



LOVEWELL STATE PARK SPRING NEWSLETTER

March 2019

The 2019 Park Season is Here!!

on the format and content. There has been very little change to park permit fees for 2019!! The Unconventional Vehicle Permit is still available for golf-cart and UTV type vehicles (no ATV's) but use restrictions and regulations do apply. Seasonal Campsite fees increased for 2019 (see next article). The Annual Camp and 14-Day Camp permit are still available, and provide a \$10/night discount to the permit holder on all campsite purchases. **Purchase the Annual Camp permit before April 1 and save \$50.00!** The 14-Day Camp permit is \$112.50 year-round, and expires after 14 nights have been used.

Welcome to this edition of the Lovewell State Park Spring Newsletter! We hope you enjoy it and will provide us feedback



STATE PARK FEES FOR 2019

★ Annual Vehicle	\$25.00
★ Kansas SR/Disabled Annual	\$13.75
★ Daily Vehicle	\$ 5.00
★ Kansas SR/Disabled Daily	\$ 3.25
★ Unconventional Vehicle Permit	\$52.50
★ Annual Camp	\$202.50 (\$252.50 after March 31)
★ 14 Day Camp	\$112.50
★ Daily Camp	\$ 10.00
★ Prime Site	\$ 2.00
★ Electricity	\$ 9.00
★ Elect/Water	\$11.00
★ Elect/Water/Sewer	\$12.00
★ Seasonal Campsite Elect	\$371.50
★ Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water	\$431.50
★ Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water/Sewer	\$491.50

* Transaction Fee of \$3.00 will be added to each campsite transaction TOTAL.

OFFICE HOURS THRU APRIL ARE 8AM TO 4:30PM MONDAY–FRIDAY.

WEEKEND HOURS WILL BEGIN IN MAY.



Seasonal Campsites at Lovewell State Park



Seasonal campsites are designated sites that can be contracted for 30day periods, up to 6 months. At Lovewell State Park, the designated seasonal campsites are Walleye Point #19–#22 (electric

only); North Willow #25–#31 (electric&water); and Southwinds #1–#6 (elect/water/sewer). Currently seasonal campsites still remain available at North Willow and Southwinds. The purchaser must possess a valid Annual Camp permit and Annual Vehicle Permit/Passport for all vehicles. The KDWPT Commission voted on November 15th to set new seasonal site fees beginning with the 2019 season. **(see STATE PARK FEES FOR 2019).** Seasonal campsite permits are rented through the state park office only, not available through the online system.

AmeriCorps Service Opportunity



AmeriCorps is a national service program which allows team members to gain service experience and knowledge through hands-on participation in a variety of projects. The grant is designed for long-term benefits to natural resources, recreational opportunities, and public awareness of the outdoors. Typical projects performed by AmeriCorps members are environmental and outdoor recreation development, renovation of public recreation areas, presentation of environmental and outdoor-related programs to the public, and disaster response, as needed. Team Members must be at least 17 years old, have a high school diploma/GED, or agree to obtain one; a citizen of the US or permanent legal resident; pass a background check; and possess a strong desire for community service. Members who complete a 300 hour term are eligible for a \$1252 educational award, in addition to the \$305 bi-weekly living allowance. Contact the State Park Office for more information!

Advice from a Heron:

- Wade into Life!
- Keep a Keen Lookout!
- Don't be Afraid to Get Your Feet Wet!
- Be Patient!
- Look Below the Surface!
- Enjoy a Good Reel!
- Go Fish!

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Reserve Your Camping Cabin or Utility Campsite Today!
kshuntfishcamp.com or reserveamerica.com or call Lovewell State Park!



Join Our AmeriCorps Team Today!





SPECIAL EVENTS AT LOVEWELL FOR 2019

Don't miss this year's line-up of Lovewell State Park special events! This season again begins with a Free Park Entrance Day on May 4th, to promote the "Let's Camp America" campaign. There will be a "Kids to Parks" Day on Saturday May 18th. The staff of Fort Hays University will be presenting a Reptile and Amphibian program at 10am and Park Staff will be offering an Archery Clinic for Kids at 2pm. Free Fishing Weekend is scheduled for June 1 and 2. A fishing license is not required to fish any public waters in the State of Kansas on these two days. The Kids Fishing Clinic will be held the following weekend, on June 9. *Registration is limited to kids ages 7-15.* Participants will learn fish identification, rules and regulations, receive fishing technique instruction, and learn how to clean a fish! Next up is "Whatever Floats Your Boat" on June 16. Your team will design, build and decorate a cardboard boat and bring it to the Southwinds Beach. The object is to maneuver the boat through the course without sinking! Two people per boat. The boat's "captain" must be aboard to finish. Your boat could also win a prize for the best decorated vessel!

As has been the case for many years, there are no individual July 4th holiday fireworks allowed in Lovewell State Park or Lovewell Wildlife Area. Again this season, thanks to a Lovewell Lake Association fundraising campaign and special permission from the Bureau of Reclamation, a spectacular July 4th fireworks display is TENTATIVELY set for July 6. The Lake Association fireworks fundraising campaign would appreciate any donations. If you are interested, contact Lovewell Marina to make a donation or to request contact information for the Lovewell Lake Association. Our longest-standing tradition, Lovewell Fun Day, will be held on August 3. The day will begin with a morning Kayak Cruise. Our popular Co-Ed Mud Volleyball tourney will get underway at 10am (pre-registration is required). The Kids Sand Treasure Hunt will also be part of the Fun Day activities, at the Pioneer Day Use Area. We are always looking for new activities for our Fun Day, if you have a suggestion please let us know! Campground Christmas will be held August 17, with lots of campsite decorations and holiday fun. The final events of the season will be held Sept 8, with the 3D Archery Tournament, and the final Free Park Entrance Day of the season.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Free Park Entrance	May 4
Kids to Parks Day	May 18
Free Fishing Weekend	June 1/2
Kids Fishing Clinic	June 9
Whatever Floats Your Boat	June 16
Fireworks Display **	July 6
Lovewell Fun Day	August 3
Campground Christmas	August 17
3D Archery Shoot	September 8
Free Park Entrance	September 8

** TENTATIVE



A Kids Archery Clinic is planned for "Kids to Parks Day", May 18th



Let's Camp America! is an initiative by the National Association of State Park Directors, to showcase the wide array of activities available to campers on an extended trip or close to home. Activities will be promoted all over the United States, including Free Park Entrance at Kansas State Parks on May 4th! For many, LET'S CAMP AMERICA! is a rededication to their love of the great outdoors. For some, LET'S CAMP AMERICA! is an all-inclusive invitation to experience and then dedicate personal and family time to camping in the great outdoors. LET'S CAMP AMERICA! is about building outdoor moments with family and friends. America's State Parks are primed and ready to create America's next camping generation.

Lovewell State Park is a popular destination for family reunions, alumni reunions, weddings and company picnics. Reserving a shelter is very economical, at only \$34.00 for the day. Contact us to schedule your own special event today!



GIFT CARDS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

After many years of efforts, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism is now able to offer GIFT CARDS for all of your gift giving needs! Birthday, Anniversary, Christmas, or Thank You gifts for the outdoor person in your life just got a whole lot easier, with the purchase of a gift card for any dollar amount over \$25. The lucky recipient can use their gift card for any type of purchase offered by Kansas Dept of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, at any KDWPPT office location!

Lovewell Marina Set To Open April 1st !

Lovewell Marina will open for the season on Monday, April 1, providing spring has arrived

by then! Check our Facebook page (Lovewell Marina & Grill) for information regarding any changes, upcoming live music, and other offerings throughout the summer. Our hours will be similar to the past, and we will continue to serve three meals a day for most of the season. Fireworks are on the schedule for 4th of July weekend, but donations are needed to ensure the show goes on. Donations should be made to the Lovewell Lake Fireworks and dropped off at the marina. We look forward to seeing you and having another outstanding lake season!





RUSTIC CAMPING CABINS RECEIVING A FACELIFT



After nearly 20 years of vigorous use, the five rustic cabins at Lovewell State Park are getting a facelift! The rustic log siding has become a maintenance issue, with deteriorating wood, reduced weather/insect protection, and a tired look. This project will begin with the Frontier Cabin in Walleye Point, the first rustic cabin built at Lovewell State Park. The aging log siding is being removed and replaced with a lifetime manufactured siding. But don't worry! The siding chosen is still a very pleasing color from nature, and a beautiful wood grain throughout! Replacement of the siding on the other four rustic cabins will follow as staff time and funding allow. This funding is being made available from a statewide cabin maintenance fund.



Kansas Residents! Don't forget about the Kansas State Park Passport! Available at the time of your vehicle license registration, only \$15.50 per vehicle!

NEW FACILITY PROJECTS COMPLETED IN 2018



A new concrete basketball court with two adjustable goal posts, has been completed in the Pioneer Day Use Area

Each year the Bureau of Reclamation makes available Title 28 grant funding, designated for enhancements to the recreational opportunities available on areas of its Managing Partner, Kansas Dept of Wildlife Parks and Tourism. In 2018, Lovewell State Park completed two new projects. The first project was an additional RV Dump/Wash Out Station and is located just north of the Cottonwood Utility Campground on the east side of the road. This station services the Cottonwood and Willow Utility Campground visitors as they leave the park, alleviating some of the intensive use of the other two stations located at RoseHill and Walleye Point. The project was completed in early 2018 and was very popular for its first year in use. The second project was a full-size concrete basketball court located at the Pioneer Day Use of Lovewell State Park, which was also completed in the spring of 2018. The basketball court includes two adjustable goal posts

and adds another dimension of day use activity fun at Pioneer, complementing the 9 hole disc golf course, sand volleyball court, horseshoe pits, and beautiful Dave Collette Memorial Playground constructed in 2016. The number of families who utilize the Pioneer Day Use Area has increased dramatically in the years since these new facilities have been added, and enhances the family atmosphere. A project scheduled for completion in early 2019, is replacement of the old Rosehill Fish Cleaning Station equipment with a new Barracuda motorized grinder assembly and table. This will serve to ease the congestion and heavy use at the Pioneer Fish Cleaning Station. The new Rose Hill equipment is state-of-the-art and should be quieter and more efficient.

Colton Odette Begins Career at Lovewell State Park



Colton Odette, of Concordia KS, was hired in March of 2018 as Lovewell State Park's Facilities Specialist. He has big shoes to fill, following the retirement of long-time maintenance expert Dennis Swanson in 2017. Colton is excited for the challenge, and looks forward to a long and rewarding career at Lovewell State Park. His formal education was at Kansas State University, with a degree in Park Management and Conservation. Colton brings a wealth of maintenance knowledge from his previous employment in facilities maintenance at Cloud County Community College. He also worked as a seasonal maintenance worker for the KDWPT Public Lands Division at Jamestown Wildlife Area. Colton enjoys all types of hunting (especially waterfowl), fishing and outdoor activities, all year-round; and is a big sports fan! Welcome, Colton!



REGULATION REMINDERS

Our state park regulations are not new, but its always a good idea to remind all of our visitors as we begin looking forward to the new park season. **VEHICLE AND CAMPING PERMIT EXPIRATION TIMES**—All daily vehicle, camping and utility permits expire at 2 pm following the last day purchased. If your vehicle is still in the state park or your camping unit is still in a primitive or utility campsite after 2 pm, another day permit **MUST** be purchased. **14-DAY STAY LIMIT**—A camping unit is limited to 14 consecutive days in a campsite, **utility and primitive**, with the exception of seasonal campsites. Following the 14th day of your stay, you must move your camping unit to another campground, or remove it from the state park area, for at least five days. **GREY WATER DUMPING**—all waste water from camping units (GREY and BLACK tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. **SPEED LIMIT**—there is a **25 mph speed limit** throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. Please watch for pedestrians! **PETS**—are allowed at Lovewell State Park, however must be kept on a 10 foot or shorter leash or chain **at all times**. Pets are **not allowed** inside any of the facilities, unless for assistance purposes. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, swimming beach, park office, group shelters, and **state park camping cabins**. Cabin renters must keep pets outside on a chain/leash, or in a kennel. *However*, Pioneer, Pine Ridge, Frontier and Sunrise Camping Cabins have been designated as “pet friendly,” with payment of the Pet Fee of \$50 per stay. **WATER USAGE**—Although it is not a statute or regulation, we also want to remind our constituents that due to significant increases in our fees paid for water usage, Lovewell State Park does not allow extra water use for things like waterslides, wading or swimming pools, etc. Please use only the water that is necessary to operate your camper, keep your water hose connections in good operating condition, and notify us as soon as possible of any leaks discovered at your water hookup, or the appearance of an underground water leak near your campsite. **With everyone abiding by state park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe and family-oriented park and enjoyable visits for all!! Thank you!**



Like Us On Facebook!! Kansas Wildlife, Parks & Tourism—Lovewell State Park

“Like” us and turn on the push notifications for our page. You will get the latest on upcoming events, past events, information on facilities and lake status, great park photos, anything you want to know! With lake level and water quality issues that have occurred in the past, we know that it can be frustrating when you have made plans to visit Lovewell and hear **rumors**, that the “LAKE IS CLOSED!” Now you have the **inside track** on the most up to date information, no need to worry about unsubstantiated rumors! Status updates can also be found at ksoutdoors.com (click on **State Parks**, then **Lovewell**, and **Park News**); or simply call our office during business hours. We will be happy to give you the most accurate, up-to-date information to help with your planning!

New Crappie Regulations for Lovewell Reservoir!!



Anglers will notice a change to the fishing regulations in 2019 while fishing at Lovewell. **Crappie are now being managed with a 10 inch minimum length limit and a 20 per day creel limit.** All crappie less than 10 inches must be immediately returned to the water, and anglers may not harvest more than 20 crappie per day. The possession limit is 3 times the daily creel limit. The Lovewell crappie population is on the upswing and anglers have discovered a quality crappie fishery exists. As is often the case however, anglers are unable to self-regulate. This results in anglers harvesting more and smaller fish than is best for the population. Prolonging the life of these crappie can only benefit more anglers and help assure that a strong year class of crappie can be maximized over several years instead of disappearing after one or two years. In addition, these new regulations will match the Glen Elder regulations and anglers will be better prepared and educated when pursuing crappie.



2019 FISHING FORECAST!!

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR - is at 5ft below conservation pool, as of February 2019.

By Scott Waters, Fisheries Biologist

CATFISH - Good. The catfish population will be very good again with all sizes of channel cats and flatheads available to anglers. Lovewell ranks 7th in terms of channel catfish density (16”), 5th for preferred size fish (24”), and 3rd for lunker (28”). The fall 2018 channel catfish catch rate was similar for all sizes compared with 2017, but the number of fish over 27 inches was much improved with the biggest fish weighing 13.6 pounds. Forty-four percent of the fish were between 12 and 16 inches, 22% were 17-21 inches, 21% were between 22 and 32 inches, and 13% were 7-11 inches. Flathead catfish were sampled this year with 83 fish collected ranging from 7 to 44 inches with the biggest fish weighing 50 pounds. Fish between 25 and 35 inches comprise the biggest portion of the catch, but all sizes are available to anglers. Channels and flatheads will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir, including Montana, Windmill, and Prairie Dog Creek, as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During peak irrigation releases, catfish can be readily caught close to the inlet and outlet structures, and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. There are now nearly 700 tagged blue cats in the reservoir as we continue to study their movements and growth rates. Fish collected this year ranged from 15-35 inches and weighed up to 22 pounds. Natural reproduction of blue catfish has been documented in Lovewell Reservoir, but it is still limited. **There is still a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell. All blue catfish less than 35 inches must be released!**

CRAPPIE - Good. The crappie population remains strong in Lovewell even though the catch rates dropped from the 2017 sample. Lovewell ranks 7th among the state’s reservoirs in terms of crappie density (8”) and 7th for preferred size fish (10”). Density rating was 2.7 in 2014, 9.6 in 2015, 4.4 in 2016, 19.9 in 2017, and 13.0 in 2018. In addition, the preferred rating (4.3) is still higher than the average of 3.5 the previous 4 years. Fifty-two percent of crappie were between 6 and 9 inches, 33% were 3 to 4 inches, 14% were 10 to 12 inches, and 1% were 13 to 14 inches. Higher water levels in recent years allowed for excellent crappie production with the 2015 and 2016 year classes dominating the population as age-2 and age-3 fish, and these two year classes should produce good fishing in the next few years. Approximately 20% of the crappie catch consisted of black crappie with age -2 fish between 7 and 9 inches dominating the catch. These fish should reach 10 inches in late 2019 or early in 2020. Biggest white crappie weighed 1.5 pounds and biggest black crappie weighed 0.6 pounds. Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish for anglers, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek and other coves during late April and May when the fish are spawning. We will likely add several hundred more trees to the existing brush piles this year as well as 90 Georgia Cubes. **There are new regulations for crappie. The daily creel limit is now 20 crappie per day and the minimum length limit is now 10 inches.**

WALLEYE - Fair. Lovewell Reservoir will again offer a walleye population of quality over quantity in 2019 as overall sampling numbers are low, but size structure was excellent. Poor recruitment in recent years combined with a summer fish kill that resulted in extensive walleye mortality, has continued to keep total numbers lower than desired. The density rating declined from 1.6 to 0.5 in the gill nets while the preferred rating dropped from 0.5 to 0.2, and the lunker rating from 0.1 to 0. The walleye density ranks 10th among the state’s reservoirs while the preferred rating will rank 9th. Despite no lunker size fish collected in the gill nets, the trap nets averaged two legal walleye per net with an average length of 21 inches. Fish in the trap nets ranged from 16 to 27 inches with the biggest fish weighing 7.5 pounds. This continues a trend of lower catch rates since the 2012 sample, but good size is available. Limited recruitment since 2016 has decreased the number of young fish in the population. Seventy-six percent of the fish in the sample were greater than 18 inches. Overall, 37% were 20 to 23 inches, 22% were 18 and 19 inches, 22% were 15-17 inches, 17% were 24 to 27 inches, and 2% were 10 inches. Fish condition was excellent again this year. Fry and fingerling stockings were conducted each of the past three years and young fish were produced, but the numbers were well below the management objective. A combination of fry, fingerlings, and intermediates (8 inch fish) will be requested for stocking in 2019. Fishing continues to be good from late April through mid-June with anglers drifting jig/nightcrawler combos having the best success, especially along 2-mile road. Trolling a variety of crankbaits in late July and early August around the dam and Walleye Point has yielded good catches of big walleye the past several years. Anglers are encouraged to carefully measure any questionable fish and handle sublegal fish with care. **18 inch minimum length limit in effect.**



WHITE BASS – Good. White bass catch rate and density rating dropped slightly compared with the fall 2017 sample, but the population remains in good shape and anglers should realize a successful year of white bass angling in 2019. The density rating (9”) was lowest in 2015 at 2.1, improved slightly to 2.5 in 2016, nearly doubled to 4.6 in 2017, improved to 4.9 in 2018, and dropped slightly to 4.3 this year which ranks 8th in this year’s Fishing Forecast. Anglers will likely notice success rates similar to 2018 as a result. The preferred rating (12”) improved for the fourth consecutive year from 2.0 to 2.2 and ranks 10th among the state’s reservoirs. No lunker fish were collected in the latest sample with the biggest fish measuring 14 inches and weighing 1.4 pounds. Overall, 15% of the sample was between 5 and 9 inches, 83% were 10-12 inches, and 2% were 13 to 14 inches. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer, during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights can be fair to good and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

WIPERS - Fair. The catch rate of wipers rebounded in 2018 from the lowest recorded at Lovewell as it improved from 0.6 to 3.2 fish per net while the density rating only improved slightly from 0.05 to 0.4. This is still the second lowest density rating recorded at Lovewell for wipers, but strong year classes from 2016 and 2017 stockings have laid the foundation for a rebounding wiper population. The 2016 fish range from 15 to 17 inches and account for 28% of the sample. The 2017 fish vary from 12 to 14 inches and represent 66% of the sample. Older fish between 19 and 22 inches only comprised 5% of the catch. Bigger fish were collected in the trap nets with fish ranging from 23 to 25 inches and up to 7 pounds collected. Wiper fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2017 and produced a nice year class. This combination will be stocked again in 2019 to help maintain improved recruitment. Similar to white bass, decent numbers of wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam. **Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those young wipers look very similar to white bass. The daily creel limit on wipers is 2 fish!**

**GET THE LATEST WEEKLY FISHING REPORTS FOR ALL AREA RESERVOIRS AT
www.ksoutdoors.com/news/Fishing/Fishing-Reports**



New 365 Day Licensing Format and Auto-Renew Option!!

Your new hunting and fishing licenses are now on a 365 day format, which actually began with the 2018 license year. Licenses are now valid from the date purchased for 365 days. For example, a fishing license purchased on March 1, 2019 is valid until March 1, 2020. Annual Park Permits (vehicle and camping) are still valid for the calendar year, January 1 thru December 31st. In addition to the new license format, annual licenses that are purchased ONLINE (not through a KDWPT office or license vendor) can be set to AUTO-RENEW each year on the expiration date, with a valid credit card on file. You'll never miss another outdoor memory with the Auto-Renew feature!! Here's how:

1. Go to www.ksoutdoors.com and Click "Licenses & Permits" or "Licenses & Applications"
2. Click "Sign In Now" and log into account using your KDWPT # or Driver's License #; Confirm details/residency.
3. Select desired licenses and permits and "Go To Cart", then "Proceed to Checkout" and enter payment information.
4. Scroll down to "Auto Renewal" section, select eligible items for auto-renew enrollment by checking the auto-renew box next to the items.
5. Provide a credit card to be used for auto-renew (if different than your payment above).
6. Click "Submit Payment" and "Print All Licenses/Permits".

Your selected licenses will now auto-renew each year! Easy Peasy!!

Many hunters this fall noticed the changing levels of water in Gamekeeper and Gun

Jamestown Wildlife Area — Phase IV

By Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

Club Marshes during their waterfowl expeditions on the area. Managers were trying to keep water levels low in these marshes in preparation for another major renovation project. As with previous projects in the marsh, once started it was sure to rain and rain a lot! During the 2018 construction season May through December the area experienced 5 major, overtopping flood events. As most recall, before starting the first North American Conservation Act grant, (or NAWCA), Gun Club Marsh was dry from 2006 – 2008. Soon after getting a good start we had a major flood before the project was finished. The project was finally completed and it works well. Just like the first project this one too will fulfill its intended purpose. The first renovation project was used to construct a division berm through the middle of Gun Club and raised the dam one foot. This allowed the managers to store water or dry out on one side or the other and to have the ability to move water much easier. This also allows them to get into the marsh to manage vegetation, namely cattails. The same concept is being applied to Gamekeeper Marsh. The project, officially called the Central Migration Corridor II, or the fourth NAWCA grant, will accomplish similar goals for Gamekeeper Marsh. A division berm will be constructed, along with some water control structures to allow managers to manage the cattails and water levels along the west side of this marsh. Water levels on adjacent sides of the marsh can be controlled independently of the other, just like in Gun Club. Once that cattails have been thinned, managers will have the ability to manage for moist soil vegetation which are the most attractive to waterfowl. This will also open up almost 200 acres of public hunting area that has been almost impossible to access due to the thick cattails. Construction is also slated to raise the Gamekeeper Marsh Dam to increase water storage and to compensate for decades of sediment deposited into the marsh from the large watershed. This extra water stored in Gamekeeper Marsh will also be used in the other marshes downstream. This part of the recent renovation is not part of the NAWCA grant but another type of grant in partnership with the U. S Fish and Wildlife Service and KDWPT. This grant, The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937, most often referred to as the Pittman–Robertson Act for its sponsors, Nevada Senator Key Pittman and Virginia Congressman Absalom Willis Robertson, was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on September 2, 1937 and became effective on July 1 of the following year. This grant matches Kansas hunter's license fees with taxes on firearms, ammunition and hunting equipment. While there was too much or too little water in the big marshes, managers made sure there were areas of "just right" huntable water on the south end of the Wildlife Area. Water was held in Marsh Creek Marsh to allow managers to pump into the smaller off-storage pools that lie along Marsh Creek and Buffalo Creek. These pools were full of excellent moist soil foods that attract ducks. Water was pumped to these pools for only 3 days when a September 5th flood filled everything up and another flood in early October and then one at Christmas kept them that way. These areas held waterfowl throughout the season, unless ice was present, and accounted for over 90% of the areas harvest. Harvest was up over 230% from 2017. The total area of water available to hunt was over 350 acres. A map of these pools, along with access trails to them, have been made available on the Jamestown Wildlife Area's web page waterfowl report, which can be found at <http://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Northwest/Jamestown/Jamestown-Wildlife-Area-Waterfowl-Report> There are other wetland projects getting started or being completed in 2019. More small wetlands are being developed, the Marsh Creek Marsh Dam has an additional water control structure and a new boat launching facility will be installed off K-148 in the upper end of Gamekeeper Marsh. Many know the bad reputation the mud in Jamestown's marshes has, but the renovation projects are targeted at fixing that. Improving wetland habitat for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters is the goal. By raising dams and separating marshes, managers will be able to manage more areas for waterfowl and waterfowl hunters. Managers hope to wrap up this round of construction projects by late summer of 2019, just in time for another fall flight.



Visit the Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Area News Pages
 Visit www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Jamestown/
 OR www.ksoutdoors.com/news/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Region-1/Lovewell/
 throughout the spring and summer for updates on area management progress, upcoming events, waterfowl migrations and special projects.

Talmo Restoration Reaps Rewards

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

The first fall migration at Talmo following the Wetland Reserve Program restoration by NRCS is in the books. The 35 acre wetland on the Warren Tract completed in 2016 and the 132 acres of wetland on the Trost and Borchardt tract completed in 2017 had full wetland pools this season and several limits of waterfowl were taken. As the planted upland habitat grows the area will only get better for upland wildlife too. The Nutter tract, the first tract purchased, is currently being managed by KDWP. This tract has an expired CRP contract and there is an agricultural production permit for 129 acres that is being modified to convert more cropland to native, warm season grassland. Ducks Unlimited have developed a concept plan to construct a 120 acre moist-soil wetland in 2019. The Holmberg tract was burned and invasive trees were cut. The native warm season grass is recovering. New parking lots have been developed and a viewing area with information kiosk will be added later this year. The brochure with map will soon be posted on the ksoutdoors website. While the totality of the Talmo wetland complex has not yet been realized, the cooperative approach used so far is a model to be used to realize the remaining wetland potential by creating an all-encompassing plan including, landowners, government agencies and conservation partners.

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

iSportsman – What is it Good For!



Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Areas are in the fourth year of utilizing the electronic daily hunt permit system, or iSportsman and this was the first year for Talmo Wildlife Area. We have been gathering and using very valuable data!

How do I start using the System? Hunters MUST register to set up their own account at www.kdwpt.isportsman.net. This is not your KDWP account number. It is a new, separate account. Once you have an account set up, you will be issued an account number, a PIN number and will be asked to make-up a username and password. Please, use a password you can remember and write down or record the password, account number and PIN. Many hunters store those somewhere on their phone. (By the way, most hunters using the system right now are using their mobile device). Hunters then are required to check in prior to their hunt using this system. With cell phone coverage being spotty at best, it is recommended that hunters check in from somewhere where they have mobile service. To increase the likelihood of finding good mobile service the system is set up to allow hunters to check in after 8:00 PM the night before their hunt. That way hunters can check in from the comfort of their own home or hotel room. Hunters are required to check-out before midnight on the day of their hunt. Hunters are finding that once they start using this electronic system, it is much more convenient and more user-friendly than the old paper permit system.

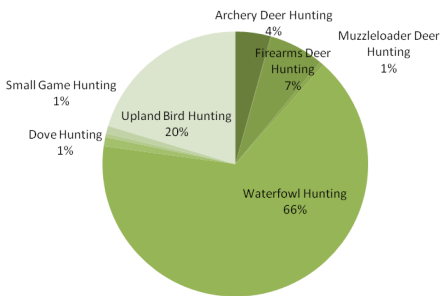
This is why we do it

The information gathered is so valuable for the managers. Managers know how many hunters are using the area, what and where they hunted, what kind of harvest success they had. As we renovate a marsh, convert cropland to warm season native grass, burn a field overgrown with eastern red cedars or add cover crops to a crop rotation we can track hunter success on those areas. Where are those hunters traveling from? We found out that our hunters come from 38 different states and 101 out of 105 Kansas counties. Our local County Boards of Commissioners, Travel and Tourism committee and Northcentral Kansas Economic Planning Commission have shown an interest in our numbers. While we do not share our hunter's personal data we can produce maps using their zip codes. The process of grant writing is all about the numbers. The numbers we get from iSportsman are obtained in real-time and easily put into grant applications and reports. The ease of getting numbers for reports saves many hours and time equals money on the administrative side. These savings are put back into the management of the wildlife areas.

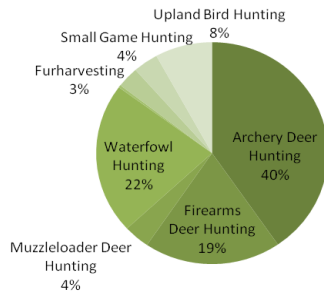
What did we find out?

The majority of our pheasant harvest is during the first 3 days of the season. Turkey season success is best the first and last 5 days of the season! Buffalo Creek and Pintail Marshes had the best success in 2019. More archery hunters use the wildlife areas than firearms hunters and the most hunters are on the area during the first week of November. The following charts show the different uses on the wildlife areas in 2019.

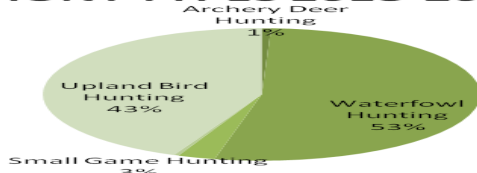
**Jamestown Wildlife Area
Hunt Types 2018-2019**



**LOVEWELL WILDLIFE AREA
HUNT TYPES 2018-2019**



**TALMO WILDLIFE AREA
HUNT TYPES 2018-2019**



Contact Information:

Kansas Dept of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
 Lovewell State Park and Wildlife Area
 2446 250 Road
 Webber, KS 66970
 Phone: 785-753-4971
 KDWP.T.lovelwellsp@ks.gov

Lovewell Staff:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thane Loring | Park Manager |
| Jared Mocaby | Park Ranger |
| Colton Odette | Facilities Specialist |
| Lisa Boyles | Administrative Specialist |
| Rob Unruh | Public Lands Manager |
| Matt Farmer | Public Lands Assistant Manager |
| Carli McFarland | Game Warden |
| Lucas Kramer | Wildlife Biologist |
| Scott Waters | Fisheries Biologist |