

AGENDA
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM
COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday August 10, 2017
Cheney State Park – Ninnescah Sailing Club
Cheney, Kansas

Tour (morning)

- 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 June 22, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**
- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
- VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Presentation (Linda Lanterman)

A. Secretary's Remarks

- 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Robin Jennison)**
- 2. 2017 Legislature (Chris Tymeson)**

B. General Discussion

- 1. Big Game Regulations (Levi Jaster)**
- 2. Tourism Update (Linda Craghead)**

C. Workshop Session

- 1. 2018 Turkey Regulations (Kent Fricke)**
- 2. Park Regulations (Linda Lanterman)**
- 3. Private Owned Cabin Permit Fees (Steve Adams)**
- 4. Boating Registration Fees (Mike Miller)**
- 5. Fees and Licenses (Mike Miller)**
- 6. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations (Chris Berens)**

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**

B. General Discussion (continued)

3. Cheney State Park Presentation (Mike Satterlee)

C. Workshop Session (continued)

7. Fishing Regulations (Doug Nygren)

D. Public Hearing

None

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

If necessary, the Commission will recess on August 10, 2017, to reconvene August 11, 2017, 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, October 19, 2017 at Bryan Conference Center, 101 S Main, Scott City, KS.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 22, 2017
George Meyn Center, 126th & State Ave,
Kansas City, Kansas

Subject to
Commission
Approval

The June 22, 2017 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at the Wyandotte County George Meyn Center, Kansas City. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Ward Cassidy, Emerick Cross, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams were present.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A). Chairman Lauber recognized former commissioner Shari Wilson.

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – Revised agenda to add item 5 under general discussion, Boating Regulations to be presented by Chris Tymeson, also Chris will be presenting item 3 under the workshop session, fees and licenses. (Exhibit B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE April 20, 2017 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Harrison Williams moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second. *Approved.* (Minutes – Exhibit C).

V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Commissioner Rider – Gave Secretary and commissioners documents I received yesterday on Mined Land deer creek project (Exhibit D); pit was filled in and doing more reclamation on areas. Manager had a meeting and several people concerned that Health and Environment using department lands, because they have money to spend. Safety concerns and using excess amounts of money that don't need to be used. Some of things department wants to do is limit vehicle access to some of these centers, affects trappers and access to finger pits, working on larger areas. Public concerned about losing access to inner areas, can still walk in, but no vehicle access for picking up carcasses or bringing in fur trapping equipment. Heard discussion for weeks now on this. Constituents are concerned about process and how this goes through the department. Want to keep these areas primitive. Don't take away from wilderness aspect of this area. Different from any other area in the state that we have to offer. Chairman Lauber – Do you have an opinion on that? Commissioner Rider – See both sides, talked to David Jenkins, the manager, quite a bit, but see constituents concerns about interior access too. Don't know what process is, working with KDWP and KDHE on this. The sportsmen don't feel their concerns are heard before the process begins. Chairman Lauber – Under umbrella of safety see areas closed off, happened to me in the past. Want to look at both sides; people in your area have good point. Look at that area. Secretary Jennison – We will. This came up about two years ago, see if Stuart's folks can put together presentation for October meeting. Commissioner Rider – As far as access, gates were put up, understand the reason, know there are times when an area needs to be closed off, but feel closed for extended periods of time. Need to look at that.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Welcome – Doug Bach, Wyandotte County Administrator – Welcome to Wyandotte County, on behalf of Mayor Holland and our Commission appreciate you having one of your meetings here. We are one of two consolidated governments in state of Kansas, 40 across the U.S. We have 162,000 people in county, 150,000 in Kansas City; consolidated and incorporated 20 years ago. Efficient for community and reduced mill levy by 20 percent. Some of you looked at new sporting complex, doing a lot for state of Kansas, we were able to negotiate to bring in speedway in 2001 and now this complex; most successful star bond in the nation; paid off last year, five years ahead of time. Sends \$44 million in sales tax to state of Kansas and captures about \$12 million back into local government. Sporting stadium, no incentive and still did it five years ahead of schedule. Our county is based off industrial and manufacturing, GM builds Malibu here at Fairfax Plant and see many other products built here. Routinely in top five for increased employment in the country; also close to state line and other cities. Thank you for coming here today.

Law Enforcement Division Award – Dan Heskett – A major portion of my duties include representing the agency and the state as the State Boating Law Administrator. This duty includes oversight of our recreational boating safety program, administration of our grant compliance within the guidelines of the United States Coast Guard and representing the State in attendance with the National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA for short). Each year the National Association of Boating Law Administrators delivers several awards during their annual conference. Two of these Awards include the National Boating Educator of the Year Award and the Butch Potts Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. With 50 states and six territories, the process involves nominations of deserving individuals through the Boating Law Administrator to the District Association of the states membership. Three districts exist involving the Northern States, Southern States and the Western States of which Kansas is currently a member. Last year Kansas had a National Winner in Erika Brooks who won the Western States Boating Educator of the Year Award and was named the NASBLA National Award winner. Erika resigned from the agency and is currently employed by Cabela's of Wichita. This year Kansas has another Western States Award recipient for the Boating Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award. It is with honor that I have the privilege of reading the nomination for Game Warden Ryan Smidt and presenting him his award from the Western States Conference recently held in Cody Wyoming. Officer Smidt will now be in the process of selection with two other counterparts from the Northern and Southern regions for the NASBLA selection of the National Award. Game Warden Ryan Smidt was selected as this year's Western States Boating Officer of the Year from individuals nominated from the member states of: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming (read nomination – Exhibit E). *Heskett and Eric Denault presented Ryan with plaque and replica of 1851 Navy sheriff caliber 44 ball and cap pistol.* Ryan Smidt – Surprised, been to these commission meetings before, but this is the first one I was required to come to. Thank you, more to come, I am not done yet.

Mark Rankin – Operation Gamethief, started in late 1980s, early 1990s, administering in Wichita to begin with, then KHP, then staff and answering machine at night. Put out word for someone to answer the line and interviewed and selected Mike Vestal 11 years ago. He is retiring now and we would like to present him with a plaque. Mike Vestal – Job has been rewarding and love taking care of officers and helping catch the bad guys. Some calls are crazy or about stuff they already should know.

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). Park Fee Fund (PFF) continues to have fairly significant growth, year-to-date

8.5 percent above where we were last year. Having some trouble with new licensing structure, difficulties in getting those monies into the appropriate accounts as quickly as we used to, so a little behind. When you look at the current year \$213,000 missing from March that was not in yet and we only have figures to May 23, takes about a week or so to show up. Likely will end the year with strong revenue in PFF. If you look at the graph, top line is this year and we have continued to increase our balances in the PFF. Challenge we had this year, faced with \$500,000 rescission, which took place about six months into the year, of EDIF money coming to the department. We took money from parks because parks has more flexibility. As we come to the end of the year we will adjust part of that back; probably have additional EDIF money in our admin exec and information services sections and a little extra in Tourism. We are going to modify that \$500,000 rescission. When we took that money out of parks we immediately started spending out of PFF, so that is why you see it come down so hard. Hope to build that back up and it will only be a one-time deal and next year we won't be faced with that. The Cabin Fee Fund (CFF) is continuing to see increased revenues; year-to-date at \$1.1 million; last year just over \$1 million and under \$1.1 million the year before that. The current balance in the CFF, a little over \$800,000, last year about \$500,000 so have built into the balance. Using for utilities across the parks system; growing number with increases in number of cabins and increased campgrounds at Hillsdale, Sand Hills and several smaller areas; have had increased costs, but also increased usage. The Wildlife Fee Fund has significant growth because of fee structure change. Challenges with new licensing structure is not getting money in accounts as soon as we would like, but in March \$566,000 short and should be in before the end of the year; not only for WFF, but PFF too. Significant balances in WFF, agency will grow into that increased revenue, in short term there are some one time monies we could spend, maybe some deferred maintenance types of things we could do which has been laid out for us. We had significant rain event at Woodson State Lake, will be fair amount of FEMA money in that; work at Clark State Lake, Crawford, Scott State Lake and Leavenworth. A number of our facilities a wide variety were either CCC or WPA projects and may need some work now. Hopefully over next five or six years take care of any deferred maintenance and O&M will grow into the revenues we are bringing in. Chairman Lauber – How old are CCC projects? Jennison – In 1930s and 1940s, some significant work to be done at Woodson on spillway which was not cement and tower was built back then so not sure what that will entail; dewatering to make those repairs. Clark County will be next with a spillway issue as well, Crawford had a slip in the dam, and Scott State Lake has similar problem as Woodson with spillway.

2. 2017 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit G). First year of two-year cycle, bills not passed still alive for debate and action next year. So far 114 days, tied for longest session; working on taxes, education funding and budget mostly. On Tourism side, STAR bonds reauthorized through 2022 with one year moratorium on new projects. Pay increase for state employees in budget also, language interpretation issues occurring beyond our agency, originally two percent across the board, proposed language on law enforcement and that did not make it through, settled on 2.5 and 5 percent depending on classification. Also, during budget bill debate, on both sides an attempt to add transferable deer permits into budget bill, one per 80 acres and both attempts were defeated. SB 24 – department initiative designating channel catfish as state fish, went to Senate Ag and Natural Resources and saw no action. SB 25 – department initiative, dealt with removing public hearing requirement to set cabin fees; also introduce in Senate Ag and Natural Resources who modified it to include camping permit fees to make them operate more dynamically, passed Senate 26-14, went to House Agriculture, rerouted to House Commerce and was tabled after debate. Also, an attempt to add transferrable deer permits to that. SB 26 – increasing vessel registration fee cap, passed Senate 35-4, passed House 79-43 and was signed by the Governor in April. Will talk more about that later in item number 5 in general discussion. SB 70 – Kansas Amusement ride act; impacts us because of Agri-tourism areas; passed 39-1 and 124-1 with signed by Governor April 17. Had implementation date of July 1 and realized a lot bigger than what they thought so came back with SB 86 which extends implementation date out a year; that bill has been enrolled but not signed by the Governor, he has until June 26 to sign all bills. SB 77 – dealt with Wildlife Parks and Tourism bison

herd in southeast Kansas, would name after former legislator Bob Grant, out on Senate general orders and sits below the line. SB 162 – would have amended statutes related to dangerous regulated animals, a HSUS bill. It would have added wolves, non-human primates and a couple of other things, saw no action. SB 240 – authorizing land purchase in Sherman County by KDWP, went through Senate Ways and Means and went on Senate general orders below the line, however topic still in another bill we will talk about later. Legislature has to approve all purchases of land over 160 acres unless under appraised value. HB 2068 – child support orders, registration of vehicles and vessels, we already preclude vessels if in arrearage for child support, so no affect on us. HB 2098 – bill passed that renamed Mined Land wildlife area bison herd after Representative Bob Grant, passed 115-0 and Senate 39-0 and was signed by the Governor May 10. HB 2191 – department initiative, relating to licenses, permits, stamps and other issues of KDWP, law enforcement-related bill as we transition towards electronic licenses and mobile applications, provisions in there on that and provisions on citations, passed House 124-0, Senate 40-0 and was signed by the Governor April 7. Hung up in legislature a few years ago, but finally passed. HB 2192 – renames Lake Scott State Park to Historic Lake Scott State Park, passed House 122-0, Senate 40-0, signed by Governor on March 28. We have meeting there in October. HB 2193 – would have required and phased in boater education, similar to hunter education and furharvester education. Had a hearing on January 31, but saw no action. HB 2199 – a rendition of anti-conservation easement sentiment, would have authorized county boards of commissioners to regulate conservation easements, saw no action. HB 2207 – substitute bill dealing with hunting on private land by written permission only, substitute got out of Committee and went to House floor, sent back to Committee because of opposition on House floor. HB 2208 – also transferrable deer permit bill, had a hearing February 14, no action in Committee after that, but was an attempt in House Commerce to add to SB 25 and add to budget on both sides. HB 2246 – deals with agriculture noxious weeds, sets up noxious weed council and moves noxious weeds from statute to regulation, had a hearing in February, set up a subcommittee and saw no further action. HB 2276 – dangerous regulated animals, saw no action. HB 2277 – a Tourism-related bill, dealing with common consumption areas, similar to Power and Light downtown where people can walk around with alcohol at different venues, passed and signed by the Governor on June 7. HB 2078 – conceal carry in hospitals, quite a few attempts this year to roll back some of the concealed carry provisions, one ultimately passed, will become law without the Governor's signature on June 26. Governor chose not to sign, but after 10 days it becomes effective without his signature. HB 2363 – would have authorized the Department of Administration to sell off surplus property, listed a number of properties that the department owned including Cheyenne Bottoms, about \$12 million of our property as well as other agencies' property. Came out of House Appropriations but didn't go anywhere, no hearing or action. HB 2407 – came in late in session, enrolled, but not signed by Governor yet, dealing with land donated to department, for instance in a city someone donated an old site through probate. Will require some major cleanup and as a result the legislature came back and said Attorney General and Secretary of Administration have to agree to accept that property, expressly through written consent prior to donation through probate. For all other donations, requires Secretary of Administration and agency receiving the donation to have written consent prior to donation. Passed Senate 39-0, passed House 93-20. As process moving along on Senate side, they amended Sherman County purchase to that bill and authorized purchase of 1,000 acres. House Concurrent Resolution 5008 – an attempt to have a Constitutional Amendment to fund state water plan, which for last several years has not been funded or under-funded. Had hearing in February and saw no action. Chairman Lauber – Kansas Amusement Ride Act, talked about Ag businesses, like a pumpkin patch, where you may ride on a wagon behind a tractor; was as a result of death in this county? Tymeson – That was major impetus of that. Chairman Lauber - How did that affect those pumpkin patches? Tymeson – That is what the issue is. It was centered around a death and since then another death in Wichita area on an amusement ride. Not sure people thought about the broad implications of when that bill passed how it would affect folks. It is not regulated by us, but Department of Labor (DOL) who was not consulted on the process, but has been faced with implementing and regulating this. Not aware of impacts on agri-tourism businesses. Chairman Lauber – You may not know all the details, but is it something that says all rides shall be conducted in a safe manner or more detailed than that? Tymeson – It is pretty detailed, it says if it is a mechanical ride or

has mechanical parts then it is regulated and has to be inspected by an engineer who has experience of certain levels, which there are few. If you have a slide at a swimming pool higher than 15 feet, which sweeps in municipalities; broad ranging effects on this. DOL trying to figure out how to implement this and comes into effect July 1 and no inspectors, the trailer bill delayed implementation for a year. Our small part is trying to help agri-tourism businesses out and help DOL regulate those. Chairman Lauber – Clearly see the problem. Tim Nedeau – In Topeka meeting in March, on HB 2207, you said department was neutral; at Pratt meeting you said opposed to it and didn't think it would go anywhere. That bill was intended to protect landowners from unwanted trespassers. Nearly three million people in this state and 98 percent of land is owned by private individuals and three percent hunt. When can Kansas landowner have control over their own land? Tymeson – I assume that is a rhetorical question. What I said, was the department opposed the bill originally and we were neutral on the substitute. If you crossed my property, in trespass laws, I have to tell you to leave. The substitute is confusing, but we stood neutral on it; if you want strict enforcement you need to be ready for strict result. Heard many comments as the bill went on, the way it was written originally, there are concerns about that. Nedeau – The bill was amended before the Topeka meeting. It was substituted that you didn't have to have written permission, you just had to have permission. The way it is right now, our land is posted no hunting and posted with purple paint, what meaning does that have? Tymeson – What is described in statute. Nedeau – Somebody can still come on our land without asking my permission first to pursue wounded wildlife, or the claim of pursuing wounded wildlife? That is a get-out-of-jail free card. Tymeson – Lot of implications, philosophically what you are proposing you are entitled to, but it is not the bill of the legislature. They didn't send the bill out. Nedeau – Does this have to go through the legislature, can this go through a regulation? Tymeson – No, it is a statutory exemption. Nedeau – It bewilders me; I have one neighbor I have repeatedly told to leave our land. I had a hunting signs aren't working; the no trespassing, the purple paint, the keep out, doesn't work. This year for the first time I had a hunter call before season and asked if he could pursue a deer if he shot one across our land. He fence line hunts, I can touch his treestand from my fence. I told him no, but call me and I will go with him to pursue it. This man has hunted for 15 years on our fence line and this is the first year he has ever contacted me and I feel it is due to the trail cameras I put up and I caught my neighbor on our land hunting and I confronted him. The purple paint doesn't work. I am not in charge of my land when they say they are pursuing wounded wildlife. There are people who own a lot more than we do, we own just less than 200 acres. I've worked our land and want to hunt my land. The way it works now a group of individuals could walk through with dogs on a leash; go through my hunting area and leave scent and the deer I know was there has been driven off by them. Why don't I have rights, why can't somebody call and ask for permission? We teach that in hunter education. We are not talking about the ethical hunter, but the unscrupulous person who is always going to find a way to get on land that they don't have permission. I wish we had some backing for we the people.

B. General Discussion

1. Private Owned Cabin Permit Fees – Steve Adams, special assistant, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H). Issue we will bring back in future meetings. KAR 115-2-6 sets the permit fee charged for private owned cabins that are in place under a permit on public lands, three locations in particular, Cedar Bluff, Webster and Lovewell reservoirs. The department operates wildlife areas and state parks at a number of Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) lakes in northwest Kansas, including Cedar Bluff, Webster, Glen Elder, Lovewell, and also the fishery at Kirwin. All of those activities occur under what is referred to as a master lease for our operation of those areas. The existing master lease expired as of May 31 and a new master lease was signed June 1. As a part of that process, with new master lease all third party leases, including these cabin leases, marinas and other private operations that occur on public lands. With the renewal of the cabin leases there is a federal requirement to establish a new lease rate. Once lease rate is finalized we will have to update on KAR 115-2-6. At the department's request, public meetings were held last week at Lovewell, Webster and in Hays for the cabin owners at Cedar Bluff. More information will be provided prior to subsequent

meetings. Chairman Lauber – What is the rate now? Adams – Average rate is \$274 a year. Chairman Lauber – How many cabins does this affect? Adams – There are 104 cabins at Cedar Bluff, eight at Webster and 62 at Lovewell. In addition there are 55 house trailer sites at Lovewell. Chairman Lauber – Are these permanent structures? Adams – Yes, with exception of the house trailers. Private owners own structure, but the property it sits on is owned by the federal government and part of the lease the department has. Chairman Lauber – Do we know who owns them? Adams – Each of the cabins has an existing permit and have owner of record on each one of them. Chairman Lauber – Cabins at Woodson State Lake, I was never sure of who owned what and if we had any record; they go back longer than 25 years? Tymeson – Woodson State Lake situation is much more complex.

Break

2. Archery Program Update – Aaron Austin, bowhunter education coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit I, PowerPoint – Exhibit J). I work for Hunter Education department, responsible for bowhunter education, furharvester education, Archery in the Schools program, Scholastic 3D archery and archery ranges. My working title is the Outdoor Skills and Recruitment Coordinator. I became more interested in the motives of hunters, so R3 is a huge interest in my field. R3 is recruitment, retention and reactivation of hunters and anglers – where conservation professionals are addressing the declines in hunting, target shooting, fishing, boating and other outdoor recreation activities. Seventy to Eighty percent of conservation funding comes from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program, through excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, hunting/fishing/archery equipment, now over \$16 billion. Declining numbers of hunting licenses sold from 1980 to 2015, a loss of nearly 1.5 million hunters; \$83 million less in license sales alone. The department has taken measures to evaluate where we are on the national scale, and where we want to be, by putting together an enthusiastic committee of agency experts. Our goals on R3 task force are to evaluate Kansas efforts, learn where to focus more attention in the future, approve cooperation with agency partners and increase agency R3 involvement including the addition of a full time R3 coordinator. The group identified challenges: improving reporting, evaluation of individuals participating in all outdoor recreation, increasing awareness and acres of public lands. In order to understand R3 in hunting, for example, need to understand natural pathway of an individual going through the decision process of becoming or not becoming a hunter. Using Outdoor Recreation Adoption model, the first step is awareness, is activity relevant to my life; interested in looking into; trial stage is first time individual has experience to back up preconceptions; after first experience the individual know whether they want to continue or not; mentorship in continuation with support, hunter needs a lot of resources and help to continue and is most fragile step in model; if we can get hunter to jump to the next step of continuation without support they are what we consider a seasoned hunter and that is the end goal. Sometime along the timeline they could lapse or stop for whatever reason, but following a lapse there is an opportunity to reactivate them, which is a dynamic cycle. Recruitment if first three phases: awareness, interest trial; when individual has tried it and identified himself as a hunter we call that retention stage where they decide to continue with or without support; and the reactivation phase where a hunter requires different efforts and tools to participate again. It is important to understand that social network support should and must exist for initial adoption process to occur, without acceptance from their peers it is highly likely they will stop. After the individual tries hunting for the first time and they begin to identify themselves as a hunter can be the bridge to cross to continue. R3 Task Force took time to map programs in decision process and where they fall on model. We identified gaps, redundancies and any kind of crowding in our efforts as an agency. Must understand process and design everything we do around it to be successful. Survey conducted by Responsive Management found that archery participation in the U.S. climbed about 20 percent from 2012 to 2015 and in an effort to support the rising trend the department has been constructing and maintaining archery ranges around the state parks; three new ranges in last year are at Scott, Webster and Glen Elder and we updated other areas at Lovewell, Clinton and Hillsdale. Some existing and successful archery ranges are at Eisenhower, El Dorado, Prairie Center, Pratt and Tuttle Creek. Future plans at Meade, Cedar Bluff and Cheney; diving into accounting side of things in

community-wide areas, one being Harvey County East Lake in Newton and potentially Banner Creek near Holton. Since 2006, KDWP has facilitated the National Archery in the Schools (NASP) program teaching youth 4th through 12th grade archery within school curriculum; program teaches fundamentals of archery improving patience, concentration and self confidence. Our state NASP coordinator Gary Keehn will get further into this program. Another national program I hope to bring to Kansas is the Scholastic 3D Archery (S3DA) program, which allows youth to take the next step, with their own archery equipment, focused on 3D animal targets; provides information on other opportunities including bowhunting, archery with Pope and Young Club who developed a clear path initiative providing beginning training to become lifelong archers and bowhunters with emphasis on responsibility and ethics in the outdoors. Archery in the Schools is a terrific recruitment tool and is responsible for providing lifetime target shooters, with many deciding to becoming hunters. S3DA gives NASP students the next step to learn advanced target archery with emphasis on producing responsible bowhunters in recruitment and retention phases. These two programs provide social support from team members and coaches to help them become self reliant. Giving the public a place to shoot is often overlooked, but is successful in all three phases. Archery ranges will help facilitate youth outdoor recruitment events, provide public resources to both new and avid target archers and bowhunters of all ages and in terms of hunters and target shooters it could be one of the department's most valuable R3 efforts to produce and support lifetime outdoor enthusiasts.

3. Kansas National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Update – Gary Keehn, NASP coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K, PowerPoint – Exhibit L). Introduce survey and exciting results in national survey. Survey done, end of June is last day for data, 18 million youth affected by this program. During survey collaboration was done between leadership and staff of Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Responsive Management and Wayne Young, Kentucky NASP executive director. Focus on ongoing R3 and perceptions that impact archery industry and motivational factor of academic success. Methodology was through survey monkey software; an email was sent to active members of NASP basic archery instructor database with hyperlink and instructions for educators and coaches to share link with students. The 16-question survey was completed by 6,715 respondents; with 2.43 million youth active right now, plus or minus two percent error rate, with a 99 percent likelihood that collected sample data reflects attitudes of total population of potential respondents, what youth are like. Survey categories included: general programmatic, education and R3/Archery Industry. The first question was on gender, about 50/50 on teams, a good balance; Kansas compared to Missouri, less than two percent in Kansas. Asked how old they were, 9-18 and what grades they were in. When in High School, kids are active in a lot of things, have some retention. Asked about first experience of shooting a bow, 48 percent was first experience was NASP, also 19 percent were introduced through brother or sister in NASP. What is NASP doing for education, 58 percent felt it helped them in school to be better connected. Only thing we ask is shoot straight down towards target safely. Had young man in wheelchair shoot a few years ago and last year two blind boys shot. Not only changes kids' lives but instructors too. Ask what other school programs they were involved in because of NASP. Which response describes impact, NASP helped become part of the school. What we don't have is how many already doing well in school. Academic patch program, designed nationally, assembly recognizes them if C and above average, register with NASP and give away free bows and other items in a drawing from those kids. Another question, has someone asked you about applying for college or job? Last year at nationals 13,000 shooters, \$100,000 in scholarships awarded to these archers and seniors get a shoot off for that. Could give \$5,000 in scholarships in Kansas if we want to for high school seniors. Because of NASP what are you doing? Purchase only bow or target, 37 percent; 14 percent participated in bullseye archery competitions besides NASP; also listed bow fishing, bow hunting, target shooting, fishing and hunting, taken hunter education and if participating in other outdoor activities. What do you want to do now because of NASP? There is that next level Aaron talked about. What keeps you from being involved in it? Do they need a ride, lack of time, money, where to go, know where to get started, rather participate in other activities or other things. Can't control attitudes, but can help how trained, challenge is how we can we keep them interested after program. Have to do Basic Archery Instructor

(BAI) training to be a coach, 351 schools trained and 112 BAI coaches trained. Not only schools, but church groups, top winner in NASP male and female get a bow. Teaching and training adults to work in other areas. Like home schoolers, church groups and recreation departments throughout the states. Started with Olympic coach and his team. Have seven in state. Help assist local tournaments and provide equipment we can. Help Secretary of State Kobach hold tournament each year. Assist state tournaments, most states do their own, may run it in Kansas soon. Asked to be on committee for NASP. Also, I work with OK Kids, school field days, military families, NWTF shoots for veterans, Women on Target, camps and boy and girls scouts. Schools get equipment, blessed to put in funds to help with some equipment, don't pay for it all; in partnership with NWTF to help schools buy rest of the equipment we don't provide. Commissioner Williams – Do you contact school districts or they you? Keehn – They contact us, myself or Aaron and we work with them. This program is as safe as table tennis. Two of six national winners came out of our schools. Commissioner Dill – Have list of schools participating on website? Keehn – Don't think we can publically give that out. Can make a map and show hot spots.

4. 2018 Turkey Regulations – Kent Fricke, wildlife biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit M). The 2017 spring turkey season was open from April 1 to May 31 and included three seasons: youth/disabled, archery, and regular firearm. The fall 2016 season ran from October 1 to January 31, but was closed during the regular firearm deer season (November 30-December 11). Hunting is regulated within the same six turkey management units during both the spring and fall seasons. The six hunt units align with the management units the department uses to monitor turkey populations and hunter activity, which allows us to utilize both population and harvest data to guide harvest and season recommendations. The department currently sells spring turkey permits to almost 40,000 hunters and fall turkey permits to almost 9,000 hunters. Those individuals purchased 71,313 carcass tags for the spring 2016 season and 12,134 tags for the 2015 fall season. Non-residents accounted for 39.0 percent of Kansas' spring 2017 hunters and 21.7 percent of the fall 2015 hunters. Harvest has averaged around 33,000 and 13,000 turkeys over the last several spring and fall seasons, respectively. In recent years, the Kansas turkey population has stabilized. Despite stabilized turkey abundances, the population is still far below the peak levels observed in the mid 2000s. The vegetative conditions were generally good entering the 2017 nesting season across most of the state. However, recent precipitation events in the eastern and north-central portions of the state have coincided with the peak hatching period for turkeys, which is generally detrimental to production. The department uses an adaptive harvest management strategy to guide staff recommendations on wild turkey bag limits for both the spring and fall seasons. The strategy aims to maintain a high level of hunter success in each hunt unit and provides a consistent method of developing staff recommendations. The strategy includes a hierarchy of bag limit combinations and uses established thresholds to determine when each combination will be recommended. At the time, the data from the spring 2017 season has not yet been analyzed so it is not yet known if any of the established triggers have been met. The staff recommendations for the 2018 turkey bag limits will be presented at the next commission meeting in August. Recall that recent commission action reduced bag limits during fall 2014 and 2015 seasons, and changed the spring 2015, 2016 and 2017 season structure. Chairman Lauber – In the second paragraph, you say harvest averaged around 33,000 and 13,000; I think 13,000 is not a harvest, but a hunter number? Fricke – Yes, a hunter number. Chairman Lauber – What are you leaning toward if you were to make changes for spring? Fricke – Don't anticipate changes to the spring season, focus is on fall season, being the initial point where we could potentially make reductions, however that would have to go through Turkey committee and staff recommendations. Commissioner Rider – Have you talked to many people about flooding issues, boots on the ground in southeast area about nesting? Fricke – Have not heard a lot, early to know if should or should not be seeing poults at this point. Generally have seen reduced production and spring rains this year same as last year. We will have brood production numbers in July or August. In general, timing in east part of state not great. Chairman Lauber – What time of year should we see poults on road? Fricke – Some of earliest nests now, in July mail carrier survey we will get some information, staff brood survey will be done in August. Not unreasonable to start seeing them, should notice first poults.

5. Boating Registration Fees - Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Last minute addition to agenda because of SB 26 passed this year. Bill raises cap on vessel registration fees and we had proposed to the legislature to raise that cap, to double it from \$30 to \$60 and come back in regulation and set a fee somewhere in that cap. In August someone else will be up here once we analyze the data on that. Fee last raised in 2006. A comment from legislature is that we would go to \$60, which is unfounded because we raise cap to work in that for some period of years. Purpose for increased registration fee is we are having difficulty meeting the match for federal funds to put in boat ramps and other projects.

C. Workshop Session

1. Park Regulations – Linda Lanterman, parks division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). First attempt to try some dynamic pricing until we can hopefully get SB 25 passed. Talked about El Dorado State Park in past commission meetings on pricing for seasonal camping; where somebody can apply to stay longer than our 14- or 28-day requirement. Typically, stay 14 days then move out for five days. The Corps of Engineers has provided us the opportunity to allow someone to stay up to nine months, still by application, by month only and our internal policy is to not let them stay longer than six months. El Dorado fees are already higher than some of the other state parks, also Tuttle Creek and Milford, because use and demand is higher. El Dorado has 45 sites, attempted to increase those sites one, two and three utilities of \$25 a month. In addition to this fee they have to buy an annual camping permit, which we increased last year. We don't have any one utility sites right now at El Dorado and occupancy rates are at 47 percent, will watch and see if that rate changes. Public that utilizes this uses our trails, fish and it is an atmosphere and we try not to compete with private sector. Commissioner Williams – That \$25 is per year? Lanterman – Per month and by application only and we do by drawing and if no one puts in for draw first come first serve.

2. Fishing Regulations – Chuck Bever (substitute for Doug Nygren), fisheries division supervisor, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit M). Reference document is special length and creel limits used by biologists to more efficiently manage our public waters. First one is Milford Reservoir, add a 25- to 40-inch slot length limit and no more than 1/day 40 inches or larger creel limit with rest of the creel four or five under 20 inches. This proposal is product of commission input by the public and studied by the fisheries committee and we feel this would more efficiently allow the harvest of the abundant fish below the 25 inch minimum and allow for protection and development of larger trophy fish over 40 inches and allow some harvest of those trophy fish which would be about 40-45 pound fish. Second, Glen Elder Reservoir, change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass, good smallmouth population and designed to develop a trophy fishery. Cedar Bluff Reservoir, change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on walleye, and 10-inch minimum on crappie. The 21-inch minimum is because of nice population of walleye, a recruiting population with good growth, but we would like to protect walleye brood stock for development and propagation of walleye across the state, but also improve the quality of fishing for walleye as a whole. Removal of 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie at LaCygne, performing well without this and local biologist would like to improve the opportunity. El Dorado reservoir, proposing 20/day creel on crappie to spread out harvest over more anglers, currently 50/day. Tuttle Creek has a developing blue catfish population and since it takes 5-7 years to produce a reproducing population we are requesting a 35-inch minimum length limit. Commissioner Hayzlett – Receiving emails and calls on Cedar Bluff 21-inch limit on walleye, what is logic on that? Bever – Dave Spalsbury is here today and he is the local fisheries biologist. Dave Spalsbury – Last several years, spring and fall sampling data showed dramatic decline in 21-inch and larger fish at Cedar Bluff. We have a lot of fish in the lake, but quality is steadily declining in last four years and this is an attempt to halt that decline, improve quality of population and protect brood fish. My concern is, once anglers harvest 2014 year class 18-inch fish they will be complaining that they are no fish and we are trying to get ahead of the harvest. Commissioner Hayzlett – Fisherman are complaining

about the quality? Spalsbury – Beginning to, not catching larger fish or declining numbers of large fish. What I am seeing in my sampling is alarming to me, seeing larger fish decline. Chairman Lauber – There isn't a chance we will be overprotecting that 2014 year class to where they will never go through that limit? Spalsbury – Not that worried about that good percentage of that year class are legal for harvest right now and think they will already be thinned down, competition will be alleviated by this year's harvest. Chairman Lauber – On walleye, the day they reach the limit they are gone. As long as you don't overprotect them to where they die before they reach there they will be harvested this year at 18.1-inch this year or 21.1-inches in two years or whatever. Concern about 24-inch limit at another reservoir at one time. Commissioner Williams – Anglers wanting smaller creel limit but keep length the same, would that help to lower the creel? Spalsbury – Not as effective at protecting the fish, have to consistently catch creel limit for the limit of two fish to actually save fish from harvest, but with length limit protecting every fish over that limit. Part of my goal is to increase the yield to the angler and by pushing the average size of the fish up, but letting angler keep five fish they are actually taking more pounds of fish home per angler. Commissioner Williams – Satisfied if they can catch four 18-inch fish rather than two 21-inch down the road. Spalsbury – Because they are starting to see the end of the road with the bigger fish because so few in number and real easy to catch those 18-inch fish now. Commissioner Cross – In some of the emails we received there are some suggestions from local anglers about offering up three walleye from 15- to 18-inch and one over 23-inch. What are your thoughts on some of these combinations? Spalsbury – That requires a lot more study and now is the time to implement this, if we wait too long they will impart serious harvest on this 2014 year class and once those fish are gone we will be back to status quo and they will be disappointed because it will take us back quite a bit. To do something like that it would take more scientific effort and take several years to figure out how we want to do that. The simple answer is, a lot of these kinds of management strategies that have been shot by me include keeping some sort of short fish and we have no case in Kansas where we have documented where recruitment is excessive. We don't have an overproduction of small fish, which is why we have such an extensive stocking program, we can't justify keeping small fish. Chairman Lauber – Slot limit won't ever work unless you get reproduction. Part of problem is walleye are popular. We harvest more white-tail deer than walleye in the state and once walleye reach length limit it is gone. We are on the southern end of range and are doing the best we can. Unknown audience – Successful spawn there? Spalsbury – Yes, stocked twice 2001 and 2013 and in 2013 the cities of Hays and Russell were asking for water releases from Cedar Bluff right during the walleye spawn. Normally one of the few case studies in the state where we have not stocked for walleye for serious stretches of time, so seeing good recruitment. Commissioner Rider – What is your response to claim that department is using this and sending eggs elsewhere and that is why Cedar Bluff is being restricted? They feel their fishing is being hampered for the betterment of other places? Spalsbury – I hear that a lot. Stocking doesn't matter at Cedar Bluff, data available; been harvesting eggs since 2006 up to the present and we had some of the best year class production in the history of the lake during that period and they have been natural recruits. Taking advantage of the opportunity to arrest the state's culture system, but it is not hurting our population. Bever - Change 115-7-4, deals with possession of fish, unlike wildlife section there is protocol for transfer of game and fisheries is proposing adding requirement that legally taken fish may be given to another accompanied with donor's name, address and signature. 115-25-14 - We have two designated Type 1 trout waters at Cedar Bluff Stilling Basin and the Sandsage Bison Range not stocking due to water quality and quantity and we want to change them to Type 2 waters from November 1 through April 15. In addition, the Scott State Park Pond is currently designated Type 2 water, which requires a trout permit only for anglers fishing for or possessing trout; we propose changing to Type 1 water, which requires a trout permit to fish there during trout season because we are stocking there. A clarification of change in management. 115-17-2, vendors are already selling dead gizzard shad across the state in packages and it was determined it wasn't a legal way to sell the fish. We are proposing to allow dead gizzard shad to be sold commercially in Kansas for fish bait. We don't want live gizzard shad hauled around, but have no problem with dead gizzard shad. Dave Studebaker, Catfish Chasers President - Can I go out and throw my cast net and catch gizzard shad and sell to bait shop? If they are dead? Bever – I will defer to Chris. Tymeson - No. Studebaker – They have to buy from

commercial bait provider. Somebody is going to ask me that. Also, I have question on blue cat regulations. At Milford 40-inch slot limit proposed, was 35-inch, what is the purpose of that versus the ecosystem of the lake? Bever – Several impoundments with 35-inch minimums designed to protect blue cats in our developing populations, unlike other fish they don't reach sexual maturity for 5-7 years. We have a lot of 35-inch and to establish this population and allow it to reach sexual maturity and hopeful abundant reproduction. We currently have one at El Dorado and a group met, we had an abundance of recruitment on blue cat with 35-inch minimum. We wanted to give them to harvest resource, but protect older fish, runs from 25- to 35-inch slot. Input from public to protect Milford large fish over 35-inch because destination fishery. Idea was develop a plan to protect trophy fishery into the future and still allow good reproduction under 25 inches, which weighs about 6 ½ pounds. Studebaker – Protecting fish from 6-40 pounds. Not opposed to it necessarily, but in standpoint of appeasing the public, they are largest apex predator in the state and every other fish species of fish in that body of water will be affected because blue catfish will eat all of those other fish. It gets confusing when different regulations for different lakes. A lot of those fish won't ever reach 40 inches, genetics won't allow it and we will have natural die-off and slot limits don't work with the exception of Perry, Melvern and El Dorado, lakes that were stocked 10 years ago and are getting there it will protect them for four or five years. I fish everywhere across the country for catfish, nowhere does it protect over 34 inches except in Kansas. If we eliminate 75 percent of population of this lake you will have limited numbers of 25-inch fish because they can keep five-a-day and abundance of 40 pound, the ecosystem can't sustain that, in my opinion. Why not one over 35-inches at Milford, which would essentially be the same thing? Bever – Proposal is designed to take opportunity and slot length limits will function well if you have recruitment and good growth through the slot; we believe this will occur and have harvest at each end. If it doesn't, in the future we will change it. Different than El Dorado, but intent was to protect and develop true trophy fish, wouldn't have proposed it if thought we were hurting it in the long term. Studebaker – No disrespect, I push conservation on blue cat. If doing a slot need to do it at Perry and Melvern, because those fish will get to legal age and will all be taken out, like walleye, if you don't protect some for brood stock. You use the word trophy multiple times, but that doesn't fall into conservation whatsoever, the wrong message to send from a biologist standpoint. It is a dollar thing, not a proper thing. Chairman Lauber – Slot limits comment was intended to refer to walleye. What would be average difference in size between 35- and 40-inch fish? Bever – Yes it is. Studebaker – Huge, it goes from about 22 to 40. Chairman Lauber – That extra five inches adds 10-15 pounds? Bever – It is pushing 10, yes. At Milford a 40-inch fish is going to weigh over 40 pounds; protecting fish that weigh from 6.5 pounds to over 40 pounds. We are protecting reproductive fish and allowing harvest of smaller fish and a “trophy” in my opinion, over 40. Trying to maintain production into the next decade. Chairman Lauber – Do we have other species at risk from this apex predator in that lake? Bever – They have a wide and varied diet, are a good predator and also eat gizzard shad, goldeye and whatever gets in the way. Studebaker – In my experience, they eat channel catfish and white bass. A 35-inch fish at Milford is going to be roughly 22 pounds, I weigh a lot of fish a year. Bever – I just couldn't remember. Studebaker – Biggest concern at Milford is it is a fantastic fishery and if we upset that because we want giant fish then it becomes a situation similar to what they have on east coast where they call them blue catfish and down south call them flathead catfish, an invasive species because they are eating every living thing in the body of water. Some harvest of mature fish is vital and you will be lopsided. I have vested interest in crappie, walleye and white bass too. I question why that body of water? Bever – Taken us a long time to get here, years and years of stocking and waiting and suddenly it evolved and developed into a destination. Received a lot of input and this is an attempt to allow harvest at bottom and utilize slot length limit to protect and develop this quality fish. Studebaker – Not opposed to the slot, saying eliminating a vast majority of fish in the lake will upset the public. Anglers paid the money to get them in there and they have waited too for those fish to get big. Chairman Lauber – See both sides, believe you have a strong ethical approach to fishing and I respect and appreciate it. I would ask Doug and Chuck to talk it over and be sure they are comfortable with decision your group recommends.

115-25-14 - Major change in how we manage channel and blue catfish, for many years had combined daily on creel limit of 10. We are proposing separating blue cat and channel cat into separate categories

and allowing 10/day channel catfish limit and 5/day blue catfish creel limit. To alleviate the problem of identification, this regulation says that catfish with more than 30 rays in the anal fin it will be considered blue catfish and those with less would be channel. Chairman Lauber – Is color and shape best way to identify them? Bever – Angler can, but number of rays is defining moment in identification. Commissioner Ward – Had some emails on Glen Elder, they had three guiding services; I didn't know you could chum fish in Kansas, they throw in 50 pounds of soybeans or whatever and take out party barge and fish. My concern is, if that is all legal, that will deplete the resource. Am I right? Bever – Don't have a problem with chumming on federal reservoirs; many locations across the state, small impoundments and city and county governments, where that is illegal. Commissioner Ward – In federal reservoirs do biologists check populations for catfish? Bever – We have annual sampling and monitor populations and don't see it as a problem. Agree, when high density blue catfish, channel catfish will decline. Commissioner Dill – Also, received emails on chumming, not just five gallon bucket, but rolling out 55 gallon drum and party boats would pull up and catch fish like crazy. That seems a little excessive. Bever – I don't believe blue cats come to the chumming activity, channel cat do. Commissioner Dill – Talking channel catfish since talking about Glen Elder. Bever – Next regulation if 115-7-1 that deals with legal fishing equipment, a public input proposal allowing bowfishing at impoundments with length limits. We have discussed and staff has come to conclusion that with difficulty of identifying channel, blue and flathead catfish, it is not the right thing to do and would like to leave regulation as it is, illegal on lakes with length limits. Change 115-25-14, fishing; size limits. Proposed designed to improve opportunity for wiper fishing in streams and locations below our impoundments; would allow stateside creel limit to go to 5/day. Biologists would still have the opportunity to have 2/day on daily creel limit and covered under first part of special regulations and all of those locations would remain at two. Very few impoundments would go to 5/day on wipers. The main intent is to allow increased opportunity below our impoundments to harvest escaped wipers. 115-17-3, commercial fish bait requirements and applications. Proposing going to a five year commercial fish bait permit instead of every year, designed to save having to go through permitting process every year. Also, go to five-year permit fee. 115-18-19, in previous commission meeting this proposal was not on the list. The result of the fishery committee, dealing with paddlefish requirements, restrictions and permits. Proposing minor streamlining and some improvements. The first part would be to allow young anglers, less than 16 years old to use an adult unused tag while he accompanies on a snagging trip, which is similar to trout impoundments. A permitted angler with a snagging permit and an unused permit could have a young angler in his company utilize unused permit. If a youth wants to buy his own permit that is okay. Another addition would require barbless hooks for paddlefish snagging statewide. Currently barbless hooks are required at Chetopa and would align with Oklahoma's barbless hook requirement. It would be easier to understand statewide and allow for more catch and release without harming the fish. Lastly, youth mentor pond which we already have, but proposal is to create a youth/mentor fishing pond designation and define youth under 16 and allow adults to mentor if he has a state valid license and could accompany an actively fishing youth. Length limits could be set by the fisheries biologist or statewide designation for youth/mentor pond.

3. Fees and Licenses – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit N). Part of a committee looking at auto-renewal option and packages. Looking to establish a 365-day annual licenses instead of having them expire December 31. Several states have gone to that and have been successful. Also, looking at offering discount for auto- or early-renewals. Package deals is another option, ran into difficulties figuring out big game, instead of discount for package, discount would be for number of items bought per transaction, don't know what that number is yet. Utah gives discount on number of years purchased for example, more discount for each year purchased. Commissioner Rider – Where are we on electronic licenses? Tymeson – I don't know. Hunted in Missouri last year and they have that, however you can only pull that up when you have service, which is unfortunate. I would have to get with Todd to see where we are at. Jennison – No question we will go to electronic licenses, our concern is finding a system that is easy to deal with. Also, concerned that going to electronic license could increase churn so a person doesn't get their license until

the first time they go fishing, for example. If we get all the changes the committee is working on and get all of these concerns addressed it will happen, timeframe up in the air. Commissioner Ward – Update on licensing system, everybody online now? Jennison – Everybody online, but has changed how we get our ACH and how we distribute to the right funds. As far as vendors, all online. The problems we are having now, the license holders will not notice. Commissioner Ward – If applying for several licenses online, not sure whether got it through, do they get anything back? Craghead – Can print out license online. Unknown Audience – Required to print even if bought online? Tymeson – Requirement to carry license on your person, made changes to a regulation that allows you to carry confirmation number if you called in and went hunting before license received in the mail. Can be electronic version, don't know that is an issue that has to be overcome. Audience – Do I need paper or screen shot of it? Tymeson – Currently have to have paper license. Audience – Kids don't have printers, understand problems in the field but whole world is going that way and you need to figure it out. Tymeson – For hunting and fishing license that is okay, but more complicated with deer and turkey carcass tags.

2. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations – Chris Berens, environmental services chief, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). KAR 115-3 and -4; based on changes to law in May 2016. At the last meeting Chris notified us that we had to do a 90-day public notice which was put in federal register on June 1. Taking public comments now and pending regulations are posted on our Wildlife and Parks website.

VII. RECESS AT 4:08 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Richard Kiblinger, Kansas Bass Nation – Thank department and for hard work, Doug Nygren and staff for stocking and see big movement in our youth so I commend all of you.

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

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

Rich Schultheis – First four items deal with recommended changes to exotic dove seasons to permit the expanded year-round take of them.

1. KAR 115-16-3. Nuisance bird control permit; application, provisions, and requirements – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). Regulatory housekeeping issue to remove feral pigeons, which are also listed in 115-20-2. Staff recommendation is to remove feral pigeons from this regulation.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to approve KAR 115-16-3 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.

Chairman Lauber – The pigeons that fly around the barn, are those feral pigeons? Schultheis – Yes, those are the ones we are talking about.

The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit R):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

2. KAR 115-20-2. Certain wildlife; legal equipment, taking methods, possession, and license requirement – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit S). Staff recommends to include Eurasian Collared and Ringed Turtle Doves in text of species listed, as well as text requiring a fully feathered wing on all exotic doves possessed in excess of the aggregate daily bag limit or possession during regular season for doves.

Commissioner Aaron Rider moved to approve KAR 115-20-2 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Gary Hayzlett second.

The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit T):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

3. KAR 115-20-7. Migratory doves; legal equipment, taking methods, and possession – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit U). Recommendation is to amend the language so it only applies to migratory doves (mourning and white-winged doves). This would allow more expanded method of take we are proposing on Eurasian Collared and Ringed Turtle Doves. Chairman Lauber – Eurasian Collared doves would not be considered migratory? Schultheis – Correct. Chairman Lauber – So it can be shot on the ground or in a tree? Schultheis – Yes. Chairman Lauber – Migratory birds can be shot only in flight.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve KAR 115-20-7 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Emerick Cross second.

The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit V):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	No
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 6-1.

4. KAR 115-25-19. Doves; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit W). Amend regulation to do away with current framework we have for exotic dove season and replace with language to open year-round. Chairman Lauber – How is it different or is it different than the what we had? Schultheis – This regulation, in the past, held migratory dove season and exotic dove season; changed language to say exotic dove season runs year-round instead of mentioning the season dates. Chairman Lauber – Are ringed turtle doves and Eurasian collared doves the same? Schultheis – No, but both considered exotic doves. Chairman Lauber – The ones all over town are generally the collared doves. Schultheis – That is correct. Chairman Lauber – Does the ringed turtle dove have a ring around its neck? Schultheis – The reason we considered these two species together is be it may be hard to tell difference. We don't have many of them (ringed collared doves), but it is considered a mimic species, very similar in appearance. Chairman Lauber – Can shoot them both on the ground if we were so inclined. Schultheis – Yes.

Commissioner Ward Cassidy moved to approve KAR 115-25-19 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Tom Dill second.

The roll call vote on to approve was as follows (Exhibit X):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

5. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley – Matt Peek, research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Y). Introduced new deer biologist, Levi Jaster started this week and was lucky enough to be able to come here and witness a commission meeting. He is from Missouri by way of Emporia State University where he got his masters degree and most recently from Nevada where he had been working on a PhD. You will see more of him at upcoming meetings. This regulation exists to better accommodate military personnel who hunt deer on military bases in Kansas and to make adjustments for unseen training activities. We work with personnel at each of three bases to come up with these recommendations. In section (a) and will have an amendment; strike (a), which was left over from last year's regulation and has duplicate/equivalent information in section (d). Starting with section (b), Fort Riley has a couple different changes to recommend from our standard deer regulation. They would like to establish youth season October 6-9, which also happens to be same dates as pre-rut antlerless-only season in regular deer seasons. If you look down to (e) Fort Riley wishes to strike the pre-rut season. Basically, rather than have pre-rut season they want those days to be youth/disabled season. Moving down to (c) the preferred firearm dates at Fort Riley are November 24-26 and December 16-24. Moving to (d) proposing archery season by special authorization September 1-10, 2017 and January 2-31, 2018. These archery season dates are in addition to the general archery season dates that occur outside Fort Riley. Moving onto Fort Leavenworth in (f) they have a couple of recommendation that vary from standard regulations. Preferred firearm dates are November 18-19, November 23-26, December 2-3, December 9-10 and December 16-17. They also would like to have an extended firearm season for antlerless-only from January 1-14, 2018; and an extended archery antlerless-only season January 15-18, 2018. Smoky Hill wishes to have same season dates as established in KAR 115-25-9. Chairman Lauber – Need motion to bring on the floor, then amend to delete all of paragraph (a), if successful vote on actual regulation.

Commissioner Dill – Wanting firearms the day after Thanksgiving through 26th, but then archery, does that coincide anywhere to the rest of the state? Peek – The rest of the states’ archery season is in play and includes them and Fort Riley archery dates are in addition to those dates outlined in 115-25-9.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to bring KAR 115-25-9a forward as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.

Commissioner Tom Dill moved to amend by deleting paragraph (a) from KAR 115-25-9a. Commissioner Aaron Rider second.

The roll call vote to amend was as follows (Exhibit Z):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

The roll call vote on as amended was as follows (Exhibit Z):

Commissioner Cassidy	Yes
Commissioner Cross	Yes
Commissioner Dill	Yes
Commissioner Hayzlett	Yes
Commissioner Rider	Yes
Commissioner Williams	Yes
Commissioner Lauber	Yes

The motion as presented passed 7-0.

XII. Old Business

None

XIII. Other Business

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

August 10, 2017 – Cheney State Park, Ninnescah Valley Yacht Club (will need special event permit for park entrance)

October 19, 2017 – Scott City, Bryan Conference Center

January 11, 2018 – Milford, Acorn Lodge

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

Secretary's Remarks

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

2017 Legislative Report to the KDWPT Commission

2017 Bills

SB24 – This bill would designate the channel catfish as the state fish of Kansas. The bill saw no action in Senate Natural Resources.

SB25 – This bill would remove the requirement for a public hearing to set fees for cabins owned or operated by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. This bill passed the Senate 26-14 and was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture before being re-referred to the Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development. This bill was tabled in committee due to attempts to add in other provisions unrelated to the main bill.

SB26 – This bill would increase the cap on the vessel registration fee. This bill passed the Senate 35-4 and the House 79-43. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 5, 2017.

SB77 – This bill would name the bison herd kept on the Mined Land Wildlife Area in Crawford County, the "Bob Grant Bison Herd," in memory of Grant, who served 20 years in the Kansas Legislature. This bill had a hearing on January 31, 2017 and finished the session on Senate General Orders.

SB162 - This bill would amend the statutes concerning dangerous regulated animals, adding nonhuman primates and wolves (excluding hybrids) to the list. It would also remove the grandfather clauses, which allowed persons in possession of such animals before the original law went into effect to keep them. And the proposed amendment would prohibit any dangerous regulated animals to be in proximity to members of the public, no matter the size of the animal. The bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and saw no action.

SB240 -- This bill authorizes the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to purchase a tract of land in Sherman County from Pheasants Forever. The land is adjacent to the Sherman County Wildlife Area and would be managed as a public hunting area. The bill had a hearing on April 4, 2017 and was recommended to be passed by the Committee on Ways and Means. The bill finished the session on Senate General Orders.

HB2068 – This bill deals with Child Support orders and registration of vehicles and vessels. The bill had a hearing on February 9, 2017.

HB2098 – This bill would name the bison herd in Crawford County, the "Bob Grant Bison Herd," a companion bill to SB77. The bill passed the House 115-0 and the Senate 39-0. The bill was approved by the Governor on May 10, 2017.

HB2191 – This bill relates to licenses, permits, stamps and other issuances of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and would amend wording to clarify that if a license or permit is suspended, only a physical license would have to be surrendered. This bill passed the House 122-0 and the Senate 40-0. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 7, 2017.

HB2192 – This bill renames Lake Scott State Park to Historic Lake Scott State Park in recognition of the significant history of the property. This bill passed the House 122-0 and the Senate 40-0. This bill was signed by the Governor on March 28, 2017.

HB2193 – This bill would require anyone born on or after January 1, 1997 to complete an approved Boating Safety course before operating a motorboat or sailboat on public waters. The current law

requires those born on or after January 1, 1989 to complete an approved Boater Safety course, but it doesn't apply to anyone 21 or older. This bill had a hearing on January 31, 2017 and saw no further action.

HB2199 – This bill would authorize the board of county commissioners of any county to regulate conservation easements on property located within the county. The bill saw no action during the session.

HB2207 – This bill would require anyone hunting, shooting, fishing, furharvesting or pursuing any bird or animal on private land to have written permission from the owner or person in possession of such land or body of water. It would also prohibit any person from pursuing a wounded bird or animal on private land without written permission. The bill had a hearing on February 15, 2017. The House Committee on Agriculture passed a substitute bill that would delete language in the current statute allowing licensed hunters to pursue wounded game on land without landowner permission. The requirement for written permission by anyone hunting, shooting, fishing or trapping on private land was not included in the substitute bill. The bill passed out of committee, was re-referred back to the committee on the House floor and saw no further action during the session.

HB2208 – This bill would establish a transferable regular landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permit, which could be transferred to a nonresident solely for the purpose of hunting white-tailed deer. This bill had a hearing on February 14, 2017 and saw no further action in committee. However, several attempts were made to amend similar provisions into another bill as well as the budget bill but those attempts failed.

HB2276 – This is the companion bill to SB162 concerning dangerous regulated animals. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs. The bill had a hearing scheduled for March 22, 2017 and saw no further action during the session.

HB2363 – This bill concerns the disposition of state surplus real property; authorizing the Department of Administration on behalf of various state agencies to sell certain real property. The list of properties includes public lands owned by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations and saw no further action during the session.

HB2407 – This bill would require prior consent of the Secretary of Administration and the Attorney General before any land could be transferred to the State of Kansas through any probate proceeding. The bill passed the House 108-17. Then, the provisions of SB240, which authorize the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to purchase a tract of land in Sherman County from Pheasants Forever, were amended into the bill. The bill, as amended, then passed out of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and passed the Senate 35-2. There was a successful attempt to re-refer the bill back to conference committee but a subsequent efforts led to passage of the amended bill.

2018 Possible Action

All bills that did not pass previously are still alive for next year

We will certainly work the 3 Department Initiatives that did not pass, in particular, the bill dealing with cabin fee dynamic pricing

We will possibly introduce a bill regarding caps on licensing fees for a future administration and the long term fiscal health of the Department

General Discussion

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. General Discussion

1. Big Game Permanent Regulations.

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

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

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

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

Discussion

Minor changes have been made to this regulation in recent years. Last year elk hunters were given the ability to electronically register their animal.

Recommendation

No change is proposed for this regulation.

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

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

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

Discussion

Extensive modifications of this regulation were done in 2013. Major changes included changes to allowing any caliber center-fire rifle or handgun, and adding crossbows to legal archery equipment. Additional accessory equipment was allowed.

New hunting equipment continues to be created and people request changes in the regulation to allow novel equipment. Some of the recent requests have been to allow powerful air rifles to be used for big game hunting, to use atlatl spears and to allow draw locks for bows, as is currently authorized for people with disabilities.

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

Recommendation

No change is proposed for this regulation.

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

Background

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

Discussion

No changes in deer management unit boundaries are currently being discussed within the department. Changes in the management unit boundaries complicate trend analysis of hunter participation and harvest of deer. Sub-division of units increases the need for larger sample sizes and more expense to obtain adequate information.

Recommendation

No change is proposed for this regulation and it is not scheduled for further review this year.

d) K.A.R. 115-4-11. Big game and wild turkey permit applications.

Background

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

Discussion

No changes in the application process of big game or wild turkey permits are currently being discussed within the department. Requests for changes in allocation of either species, either sex firearm permits for resident youth hunters have been received from the public.

Recommendation

No change is proposed for this regulation and it is not scheduled for further review this year.

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

Background

This regulation contains the following items:

- Creates permit types that include:
 - White-tailed deer, either-sex (WTES) permit or white-tailed deer antlerless only permit for residents of Kansas. These permits are valid during all seasons with equipment authorized for that season.
 - White-tailed deer, either-sex permit for nonresidents valid for one equipment type and one unit. Nonresident hunters may designate one adjacent unit where they may hunt.
 - Either-species, either-sex permit, restricted to a season or seasons and units where they may be used by resident and nonresident deer hunters.
 - Hunt-on-your-own-land (HOYOL) permits, including resident HOYOL, nonresident HOYOL, and special HOYOL permits for certain direct relatives of the landowner or tenant.
- Each deer permit is valid only for the species and antler category specified on the permit.
- Antlerless deer are defined as a deer without a visible antler plainly protruding from the skull.

Discussion

Starting with the 2016 season, Either-species Antlerless Only Permits (ESAO) were no longer issued in Kansas. This was done to address the changing mule deer population to reduce harvest of female mule deer. Results from analysis of harvest data from the 2016 season indicate that this change likely resulted in the lowest estimated harvest of antlerless mule deer in Kansas since 1983. The effects, from this change in this permit allocation, on harvest rates of female mule deer and the effect of changing harvest rates on mule deer populations are being monitored.

Recommendation

No change is proposed for this regulation and it is not scheduled for further review this year.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. General Discussion

1. Deer 25-Series Regulations.

Background

The regulation contains the following items:

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

Discussion

Annual adjustments will be made in the deer hunting season dates. This review process initiates the discussion of potential changes in deer hunting seasons for 2018. The recommendations at this time follow the traditional season structure with some noteworthy situations that follow.

The designated persons season, commonly referred to as the youth and disabled season, has opened, since 2013, on the first Saturday of September. In 2018, the first Saturday in September is Sept. 1, which is also the opening day of dove season. This overlap creates the potential for deer/dove hunter conflict and may negatively impact youth hunter opportunity. The option currently being considered:

1. The youth and disabled season begins on the second Saturday in September (Sept. 8, 2018). Both archery and early muzzleloader seasons would start on September 17, 2018.

Typically the first extended white-tailed deer antlerless-only (WAO) season has started on the New Year's Holiday and was open through the first weekend in January, or during the first weekend if January 1 fell on a Saturday; but historically has been four or less days. New Year's Day falls on Tuesday in 2019. The option currently being considered follows the seasons set for 2017-18:

1. A one-day season, January 1, 2019, in DMUs where only one WAO permit is allocated. There would still be three lengths of WAO seasons (i.e., 1, 6, and 13 days). The shortest season would not have a weekend day of hunting. Additionally, shift the pre-rut WAO season one week earlier to begin October 6 and add one day to the pre-rut WAO season, making it three days long, thus allowing WAO firearms hunting during Columbus Day, which is a holiday for some hunters. This keeps the season framework similar to the 2017-2018 season.

Public comment is sought about these options.

Population indices, mortality due to disease and changes in fawn recruitment will be examined and public input will be considered in the development of a list of units where an extended firearms seasons and WAO permits will be authorized. The number of WAO permits that may be used in each unit will also be evaluated after additional data becomes available.

Recommendation

Following traditions (see attached table) the proposed season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2018-19 are as follows:

Youth and Disability	September 8, 2018 – September 16, 2018
Early Muzzleloader	September 17, 2017 – September 30, 2018
Archery	September 17, 2017– December 31, 2018
Pre-Rut WAO	October 6, 2017 – October 8, 2018
Regular Firearm	November 28, 2017 – December 9, 2018
1 st Extended WAO	January 1, 2019
2 nd Extended WAO	January 1, 2019– January 6, 2019
3 rd Extended WAO	January 1, 2019 – January 13, 2019
Extended Archery (DMU 19)	January 14, 2019– January 31, 2019

Workshop sessions on this regulation will be held at the Commission meetings in October and January and finalized at the Public Hearing in March.

The proposed dates for the firearm season at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard subunit, Fort Riley subunit and at the Fort Leavenworth subunit will be presented at a later date after input from staff at those areas has been reviewed. Season dates for deer hunting at Fort Riley will be established in K.A.R. 115-25-9a, which is traditionally completed at the Public Hearing in June.

Tourism Update

No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Mined Land Wildlife Area
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Walleye Initiative

No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Cheney State Park Update (EVENING)
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Workshop Session

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

C. Workshop

1. KAR 15-25-(5-6) Turkey; seasons, bag limits, permits, & game tags

Background

The 2017 spring turkey season was open April 1 – May 31 and included 3 different seasons (youth/disabled, archery, and regular). The fall 2017 season will be open October 1 to January 31 (closed during the regular firearm deer season, November 29 - December 10). Hunting regulations are set within 6 management units for both spring and fall seasons (Figure 1).

For the Spring 2017 season, 40,994 hunters purchased 65,818 carcass tags. Non-residents accounted for 39% of Kansas' spring hunters and 26.0% of the fall hunters in the most recent seasons. Harvest has averaged nearly 33,000 in the spring and about 3,000 in the fall over the last five seasons (Table 1).

Population Status and Productivity

Statewide turkey production appears to have been generally poor in 2016. Heavy rainfall in the east and southwest during May and in the northeast in June may have greatly decreased nest success and poult survival. As a result, statewide poult production was 30% below the previous 10-year average for 2015. Production was below the 10-year average in all regions except the southeast (only 5.2% increase) which led to variable population responses across regions in spring 2016 (Figure 2). Statewide hunter success did not decrease (Table 1), but overall declining rates of hunter success—in conjunction with declining population and production indices—are concerning. Conditions for 2017 production were likely influenced by areas of heavy rainfall, especially in the eastern portion of the state. At the time of this writing, the 2017 brood survey is being conducted, so production for 2017 has not been estimated. Reduced turkey production is a trend that has been noted throughout the Midwest in the past 5-10 years, and is a concern to states as turkey populations decline across the region.

Recommendation

The Department utilizes an adaptive harvest strategy to help guide staff recommendations on wild turkey permit allotments during both the spring and fall seasons. The intent of the strategy is to maintain high hunter success in each hunt unit while maintaining relatively high populations. The strategy provides a consistent and transparent method of developing staff recommendations and includes a hierarchy of regulation packages for both the spring and fall seasons and established triggers for when and how changes to bag limits will be recommended.

An analysis of the spring 2017 harvest data revealed that 4 of the 6 units have experienced resident hunter success below the stated thresholds of the strategy for the last 2 spring seasons (Table 4). While this decrease in hunter success activated a management trigger to reduce bag limits and / or season availability in those units, staff have decided to recommend no changes to the season structure for the 2018 turkey seasons. The strategy has been in place now for 7 years and includes data for the last 13 hunting seasons. This provides an opportunity to reassess the triggers and packages offered in the strategy to become more relevant to region-wide population trends.

Therefore, staff recommend no changes to the season structure or bag limits for the 2018 spring and fall seasons. Staff will be reassessing the adaptive harvest strategy in the coming year and will present relevant changes to the strategy to the Commission prior to the development of the 2019 turkey regulations.

The 2018 Spring and Fall Turkey season dates are as follows:

Spring

- Youth / Disabled April 1 - 17
 - Archery April 9 - 17
 - Regular Firearm April 18 - May 31
- Fall
- All Legal Methods October 1 - November 27, December 10 - January 31

The recommended bag limits for Spring and Fall Turkey Seasons are as follows:

Hunting Unit	Management Unit	2018 Season Permits (* limited draw, otherwise unlimited availability)	
		Spring	Fall
1	Northwest	2	1
2	Northcentral	2	1
3	Northeast	2	1
4	Southwest	1*	0
5	Southcentral	2	1
6	Southeast	2	1

Table 1. Kansas wild turkey permit sales, total harvest, and hunter success for each of the last 5 seasons, 2012-2017.

Year	Spring			Fall		
	Permits & Game Tags	Total Harvest	Success ^a (%)	Permits & Game Tags	Total Harvest ^b	Success ^a (%)
2012	63,928	31,239	60	14,302	4,799 (44%)	45
2013	73,581	33,925	57	13,780	4,152 (42%)	40
2014	71,903	31,988	55	13,064	2,862 (37%)	33
2015	74,609	36,511	55	12,134	2,093 (36%)	26
2016	71,320	30,298	47	8,741	1,471 (22%)	26
2017	65,818	30,441	51	--	--	--

^a Success was the percentage of active hunters harvesting ≥ 1 bird.

^b Percentage of harvest composed of females.

Table 2. 2017 Spring Rural Mail Carrier Survey population index differences from 2016 and 5- and 10-year averages.

	Northwest	Northcentral	Northeast	
2017 difference from 2016 (%)	-13.8	-21.7	-49.6	
2017 difference from 5-year average (%)	-28.7	-23.8	-41.5	
2017 difference from 10-year average (%)	-39.7	-38.5	-47.6	

	Southwest	Southcentral	Southeast	Statewide
2017 difference from 2016 (%)	-29.5	-29.6	-30.5	-31.5
2017 difference from 5-year average (%)	-8.1	-31.7	-34.7	-31.1
2017 difference from 10-year average (%)	-25.9	-34.3	-30.1	-38.8

Table 3. 2016 Summer Rural Mail Carrier Survey production index differences from 2015 and 5- and 10-year averages.

	Northwest	Northcentral	Northeast	
Difference from previous year (%)	373.5	-7.4	16.5	
2016 difference from 5-year average (%)	-22.9	-29.5	-36.7	
2016 difference from 10-year average (%)	-37.3	-31.6	-39.1	

	Southwest	Southcentral	Southeast	Statewide
Difference from previous year (%)	74.6	-50.2	-34.4	-18.1
2016 difference from 5-year average (%)	-20.9	-68.4	-44.2	-44.5
2016 difference from 10-year average (%)	-26.7	-62.6	-32.4	-43.0

Table 4. Spring turkey season resident hunter success, 2013-2017.

	Northwest (Unit 1)	Northcentral (Unit 2)	Northeast (Unit 3)	Southwest (Unit 4)	Southcentral (Unit 5)	Southeast (Unit 6)
2013	62.3	52.3	52.2	56.0	47.0	50.2
2014	48.2	55.1	50.5	54.5	52.4	42.7
2015	60.0	50.9	52.9	56.0	50.5	43.7
2016	34.5	54.1	48.7	40.7	44.6	41.2
2017	50.0	58.3	45.1	65.0	48.9	44.3

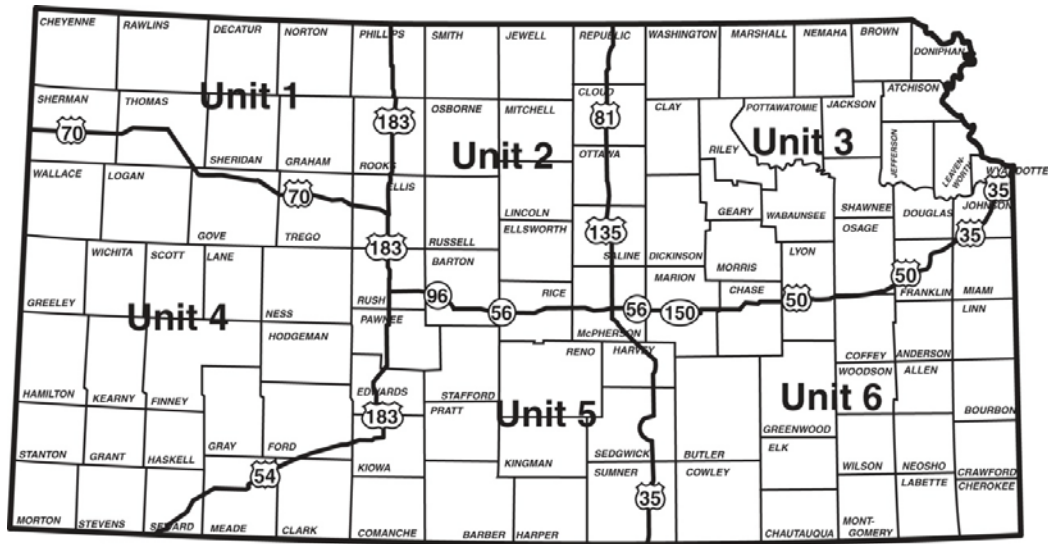
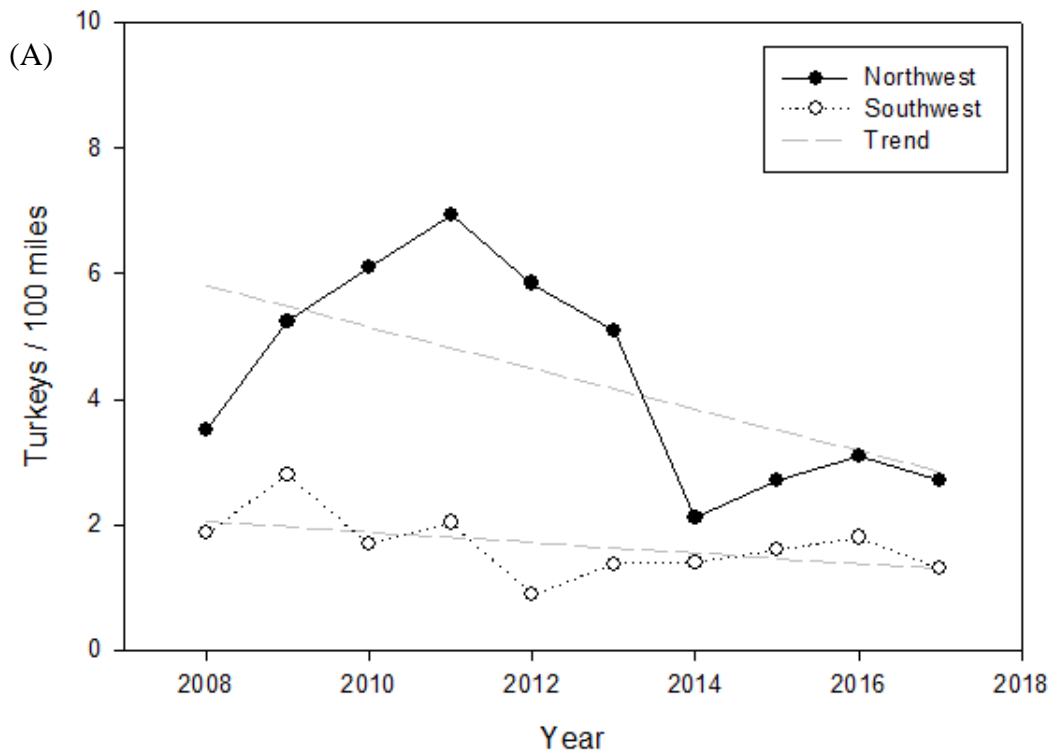


Figure 1. Hunting units for Kansas' 2017 turkey seasons. A 2017 spring turkey permit (and additional game tag) could be purchased over-the-counter for Units 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Five hundred spring permits were issued for Unit 4 through a pre-season drawing, and were also valid in adjacent units. A 2016 fall turkey permit can be purchased over-the-counter, and is valid in Units 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. There will be no fall turkey hunting allowed in Unit 4 in 2016.



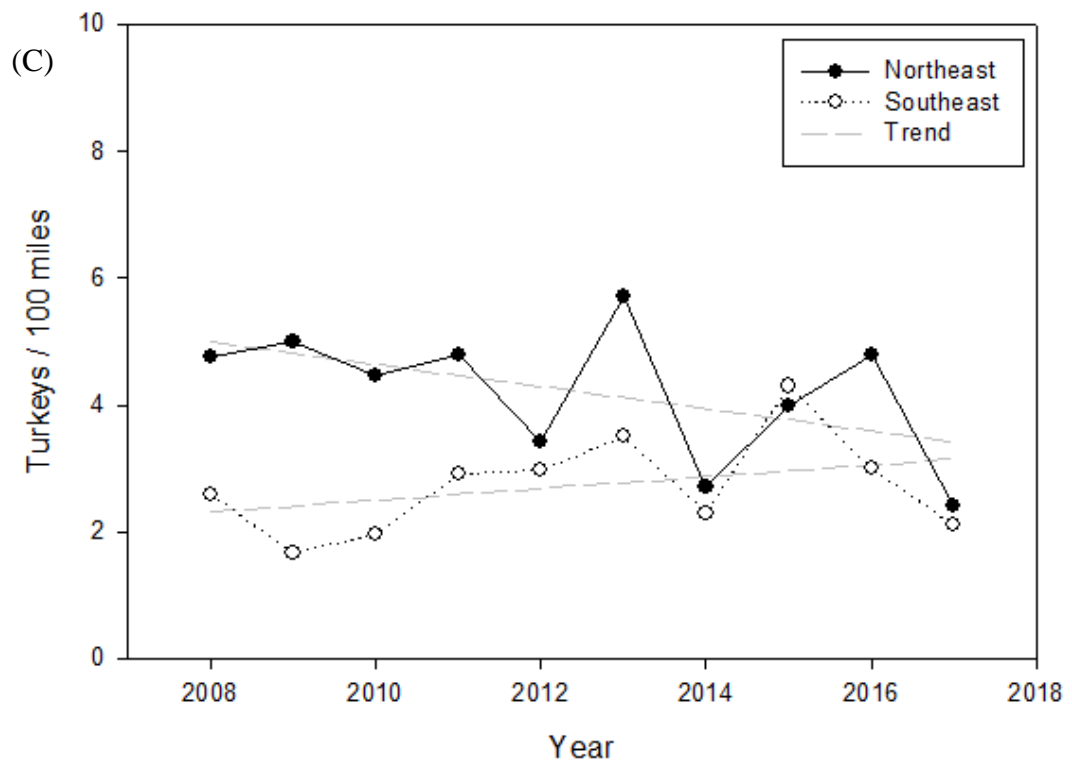
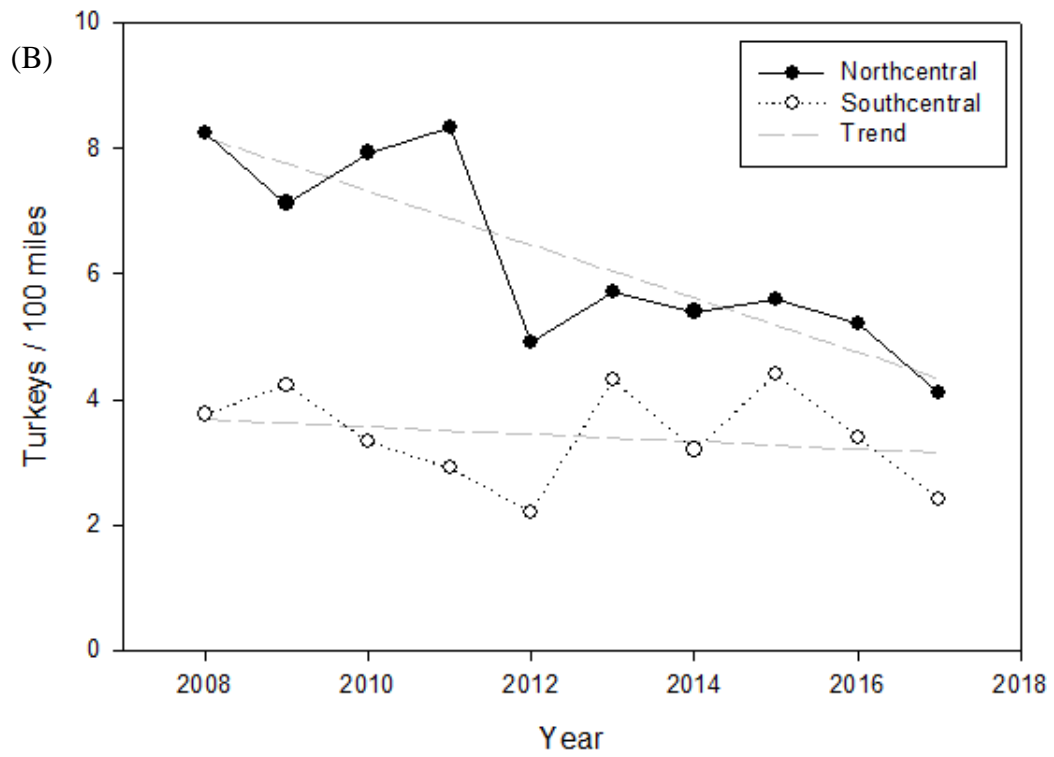


Figure 2. The spring rural mail carrier index (turkeys / 100 miles traveled) to wild turkey populations with 10-year trends in the western (A), central (B), and eastern (C) Kansas management regions, 2008-2017.

**Seasonal Camping El Dorado State Park
115-2-3 Camping, utility, and other fees
Seasonal Camping**

	1 Utility	2 Utility	3 Utility
Fee Increase			
Current Fee	\$311.50	\$371.50	\$431.00
W/Increase of \$25	\$336.50	\$396.50	\$456.50

PRIVATE OWNED CABIN PERMIT FEES

K.A.R. 115-2-6 sets the permit fee charged for private owned cabins. Every five (5) years, the fees are adjusted by the CPI.

On May 31, 2017, except for Cheney State Park, the Department's twenty-five (25) year Master Lease with the Bureau of Reclamation expired. A new Master Lease has already been executed, however, all the existing third-party agreements associated with the BOR properties expired with the old lease.

BOR is required by 43 CFR Part 429 to have its managing partners, in this case the Department, collect permit fees at the fair market value. BOR's Directive and Standard LND 08-01 requires periodic fair market evaluations. In anticipation of negotiating new third-party agreements, BOR commissioned a "Market Rent Analysis Appraisal Report" for the private owned cabin lots located at Cedar Bluff, Webster, and Lovewell state parks.

The BOR market analysis determined cabin permit fees should be substantially increased. In some cases, they are to increase by more than 10 times the existing rate. Before the Department can issue new lot permits to cabin owners, which is set to occur January 1, 2018, BOR must approve our cabin permit document. Such permits will not be approved by BOR until the permit fees comply with the BOR "Market Rent Analysis Appraisal Report." For that to occur, the cabin permit fees set in K.A.R. 115-2-6 would have to be adjusted by the Commission.

BOR is scheduled to hold public forums to give the cabin owners at the three parks an opportunity to meet with BOR staff and ask questions.

Additional information should be available at the Commission meeting.

Boat Fees

K.A.R. 115-2-4

Issue

The current vessel registration fee is \$30 for a three year registration. Over a three year period, the Department had 92,000 new registrations, renewal registrations and transfers of registrations.

Discussion

Boat registration fees were last increased in 2006. The Department approached the Legislature this session to raise the cap in statute with the intent to move forward with a modest increase in order to match federal dollars and provide for new and enhanced projects for our constituents. The bill, SB 24, passed the Senate 35-4, the House 79-43 and was signed by the Governor on April 5, 2017.

Recommendation

Increase vessel registration fees by \$10 for a 3-year registration. The increase would result in an approximate \$3.33 per year for a registered vessel.

Fees and Licenses

115-9-5. Hunting, fishing and furharvester licenses; state park permits; effective dates. 115-2-1 Amount of Fees

Background

While discussing implementation of an auto-renewal option for annual licenses that will be available beginning Jan. 1, 2018, the Auto-renewal Committee supported establishing 365-day annual licenses, rather than the calendar licenses that are currently offered. This may require a change to 115-9-5, which lists expiration dates. There has also been discussion of providing a discount for those who renew their 365-day license before it expires. Another marketing aspect discussed by the committee to address churn was providing value-added license packages or a promo-code, which would give a discount to hunters and anglers who bought a number of licenses and permits in one transaction. The more issuances purchased, the bigger the discount.

Committee members envision license buyers enrolling in auto-renewal by simply checking a box for each license they purchase online that they wish to have automatically renewed. After meeting with Active (license sales contractor) in May to establish that the option will be available by Jan. 1, 2018, the Auto-renewal committee decided that emails will be required for anyone selecting the auto-renewal option. This would allow a heads-up reminder message to be sent several weeks before licenses expire asking if the holder still wanted the auto-renewal option and if the credit card information on file was current. Committee members also want to require emails if we go to the 365-day licenses, again to allow pre-expiration reminders to be sent. In addition to providing more value to the license buyer, the 365-day license will allow for more timely and efficient marketing. December 15, when the next calendar year licenses currently go on sale, is the worst time of the year to market license sales.

Annual permits and licenses being considered for the 365-day expiration include hunting, fishing, or furharvester licenses, annual trail pass, trout permit, three-pole permit, handfishing permit, controlled shooting area permit, commercial dog training permit, and field trail permit.

K.A.R 115-15-3: Threatened and endangered wildlife, special permits, and enforcement actions.

K.A.R 115-15-4: Recovery plan procedures.

Update: A notice of public hearing on proposed Administrative Regulations K.A.R. 115-15-3 and K.A.R. 115-15-4 was published in the Kansas Register (Vol. 36, No. 22, June 1, 2017). This notice provides an open 90 day public comment period before final public hearing for approval and adoption of these proposed regulations on October 19, 2017 at the regularly scheduled Commission meeting.

Background

HB 2156 (2016) was passed and signed by the Governor on May 17, 2016. The new law, which took effect July 1, 2016, makes general changes to the Nongame and Endangered Species Act, requiring changes to KAR 115-15-3 and KAR 115-15-4.

Summary of Current Law Changes:

Special Permit Exceptions:

- Normal farming and ranching practices, including government cost-shared agriculture land treatment measures, unless a permit is required by another state or federal agency
- Development of residential and commercial property on privately-owned property financed with private, non-public funds, unless a permit is required by another state or federal agency
- Activities for which a person has obtained a scientific, educational, or exhibition permit
- Declares that a permit required by another state or federal agency shall not include a certification or registration

Recovery Plans

- Requires that on and after July 1, 2016 for all new species listed as threatened or endangered by KDWPT, recovery plans will be completed within four years of the species being listed
- KDWPT is required to submit an annual report to both Senate and House Committees on Ag and Natural Resources
- KDWPT must publish and maintain each developed and implemented recovery plan on KDWPT website

KAR 115-15-3: Threatened and Endangered Wildlife, special permits and enforcement actions

- Changes to the definitions of terms that only apply to this regulation: actions, critical habitat, and permit from another state or federal agency
- Includes the addition of certain portions of the new law that pertain to this regulation as listed in the summary provided above

KAR 115-15-4: Recovery Plans; procedures

- Includes the addition of certain portions of the new law that pertain to this regulation as listed in the summary above

(EVENING)

2018 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits:

- Milford Reservoir -- add a 25- to 40-inch slot length limit and no more than 1/day 40 inches or larger creel limit on blue catfish.
- Glen Elder Reservoir -- change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.
- Jewell State Fishing Lake -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass.
- LaCygne Reservoir -- remove the 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie.
- Cedar Bluff Reservoir -- change to a 21-inch minimum length limit on walleye and change to a 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie.
- Crawford State Fishing Lake -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit on wiper.
- Linn County Critzer Reservoir -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass.
- Lyon State Fishing Lake -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit on walleye.
- Marion Reservoir -- change to a 20/day creel limit on crappie.
- Meade State Fishing Lake -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit and a 2/day creel limit on saugeye.
- El Dorado Reservoir -- change to a 20/day creel limit on crappie.
- Centralia City Lake -- remove the 15-inch minimum length limit on channel catfish.
- Marion County Lake -- change to a 13- to 18-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass and change to a 20/day creel limit on crappie.
- Overbrook City Lake -- remove the 10/day creel limit and 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie.
- Tuttle Creek Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit on blue catfish.
- Jeffery Energy Center -- add a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish.
- Moline New City Lake -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass.
- Liberal - Arkalon Recreation Area -- Remove all length and creel limits for largemouth bass and channel catfish. Designate as "catch and release" only.
- **2 fish daily creel limit on Striped Bass**
Cheney Reservoir, Glen Elder Reservoir, LaCygne Reservoir, Pleasanton City Lake - East
- **2 fish daily creel limit on Wiper**

Atchison City Lake #7, Atwood Lake, Carbondale East Lake, Cedar Bluff Reservoir, Council Grove Reservoir, Cheney Reservoir, Clinton Reservoir, Crawford State Fishing Lake, Ellis City Lake, El Dorado Reservoir, Eureka City Lake, Great Bend Stone Lake, Glen Elder Reservoir, Garnett City Lake North, Garnett City Lake South, Garnett - Cedar Valley Reservoir, Gridley City Lake, Herington City Lake - New, Horton Little Lake, Harvey County West Lake, Impounded F.I.S.H. Waters, Region 1 & 3, Johnson Co. - Shawnee Mission Park Lake, Johnson Co. - Kill Creek Park Lake, Jeffrey Energy Center, John Redmond Reservoir, Jetmore City Lake, Kanopolis Reservoir, Wichita - East KDOT, Wichita - West KDOT, Kanopolis State Park Pond, Kiowa State Fishing Lake, Lawrence - Mary's Lake, Louisburg City Lake, LaCygne Reservoir, Lebo City Lake, Lovewell Reservoir, Lyon State Fishing Lake, Madison City Lake, Middle Creek State Fishing Lake, Melvern Reservoir, Melvern River Pond, Milford Hatchery Water Supply Pond, Mined Land Wildlife Area, Marion County Lake, Moline New City Lake (North), New Strawn City Lake, Olathe - Lake Olathe, Olpe City Lake, Osage City Lake, Osage State Fishing Lake, Overbrook City Lake, Overbrook - Kids' Pond, Pleasanton City Lake - East, Pomona

Reservoir, Pratt County Lake, Plainville Township Lake, Salina - Lakewood Lake, Sabetha - Pony Creek Lake, Sedgwick Co. Lake Afton, Sedgwick Co. Park Lakes, Sterling City Lake, Topeka - West Lake, Wellington City Lake, Winfield City Lake, Wichita - Watson Park Lake, Wichita - Buffalo Park Lake, Wichita - Chisholm North Lake, Woodson State Fishing Lake, Wyandotte Co. Lake, Wyandotte Co. Bonner Lake, Yates Center - South (Owl), Yates Center Reservoir - New.

- Floatline fishing at Perry Reservoir: The Commission, in response to public inquiry, recently asked the Department to consider allowing floatline fishing at Perry Reservoir. Local agency personnel were allowed to respond to this request. It is the recommendation, at this time, to not allow floatline fishing at Perry. Local staff is concerned that there is a potential for conflict between recreational boaters and anglers at this high use recreational boating impoundment.

Other 2018 Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes.

Change 115-7-4. Fish; processing and possession.

It is difficult for law enforcement to enforce over-harvest of fish when all an angler has to do is state that someone else gave them the fish. There is no wording in our current fishing regulations that allows for the transfer of fish from one person to another. In contrast, hunting regulations allow for the transfer of small and big game.

We propose changing 115-7-4 by adding a requirement that legally taken fish may be given to another if accompanied by a dated written notice that includes the donor's printed name, signature, address, and license number.

Change 115-25-14 to include new trout water designations.

Currently the Cedar Bluff Stilling Basin and the Sandsage Bison Range and Wildlife Area Sandpits are designated Type 1 waters, which requires a trout permit for all anglers 16 and older who want to fish at these locations from November 1 through April 15.

We propose changing both these trout stocking locations to Type 2 waters, which require a trout permit only for anglers fishing for or possessing trout. Both these locations are currently not being stocked with trout due to poor conditions and we want anglers to be able to fish these locations during the trout season (Nov. 1 through April 15) without requiring them to buy a trout permit.

In addition, the Scott State Park Pond is currently a designated Type 2 water, which requires a trout permit only for anglers fishing for or possessing trout.

We propose changing the Scott State Park Pond trout stocking location to a Type 1 water, which requires a trout permit for all anglers 16 and older who want to fish at this location from November 1 through April 15.

Change 115-17-2. Commercial sale of fish bait.

Currently gizzard shad are not on the list of fish species that may be commercially sold in Kansas for fishing bait. However, many sporting goods stores across the state have dead gizzard shad in commercially processed bags for sale as fish bait. It is illegal to collect/harvest fish species from any public water for commercial sale.

There is always concern that gizzard shad are similar in appearance to invasive Asian carp. Currently, commercially sold live fish bait must be certified free of pathogens and aquatic nuisance species. And

of course, commercially packaged dead gizzard shad is not a risk for the spread of pathogens or aquatic nuisance species.

We propose changing 115-17-2 to allow dead gizzard shad to be commercially sold in Kansas for fish bait.

Change 115-25-14. Fishing; creel limit, size limit, possession limit, and open season.

Currently, the statewide regulation states "Channel and blue catfish (single species or in combination - 10/day). We propose separating channel catfish and blue catfish into their own categories. These fish are managed separately. Recent popularity of blue catfish and concerns of overharvest are leading to more restrictive regulations. The majority of reservoirs with blue catfish populations already have a 5/day creel limit on these fish. Therefore, we feel the current statewide regulation is no longer relevant. We propose the following changes to the statewide fishing regulations:

- 1) Remove the channel and blue catfish combination regulation.
- 2) Add "Channel Catfish - 10/day".
- 3) Add "Blue Catfish - 5/day".

This will still allow for harvest of 10 channel catfish per day and we foresee no issues with that. Catfish with more than 30 rays in the anal fin will be considered blue catfish and those with less a channel. This gives anglers and law enforcement a quantitative way to identify exactly what they have for regulation purposes.

Review 115-7-1. Fishing; legal equipment, methods of take, and other provisions.

The catfish committee and the fishing regulation committee have discussed the public request to the Commission to allow bowfishing at water bodies that have length limits for at least one of the three catfish species (channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish).

It could be difficult to correctly identify the different species of catfish at night, under water, several feet away, while being illuminated with boat mounted lights. Releasing a misidentified fish after being hit with a "good shot" won't be an option. Furthermore, both committees have recognized that the majority of our public water bodies do not currently have length limits on any of the three catfish species and would therefore allow bowfishing for said species. Federal reservoirs where this activity would be legal are Big Hill, Cedar Bluff, Council Grove, Fall River, Tuttle Creek, Pomona, John Redmond, Kanopolis, Kirwin, Hillsdale, Norton, Webster, Toronto, LaCygne, and Marion. There is opportunity in every part of the state.

The time and costs associated with building up our trophy blue catfish reservoirs is significant. Some reservoirs take 5 - 7 years to produce mature adults and 12 - 16+ years to produce trophy fish. We feel that without adequate harvest information by bowfishers, we must err on the side of caution and avoid any possible action that could lead to incidental take of these fish prior to realizing their size potential.

It is currently a violation of our regulations to bowfish for catfish at any water body with a length limit on any of the three catfish species and both committees recommend that this regulation remain unchanged.

Change 115-25-14. Fishing; size limits.

Change the statewide 2/day creel limits on striped bass and wiper (striped bass hybrid) to 5/day.

In keeping with the theme of removing barriers impacting Kansas anglers (like we did when we removed the STWD minimum length limit on percids in streams, tailwaters and rivers), allowing increased harvest of the wiper and striper in the tailwaters, rivers, and streams may be the best use of the

resource. Many times, the only opportunity for anglers to harvest these fish is in the stilling basin after being flushed. Wiper and striper are some of the most protected species in Kansas with a statewide 2/day creel. We are recommending changing the STWD daily creel limit for stripers and wipers to 5/day. This would allow our management biologists to have Special Creel Limits of 2/day on the impoundments that need more restriction.

Change 115-18-19. Paddlefish Permit; requirements, restrictions, and permit duration.

We propose changing 115-18-19 section (a) to allow youth anglers (< 16 years old) to use an adult's tags. Youth could snag while accompanied by an adult (\geq 16 years old) with at least one unused tag in possession. Alternatively, youth would still have the option to purchase a youth tag if they wished to fish independently. This would align with how we currently handle trout regulations and provide more opportunity for youth anglers to participate.

In addition, we also propose dropping 115-18-19 section (d), which requires each permit holder to complete and submit a paddlefish snagging questionnaire at the close of the open snagging season. We can gather the information we need through other means.

And lastly, we propose requiring barbless hooks for paddlefish snagging statewide. This would require a change to the 2018 Reference Document. Currently, barbless hooks are only required in the Chetopa fishery. However, catch and release is practiced statewide. Requiring barbless hooks statewide would simplify our regulations, possibly reduce injury to both paddlefish and bycatch, and align with Oklahoma's current barbless hook requirement.

Change 115-17-3. Commercial fish bait permit; requirement, application, and general provisions.

Currently commercial fish bait permits are calendar year permits. We propose changing them from annual permits to multi-year permits. Permit fee will be adjusted accordingly.

Youth/Mentor Fishing Pond Regulation and Management Strategy Under Consideration

Small impoundments can be designated as “youth fishing ponds” with “special regulations” to control angler use and harvest. These waters are identified by the district fisheries biologist, other agency division or personnel, or an outside party with ownership in the property to give young anglers fishing opportunities without actively competing with adults. The most common regulations associated with these impoundments are “youth fishing only,” “catch and release only,” and/or limited harvest of certain species.

Proposal:

1. Create a “Youth/Mentor” fishing pond designation
 - a. Define youth as anyone 15 years of age and younger.
 - b. Allow adults (18 years of age and older) to fish per these conditions:
 - i. Must have a valid Kansas fishing license unless exempt by law
 - ii. Must be accompanied by at least one actively fishing youth
2. Harvest Regulations
 - a. Option 1: Length and harvest limits set by district fisheries biologist
 - b. Option 2: Statewide regulation for designated Youth/Mentor Ponds
 - i. Allow harvest of fish by youth only

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 - July 13, 2017

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, August 10, 2016 at Ninescah Sailing Association, 15500 NE 50th St., Cheney, 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., August 10 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. August 11 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 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