

REVISED AGENDA
KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM
COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
Thursday, August 2, 2018
Gyp Hills Guest Ranch
3393 SW Woodward Rd., Medicine Lodge, KS

NOTE: No evening session due to no public hearing items. Meeting will adjourn after all agenda items are completed.

- I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:30 p.m.**
- II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**
- III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE June 21, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**
- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
- VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
 - A. Secretary's Remarks**
 - 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Robin Jennison)**
 - 2. Changes to Regulatory Process (Chris Tymeson)**
 - B. General Discussion**
 - 1. Tourism Update (Linda Craghead)**
 - 2. Big Game Regulations (Levi Jaster)**
 - 3. Private Lands Habitat Specialist Program (Wes Sowards)**
 - 4. Hatchery System Update (Kyle Austin)**
 - 5. Bluegill Research Update (Ben Neely)**
 - C. Workshop Session**
 - 1. 2019-2020 Turkey Regulations (Kent Fricke)**
 - 2. Park Regulations (Linda Lanterman)**
 - 3. Fishing Regulations (Doug Nygren)**
 - 4. Coast Guard Navigation Rules (Dan Heskett)**
 - 6. KAR 115-20-7. Migratory doves; legal equipment, taking methods, and possession. (Richard Schultheis)**

7. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Rich Schultheis)

8. ASK Program Update (Jessica Rice and Nadia Reimer)

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

If necessary, the Commission will recess on August 2, 2018, to reconvene August 3, 2018, 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 25, 2018 at Colby Community Center, 285 E 5th St, Colby, KS.

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 21, 2018
Great Plains Nature Center
6232 E 29th St N, Wichita, Kansas**

Subject to
Commission
Approval

The June 21, 2018 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at the Memorial Building Alliance Room, Chanute. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Ward Cassidy, Emerick Cross, Gary Hayzlett, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams were present. Tom Dill was unable to attend.

II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

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

III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS

Sheila Kemmis – I mixed up the order of the items in the briefing book, 4-6b elk is first in public hearing section and 25-9a is last, but flipped on the agenda.
(Agenda – Exhibit B).

IV. APPROVAL OF THE April 26, 2018 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

Norman Adelson, Salina – Jet skis need more regulation, young people operate dangerously, all they take is an online course and go 70 miles an hour. Is this permit until 21 or take refresher course? Have to be 17 to drive on the highway; it is favoritism for jet ski industry, dangerous piece of equipment that needs regulation. Replacing boats, motors and trailers, saw motor at auction, sold for \$2,500 sells for \$20,000; cost \$500 for parts, \$19,000 discrepancy. Another motor, \$9,000 brought \$1,000, why do you sell them instead of fixing them? Chairman Lauber – One of our auctions? Adelson – Consignment auction at Salina. Wasting the taxpayers' money, use money elsewhere. On big motor all you had to do was switch it. Somebody has to be held accountable for how you are spending our money. There are some places that need repairs for their equipment and can't get it repaired, like sodium light running 24 hours a day. Take care of officers instead. Wasting money, why are you allowing this to happen? Chairman Lauber – We get seized or abandoned property and have to sell it in reasonable manner, probably not a better way to have arms length transaction than an auction. If constantly no-sale, word would get around. If you the person who lost a shotgun in commission of a felony, having us use an auction is a way to reduce unintended consequences down the road. The stuff we have in use we cobble together as long as we can. Adelson – I was referring to state equipment. Had meetings at Clay

Center, Scott City and other areas, why not one closer to us in Russell, several areas there that would draw people. People live out west too, we are part of the state. Chairman Lauber – Try to spread them around the state, certain meetings in certain areas. Trying to accommodate geographical location of our constituents and where people live and are. Bare into consideration to have one in Russell. No comments on jet skis. Commissioner Williams – Have a meeting in Colby in October. Adelson – On boat registration issues, purchased boat out of state, boat sits low and can't see number sitting in the water, officers stop this boat every time it is in the water. Be clearer on where we can put the numbers and where they are supposed to be. Targeting boat because of what it is.

Ian Burrow – I am a Kansas native, husband, hunter, angler, trapper, veteran, college student and public land owner. I am the club president of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers of Kansas State University; we are a college club that is directly affiliated with the national conservation organization, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA). BHA advocates on behalf of public lands and waters with an emphasis on access and opportunity and fair chase. I provided each of you with Backcountry Journal (Exhibit D), our quarterly publication; also an informational brochure on membership, a sticker with my contact information and complimentary registration to our summer-long fishing competition. Mark calendar, June 21, 2018, as the day Backcountry Hunters and Anglers of Kansas begins its beneficial and robust relationship with KDWPT.

Thanks for hard work you put in to make sure Kansas maintains its natural heritage and facilitates outstanding recreation opportunities. I look forward to seeing our relationship grow.

Eugene Parker – Lived 22 years in Kansas. I bought tree stand, hauled it up the hill and put accessories on it and then I was told it had to come down because it is a pop up. Change regulations a little bit, or I would be willing to pay a fee to leave it up, a permit that I could put all of my information on it. That would make my trip a whole lot better. Another one is my blind I put up every year and I have to stake it down with rebar stakes, pounding down through slate because stakes that come with it won't go in, they bend. To put this up every morning and taking it down every night; I am 65 years old and it is going to get too hard to put it up by myself. Work with me and other hunters who use blinds some leniency to put up blind and leave it up. Winds are strong so small stakes don't hold ground blind. Change pop up rules, I need help and asking you to reword it. Put something in for senior citizens or disabled veterans to help us. Chairman Lauber – I see your point. The problem is we have situations where people go on public land and put up stands all over the place and move from one to another and made it and it became an unfair situation and we had too many stands and had complaints. You make a good point, but don't know how we can address that. If we allow leniency and flexibility, some will gain the system. Parker – I don't mind sharing my stand. The ones not marked or left out of season should be reported. Chairman Lauber – Direct public lands to look at this problem, not optimistic we will find a solution. Stuart Schrag – We have looked at this internally in public lands division and had discussions with law enforcement as well and some inconsistencies in regulations and think it's possibly creating a hinderance. It is my objection to consult with legal and make changes to regulations regarding blinds and tree stands.

Randy Engel, Airgun Supply – Proposing Kansas consider use of big bore air rifles for deer and elk hunting. We have more information we can provide if needed. There is a lot of people in Kansas interested in getting air guns passed; and in other states as well. We don't propose airbows for archery season, don't like them; we don't want to be involved in archery season, possibly muzzleloader season. Please consider it, thanks for your time. For previous gentleman who spoke, consider a gilly suit, a much lighter weight stand that doesn't make any noise and

works wonderful, watch the sniper channel to see how they work. We don't represent any manufacturer, other than we sell and shoot one manufacturers guns, but not involved with them. Have fun shoot for youth this weekend in Pueblo, Colorado, you are all invited. Chairman Lauber – Thanks for assisting with presentation this morning.

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

A. Secretary's Remarks

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, secretary, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit E). Last year we set a record in parks, we had two months in the fiscal year that were over \$1 million in revenue in Park Fee Fun (PFF), we have already broken that record this year, three months this year in excess of \$1 million. In June, since 2013, has been a \$1 million month so we are likely going to have four million-dollar months. Currently, running 13 percent ahead of last year's revenue. If you look at the balance in PFF, last fiscal year about six months into the year we had a revision of \$500,000 of EDIF money which put more burden on the PFF and that extra burden continued into this year; we didn't lose spending authority, but what we increased was shouldered by PFF. We are above two fiscal years ago and a fair amount above where we were last year when we had the \$500,000 revision. If you project our expenditures for June, we have three payrolls and encumbrances, you could see that balance go down \$1.3 million at end of the year, around \$3.5 million, which would be the lowest balance we have had for three years. Two years ago, we made an effort in the legislature to create a dynamic pricing option for cabins and campsites to continue to grow revenue, but we have not been successful getting that through. Need to try again because that is easiest way to maximize the demand and revenue. The state of Kansas is trying to get a one-shop to buy things you buy in the state of Kansas, a company called Pay-It Kansas, an app that Revenue implemented in April. They reported to us that in April, 10 percent of people registering vehicles online were getting the park passport, an 18 percent increase in park passport sales; in Sedgwick County 20 percent increase and significant increase overall in May. They push people to buy park passport before you can go to the next screen, they make 2.5 percent on that. May encourage them to put in message to say passport gets you into all 28 state parks. It has potential, when we got legislation passed for park passports we calculated if we could get 10 percent of registered vehicles in Kansas we would not need any EDIF funding and could be self-sufficient. Park passport and Pay-It Kansas may be a help for revenue. Next month will be another interesting month to see the increase in growth. The Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF), a historic year, now is over \$20 million in balance and project line has been easy to forecast and has gone up for three years since changes in license purchases. Have increased CI (capital improvement) spending in wildlife side because we felt important to take care of deferred maintenance, dams and other projects, but balance should stay above \$15 million. Chairman Lauber – Dynamic pricing couldn't get through legislation, was that because they don't like the concept of dynamic pricing? Jennison – No, it got tied to other issues. Commissioner Rider – You looked at Crawford State Park dam, what came of that? Jennison – It is on the list. Workman – It is the number two priority for getting fixed; lighting and spillway repair at Crawford. It is a dam of high significance and is number two behind Woodson right now, a high priority project for us.

2. 2018 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F). Finished legislative cycle in early May, in veto session last time we

met. Briefing covers bills, second year of two-year cycle, so none of these will be alive next year. SB25 – Dynamic pricing, Senate amended to include all campsites, passed Senate easily, but House wrapped it with another issue and it stalled out. SB26 – Last year’s bill that dealt with increasing the cap on the vessel registration fee. That passed and you took action on vessel registrations. SB301 – Dealt with guides and outfitting and requirement to register, bill passed out of Senate and didn’t go anywhere. SB307 – There is an amendment to the current statutes that did pass concerning amusement rides and we have been letting the Department of Labor take the lead on explanations and discussions and that is ongoing. SB330 – A department initiative that did not make it out of Senate and it would have raised fee caps on hunting and fishing licenses and some other things. We are capped out so we will have to go back with that again. SB331 - This bill designated the Flint Hills Trail and Little Jerusalem as state parks. Passed late in session and signed by the Governor on May 8, 2018. HB2098 – Last year renamed the bison herd in Crawford County to the "Bob Grant Bison Herd," passed and was signed by the Governor last May 10. HB2191 – This bill relates to electronic licensing, passed last year as a tweak to the statute as we move more toward electronic licensing. HB2192 – Last year renamed Lake Scott State Park to Historic Lake Scott State Park. HB2193 – A department initiative on boater education, would phase in boater education like hunter education and furharvester education; bill had a hearing but didn’t go anywhere. A couple bills on conservation easements; HB2199 – This bill would authorize the board of county commissioners of any county to regulate conservation easements on property located within the county. HB2207 – Dealt with written permission on property that has been posted; a couple of renditions of this bill, but didn’t go anywhere. Two bills that dealt with hunt-your-own-land big game permits, department opposed and one had a hearing this year and one last year, HB2208 and HB2743. HB2407 – last year dealt with a couple of topics, but one was an allowance to buy a piece of property in Sherman County, which has been completed. HB2558 – Extends controlled shooting area game bird hunting seasons (which currently close) at end of March to end of April, passed and sent to the Governor and signed. HB2650 – Creates four new state symbols, and the one pertinent to us is the channel catfish is now the state fish. HB2743 – I talked about all ready. HB2764 – Dealt with KPF and would have moved our law enforcement folks into a different retirement system; passed out of House committee and languished on the floor; there are other issues with that concept because there are other agencies involved.

B. General Discussion

1. 2019-2020 Turkey Regulations – Kent Fricke, small game biologist presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit G, PP – Exhibit H). The 2018 spring turkey season was open from April 1 to May 31 and included three seasons: Youth / Disabled, Archery, and Regular seasons. The fall 2017 season ran from October 1 to January 31. The department sells from around 38,000-40,000 permits to about 40,000 hunters and fall turkey permits to more than 9,000 hunters. Those individuals purchased 60,500 carcass tags for the spring 2018 season, down eight percent from last year, and 8,700 tags for the 2017 fall season. Nonresidents accounted for 39 percent of Kansas’ spring 2018 hunters and about 22 percent of the fall 2017 hunters. Harvest has averaged around 32,000 turkeys for spring and 2,000 for fall over the last several seasons and 2018 numbers will be coming up at next meeting. Talked about production number and spring 2018 numbers look good from mail carrier surveys, but not where we have been, potentially a slight increase, but not by much. Entered spring season with good vegetative conditions for nesting, but prolonged drought will test that a little. In eastern part will be fine, but in western

part of state will see effects of it. At last commission meeting we were asked to provide an overview of current spring turkey season structure. Turkeys are an ecological, recreational aesthetic and economically important game bird. As a game species, male turkeys are most popularly hunted during the spring, which is a timeframe that coincides with breeding and nesting activities, making turkeys unique in that aspect; we don't typically hunt a species during those critical times. It is a challenge to avoid negative population effects from harvest while simultaneously providing quality hunting opportunity. Biological considerations associated with the timing of the spring turkey season include potential effects of productivity from male harvest and intentional or inadvertent female harvest. For spring turkey hunting we look at season structure, finding balance between hunter satisfaction from mid- to late-April or early May to avoid key times of nesting chronology. Nesting typically starts mid- to late-April and important aspect is to back up about two weeks when hens are bred, which takes two weeks for hen to start laying. Primary concern among turkey managers is allowing season too early, impact is unknown at this point. Potential consequences, illegal harvest of females by misidentification increases. If majority of harvest occurs early in season before breeding takes place would be a problem. Key assumption is all hens are being bred before season, but could be long-term impacts on key production of that year and subsequent years from that. Interaction between hunter satisfaction, while not having a biological impact, is balance we are trying to maintain. Started season in 1974; in 1987, allowed nonresidents to shoot in the spring; in 2003, began youth and disabled as early season; in 2007, began archery season same as youth and disabled; and in 2015, separated youth and disabled from archery season and later in season, primarily to allow youth and disabled a season because of increasing numbers of archers taking advantage of that season and conflicts were happening. We start April 1 with youth and disabled season, last two years extreme examples of how late season was perceived to start, because of the way the calendar fell, didn't change the season structure. In 2017, April 1 fell on a Saturday, so youth got April 1 and 2, with archery season starting on April 3, then regular season on April 12, which is the earliest the regular season can start. In 2018, April 1 fell on a Sunday, not a full weekend, so youth got April 1-8, archery started April 9 and they got a full weekend and regular season started on April 18, as late as it can start. In 2017, youth/disabled had two days, archery had nine and regular had 50 days; this year youth/disabled had eight, archery had nine, regular season was as short as it can be with 44 days; with total of 61 days in season. Proportion of harvest from firearms has gone down, archery has gone up. In 2014, when youth and archery season was still combined, the peek was in second week when regular season started; in 2015, that shifted a week, when majority of hunters were using firearms; also 2015 was also record harvest year. In 2016, delayed peek and 2017 had peek in second week again. Chairman Lauber – Janet Post is executive director of Governor's One-Shot turkey hunt and she intended to be here, but had a family emergency. She would like to see opening of regular firearm season back to where it was before 2014, and has reasons why that would benefit the state's largest hunt. I have received a lot of requests, from day one and amplified this year with late season. Why did we penalize the regular firearms, were we over-reactive to a group of special interests? For 2020, consider going back to archery and youth and disability together, but like youth to have own season; hope if we run archery and firearm concurrently may be better for adaptive harvest survey that fall hunters pay attention to. Not for 2019, but for 2020, consider reverting regular firearm season back to second Wednesday, or however we worked that out. Fricke – I was not here either, primarily with increasing conflicts between youth and archery hunters and increasing numbers on public lands. Seeing increasing numbers of archery hunters for this unique opportunity, only Nebraska

has early archery season; primary reason was just increasing numbers of youth, disabled and archery hunters. Chairman Lauber – Most people will stake out their own position. Don't see conflicts with youth, disabled and archery hunters. I have been hearing complaints from firearm hunters for a long time. Commission Williams – How early was that season and when did it open? Chairman Lauber – I think it was second Wednesday. Commissioner Williams – Was it 61 days? Fricke – I recall, youth/disabled and archery would get full weekend and second Wednesday, when archery season starts now, is when the firearm season would start. Chairman Lauber – That is what I suggest we consider. Todd Workman – I talked to Janet and she had big concerns and that is when I invited her to come to the Commission meeting to voice her concerns and talk to Robin. Fricke – How do you see impacts on harvest strategy, how do you think it would impact that? Chairman Lauber – Reduce the number of non-harvested toms getting scared by archery season. Like to see continued fall season and increase back to two birds. Wonder if that would have made a difference if greater harvest of adult turkeys if gun hunters could have harvested the same weekend, less call shy and less interaction with the birds. Struggle with adaptive harvest strategy, formula used to determine how we should manage things, but don't agree the best way. Respect opinion of those who set that up. Fricke – I would tend to disagree. Same success rates with archery versus shotgun hunters. Since that change we have harvested just as many, if not more with higher success rates, until the drop. Chairman Lauber – It penalizes a segment, an opportunity for the fall hunter that we want to keep. While not used a lot, there is fall opportunity then exists and is different than any other type of hunt. Rewarding experience and level of participation has no appreciable effect on the resource, 2,000 birds that get harvested don't make that much difference. Most of us will continue to want a fall opportunity. Jennison – To put perspective into 2015 season, taking broader look at hunter preferences than what we did back then, erred because a real reason to separate the archery from youth and disabled, precedent was set for archery earlier and didn't think through the process, no biological reason why the archers cannot hunt at same time as the shotgun shooters, but is biological reason why we don't have deer hunters hunting during the rut. Thought we could give them the next weekend, without thought as to what it would do to firearm hunters. I have shot turkey with a bow and a shotgun and my success rate was not different, but launched more arrows at turkeys than shotgun shells. If we go back to where archers are same time as shotgun hunters, if you are right it will prove out in adaptive harvest survey. You are taking a broader look at hunter preference than we did back then. Chairman Lauber – Take a look at this and see if negative effect on the resource? Fricke – Put archery with firearms together? Chairman Lauber – Yes, give youth hunters their weekend, and put archers at same time as regular hunters, don't need three different opening days. Consensus here to move forward with this.

2. Status of Feral Hog Control – Curran Salter, feral swine biologist for Kansas, USDA Wildlife Services, presented this update to the Commission (PP - Exhibit I). I have been working on feral pig program since 2005. Kansas is different than a lot of states because feral swine falls under Kansas Department of Agriculture jurisdiction or Kansas Animal Health Department. Our agency is contractor for control work in the state. Kansas Animal Health provides half of funding to develop and implement feral swine control. In 2014, with Farm Bill, got additional federal resources. Our agency provides infrastructure, vehicles, equipment, personnel, disease monitoring and research. Kansas pork producers help with funding as well as some private farmers and ranchers. Nationally, as of 2018, feral swine are present in 45 states and three Canadian provinces; every county in Oklahoma and Texas, expansion primarily due to illegal translocation by humans. I was at national pig conference, numbers expected to grow; estimated

5 million feral swine in the United States in 2011; now about 7 or 8 million. Damage estimation in 2015 is about \$1.6 billion, but closer to \$2 billion now. Sport hunting is primary reason for growth in populations, pigs are being released intentionally for hunting. Current populations are being hunted with little success and are likely being spread due to hunting pressure. Following 50 years of hog regulations in Tennessee, where two Eurasian boar populations in the mountains of eastern Tennessee have already been stopped, areas grew in size and number, hunting has no effect on pig populations. In 1999, Tennessee authorized a statewide wide-open no-limit hog season in hopes to control numbers, now they have spread everywhere in the state. We came up with eliminating sport hunting for pigs, caught flack, but other states are taking this approach. Hunting ban takes away incentive to release new populations, or accidental releases from captive herds. Hunting not adequate control method for feral swine, too reproductively successful; makes control more manageable. The law says, “no person shall import, transport or possess live feral swine in the state; no person shall intentionally or knowingly release any hog, boar, pig, or swine to live in a wild or feral state upon public or private land” and “no person shall engage in, sponsor, instigate, assist or profit from the release, killing, wounding or attempted killing or wounding of feral swine for the purpose of sport, pleasure, amusement or production of a trophy.” This takes sport hunting incentive away. If you are a landowner or renting property, you are within your rights to shoot feral pigs, other than that we are discouraging that activity. There is a permit process that you can go through, which I sign off on; they need to give the name of the landowner, describe where it is at and I use that to go and talk to the landowner and try and implement better feral swine control methods other than somebody shooting one or two. If seriously interested in doing the right thing, sport hunting is not the way. Control methods we use include trapping, aerial gunning, and some thermal shooting at night. Trapping is a process that has come a long way in the last seven years. Our goal is to trap entire group, which used to take weeks and months, but now wireless technology has made a huge difference; not easy, but easier than seven years ago. Some of new technologies and methods used include wireless trapping with larger gates, which makes it easier to catch the whole group instead of tripping a trigger and catching some of the animals; Boar Buster drop corral, which is a raised trap pen with very little setup time and no more post pounding, used to use motion camera on t-post on the ground, now use a camera mast to get a bird’s eye view and more accurate head count; and aerial gunning from a helicopter, used to take 60-70 percent of pigs with helicopter, but with new trapping methods closer to 50/50. One of challenges from aerial view is cedar trees in Bourbon County area, you can’t see down in them. The FLIR night vision we use on small groups or single boars, we will leave them alone and try to trap the whole group. Since 2006, we have taken around 8,000 hogs and have done work in all four surrounding states on border pigs. After we remove the pigs, we do disease testing and under Kansas Department of Agriculture statutes we cannot donate animals, also USDA rule, cannot be donated, sold or used personally. Currently focusing in two areas, population in Bourbon and Linn counties, same challenges, no access to a couple of thousand acres, thick ground cover and culture in that part of the state. Concentrating on Oklahoma state line, they have over 1.5 million pigs, concentrating on Cowley, Chautauqua, Montgomery, Labette and Cherokee counties, a 120-mile stretch, to halt northward expansion. Current population estimate is around 1,000 pigs, most of the time less than that, depending on pigs on the state lines. Most years we remove around 700 pigs from the state. We have four full time employees working on pigs in state, myself, a trapper in Bourbon and Linn counties, one for Cowley, Chautauqua and Montgomery, and one for Montgomery, Labette and Cherokee. We are miles ahead from where we started in 2005/2006, controlled and eradicated in

some areas and working on other areas. Don't expect to ever eradicate but consider this a success. Our goals are different than when we started, still some pigs will remain in Bourbon and Linn counties unless something changes. We are neighbors with a state with a lot of pigs. Unknown commissioner question – Why do landowners in Bourbon and Linn counties not cooperate? Salter – They like the pigs and probably the ones that brought them there initially, and they hunt them. We have seen a shift in that area on feelings towards pigs, used to be a novelty, but that wears off after losing fields to the pigs, so getting permission is usually easy. For the most part, statewide, have been getting permission to do control work. Chairman Lauber – Outfitters like to make money and you have an economic value to these they will go get them and dump them in the night if they can make money. Over time you have killed 8,000 of them and we are still at the same number. Salter – Correct, but we can claim we have eradicated 11 populations, no other state can claim that. We have had some success and think we can keep up. Chairman Lauber – Oklahoma and Texas are beyond eradication. Those that bring them in don't realize the competition to native wildlife. Salter – They do compete, never have I seen a picture of a deer or turkey on a corn pile with a pig. Unknown Audience – Could you put a bounty on them? Salter – Bounties have been tried, but don't want to put economic value on them and that gives incentive to stay on the landscape. Unknown Audience – Years ago had bounty on coyotes and you can't do that anymore. Salter – And we still have coyotes, don't we? Unknown Audience – Yes. Salter - Shane (Hesting) has been doing a good job of passing on sightings and other information and keeping me in the loop, thanks for your cooperation.

Break

3. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – Susan Steffen, Rich Schultheis and Vince Wonderlich presented this update to the Commission (PP - Exhibit J). Vince Wonderlich – Unmanned aircraft is either a multi-rotor drone or a fixed-wing aircraft. Our task force came together last September under Chris Tymeson who is on the state task force. Everyone had a representation on committees, those here include Chris Tymeson, Rich Schultheis with wildlife division, Susan Steffen with fisheries division, who will give presentation and Kent Barrett, education. We came together to set up some guidelines for using this new technology in the agency. We looked at FAA's best practices and other state agencies. We are setting those up and modifying them as we learn more information. The second part of our task force was how we are going to use the drones in each of our divisions. The more we learn the more we can do with them; talked to other agencies across the state and how they are using them, potential is incredible. Paramount reason for my division is search and rescue; for other divisions, research and surveys, marketing and promotional, has 4K and 5K video, and engineering to check structures and facilities to be sure safe and secure.

Susan Steffen – I will talk about the training we attended, 30 (KDWPT employees) attended in late May and first week of June; first was in classroom for two days for intense curriculum, not a toy and had to learn some of same rules and regulations as manned aircraft are held to. K-State PolyTech, is number two school for certifying and training drone pilots. We had to learn how to read airspace, to not break the law or interfere with manned aircraft. Training was intense, and we had to study at night. We also got hands-on training, flew drones in net enclosure about the size of a football field to keep inexperienced pilots from losing aircraft. We were trained on DJIS-1000, a multi-rotor drone; they recommended training on harder model because so much to learn, with controls, yaw and banking, turned off GPS to practice learning to land the drone. Humbling to learn on a \$10,000 piece of equipment. Law enforcement had 12 people who did

intense training on search and rescue and accident reconstruction; they did some night flights and tree structures to maneuver around and more fine-tuned maneuvers. Also, toured K-State PolyTech Applied Aviation Research Center and see all of the aircraft. We had to take a test at the facility to get Remote Pilot in Command certificate. We do have some drone work going on in the agency, a pilot project at Cedar Bluff Reservoir, in the fisheries division we are doing a comparison of two different ways of counting anglers to get estimate of usage on a lake by counting boat and shoreline anglers. We typically hire a creel clerk or technician to drive around and count anglers. Also taking counts using a drone and compare numbers and look at cost effectiveness; in cooperation with Dr. Stark and his two graduate students at Fort Hays State University; should be complete this summer and findings presented next winter at Kansas Natural Resource conference. Another part of research is literature review and survey of types of use of drones on public lands by government and other entities; partnered with DJ Case & Associates, also conducting a human dimensions survey of people who might be impacted by drone use on public lands managed by KDWPT; trying to be proactive and head off issues of conflict with constituent base. Hopefully done by the end of the year.

Rich Schultheis – Summary of where we are at: reviewing types of equipment we would like to utilize and purchase equipment and how to integrate into our jobs. Have guidelines and risk assessment in place and close to moving forward for more widespread use of this technology. Public use is other goal, two main things; use and relation to wildlife we are responsible for managing, and federal regulation in place that prohibits use of aircraft for hunting or harassment of wildlife that ties into UAS. The plan is to provide guidance on website with FAQ documents on what is prohibited and not prohibited; will provide further guidance to the public on hunting and use associated with wildlife on land we manage. We do have a regulation that prohibits take offs and landings of aircraft on department owned or managed lands, other than in specified areas, RCF areas, generally on some of our state parks; outside those areas is prohibited. There are exemptions possible as authorized by the secretary. There is a list of drone operating areas being put together. In next few commission meetings, we need to put definition of aircraft as unmanned aircraft as well and clarify that in our regulations. Task Force will continue to meet quarterly and provide updates to Commission as necessary. Chris Tymeson – Kansas was selected to submit projects to the White House, 150 projects in stateside task force of which we are part of; one of the things selected was search and rescue emphasis, working with KDOT currently on that issue. Schultheis – There were ten overall programs selected, two states and one was Kansas, quite an accomplishment.

4. Electronic Licensing Update – Todd Workman, assistant secretary, presented this update to the Commission. We formed a licensing committee three years ago to facilitate change in our licensing structure. We divided into phases, first was 5-year license which has been successful targeting people that churn; statistics show over 60 percent of people buying 5-year license are people that were churning, or not buying a license every year, so initial indication that is a good strategy. The second and third phases came together, the 365-day license and auto-renewal; nothing but positive responses to 365-day license, similar to added value, getting full bang for your buck. For auto-renewal, over 4,000 people enrolled, 20 percent are out-of-staters. Working on other promotional materials on auto-renewal. Working on electronic licensing, e-license you can use on your mobile device, another way to reduce churn and hope to eliminate duplicate licensing fees; the public has been asking for this. We are hoping it will offer check-in and check-out, expanded committee working on expanding iSportsman data, park passports, check-ins for camp sites and things of that nature. In formation stages, met with Aspira, the

third-party vendor and they came back with initial proposal we are reviewing; can possibly be implemented by beginning of next calendar year. Commissioner Rider – Has this group implemented this in other states? Workman – No, we are the first state. Tymeson – Other states have mobile platforms, Missouri, Utah and Wyoming. We are going to come up with regulatory changes to accommodate what licensing committee is working on.

5. Dedication of National Water Trail – David Breth, fisheries biologist, presented this update to the Commission. This Saturday is the dedication of the National Water Trail on the Arkansas River. I was tasked along with Jessica Mounts, who was former biologist in the Wichita area and is now executive director of Kansas Alliance of Wetlands and Streams. She spent a lot of time working with communities and other parties along the river to improve the condition and use, including adding the river from Great Bend to the Oklahoma border, roughly 192 miles to the national water trail system. In 2016, the National Park Service did designate this stretch, which joins the Kansas River water trail that runs from Junction City to the Missouri River, 173 miles. The National Water Trail system serves as a national network of water trails open to the public use and information source for managers of these waterways; established to protect and restore America’s rivers, shorelines and waterways and conserve natural areas along these waterways. That National Park Service defines a water trail as a recreational route with a network of public access points supported by broad-based community partnerships; evident if go along the river from Great Bend to Arkansas City, including facilities maintained in Wichita. Thank Kansas Wildscape for partnership to develop properties and access sites along the river. This designation provides benefits to the river and communities along the trail, promotion through the trail system and at local level has shown positive impacts to Tourism and technical assistance and funding for related projects is available. In effort to promote use and access of the trail an organized float trip and pop-up party with food trucks, music and activities is scheduled for June 23, starting at 11:00 a.m. from Cowtown public access site to Maple Street bridge; activities will be held on the west bank of the river on McLean Boulevard. Stand-up paddleboarders will offering free paddleboard rentals and the Ark River Coalition will provide free kayaks from 12:00 to 4:00 to be used at that location. This event was made possible by a grant from the Wichita Community Foundation, thank them for their help. Along with this event there will be a ceremony to recognize coordination between the state, communities along the river and other organizations will take place from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Keeper of the Plains on north side of the river at Central, which will highlight achievements and overall value of the river and National Water Trail system with speakers representing the U.S. Park Service, KDWPT, community offices and nongovernment organizations. Just received word that Miss Teen USA, Haley Colburn from Wichita is scheduled to attend this ceremony. For more information activate the Ark Facebook page and the event page on travelks.com for details and updates. Fliers in the back (Exhibit K). Commissioner Cross – How many miles of stream do we have? Breth – The Arkansas River is 192 miles from Great Bend to the Oklahoma border and the Kansas River trail is from Junction City to the Missouri River, 173 miles.

C. Workshop Session

1. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit L). Third workshop on webless migratory bird regulations; staff recommendation is to revoke KAR 115-20-7, which contains taking methods, legal equipment and possession of migratory doves, initially adopted in 2009 in

conjunction with establishing our exotic dove season. When we removed exotic doves from regulation last year we can now defer to federal regulations and this is no longer necessary. Revocation of 115-20-7 would result in no changes to the take of migratory doves other than the current requirement that they are only taken in flight. Tymeson – Scheduled for a vote in August. Because of a bill passed this year, not sure if we vote on tonight or in August is going to stick. Chairman Lauber – What is the bill? Tymeson – Something that deals with regulatory process and changes that were made and ours is the first agency going through that process. Chairman Lauber – Which means extra workshop sessions? Tymeson – We might, I don't know what that holds.

2. Park Regulations – Linda Lanterman, parks director, presented this report to the Commission (Handout - Exhibit M). Historic time in Kansas state parks, revenue is highest ever and adding two new state parks in one year is significant. What comes with that is new changes in pricing and how we do our permits. Proposing changes in Prairie Spirit Trail permit, which has been active since we started Trail, we don't get much revenue and our goal is to do away with that permitting process, which is different than our vehicle permits. In looking at the Katy Trail and new Flint Hills Trail State Park; opening it to the public right now. There could be changes with e-licensing that could help us manage this, but currently we get less than \$10,000 a year. Our goal is to get economic use and get people to use it and use the Flint Hills Trail at the same time, so do away with that. Used to have at Sand Hills State Park but was replaced that with a vehicle permit. Because of new Little Jerusalem Badlands State Park, nothing like it in our state park system, the landscape is fragile so would like to implement a back-country hiking permit, only with guided hike, not let people go down in those areas alone, this is a \$50 permit that is totally new. In the past, had seasonal camping program, based on Corps of Engineer's guidelines and we review it yearly, we raised fees a year ago and need to raise them again. Starts March through November and is a monthly contract, at Milford, Clinton, Tuttle Creek and El Dorado are higher than other state parks, an individual can stay on a site for nine months and usually not our most desirable sites; the problem is our utilities go up, it is highly used but we need to use it for recreation, not for someone to live there, so we feel we need to control it better. It is a healthy increase and we might have a backlash from it, but feel it is justifiable. In those smaller parks it is an extra \$100 a month; significantly lower than if you camp daily, now on daily permit in a site with utilities you can only stay 14 days, this would eliminate having to move every 14 days. In more desired parks an extra \$150 and these individuals have to buy an annual camp permit for \$200. Commissioner Cross – Do we look at any type of incremental approach? Lanterman – Last year I raised it \$40, our revenue is over \$500,000 from this program, it is significant, but if you look at what daily costs are it is so much lower. It is hard not to increase them, I could increment them, but I want you to see how significant it is for our system. We do not need to have people living in our campgrounds, it needs to be for recreation use.

3. Fishing Regulations – Doug Nygren, fisheries division director, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). First workshop on regulation changes for next calendar year, nothing controversial to what we have had in the past few years. Start with the reference document which is authorized by KAR 115-25-14 where we list length and creel limits that vary from the statewide system: at Lovewell Reservoir, add a 10-inch minimum length limit and a 20/day creel limit on crappie; Glen Elder Reservoir, add a 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie; Sterling City Lake, add a 21-inch minimum length limit and a 2/day creel limit on

saugeye, an important biological control of crappie. On four lakes we want to experiment with a 6- to 9-inch slot length limit on sunfish species; bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids and a 5/day creel limit. We have done work around the state and don't produce bluegill in our impoundments that are 8-inches and larger, so this is an attempt to experiment on four lakes with slot limit on panfish to provide a trophy panfish fishing opportunity if regulations function as we plan; if effective may try in other locations. Ottawa State Fishing Lake, remove the 18-inch minimum length limit on saugeye; Woodson State Fishing Lake, which is under renovation right now so be protective and change to a 10-inch minimum length limit and a 10/day creel limit on crappie to try and establish that population; Holyrood City Lake, change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish; Windom City Pond, change to a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish; Louisburg City Lake, change to a 13- to 18-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass; Kanopolis Reservoir, add a 35-inch minimum length limit on blue catfish, trying to establish population there; and Great Bend Stone Lake, change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass. Chairman Lauber – Explain how slot limit will work on sunfish? Nygren – By allowing people to harvest a sunfish under 6 inches that will create a better opportunity for fish in the slot to find an adequate amount of food that will push them over the top and allow them to exceed 9 inches. We need more time for bluegill and sunfish species to grow, they don't stay in lake long enough to reach that size of 8 inches; allow them to live longer and get adequate food can provide trophy sunfish opportunity. Chairman Lauber – Is it the department's opinion that most fish under 6 inches are not harvested for food? Nygren – Probably not, 6 inches is when anglers start taking them home. People do take them for bait. Chairman Lauber – A bluegill at 6 inches at a normal impoundment will be a year or two old? Nygren – Defer to Ben Neely, one of our research biologists. Neely - About three years. Commissioner Cassidy – Do we stock saugeye in Kansas? Nygren – Yes, we do. Commissioner Cassidy – Is there a top end, can saugeye get to be 28 inches, what is the growth stretch? Nygren – They grow at a similar rate to walleye, it is a hybrid between a sauger and a walleye, sauger come from Perry Reservoir and we cross with walleye from Cedar Bluff, Hillsdale and other lakes and we make saugeye annually and use them in lakes where walleye don't do very well so they tend to be heartier. I defer to Ben of Jeff to talk about what the top end is, not sure what the largest growth potential is. Neely – Potential is a little bit shorter than a walleye. Commissioner Cassidy – Is it slower growth as well? Neely – I wouldn't say slower growth, but problem is getting first to ultimate sizes in Kansas and doesn't have to do with growth potential, but they are harvested before they can reach that. Commissioner Cassidy – Emails and phone calls from last few months has been about Cedar Bluff 21-inch, and some of older anglers not happy with that. At Norton, 18-inch limit for a saugeye and you can catch 100 fish 17 5/8 inches and never get an 18 incher except in early spring. Nygren – That is because of harvest. It doesn't matter where we set the length limit on walleye and saugeye as soon as they reach legal size they are going to go home in the next six months to a year; it is the nature of the beast. Anglers are very good at catching them. Chairman Lauber – That is the logic of having higher length limits is you will harvest more pounds Nygren – Actually have more pounds harvested if you can optimize pounds harvested with the length limit and hopefully increase the spawning potential ratio on walleye to have more big brooders in the lake to help with producing. We do get some lakes with some natural reproduction, but it would be nice to have more not dependent upon stocking. Move on to other regulation changes: have two new trout Type 1 lakes, which means anyone 16 and over would have to have a trout permit; change 115-25-14; Eisenhower State Park Pond and Coffeyville LeClere Lake. Last year created two Youth/Mentor Fishing Ponds, Pratt Kid's Pond

and Demon Lake in Dodge City, and have five new locations we want to set aside for child and mentor to fish together and we will try to keep them stocked and catch rates high; at Wilson State Park Pond, Kanopolis State Park Pond, Melvern Mentoring Pond (only one not in state park, but on Corp area), Fall River State Park Pond and Elk City State Park Pond.

Change 115-7-1, Kansas is one of few states that doesn't have any regulations on the possession of paddlefish eggs, which does have the potential of making us targets for poachers. Law enforcement division asked us to consider a regulation to put controls and limits on possession of paddlefish eggs; leaning towards something like what Oklahoma has, limiting pounds of eggs within your possession and illegal over that amount. Chris will be working on the actual language. The other option would be to go like Missouri and have no possession of paddlefish eggs by the public. We are opting towards a limited amount. Change 18-10, importation and possession of certain wildlife, prohibition, permit requirement, and restrictions, this is our prohibited species list, animals people are not allowed to have: add marbled crayfish to prohibited species list; they are hybrid species that can clone itself, so a single crayfish can start a new population and more of a concern nationwide. Chairman Lauber – Can you buy them in a pet store? Nygren – Don't believe so, they can come in as hitchhikers with other animals and we want to be proactive. Tymeson – Are they detrimental to native crayfish? Nygren – Yes and the fact that they can clone themselves makes it easier for them to become established. Change 17-2, commercial sale of fish bait: propose to remove common carp, including koi, from list of species that may be sold as bait in Kansas. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) is actively pursuing a trojan Y consortium that will be looking at eradication of common carp through some creative fish culture techniques. We would produce fish that when released into the wild and they spawn with wild carp all of the offspring will be male and in the best-case scenario half of those males that when they reproduce with wild females they would also produce males; half would be normal males and half would be super-males. This would drive the carp population to be heavily suppressed or hopefully eradicated. So, we don't want people buying carp and using them to release in to bodies of water when we are likely going to be pursuing trojan Y technology to deal with invasive species, possibly white perch may use the same technology. Chairman Lauber – The trojan mule is a daughterless carp? Nygren – You use hormones for X reversal and end up with carp brood stock, normally males have a male and a female chromosome and females have two female chromosomes, under this scenario you only have males and females with only male chromosomes so all offspring become male, so idea is to establish mono-sex brood stock in the hatchery and release their offspring into the wild and when those fish mate with wild carp all of their offspring will be male. Chairman Lauber – So eventually you have no females? Nygren – You run out of females and the population collapses. It is an integrated best management approach that would likely also require mechanical removal, we are doing that now at Milford, removing common carp to deal with harmful algae blooms up there. If we could pair removal of common carp and stock trojan males at the same time it could be likely that we would have a big impact. Utah is interested in this technology, they spent \$8 million suppressing carp populations; basically, all of the western states under WAFWA using trojan Y males to eradicate invasive species. Chairman Lauber – Does this work for all species? Nygren – Anything that reproduces sexually potentially could benefit from this technology. If asexually reproduction, then no. Zebra mussels have sexual reproduction, but no one has thought through this technology for them. Using on brook trout in the west and walleye is a big target in the west where impacting native trout species; common carp and white perch we would love to be able to use this kind of technology on. Our hatchery at Meade did do sex reversal last year on

walleye and we were successful at turning males into females and females into males, that is part of this effort nationwide. Idaho is developing a sex marker that would allow us to tell which ones are sex reversed males and which ones are normal males so we can select the right ones to put into breeding program. This technology can become a major effort nationwide as we start to have more evidence of success in the wild; seeing good success in brook trout and models looking good for common carp. Exciting to think that someday we can control invasive species rather than tolerate them. Chairman Lauber – Is common carp an invasive species? Nygren – Yes, they were introduced from Europe back in the late 1800s to early 1900s. We would not want to pursue eliminating any of our native species. Chairman Lauber – Why starting with common carp? Nygren – That is the one most of the western states are interested in dealing with, they not only compete with native fish they can change habitat through their feeding habits, erupt vegetation, a bad actor and everyone has felt that we just have to live with them. When we renovate a lake we take them out, but often times they end up right back in a lake, this technology could remove them from our ecosystem; they are detrimental to wetlands as well, not just a fish issue, it is a water quality issue. Commissioner Cross – What types of bodies of water, lakes, ponds, rivers or streams? Nygren – All of them, smaller bodies of water first to be sure it is doing exactly what we want it to do. Utah is testing on large body of water. We do have a recipe for reversing the sex on common carp and just about have the sex marker worked out, which is an important component. We could have never done this years ago because we didn't have any genetic markers to be able to identify a super male from a regular fish. Bring in experts over the next year to give you an update on what is going on. We will be contributing as an agency to WAFWA consortium, about \$13,000 a year, and we have the best scientist in the country working on this, Dr. Dan Shill. Chairman Lauber – Ordinary gold fish people buy for trotline bait will still be available? Nygren – Yes, they are not a carp. Change 7-2, fishing general provisions to ban bowfishing for catfish. There is a device on the market that a person can hook to their battery on their boat and connect to cable or chain hanging in the water, puts an electric charge in that would bring channel catfish up in an area around the boat and would make it easy to take them with a bow and arrow. It is legal to take catfish with a bow and arrow, but it is not legal when you are shocking the fish. It becomes an issue, when people go back in remote areas and employ this type of technology. If law enforcement officer was to approach them they could disconnect and drop over the side and evidence would be gone. This is an attempt for us to deal with that potential issue. I did get some concerns from people who like to bow fish for catfish and they suggested compromise to ban bow fishing on rivers, but still allow it on manmade impoundments; concern was unlikely for people to shock up fish on public body of water that might have a lot of other users on it, might be a good compromise. The biggest issues have been on the Neosho River, one step would be to make bowfishing illegal. Chairman Lauber – Making bowfishing illegal where? Nygren – On rivers. The current regulation is if an impoundment has a length limit on catfish we don't allow bowfishing because they can't release it, but lakes with no catfish length limits bowfishing is legal. Change 7-3, has to do with request to increase the size of mesh on cast nets that would allow people trying to catch shad for bait to catch larger gizzard shad, no issue, currently ½ inch and law prohibits them from keeping game fish no matter what size, so proposing increasing mesh size up to an inch. Chairman Lauber – Recommendation or cautionary thought? Nygren – No because the law is pretty clear on what you can keep. Chairman Lauber – What are common commercially available cast net sizes? Nygren – Half, one inch and ¾ inch. Chairman Lauber – Our current maximum is a ½"? Nygren – for many years ¼", bumped to ½" several years ago. Chairman Lauber – I think we could raise that to an inch.

Chairman Lauber – Drops faster? Nygren – Drops faster and allows them to catch a bigger fish. Chairman Lauber – I propose we raise that to one inch. Nygren – My staff would be okay with that. One last item, Aquatic Nuisance Species Waters List (Exhibit O): adding only one location, Geary State Fishing Lake where we detected zebra mussels in 2017 but not early enough to add to the list. Chris restructured list to make it easier to follow, shows water downstream and waters impacted. Chairman Lauber – As a general rule, are all the Asian carp in eastern part of state, from confluence of Missouri River up to Bowersock Dam at Lawrence? Nygren – In the Missouri River and tributaries coming in and Kansas River and all of its tributaries, they have been able to go anywhere they can swim on their own. Found some in Milford Hatchery supply lake below Milford Reservoir, large individuals that may have been there since the 1993 flood; but majority below Bowersock Dam. Chairman Lauber – No reason to think in advertently released? Nygren – In wet years a lot of reproduction and those fish probably came up the old river channel and got into the supply lake on their own, nobody knows for sure. They have not reproduced in there and we have a new screen we installed at the hatchery recently that is small enough if they did have eggs they wouldn't make it into the hatchery. A commercial fisherman was in there and he detected them; found four or five large adults. Also, big head carp found in Oklahoma, so may have invasion from that direction and some showing up in farm ponds; invasion in farm pond in Kiowa County several years ago, probably through a catfish stocking so can't really say it is confined, to just Kansas and Missouri Rivers, they are out there and are going to be a problem. We are certifying all bait shops now to make sure their water supply is clean of invasive species and not bringing in things they shouldn't, an active program. Those kinds of changes will give us a little bit of insurance from additional spread, but just takes someone making a bad decision to have a problem. Commissioner Cassidy – No regulations about chumming for channel catfish? Nygren – No, we have not prohibited it. Commissioner Cassidy – Guys calling saying there are outfitters that are catching large catfish while chumming and that is not fair to the average fisherman. Can we look at that? Nygren – We are looking at that right now. Glen Elder is the one with biggest interest in that topic, although chumming at other reservoirs too. We are taking a look to see if detecting any change in channel catfish populations and whether detrimental or not, will take a while for that. The interesting thing is in my entire career channel catfish, opinion of biologists is that under-utilized resource in our federal reservoirs. Commissioner Cassidy – Not catching numbers or size of fish? Nygren – Lynn Davignon and Scott Waters are looking into that. Chairman Lauber – Getting same comments at well, commercial fishing at Glen Elder, but fish will outpace angler harvest. Nygren – Fortunate to have, in most of our reservoirs, a long history of channel catfish doing pretty well and that changes a little when you add blue catfish, channel catfish populations can take trend in a different direction, so need to make sure not blaming on angler when it may be a blue catfish issue.

4. Coast Guard Navigation Rules – Dan Heskett, assistant law enforcement division director, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit P). On August 8 and 9, 2017 the U.S. Coast Guard did a site visit, a three-year review of our program for compliance through federal agreement for federal aid we receive for recreational boating program. On that visit they noted most areas compliant, but one area was laws and regulations on piloting or navigation rules and they suggested we adopt 33 CFR Part 83, which pertains to inland navigation rules as our regulation by reference. I would like to clear up issues the gentleman brought up this afternoon. Last issue on registration of vessels, we are required to follow the Coast Guard regulations and

rules on how we number and register recreational boaters; that number has to be on top half of the bow reading left to right, be contrasting in color and at least three inches in block style letters. Low riding vessels, like speedboats, are flat on top and our recommendation is to place the registration numbers on the top surface on both sides, problem is can't see those numbers until they are on top of them and then they go ahead and do vessel inspection. Overall our officers do a tremendous job in their discretion on how and when they do stop these kinds of vessels. Second, on disposition of equipment, that is in my authority, when we have a piece of equipment that starts to go down I have to decide to replace or not, the one engine he talked about was a blown power head, a 9- to 10-year-old motor and was \$16,000 to replace, so it made sense to get a motor of off contract for \$22,000 to \$23,000 so it made sense to buy a new piece of equipment rather than put something out that could have the lower unit fail. On the one that had the lower unit problem, that was the second time that was replaced so mechanic's suggestion was to replace the motor. What he doesn't realize is we had another 225-horse motor that was about 2 years old that also blew a powerhead on it and we repaired that one. I do cost analysis on equipment before we decide what, where and when we are going to do with it. On the majority of our vessels, equipment is set up on a 10-year life rotation, most may be 12-15 years before replacement. Even though they may look pretty or look good they have had a lot of hard use and it is my job to keep officers in good equipment so they are not out doing a vital role and their equipment fails on them. I will back up our decision on what goes into an auction anytime. On the first one, personal watercraft, relate personal watercraft to flies when you are out in your garden, they are nuisance but not most dangerous out there. I have been keeping statistics on this since 2002 and in 2017, we had 29 accidents, 2 fatalities and 50 percent of those accidents involved open motorboats, 22.5 percent in personal watercraft category, 11.1 percent involved pontoons and 8.3 percent canoes and kayaks which were both fatalities. In 2011, in comparison, for the last 13 years was highest rate of accidents; 45 accidents, 7 fatalities; 85 percent were open motorboats, 21 percent (the average) were personal watercraft and no fatalities from personal watercraft. Easy to say what a danger they are, but personal watercraft industry is severe in putting information out to their clients, they are built sturdy and designed for fun. They are more regulated and everyone on one must wear a lifejacket, but not everyone on a motorboat has to. Chairman Lauber – Is there an age limit to operating one? Heskett – It is 12 for any vessel. If born after July 1, 1989 they have to take a boater education course or until they are 21. I don't disagree that it is probably not the best way to educate people because it is not a hands-on boat operation course, but no state has the staffing to do on-the-water courses. Chairman Lauber – And statistics don't bear out the need for it. Heskett – No, it is not our youth that are fatalities, it is adults. Commissioner Rider – On auctions, do you set minimums or advertise? Heskett – It is competitive and who shows up is going to determine the amount; it is equipment that we don't want and don't have the storage for and are not going to use it, so we might as well get rid of it. If we put a minimum on it then either the auction house to hang on to it and charge us a fee or we have to go back and pick it up.

VII. RECESS AT 4:05 p.m.

VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.

IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

D. Public Hearing

Notice and Submission Forms and Attorney General letter dated February 28 and Legislative Research letter dated April 30 (Exhibit Q).

1. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley – Levi Jaster, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit R). This regulation sets military subunit season changes due to training schedules. Fort Riley extends the designated persons youth/disabled season to include October 6-8, which would normally be the pre-rut season, and shift open firearm season dates from November 23-25 and December 15-23; no extra days, same length just shifted when they occur. Archery season opens September 1-16 and January 2-31 for folks designated with authorization from Ft. Riley to hunt. They do not have a pre-rut antlerless season, exchanged with designated persons. Fort Leavenworth shifted firearms season to be weekends, with same number of days; November 17-18, November 22-25 (around Thanksgiving), December 1-2, December 8-9, and December 15-16. They also extend antlerless season January 1-13 and archery extended season from January 14-31, which makes them different than Unit 10, which is where they are at. Smokey Hill firearm season will be November 20 through December 1, no extra days, same length just shifted time. We wait this long to set these so if there are training changes there is time to set these.

Commissioner Ward Cassidy moved to approve KAR 115-25-9a as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Harrison Williams second.

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

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

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

2. KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting furharvesting, and discharge of firearms – Stuart Schrag, director, Public Lands Division, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit T). Voting on special use restrictions, under subsection e: Under age restrictions, adding wording designating “weekends and holidays only” to Hillsdale Wildlife Area in Region 2, open to anybody during the week to allow more access. Under boating restrictions, no motorized boats, add Neosho Wildlife Area stating motorized watercraft permitted only during the waterfowl season, and no motorized watercraft allowed in pools 4A and 4B and no out-of-water propeller-driven watercraft (airboats) permitted any time. Under no

gasoline engine powered boats, add Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area Olsburg Marsh in Region 2 to provide various types of waterfowl access. Under Daily Hunt Permits, for Region 1 add Talmo Marsh and for Region 2 add Blue Valley Wildlife Area. Want to include a new statewide section that would include areas in iWIHA program are under daily hunt permit section.

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve KAR 115-8-1 as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Aaron Rider second.

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

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

The motion on 8-1 as presented passed 6-0.

3. KAR 115-4-6b. Elk; management units – Matt Peek, research game biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit V). Three elk management units and Unit 2 surrounds Fort Riley and this proposal is to move the northern boundary of Unit 2 south about five miles, reducing the size of Unit 2 to allow some of the elk that have been permanently residing north of the Fort to be available for general resident over-the-counter permits.

Commissioner Aaron Rider moved to approve KAR 115-4-6b as presented to the Commission. Commissioner Ward Cassidy second.

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

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

The motion on 4-6b as presented passed 6-0.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

XIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates

August 2, 2018 – Medicine Lodge, Gyp Hills Guest Ranch

October 25, 2018 – Colby, Colby Community Building
January 17, 2019 - Lawrence

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Secretary's Remarks

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

2018 Legislature – Changes to Regulatory Process
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

General Discussion

Tourism Update

No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT

B. General Discussion

2. 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. Two years ago, 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

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 spears, and atlatl spears.

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 (WTAO) permit for residents of Kansas. These permits are valid during all seasons with equipment authorized for that season
 - White-tailed deer, either-sex permit for nonresidents valid for one equipment type and one unit; nonresident hunters may designate one adjacent unit where they may hunt
 - Either-species, either-sex permit, restricted to a season or seasons and units where they may be used by resident and nonresident deer hunters
 - Hunt-on-your-own-land permits, including resident HOYOL, nonresident HOYOL, and special HOYOL permits for certain direct relatives of the resident 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 and reduce harvest of female mule deer. Results from analysis of harvest data from the 2017 season indicate that this 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 will continue to be 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

2. 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 2019-2020. The recommendations at this time follow the traditional season structure, with potential changes to some seasons:

Multiple hunter comments have been received that the designated persons season (youth and disabled season) and the muzzleloader season dates are often set during temperatures that preclude proper care of harvested animals and that hunters utilizing those seasons want to hunt later dates. The option currently being considered, that works within the current season framework:

1. The designated persons season and muzzleloader season also include the dates of Oct.12 - Oct. 14. These are the same dates as the Pre-Rut Whitetail Antlerless Only Season. This change would allow youth/disabled or muzzleloader hunters to hunt later, while keeping the same number of days in which legal, non-archery, deer hunting methods may be used. It also maintains the number of days that archery hunters must wear orange.

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 Wednesday in 2020. 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, 5, and 12 days). The shortest season would not have a weekend day of hunting. Additionally, shift the

pre-rut WAO season to begin October 12 and add one day to the pre-rut WAO season, making it three days long, thus allowing WAO firearm hunting during Columbus Day, which is a holiday for some hunters. This keeps the season framework similar to the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 seasons.

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.

Public comment is sought about these options.

Recommendation

Following traditions (see attached table) the proposed season dates suggested for deer hunting during 2019-20 are as follows:

Youth and Disability	Sept. 7, 2019 – Sept. 15, 2019, Oct. 12, 2019 – Oct. 14, 2019
Early Muzzleloader	Sept. 16, 2019 – Sept. 29, 2019, Oct. 12, 2019 – Oct. 14, 2019
Archery	Sept. 16, 2019 – Dec. 31, 2019
Pre-Rut WAO	Oct. 12, 2019 – Oct. 14, 2019
Regular Firearm	Dec. 4, 2019 – Dec. 15, 2019
1 st Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2020
2 nd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2020 – Jan. 5, 2020
3 rd Extended WAO	Jan. 1, 2020 – Jan. 12, 2020
Extended Archery (DMU 19)	Jan. 13, 2020 – Jan. 31, 2020

Private Lands Habitat Specialists Update

An important mission of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural heritage, its wildlife and its habitats – to ensure future generations enjoy the benefits of the state's diverse living resources. However, in a state that is 98 percent privately owned, that is a difficult task. For the past 20 years, KDWPT's Wildlife Division staff have addressed this obstacle by providing landowners with technical advice and cost-sharing assistance for developing wildlife-friendly habitat practices on their land. There are 29 district wildlife biologists and biologist technicians who work directly with private landowners, providing technical guidance on best management practices and creating habitat management plans through the division's Habitat First program, as well as providing advice on the multitude of practices offered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Unfortunately, progress has been stymied in some areas of the state where landowners don't have the equipment and/or time necessary to complete the practices, or where landowners simply live in another state. Past and current habitat programs were delivered with adequate field staff to provide the technical guidance and financial support, but there wasn't manpower needed to implement the practices directly on the landscape.

In an effort to mimic success seen by Public Lands Division programs, we began an agreement with Habitat Forever, LLC, a subsidiary of Pheasants Forever, Inc., to employ three habitat specialists. These specialists will implement the wildlife-friendly practices prescribed by our KDWPT biologists and technicians on private lands in Kansas. The primary focus is on land enrolled in KDWPT's Walk-in Hunting Access (WIHA) program, which leases land from private landowners and opens it to public hunting during the hunting seasons. This will help provide the public with opportunities for the use and appreciation of the natural resources of Kansas, consistent with the conservation of those resources.

Currently, there are three private land habitat specialists based in Dodge City, Parsons, and Wilson. In its initial stages, the program will enhance WIHA acres that are within the Ecological Focus Areas (EFA) detailed in KDWPT's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). These three positions will work primarily to enhance playa wetlands within the Playa Landscape EFA, prairie restoration within the Smoky Hills EFA, and wetland easement enhancements within the Neosho River EFA.

The habitat specialists hit the ground running in May 2018, and the crew has already completed habitat enhancements on 224 acres of private land enrolled in the WIHA program. The work has included brush removal to enhance native grassland and direct brush removal within wetland easement cells to improve waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunities. This quick, obvious progress has helped recruit new WIHA cooperators, adding quality WIHA hunting opportunities. And the timely implementation of prescribed practices has given our biologists and technicians more time to devote to technical guidance and management plans.

Hatchery System Update
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Bluegill Research Update
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 2018 spring turkey season was open April 1 – May 31 and included three different segments - youth/disabled, archery, and regular. The fall 2018 season will be open October 1 to January 31 (closed during the regular firearm deer season, November 28 - December 9). Hunting regulations are set within six management units for both spring and fall seasons (Figure 1).

For the spring 2018 season, 38,471 hunters purchased 60,545 carcass tags. Nonresidents accounted for 39 percent of Kansas' spring hunters and 26 percent of the fall hunters in the most recent seasons. Harvest has averaged just over 30,000 turkeys in the spring and about 2,750 in the fall over the last five seasons (Table 1). Statewide spring hunter success declined substantially in 2018 to 43 percent (Table 1). Overall declining rates of hunter success - in conjunction with declining population and production indices - are concerning.

Population Status and Productivity

Statewide turkey production was generally poor to fair in 2017. 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 in 2017 was 25 percent below the previous 10-year average. Production was below the 10-year average in all regions except the Southeast (35 percent above average) which led to variable population responses across regions in spring 2018 (Figure 2).

Conditions entering the 2018 nesting season were generally good, but increasing drought severity in the central and eastern regions of the state may be detrimental to poult survival. At the time of this writing, the 2018 brood survey is being conducted, so production for 2018 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 primary concern as turkey populations decline across the region.

Recommendations

Bag Limits

The department utilizes an adaptive harvest strategy to help guide staff recommendations on wild turkey permit allotments during both the spring and fall seasons. The intent of the strategy is to maintain high hunter success in each management unit while maintaining relatively high populations. The strategy provides a consistent and transparent method of developing staff recommendations and includes a hierarchy of regulation packages for both the spring and fall seasons as well as established triggers for when and how changes to bag limits will be recommended. The strategy has been in place now for eight years and includes data for the last 15 hunting seasons.

An analysis of the spring 2018 harvest data revealed that four of the six units have continued to experience resident hunter success below the stated thresholds of the strategy for the last two

spring seasons (Table 4). This continued decline in hunter success activated a management trigger to reduce bag limits and/or season availability in Units 1, 3, 5, and 6 (Northwest, Northeast, Southcentral, Southeast).

Staff recommend suspending the fall turkey season in Units 1, 3, 5, and 6 for 2019 (October 1, 2019-January 31, 2019).

The recommended bag limits for spring and fall turkey seasons are as follows:

Hunting Unit	Management Unit	2019 Season Permits (* limited draw, otherwise unlimited availability)	
		Spring	Fall
1	Northwest	2	0
2	Northcentral	2	1
3	Northeast	2	0
4	Southwest	1*	0
5	Southcentral	2	0
6	Southeast	2	0

Season Structure

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

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

The recommended 2019 Spring and Fall Turkey season dates are as follows:

Spring

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

Fall

- All Legal Methods October 1 – December 3, December 16 - January 31

At the April and June Commission meetings, staff were requested to examine the spring turkey season structure and make a recommendation regarding the early archery season—specifically, whether or not to retain the early archery season, beginning with the 2020 season.

Staff have developed and are requesting Commissioner feedback on the following options:

Option 1

- Keep season structure in current form (see description above)

Provides 1 weekend for Youth / Disabled only and 1 weekend for Early Archery with Youth / Disabled.

Option 2

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

Provides earlier start date to regular season in 3 of 6 years. Early archery is provided 2 days in 3 of 6 years and 9 days in 3 of 6 years.

Option 3

- Youth / Disabled begins April 1
- Regular begins the Wednesday after the first full weekend in April

Removes Early Archery season, provides earlier start date for regular season.

Table 1. Kansas wild turkey permit sales, total harvest, and hunter success for each of the last 5 seasons, 2013-2018.

Year	Spring			Fall			
	Permits & Game	Total	Success	Permits & Game	Total	Hen Harvest	Success
	Tags	Harvest	(%)	Tags	Harvest	(%)	(%)
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	6,262	1,183	32	25
2018	60,545	22,639	43	--	--	--	--

Success: percentage of active hunters harvesting ≥ 1 bird

Table 2. 2018 Spring Rural Mail Carrier Survey population index differences from 2017 and 5- and 10-year averages.

	Northcentral	Northeast	Northwest
Difference from 2017 (%)	3.7	73.6	43.2
2018 difference from 5-year average (%)	-18.5	6.8	22.4
2018 difference from 10-year average (%)	-32.1	-0.7	-10.9

	Southcentral	Southeast	Southwest	Statewide
Difference from 2017 (%)	32.2	21.6	18.5	35.0
2018 difference from 5-year average (%)	-10.7	-16.1	3.0	-3.3
2018 difference from 10-year average (%)	-7.2	-6.6	-8.0	-11.4

Table 3. 2017 Summer Rural Mail Carrier Survey production index differences from 2016 and 5- and 10-year averages.

	Northwest	Northcentral	Northeast
Difference from 2016 (%)	-17.0	13.4	6.2
2017 difference from 5-year average (%)	-36.0	-25.3	-32.7
2017 difference from 10-year average (%)	-44.6	-13.5	-30.5

	Southwest	Southcentral	Southeast	Statewide
Difference from 2016 (%)	10.2	19.0	92.0	24.5
2017 difference from 5-year average (%)	-19.5	-57.3	16.9	-29.4
2017 difference from 10-year average (%)	-25.3	-53.4	35.2	-24.7

Table 4. Spring turkey season resident hunter success (%), 2014-2018.

	Northwest (Unit 1)	Northcentral (Unit 2)	Northeast (Unit 3)	Southwest (Unit 4)	Southcentral (Unit 5)	Southeast (Unit 6)	Statewide
2014	48.2	55.1	50.5	54.5	52.4	42.7	49.3
2015	60.0	50.9	52.9	56.0	50.5	43.7	46.3
2016	34.5	54.1	48.7	40.7	44.6	41.2	43.0
2017	50.0	58.3	45.1	65.0	48.9	44.3	44.4
2018	37.8	41.8	37.3	37.5	44.3	35.5	36.9

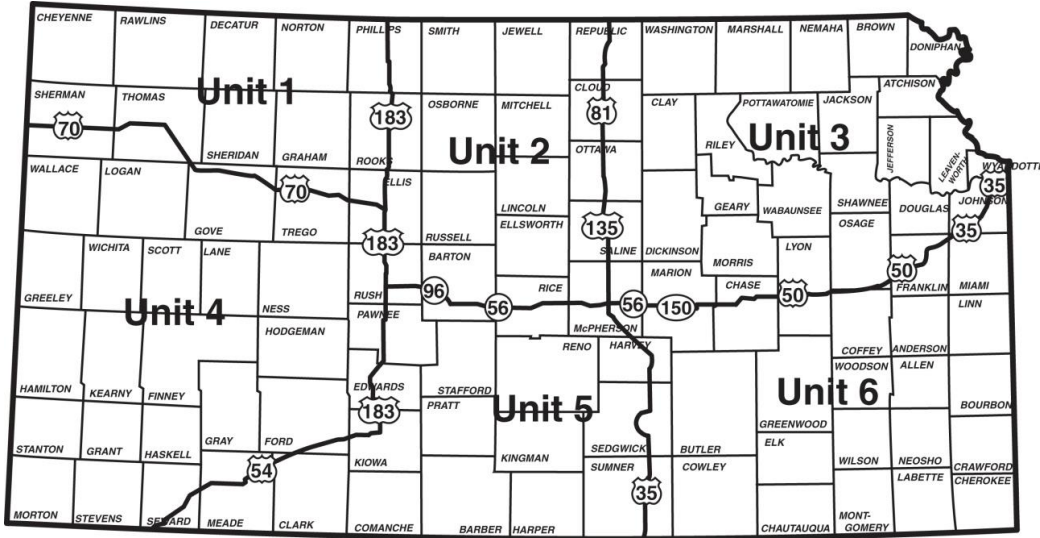
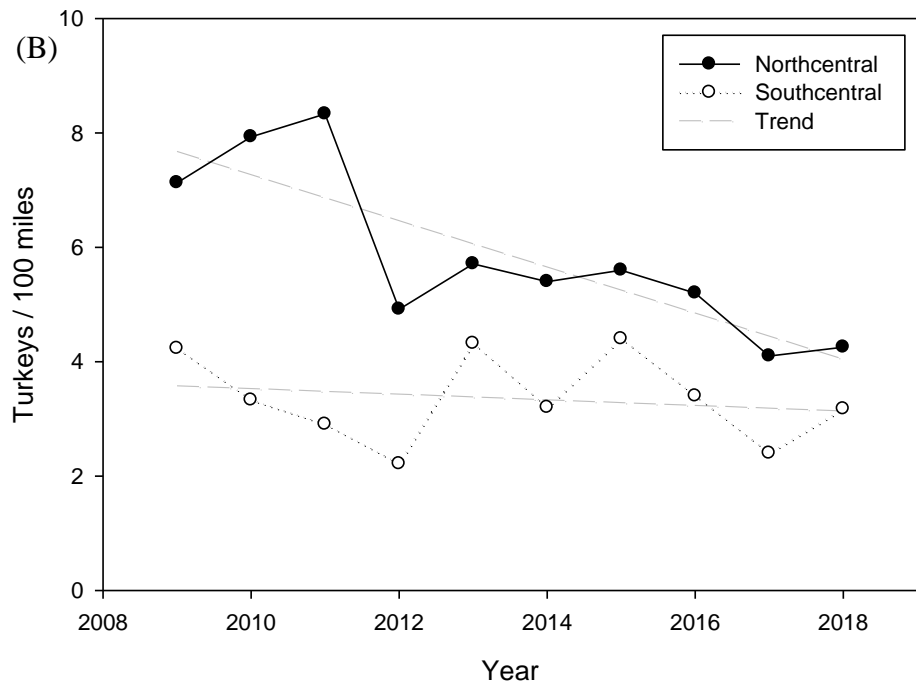
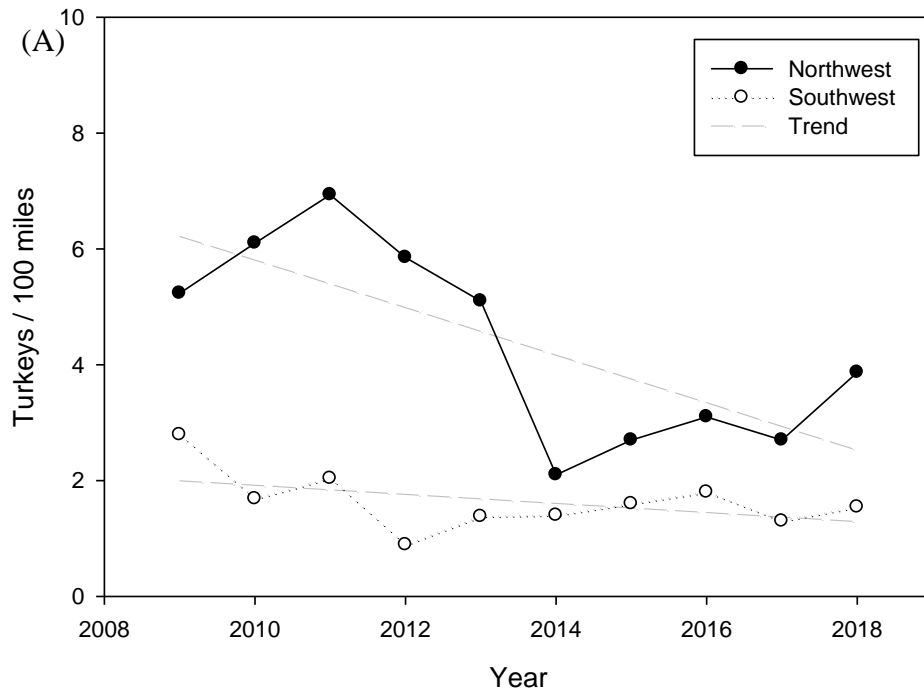


Figure 1. Hunting units for Kansas' 2018 turkey seasons. A 2018 spring turkey permit (and additional game tag) could be purchased over-the-counter for Units 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6. Five hundred spring permits were issued for Unit 4 through a pre-season drawing and were also valid in adjacent units. A 2018 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 2018.



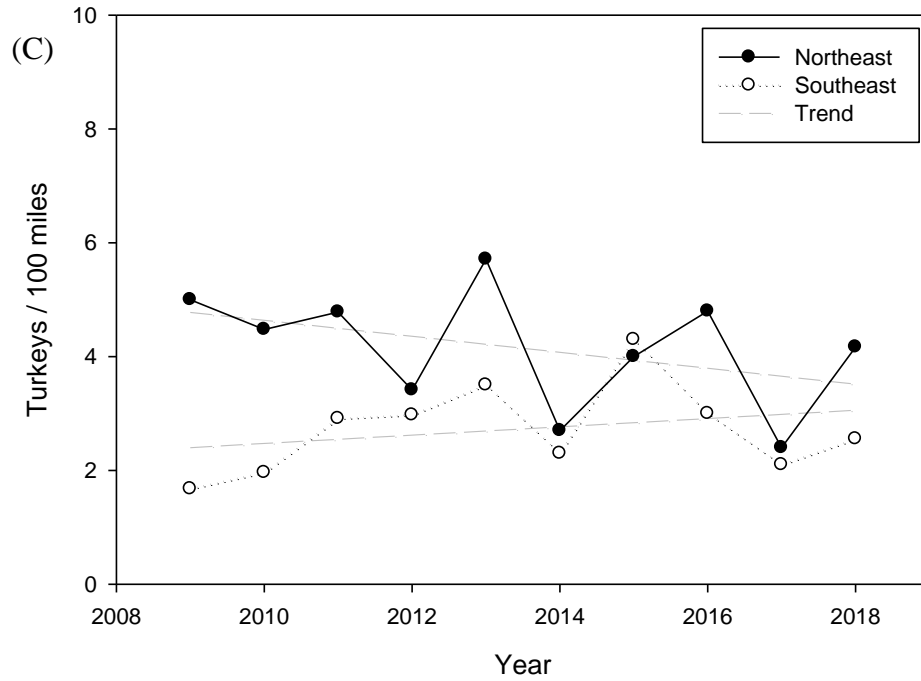


Figure 2. The spring rural mail carrier index (turkeys / 100 miles traveled) to wild turkey populations with 10-year trends in the western (A), central (B), and eastern (C) Kansas management regions, 2009-2018.

Commission Meeting - 8/02/18

Park Regulations

Backcountry Hiking Pass \$50

Little Jerusalem

The largest Niobrara Chalk formation in Kansas hides like a giant treasure in a valley between Scott City and Oakley. This mile-long stretch of 100-foot-tall spires and cliffs at The Nature Conservancy's Smoky Valley Ranch will soon open to the public, with trails that beg for you to use the panorama setting on your camera.

Ancient Niobrara Chalk formations left from when an inland sea covered Kansas Territory take you back in time with breathtaking views. The soft limestone pyramids are also home to wildlife and plants found nowhere else in the world. The Nature Conservancy is consulting with Kansas Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to design access that protects the fragile rocks and unique ecology at the one-of-a-kind attraction.

The opportunity to have a backcountry hiking pass would be an exciting way to experience this unique landscape. Our goal is to provide trails for the public to see the formations while protecting the fragile formations, as well as to provide a pass to hike back through the formations with a guide. The backcountry hiking pass will allow us to know who is hiking and how to reach them should we need to. We plan on having our staff or an appointed designee to guide the hikes.

				Utilities					
				Fees to purchase camping					
Off Season Prices				1 Utility	2 Utility	3 Utility			
	Daily Camping Charge *		\$10	\$10	\$10				
	Daily Utility Costs		\$9	\$11	\$12				
	Daily Totals		\$19	\$21	\$22				
	x 30 Days (Monthly Cost)		\$570	\$630	\$660				
* Daily Camping Fee is not charged if customer purchases an annual camping permit which costs \$152.50 in the off season and \$202.50 during the in season									
Seasonal campsites Current and Projected Costs									
All Parks Except (Milford, Tuttle Creek, and El Dorado)									
All prices assume visitor has already purchased required annual camping permit				Milford, Clinton, Tuttle Creek, and El Dorado State Parks					
		1 Utility	2 Utility	3 Utility		1 Utility	2 Utility	3 Utility	
	Camping	\$271.50	\$331.50	\$391.50		\$311.50	\$371.50	\$431.50	
	Fee Increase to account for increase in daily utility fees								
	utility fees	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00		\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	
	Total	\$371.50	\$431.50	\$491.50		\$461.50	\$521.50	\$581.50	
	Total cost per day for long term with a valid annual camping permit	\$12.38	\$14.38	\$16.38		\$15.38	\$17.38	\$19.38	

2019 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits:

- Lovewell Reservoir -- add a 10-inch minimum length limit and a 20/day creel limit on crappie.
- Glen Elder Reservoir -- add a 10-inch minimum length limit on crappie.
- Sterling City Lake -- add a 21-inch minimum length limit and a 2/day creel limit on saugeye.
- Jewell State Fishing Lake -- add a 6- to 9-inch slot length limit on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, add a 5/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and no creel limit for fish under 6 inches.
- Lenexa - Lake Lenexa -- add a 6- to 9-inch slot length limit on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, add a 5/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and no creel limit for fish under 6 inches.
- Miami State Fishing Lake -- add a 6- to 9-inch slot length limit on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, add a 5/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and no creel limit for fish under 6 inches.
- Pottawatomie State Fishing Lake No. 2 -- add a 6- to 9-inch slot length limit on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, add a 5/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and unlimited creel number for fish under 6 inches.
- Ottawa State Fishing Lake -- remove the 18-inch minimum length limit on saugeye.
- Woodson State Fishing Lake -- change to a 10-inch minimum length limit and a 10/day creel limit on crappie.
- Holyrood City Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Windom City Pond -- change to a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Louisburg City Lake -- change to a 13- to 18-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass.
- Kanopolis Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit on blue catfish.
- Great Bend Stone Lake -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.

Other 2019 Proposed Fishing Regulation Changes.

Change 115-25-14 to include two new trout stocking locations.

Eisenhower State Park Pond and Coffeyville LeClere Lake will be added to the list of 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.

Youth/Mentor Fishing Pond - Regulation

"Licensed adults may fish only if accompanied by a person younger than sixteen (16) years of age who is actively engaged in fishing. All other existing use and harvest regulations at each location still apply.

Proposed New Locations for 2019:

Wilson State Park Pond
Kanopolis State Park Pond
Melvern Mentoring Pond
Fall River State Park Pond
Elk City State Park Pond

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

Looking at ways to curb illegal activities associated with the possession of paddlefish eggs.

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

Add Marbled Crayfish (*Procambarus virginalis*) to the prohibited species list. They are a hybrid species that reproduces clonally so a single crayfish can start a new population. There is limited information about the species in the wild in North America but it is a serious invader in other parts of the world. In the U.S. it is a very popular aquarium inhabitant and it is very easy for anyone to purchase them.

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

Remove common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), including koi, from the list of species that may be sold for bait in Kansas. As the "Trojan Male" technology improves, there may be an opportunity to begin serious efforts to eliminate common carp from some of our Kansas waters. Allowing them to be sold and moved around as bait would be counterproductive to this effort. Our inspection records indicate this will impact less than 5 percent of the 200 bait shops in Kansas.

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

Propose to ban bow and arrow fishing and crossbow and arrow fishing on rivers and streams for blue catfish, channel catfish, and flathead catfish. We want to continue allowing these activities on impoundments where no size limit exists for any of these three species of catfish.

Change 115-7-3. Fish; taking and use of baitfish or minnows.

Currently baitfish may be taken for noncommercial purposes by using a dip or cast net with mesh size not larger than ½ inch. We propose increasing the mesh size.

Coast Guard Navigation Rules

Commissioners, KDWPT Staff and the public,

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) provides the Recreational Boating Safety Program for the State of Kansas. To provide boating infrastructures, law enforcement, public education, aids to navigation, search and rescue and administrative duties, the KDWPT relies heavily on Recreational Boating Safety federal dollars administered through the United States Coast Guard, Recreational Boating Safety Division.

Every three years, the U.S. Coast Guard conducts an on-site visit with the Boating Law Administrators of the states to look over the components required within the agreement between the state and the federal government and to inform the state of any inadequacies or deficiencies discovered that relate to changes in Code of Federal Regulations or problems with program implementation.

On August 8-9, 2017, an on-site review of our program was conducted. Though most of our program was found in compliance, one issue requires an action plan to be addressed in front of this commission.

Language from the letter dated on August 16, 2017 from the United States Coast Guard states, “Deficiencies in the following areas were noted that require corrective action by the state: State Boating Laws and Regulations – The Kansas Boating Statutes addressing navigation must contain terminology consistent with the Inland Navigation Rules (NAVRULES) found in Title 33 CFR Part 83. This may be accomplished by adopting 33 CFR Part 83 by reference.”

Today, this is the proposal brought forth in front of this commission.

By authority granted to the Secretary of KDWPT in K.S.A. 32-1119 (k) The secretary is hereby authorized to adopt, in accordance with K.S.A. 1989 Supp. 32-805 and amendments thereto, rules and regulations required to carry out in the most effective manner, all of the provisions of this act and to alter, modify or supplement the equipment requirements contained in this section to the extent necessary to keep these requirements in conformity with the provisions of the federal navigation laws or with the navigation rules promulgated by the United States coast guard.

(1) The secretary is hereby authorized to establish and maintain, for the operation of vessels on the waters of this state, pilot rules in conformity with the pilot rules contained in the federal navigation laws or the navigation rules promulgated by the United States Coast Guard.

Major Dan Hesket

Copies of the following have been made available for your review:

August 16, 2017 USCG Site Visit Compliance Letter.

Corrective Action Plan response to the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

Title 33 CFR Part 83.

References:

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

MOU between State of Kansas and USCG for Boating Safety Program

K.S.A. 32-1119

Title 33 CFR Part 83

Site Visit Letter on Compliance Issues, August 16, 2017, USCG.

Corrective Action Plan (CAP) letter to USCG in response to site visit conducted on August 8-9, 2017.

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
Webless Migratory Game Bird Briefing Item
August 2, 2018

Background

The taking methods, legal equipment, and possession of migratory doves (Mourning and White-Winged Doves) in Kansas are currently regulated by KAR 115-20-7. This regulation was initially adopted in 2009 in conjunction with the establishment of seasons for exotic dove species (Eurasian Collared and Ringed Turtle Doves). A 2012 amendment added the requirement that doves can only be taken while in flight. The regulation included exotic doves until 2017, when changes were made to exotic dove seasons and legal methods of take. The taking methods, legal equipment, and possession of migratory doves (Mourning and White-Winged) are also subject to federal regulations regarding migratory birds (50 CFR 20). With the removal of exotic doves from KAR 115-20-7, there is the potential to revoke this regulation and defer to federal regulations. The federal regulations, however, do not require that doves are only taken while in flight.

Recommendation

Staff recommendation is to revoke KAR 115-20-7 and defer to federal regulations regarding the taking methods, legal equipment, and possession of migratory doves (Mourning Doves and White-Winged Doves).

2018-19 Webless Migratory Game Bird Bag Limits and Season Dates

<u>Species</u>	<u>Bag/Possession Limits</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>
Crow	none	November 10 - March 10
Migratory Dove	15/45	September 1 - November 29
Exotic Dove	none	year-round
Sandhill Crane	3/9	November 7 - January 3
Snipe	8/24	September 1 - December 16
Rail	25/75	September 1 - November 9
Woodcock	3/9	October 13 - November 26

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Electronic Licensing Update
No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting

Public Hearing

NO PUBLIC HEARING
Meeting adjourned at end of afternoon session.