:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots
- *Possession limit:* three times the daily bag limit.

Zones/ Split Options:

- *High Plains* – no zones and up to two segments
- *Low Plains* – three zones with each having up to two segments
Or three-way split season, no zones

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset daily

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

States may select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons, under the following guidelines:

1. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate.
2. The 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.
3. The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.
4. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
5. Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. 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.

CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT, AND LIGHT GEESE

Harvest prescriptions for the Central Flyway's goose populations are based on population and harvest objectives as specified in population specific management plans. The 2015-2016 Federal Frameworks will not be determined until the July 30 USFWS/SRC Meeting. Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks.

Outside Dates:

- *Dark Geese* (Canada, White-fronted, and Brant): may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 14 in 2016)
- *Light Geese* (Ross's and Snow): may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and March 10
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: January 1 through April 30 (KAR 115-18-16)

Season Length, Bag and Possession Limits:

- *Dark Geese*:
 - o Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 8
 - o White-fronted geese, states may select either a season of:
 - Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 2
 - Option B: 88 day season with a bag limit of 1
 - o Possession limit: three times the daily bag limit.
- *Light Geese*: not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 50 with no possession limit
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons and no daily bag or possession limits. Electronic calls as well as shotguns (no larger than 10 gauge) capable of holding in excess of three shells are permitted

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 Options:

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

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 annual hunting days for any one species of 107. Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks for the extended falconry season.

Outside Dates:

- September 1 - 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. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of three segments

Bag & Possession Limit:

- The daily bag limit may include no more than 3 migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. These limits apply to falconry during both regular hunting seasons and extended falconry seasons. The falconry bag and possession limits are not in addition to regular season limits.

Hawking Hours:

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Figure 1. Kansas Duck Hunting Zones

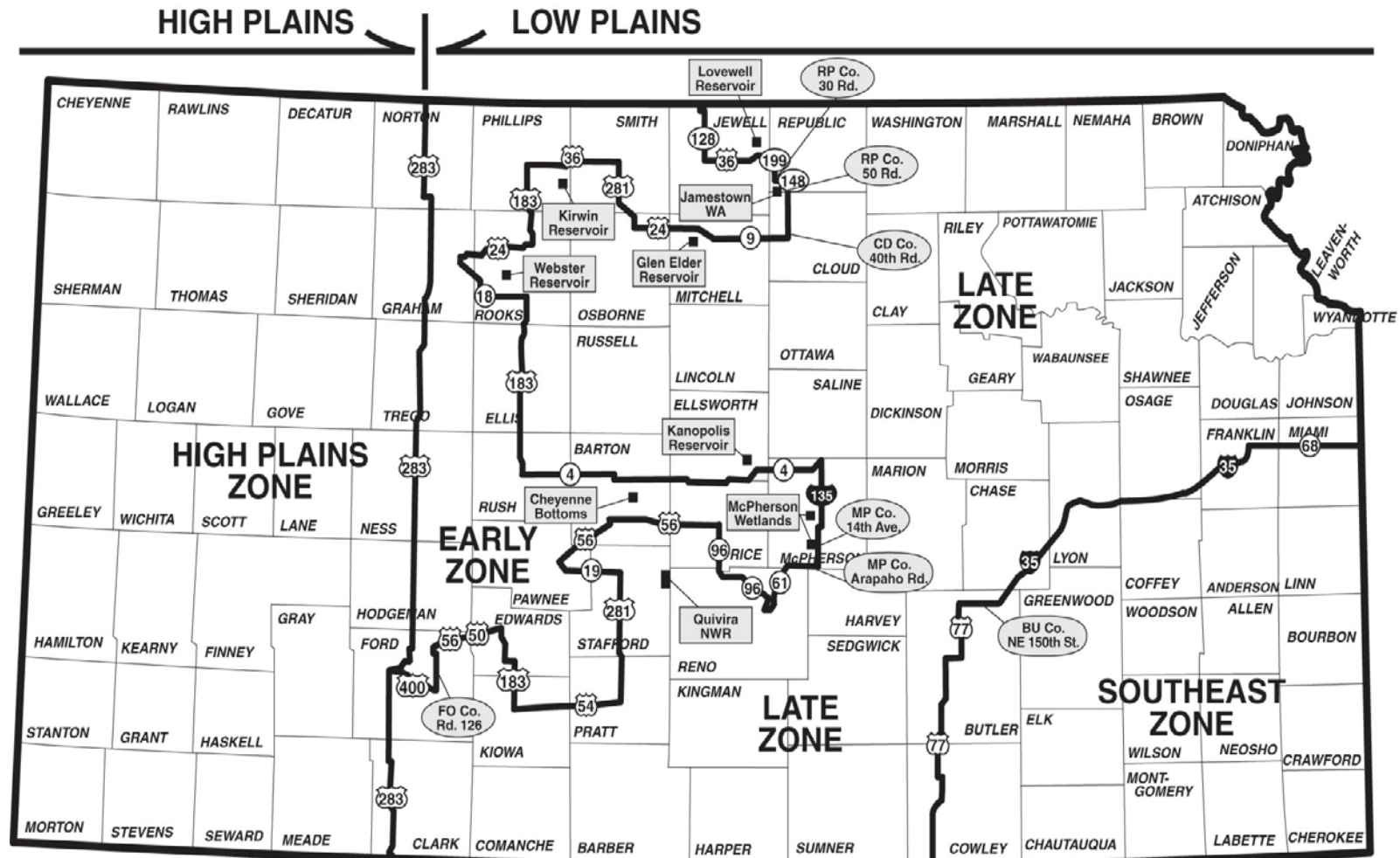


Table 1. Historic season dates by zone in Kansas from 1992 to 2014.

Year	Season Days	High Plains (HP)	Low Plains Early	Low Plains Late	Low Plains Southeast
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
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
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
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
2010	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 3 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 5 Dec 18 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
2009	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 - Jan 5 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 - Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	--
2008	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Dec 30 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Oct 25 - Dec 28 Jan 17 - Jan 25	--
2007	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 13 - Dec 9 Dec 15 - Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	--
2006	74 +23 HP	Oct 7 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 28	Oct 14 - Dec 10 Dec 16 - Dec 31	Oct 28 - Dec 31 Jan 20 - Jan 28	--
2005	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 3 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 15 - Dec 11 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	--
2004	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 4 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
2003	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Jan 6 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 14 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 25 - Nov 2 Nov 8 - Jan 11	--
2002	74 +23 HP	Oct 12 - Jan 7 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Oct 12 - Dec 15 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 26 - Nov 3 Nov 9 - Jan 12	--
2001	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 12 - Jan 20	Oct 13 - Dec 16 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 27 - Nov 4 Nov 10 - Jan 13	--
2000	74 +23 HP	Sep 30 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 21	Oct 7 - Dec 10 Dec 23 - Dec 31	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 4 - Jan 7	--
1999	74 +23 HP	Oct 2 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 23	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 6 - Jan 9	--
1998	74 +23 HP	Oct 3 - Jan 3 Jan 14 - Jan 17	Oct 10 - Dec 13 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 24 - Nov 1 Nov 7 - Jan 10	--
1997	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Jan 4 Jan 15 - Jan 18	Oct 4 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Dec 28	Oct 25 - Dec 14 Dec 20 - Jan 11	--
1996	60 +23HP	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 7 - Jan 7	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Dec 29	Nov 2 - Dec 15 Dec 21 - Jan 5	--
1995	60 +23HP	Sep 30 - Oct 3 Oct 14 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 11 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	--	--
1994	49 +12 HP	Oct 15 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 21 - Jan 2	Oct 22 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 26 - Jan 2	--	--
1993	39 +12HP	Oct 16 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 5 Dec 22 - Jan 1	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 12	--	--
1992	39 +12HP	Oct 17 - Nov 8 Nov 21 - Dec 6 Dec 26 - Jan 6	Oct 31 - Nov 13 Nov 21 - Dec 6 Dec 26 - Jan 3	--	--

Figure 1. Estimates active duck hunters and duck harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

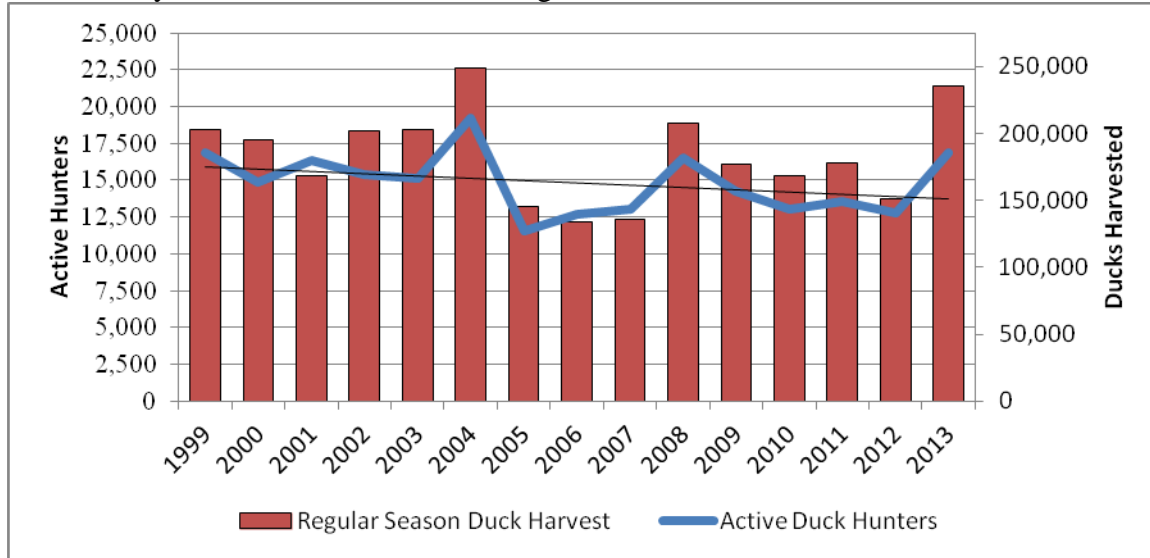


Table 3. Estimates of active duck hunters, regular season duck harvest, and average duck per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, and total duck hunter days in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

Year	Active Duck Hunters	Regular Season Duck Harvest	Average Duck Hunter Days	Average Seasonal Duck Bag	Duck Hunter Days
1999	16,900	203,226	7.5	13.9	126,800
2000	14,900	195,555	7.2	15.2	107,400
2001	16,344	168,267	6.2	11.1	100,989
2002	15,426	202,093	6.7	13.9	102,744
2003	15,100	203,184	7.1	15.5	107,600
2004	19,200	249,126	6.5	14.2	124,000
2005	11,600	145,413	7.6	13.7	87,700
2006	12,663	133,701	6.7	12.8	85,416
2007	13,021	135,523	6.3	12.7	82,149
2008	16,531	208,056	6.4	13.9	106,154
2009	14,259	176,862	6.5	13.6	92,081
2010	13,053	168,422	6.1	14.3	79,064
2011	13,534	178,112	7.1	15.0	96,138
2012	12,739	150,901	7.1	13.7	90,851
2013	16,847	235,335	6.3	15.8	105,344
Long-term Average	14,808	183,585	6.7	14.0	99,629
percent Change from 2012	+32.2 percent	+56.0 percent	+12.3 percent	+15.3 percent	+16.0 percent
percent Change from LTA	+13.8 percent	+28.2 percent	+7.3 percent	+13.2 percent	+5.7 percent

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

Table 2. Historic general goose season in Kansas from 2006 to 2014.

Season	Canada Goose	Light Goose	White-fronted Goose
2014	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Dec 14 Jan 17 - Feb 15
2013	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Feb 01 - Feb 09
2012	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Feb 02 - Feb 10
2011	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Feb 04 - Feb 12
2010	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Jan 02 Feb 05 - Feb 13
2009	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Jan 03 Feb 06 - Feb 14
2008	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Jan 04 Feb 07 - Feb 15
2007	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Jan 06 Feb 09 - Feb 17
2006	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Jan 07 Feb 10 - Feb 18

Figure 3. Estimates active goose hunters and goose harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

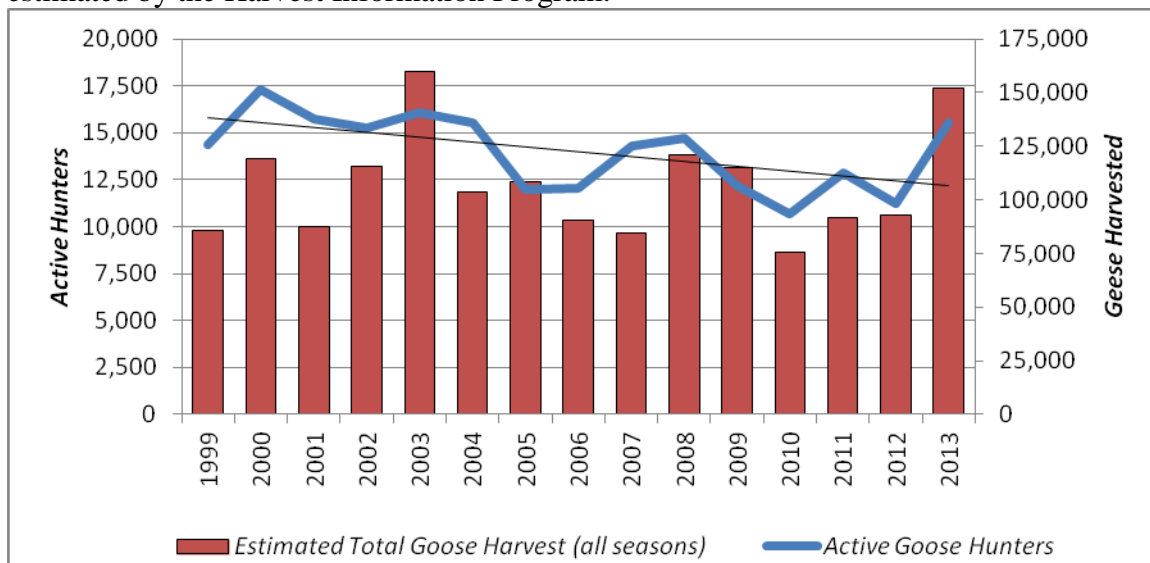


Table 5. Estimates of active goose hunters, total season goose harvest, average goose per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, total goose hunter days, and regular season harvest for Canada, light goose and white-fronted geese in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

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
Long-term Average	13,990	106,850	6	7.7	84,755	81,282	12,498	9,290	34,025
percent Change from 2012	38.70 percent	63.30 percent	-12.70 percent	18.10 percent	20.90 percent	50.50 percent	109.40 percent	123.50 percent	28.10 percent
percent Change from LTA	11.10 percent	42.10 percent	-5.90 percent	27.80 percent	4.30 percent	33.70 percent	118.10 percent	71.40 percent	172.80 percent

**Workshop
Session
(continued)**

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM BRIEFING ITEM
Webless Migratory Game Bird Regulations
 March 26, 2015

Background

Although webless migratory birds are subject to the same federal framework process with the US Fish and Wildlife Service as waterfowl, stability in season dates and bag limits allows the inclusion of webless regulations, bag limits, and season dates as permanent regulations. Webless migratory game bird regulations are summarized below.

Species	Regulation	Regulation Summary
Crow	KAR 115-25-16	Crows; open season, bag limit, and possession limit
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
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

Staff Recommendation

NO CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO THE WEBLESS GAME BIRDS REGULATIONS

2015-16 Webless Migratory Game Bird Bag Limits and Season Dates
(as prescribed by current regulations)

Species	Bag/Possession Limits	Season Dates
Crow	none	November 10 - March 10
Dove	Migratory - 15/45	September 1 - October 31 & November 7 - November 15
	Exotic - none	
Extended Exotic Dove	none	November 20 - February 28
Sandhill Crane	3/9	November 11 - January 7
Snipe	8/24	September 1 - December 16
Rail	25/75	September 1 - November 9
Woodcock	3/9	October 17 - November 30

2015 SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON
April 23, 2015

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The USFWS frameworks establish maximum bag, possession limits and season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. September Teal Season Frameworks are published in late June, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and recommendations from Flyway Councils are completed.

Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most passing through Kansas from late August through September, prior to the opening of the general duck season. Green-winged teal are also early migrants, and many arrive in September and October, but they are commonly found in Kansas throughout the winter, depending on weather conditions. Cinnamon teal are occasionally found mixed with flocks of blue-winged teal in Kansas.

Special teal seasons were initiated to provide additional harvest opportunities on blue-winged and green-winged teal. As long as the blue-winged teal May breeding population index (BPI) is above 3.3 million, a 9-day teal season can be held. If the blue-winged teal BPI exceeds 4.7 million, a 16-day season can be allowed. The 2015 blue-winged teal breeding population total will not be known until late June, but based on last year's (2014) blue-winged teal breeding population of 8.5 million and spring habitat conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region, the 2015 BPI is expected to allow a 16-day season.

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 2 youth hunting days, the addition of a 9- or 16-day teal season would exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's 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 reduce the High Plains Unit teal season to eight days, or reduce days in the High Plains Unit general duck season so as not to exceed 107 hunting days. For the past five seasons, a 9-day teal season with 96-day regular duck season has been selected in the High Plains Unit to satisfy this criterion.

PRIOR SEASON (2014) FEDERAL FRAMEWORK* FOR SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

Season Dates:	Between September 1 and September 30, 2014
Season Length:	16 days if blue-winged teal BPI is above 4.7 million 9 days if blue-winged teal BPI is between 3.3 - 4.7 million
Bag Limit:	6 daily, 18 in possession (any combination of teal)
Shooting Hours:	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

* Final Federal Frameworks will not be set until the June 26, 2015 after the USFWS Service Regulatory Committee Meeting.

Staff Recommendations

Season Dates:

Low Plains Zones (east of Hwy 283)

OPTION A: 16-day season running September 5 through September 20, 2015

OPTION B: 16-day season running September 12 through September 27, 2015 (Staff Recommendation)

High Plains Zone (west of Hwy 283) **

OPTION A: 9-day season running September 5 through September 13, 2015

OPTION B: 9-day season running September 12 through September 20, 2015

OPTION C: 9-day season running September 19 through September 27, 20152015 (Staff Recommendation)

Bag Limit: 6 daily, 18 in possession (any combination of teal)

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

** This selection may reduce the season length of the general duck season in the High Plains Unit by one day due to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act season length restrictions for any one species to 107 days. The regular High Plains Unit duck season in the liberal AHM package is allotted 97 days plus two youth hunting days. In order to stay within the 107-day restriction, either the September teal season or general duck season must be reduced one day from their allowable Federal frameworks.

Table 1. Kansas September Teal Season Dates and September Teal Harvest*

Year	Low Plains Season Dates	Hunting Days	High Plains Season Dates	Hunting Days	Green- winged Teal	Blue- winged Teal	Total Harvest
1992	Sept 12-20	9	Sept 12-20	9	4,267	12,902	17,169
1993	Sept 11-19	9	Sept 11-19	9	1,081	5,604	6,685
1994	Sept 10-18	9	Sept 10-18	9	2,217	7,083	9,300
1995	Sept 16-24	9	Sept 16-24	9	1,896	10,227	12,123
1996	Sept 14-22	9	Sept 14-22	9	1,415	17,115	18,530
1997	Sept 13-21	9	Sept 13-21	9	2,367	14,858	17,225
1998	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 12-20	9	8,454	19,727	28,181
1999	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 11-19	9	3,052	28,022	31,074
2000	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 9-16	8	4,621	27,724	32,345
2001	Sept 15-30	16	Sept 15-22	8	1,790	10,741	12,531
2002	Sept 21-29	9	Sept 21-28	8	3,783	8,723	12,506
2003	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-27	8	9,024	21,393	30,417
2004	Sept 18-26	9	Sept 18-25	8	2,901	19,173	22,074
2005	Sept 17-25	9	Sept 17-24	8	2,200	10,387	12,587
2006	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 16-23	8	4,733	23,664	28,397
2007	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-22	8	4,534	25,582	30,116
2008	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 13-20	8	7,200	15,120	22,320
2009	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-26	8	2,775	15,165	17,940
2010	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 18-26	9	1,812	16,829	18,641
2011	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	1,748	22,562	24,310
2012	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-23	9	4,298	19,420	23,718
2013	Sept 7-22	16	Sept 14-22	9	2,323	28,213	30,536
2014	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-28	9	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**

* Harvest estimates from 1999 to current are based on Harvest Information Program (HIP). For years prior to 1999, harvest estimates are based on USFWS Mail Survey Questionnaire.

** Harvest Data is not available until late July.

DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES

APRIL 23, 2015

Background

Zoning is the establishment of independent seasons in two or more areas (zones) within a state for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity. Zoning enhances the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters in specific areas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considers states' request to change duck zones every five years. The next opportunity for Kansas to alter its duck zone boundaries, if it chooses, will be for the 2016-17 season. The USFWS must be notified by Dec. 1, 2015 of any proposed changes. Below are the federal guidelines for zoning:

- 1) A zone is a geographic area or portion of a state, with a contiguous boundary, for which independent dates may be selected for the regular duck season.
- 2) Changes for management-unit boundaries (i.e. High Plains Unit) are not subject to the guidelines and provisions governing the use of zones and split seasons for ducks.
- 3) Only minor (less than a county in size) boundary changes will be allowed for any grandfathered arrangement and changes are limited to the open season. (Kansas has no grandfathered boundaries).
- 4) Once a zone/split option is selected, it must remain in place for the following five years. Any State may continue the configuration used in the previous five-year period. If changes are made, the zone/split-season configuration must conform to one of the following options:
 - 1) No more than four zones with no splits,
 - 2) Split seasons (no more than three segments) with no zones,
 - 3) No more than three zones with the option for two-way (two-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones.

Although the zone boundaries are permanent for five years, the season dates and bag limits may be adjusted annually.

Discussion

Physiographically diverse states have added difficulty in selecting season dates that will accommodate hunted duck species (early vs. late migrants) and hunting style (i.e. marshes, fields, reservoirs, rivers, etc.) preferences. This is especially true for mid-latitude states like Kansas. Although zoning creates boundaries that can confuse some hunters, the objective of zoning for duck hunting is greater hunter opportunity and harvest. Zoning enhances the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters for specific areas.

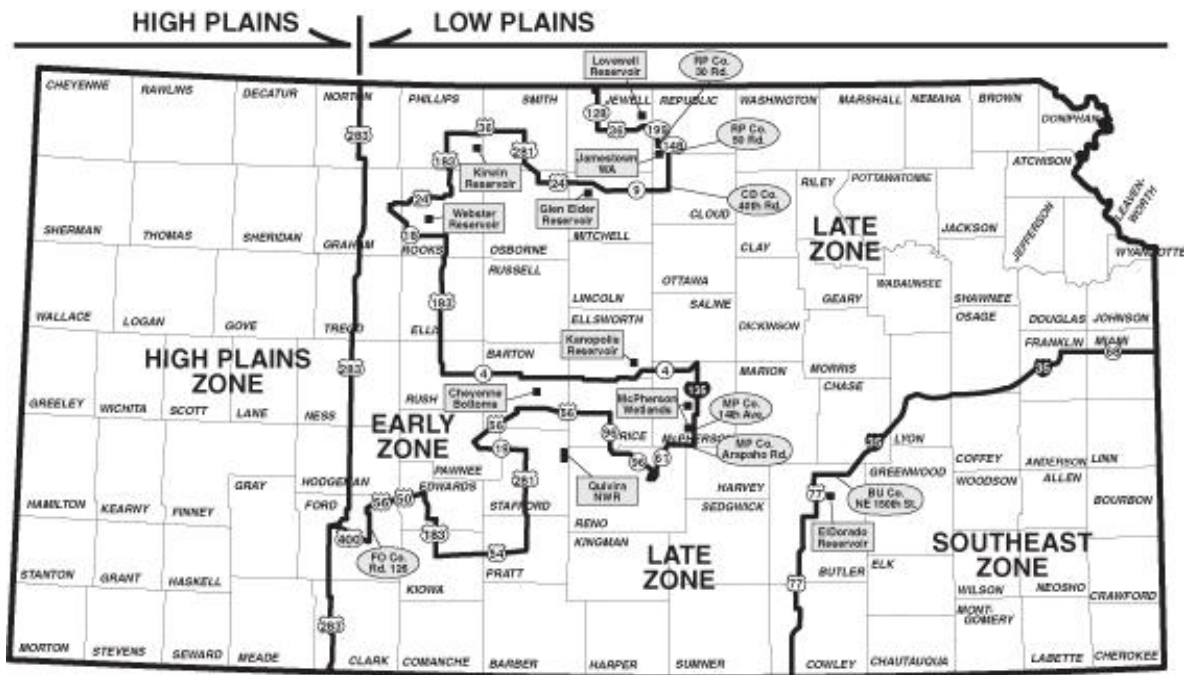
Kansas waterfowl hunters are just as diverse as Kansas waterfowl hunting opportunities. KDWPT typically receives strong – and often conflicting – opinions about seasons. Some hunters prefer early seasons while others prefer hunting in later seasons. Zones and splits are tools that help serve a broad constituent base. Zoning effectively increases season length for hunters willing to travel. The benefits of zoning increases under restrictive season length frameworks, as were in place from 1988 through 1992 (39-day total season length).

If the proposed changes are not adopted, the zones will continue as they have been for the 2011-2015 waterfowl seasons. If a state cannot meet the Dec. 1, 2015 deadline (due to incomplete feedback from sportsmen, commissions, etc.) but still wishes to change its configuration during the next open season, the second deadline will be May 1, 2016. HOWEVER, if this is the date of submission, the state may not implement the new configuration until the 2017-2018 seasons. It is unclear at this point whether those states would be allowed to have that configuration for only four years (until the next scheduled open season for zone/split changes in 2021), or allowed a full five years and change the date of the next open season to 2022. Each state is limited to only one change during the open season. That is, you cannot make a change for the 2016-17 season, and then submit a new configuration on May 1, 2016 and make another change for the 2017-18 seasons and beyond for the remainder of the five-year period.

Duck Zones Historical Timeline

- 1972 Kansas was split into High Plains Low Plains
- 1996 Low Plains split into Early Zone and Late Zone
- 2011 Low Plains split into Early Zone, Late Zone and Southeast Zone

Figure 1. Current Duck Zone Boundaries



Public Hearing

KANSAS REGISTER
SUBMISSION FORM

Agency Number -- 710-01

Agency Name -- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Agency Address - 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1233

Title of Document -- Public Meeting

Desired Date of Publication - March 19, 2015

ITEMS SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the attached documents, and that they conform to all applicable Kansas Register publication guidelines and to the requirements of K.S.A. 75-431, as amended. I further certify that submission of these items for publication is a proper and lawful action of this agency, that funds are available to pay the publication fees and that such fees will be paid by this agency on receipt of billing.

Christopher J. Tymeson
Liaison officer's typed name

Liaison officer's signature

Department Attorney
Title

(785) 296-2281
Phone

This space for Register office use only

Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

Notice of Public Meeting

A public meeting will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2015 at the Great Plains Nature Center, 6232 E 29th Street North, Wichita, Kansas, to consider future regulatory action of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:00 p.m., April 23 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for future regulatory action and other business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. April 24 at the location listed above.

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

This 30-day notice period prior to the meeting constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on future regulatory business of the Commission.

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

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

Gerald Lauber, Chairman

2015 Cabin Fees Effective Calendar 2015

Background:

115-2-3a. Cabin camping permit fees. (a) The following cabin camping permit fees shall be in effect for the following state parks: The cabin fees are reviewed several times each year and adjusted based on cabin occupancy rates. Based on those rates cabin prices may warrant an increase or perhaps a decrease during certain times of the year. At this time we are proposing the following cabin rate changes.