



**KANSAS**  
WILDLIFE & PARKS

# *Our Mission*

“ TO CONSERVE AND ENHANCE  
KANSAS' WILDLIFE AND ITS HABITATS,  
ENSURING CURRENT AND FUTURE  
GENERATIONS APPRECIATE AND ENJOY  
THESE LIVING RESOURCES AND  
ASSOCIATED RECREATION, WHILE  
INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE STATUS  
OF KANSAS' NATURAL RESOURCES,  
GAINING UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT  
IN ACHIEVING THIS MISSION. ”

**AGENDA**  
**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS**  
**COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Thursday, March 28, 2024**  
**Topeka & Shawnee County Library, Marvin Auditorium 101C**  
**1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka KS**  
**including a**  
**Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option**

A) Log Into Zoom

1. Visit <https://ksoutdoors.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMoc-irrT4vG9wzGPJ-FwrMTkuyO-dmwA7d>
2. Register by entering your first and last name, and email address.
3. Once registered, you will be provided a link to “join the meeting.”
4. Visitors will be muted upon entering the meeting. To comment or ask a question, use the “raise hand” feature or type into the chat area.

B) Call In

1. Call: 1-877-853-5257
2. When a meeting ID is requested, enter: 875 4133 5518#
3. When a participant ID is requested, enter: #

C) Watch Live Video/Audio Stream

Individuals may watch a live video/audio stream of the meeting on <https://ksoutdoors.com/commission-meeting>

**I. CALL TO ORDER AT 12:00 pm (noon)**

**II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

**III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**

**IV. APPROVAL OF January 25, 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

**V. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**A. Public Hearing (Administrative Rules and Regulations - Pursuant to KSA 77-421)**

1. **KAR 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications (Matt Peek)**
2. **KAR 115-25-11 Furbearers; open seasons and bag limits (Matt Peek)**
3. **KAR 115-30-10 Personal watercraft; definition, requirements, and restrictions (Eric Deneault)**
4. **Secretary’s Orders for Deer (Levi Jaster)**

**VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**V. DEPARTMENT REPORT (continued)**

**B. Secretary’s Remarks**

1. **Agency and State Fiscal Status (Secretary Brad Loveless)**

**2. Legislative Update (Dan Riley)**

**C. General Discussion**

**1. Trout program regulations – season length and permit prices (Bryan Sowards)**

**2. Aquatic Species Recovery Program (Trevor Starks)**

**D. Workshop Session**

**1. Antelope 25-Series (KAR 115-25-7) Regulations (Matt Peek)**

**2. Elk 25-Series (KAR 115-25-8) Regulations (Matt Peek)**

**3. Military Deer Seasons (KAR 115-25-9a) (Levi Jaster)**

**4. Carcass Movement Regulation (Levi Jaster)**

**5. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations (Richard Schultheis)**

**6. Waterfowl Regulations (Tom Bidrowski)**

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

**KAR 115-7-3, 7-9, 7-10 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations (At AGs office)**

**KAR 115-17-3 Commercial Fish Bait (At AGs office)**

**KAR 115-30-4 Fire extinguishers (at AGs office)**

**KAR 115-25-14 Fishing (Reference Document) (At Dept of Admin)**

**KAR 115-2-3 Camping, utility, and other fees (At Dept of Admin)**

**KAR 115-8-1 Public Lands regulations (reference document) (waiting on edits)**

**KAR 115-8-26 new Public Lands regulation (waiting on edits)**

**KAR 115-4-4 Big Game equipment (waiting on edits)**

**VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

If notified in advance, the department will have an interpreter available for the hearing impaired. To request an interpreter, call the Kansas Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698. Any individual with a disability may request other accommodations by contacting the Commission Secretary at (620) 672-5911.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 25, 2024, K-State Salina Campus, College Center Conference Room, 2310 Centennial Rd, Salina, KS. Times have changed to start at NOON and run until we are finished, with no recess.

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Commission Meeting  
Thursday, January 25, 2024  
The Meeting Room on Main Street  
16 Main Street, Sabetha, KS  
including a  
Virtual ZOOM Meeting Option**

Subject to  
Commission  
Approval

The January 25, 2024, meeting of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Gerald Lauber, Commissioners Emerick Cross, Delia Lister, Warren Gfeller, Lauren Sill, and Troy Sporer were present. Commissioner Phil Escareno 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 – Jake (George) will be presenting the Commissioner (Big Game) Permit Update in General Discussion in place of Stuart. Also, there have been a few edits made to (KAR) 115-8-26, nonresident waterfowl hunting. The handouts I have given you and those on the table are different than what is in the briefing book.

Mission Statement (Exhibit B) and Agenda (Exhibit C).

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE November 30, 2023, MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Warren Gfeller moved to approve the minutes, Commissioner Delia Lister seconded. *Approved* (Minutes – Exhibit D).

**V. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**A. Administrative Rules and Regulation Procedure – Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-421 – Public Hearing**

*None*

**VI. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Dave Studebaker – I have been here before talking about catfish tournaments. I run Catfish Chasers tournaments in Kansas. The Midwest is biggest tournament series. Here to discuss recent rise in special event permit fees. Why did you raise them so high? I provided a handout (Exhibit E). Last year I got permits well in advance. For 19 years, paid \$11.50 for fishing events at state parks. This year, I got a permit and it has increased to the point it will cost me \$200 for every event in the state. The permit says, 1-10 boats \$25, 10-20 is \$100, more than 25 boats is

\$200, we average 50 boats per event. About 30% of them are out-of-state participants, they purchase out-of-state licenses, use cabins and facilities, and that stuff. We generate money for Kansas. I am an LLC, do 1099s and pay taxes on the funds I make. In tax dollars, this equates to \$1,739 per increase for me to have an event that is non-evasive to the public access. We don't use power, no running water, relative minimal usage other than the boat ramp. How do you justify a 1700% increase if I don't get anything in return? My anglers also pay a \$5 access fee to get in, so you are making \$250 plus dollars off that event. I do believe they needed to raise the fee, \$11 wasn't enough. What difference does it matter if there is one boat or 100 boats? We don't get sole use of the facility, so I am not locking out the public. I set my stage away from the public as much as possible, so we are not affecting other users. I am a business, and on the water I provide insurance, a \$5 million liability policy. Everything we do should generate revenue for the state park, not cost them. On the website it says, negotiable based on event type, required service and loss of revenue, but on the permit form it says number of boats with a fee listed; that seems to be singling us out, there is no negotiation on the form whatsoever. Curious of reasoning for increase? What am I going to get for my \$200? I have six events this year and this will cost me \$1,200 to bring people to your state park. I am bringing money to the state. Commissioner Sporer – What are entry fees? Studebaker - \$500 per boat. Commissioner Sill – Eleven years ago how much were those fees? Studebaker - \$100 and we had 150-boat events. Charged \$200 three years ago and had biggest fishing events in the Midwest, but not able to do that anymore, so only having 100 boats on any body of water is a big event. I had 126 on Milford once, cut back on that because the lake isn't big enough. Anglers are getting large dividend at the top end, so we had to raise the entry fee to circumvent not having as many participants. I limit to 50 boats now, 51 with me. Commissioner Sporer – So 50 boats cost \$200, that is \$4 per boat. So, at \$11.50 that is \$0.46 per boat. You say \$0.46 is too low, \$4.00 per boat is too high. What should the fee be? Studebaker – I would be happy with \$50, for 25 boats or more. That would be \$2 a boat plus \$5 entrance fee for each person. There are bass tournaments also, but they don't have this kind of turn out. I am the tournament guy in Kansas. Those smaller tournaments with 25 boats aren't going to be able to afford that \$200 with \$100 entrance fees. There is no money left. If you lose participation, \$1,000 prize is not that much money, increased to get that participation. Big picture is there are a lot of events through the season. One of biggest fears is if smaller events can't justify cost, they will take fish to Dillons to weigh, so these will end up kill tournaments instead of catch and release. Come to my event. If they can't afford to come here, participants will go to southern U.S., spend money somewhere other than Kansas. Conner O'Flannagan, Parks (online) – We had pressure from our federal partners on making revenue from these types of tournaments. Heard a lot of feedback, so we are rolling back to the original fee. We are going to look at how we are going to structure those going forward. Those who paid those fees will get a refund. Studebaker – You need to look at other forms of events, don't single us out. Guides make money off of state parks as well, but they use one boat. The other events that should have to pay is when they use state parks to make money. If I have to pay, they should too. There are also party coves on every lake, and they jam up the boat ramps and they don't have to pay additional fees, and some of them are a hazard to the public because of choices they make. They have websites advertising parties online. Where do you draw the line? O'Flannagan – Fee increases are not there anymore, until we can figure out how we want to move forward. Studebaker – There needs to be structure and needs to be some increase, just not this big of increase in three months. Commissioner Sporer – Maybe it is time to have some increase. Where would you go if you couldn't go to state parks? Studebaker – Corps of Engineers ramps and marinas. We like to use state parks as they are clean and a lot of them are the biggest area on the lake. If we don't make any money, cost themselves out of their pocket or take from participants. Lot of events out there that are not LLCs, mostly handshake and cash in an envelope. I paid out \$139,000 in prize money last year and sent out 1099s for \$130,000. *Unknown* – Cost for event in other states?

Studebaker – Kansas is the only state we participate in that charges a fee. I think we should register events, so you know the event is going on. I encourage any biologist to come down and get fish samples, it would be beneficial, but we work on weekends. We provide opportunity, nothing to hide.

Trish Bryant – I spoke with Lauren yesterday. Work for nonprofit, St. Francis for 40 years helping children and family and work with Child Welfare Services. I understand and appreciate opportunity to speak. Here on behalf of my family, farmers in Barton County. I'm sure you are aware of controversy going on near Cheyenne Bottoms with solar panels. A lot of leases have been made to landowners. Right now, there is a pause on everything until it gets sorted out. There have been objections to the solar farm, and I understand Dr. Witt came here and talked to you last summer. I represent family farm viewpoints. We have had our farm for generations and have original document signed by President Garfield when we homesteaded. We rented it out for 25 years but now nephew back on the property. In 2018, home for holidays and solar farm company came and talked to us about it. We signed a contract. Things going along well until county commissioners were concerned about zoning laws in the counties that participate. We are conservationists and from our yard can see Cheyenne Bottoms north of our property. We have won conservation awards and respect KDWP, want to be good stewards of the land. You all know it takes a lot to sustain a farm, we have lost and gained. If this comes before the commission, please notify us because I would like to represent my family and other landowners. Involved in political things in past with my job and I know communicating is the best thing we can do. Commissioner Gfeller – I have question for the Secretary. This issue is in our part of the country and near Cheyenne Bottoms. What is status? Secretary Loveless – Don't know status. Jordan, can you answer? Jordan Hofmeier (online) – I have not heard updates on county status. We met one time with solar company to discuss our role as regulatory agency and our concerns for threatened and endangered species. We have not reviewed anything officially and have seen no documentation on it, no layout or plans. Commissioner Gfeller – Are feds getting involved too because of flyway? Hofmeier – USFWS will have an opportunity to weigh in through multiple processes, mostly with solar company. Bryant – I have done research myself and have not seen anything. Like to see what research would say. We want to conserve and do not want to run birds off. We have tried to get birds not to eat our fall crops, so we put out cannons that would blow off. If there was a drought and we had to plant late fall crop the birds would eat entire field and pull up by the roots, so we put cannon out to move birds, but they just moved back and forth between one field and another. We see birds over Salina. Don't want to disrupt them. Would like to save our farm for my family and generations down the road. Likelihood of keeping it probably won't happen in 50 years. Secretary Loveless – Glad to share information. When Ecological Services get involved, it will be based on best science. To Jordan's point, can't force developer to share information on the location of that array. We need to see their proximity to the Bottoms. Still waiting on that. Bryant – We are located six miles straight north of the Bottoms and have a piece about three miles between the Bottoms and Barton County Community College.

Jacque Augustine, Audubon of Kansas (*online*) – Two things concerned about. Kansas lands great for fishing and wildlife viewing at Cheyenne Bottoms. There are other state parks, like Cheney, which is overrun by old world bluestem, an invasive species, and we want to make sure you are aware and to encourage something be done. We have had conversations with the parks, and they are looking at possibilities. That invasive species chokes out dozens of native plants. We have had communication with a neighbor of Cheney who is trying to do a native plant nursery and is being threatened by that. The other is prairie chicken. In the past, aerial surveys have been done every three years for greater prairie chickens (GPC) and I know lesser prairie

chicken (LPC) are moving to a three-year schedule. This is the third year, will they be conducted this year, and will they look at both GPC and LPC? We would like to get a handle on populations to know where to put our efforts.

Kenny Graham (*didn't sign roster*) – After last commission meeting, we got feedback about meeting being in the middle of the week. A lot of people can't come. The Kansas South Bears Landowner Association currently has about 12.8 million acres we lease and manage. It consists of 41 businesses, which are LLCs and LLPs that pay money to the state. It seems like we are overlooked and won't be anymore. Per the governor, in state of the state, she referred to how important wildlife business was. We appreciate what you do. But when you look at 12.8 million acres, which ranges from 12 acres to 46,000 acres, that gives you a lot of responsibility when setting rules and regulations. Appreciate what you are trying to do. Comment last meeting by Mr. Sporer called out a lot of members on fair chase and wanting to change rules and regulations for fair chase. There are bowhunters that say hunting with guns isn't fair chase. A lot of guys hunt traditional guns, say a scope isn't fair chase. Fishermen say using live scope isn't fair chase. Fair chase is set by individual, rules and regs are there to help us stay in line and protect our game. You have 300,000 acres you manage that is different than what we manage, together is a lot better. A big concern a lot of guys had, at what point does an individual's opinion override a rule or reg? It is like crossbows, a lot of bowhunters don't like them, but well within laws of the state and within boundaries. I appreciate Commissioner Sill's comment on getting out from behind the table and discuss issues. She understands that being a commissioner behind the table is looking at rules and regs and working with the Department is what it is. You are not sitting there to have personal opinions and agendas on fair chase. It is more recommending actions that come from the Department, not ordering them to make recommendations. We are trying to get a good understanding to share with our state representatives and senators too. Chairman Lauber – Our private opinions are not what we deal with but hard to separate sometimes. I just don't have a good way to answer that. Secretary Loveless – On behalf of the Department, it is clear fair chase is subjective. That means opinions vary. We try to look at what is being done across the country as generally accepted reasonable standards. That scale keeps changing with technology available and keeping up with that is a challenge. We feel the best way to address that subject of ethical means of take for wildlife are to consult with other folks around the country and with the public here in Kansas to try to come up with solutions that make sense with us here in Kansas. Recently, we changed some fishing regs and had a long conversation on that, and it worked out well, through state process. There is a lot of give and take and conversations, like the meetings we have had with guides and outfitters over the last few years. Graham – When those comments come from behind the table, they draw a lot of attention. I know it is hard to separate personal feelings from business. As an outfitter... a business with 41 companies, a lot of money is brought into the state. The gentleman that runs the fishing tournament brings money into the state. The Department gets a percentage of buying fishing poles, boats, etc. You guys are advisors, and these guys are doing the work. I am just a guy trying to do business and represent other people wanting to do business. When comments come from you it makes us aware. I don't want to fight, I want to work. You put together a good meeting with Kansas outfitters, and we plan to have more of those. Commissioner Gfeller – Concept of fair chase is concept we need to consider every time we think of something subjective. Unfortunately, when things get to us, they are advanced to the point we are considering regulations, and the conversation is totally different than considering something that might affect your business. When there is a forum, or way to not jeopardize the public, to have conversation before talking about in context of regulation, better time for us to get on same page. Your business depends on healthy game and good numbers of healthy big deer. When technology comes along that give advantage to the hunter, does that hurt or help our goal of good numbers of high-quality deer? I would like to figure a way to have all

constituencies in the room without thinking of specific regulation. Have the conversation about how we benefit game in Kansas. Commissioner Sill – I think a primer that would go along with that is to review what it means for natural resources to be held in public trust for the beneficiaries, who are all the citizens of Kansas, not just hunters and businesses. There needs to be part of that and private entities to balance that conversation. Best things happen when both sides willing to listen to each other. Graham – This goes deeper than Kansas and businesses. Over half the land controlled by the state is federal ground. That land is controlled, owned and bought by the people of the United States. I started 31 years ago and hunted for 57 years; we can't be selfish. What makes Department better, lets parks grow, is money coming into the state. For instance, money needed to build up Lehigh, that money comes not just from the people of Kansas but people who visit here. If you go to the Department of Economic Development, they will tell you September to December is highest tourism times in Kansas, really high revenue times during deer hunting season. People from out of state pay more for licenses and tags and hotels, leases and everything they do. It is my business, hotels, restaurants and the places they buy items from. Much more than just our business, money that comes in from out of state is what drives me, but I have 14 hunters from in state. Secretary Loveless – One of the challenges of having informal conversations with Commissioners is any time we have them together, we can't talk about agency business and still meet the requirements for (Kansas) Open Meetings Act. So, it gets to be a challenge. We will do our best to work with our legal counsel and figure out if there is a way, we can have some early conversations about these topics.

Tony Mann, Kansas Hunting Adventures – Deer hunting is large part of my operation, I have 15 deer hunters, four muzzleloaders, five rifle and six bowhunters on 2,500 acres. I have been in business 20 years. Having tagging issues recently and talked to Secretary Loveless a few years ago. About four years ago, over half of my hunters didn't draw a tag. Financially, for my business, which is a problem. In last 4-5 years, from 2-3 up to 5-6 that did not draw. One year, I had eight of my 15 that did not draw. Read last meeting, somebody brought up transferrable tags. Years ago, when that was main way of drawing, which was challenging, trying to get the right number at the right time. When you went to regular draw, it wasn't an issue until we started running out of tags. Transferrable tags would help my issue at a drop of a hat. Is that a possible solution? Chairman Lauber – In area of transferrable tags, the Department has taken position of being against those. It makes it hard for deer management. We had them once and problems developed with that. Mann – I understand there would be an influx of more hunters. But for my business, I lease same number of acres every year, can't afford to drop them and if I don't pay, someone else will get them. I know what I am paying out, but I have to have that influx of hunters, or I fail. It is getting to be serious. I have always done this part time, I had a full-time job working for the county, so I could afford a loss for one year because you could make up for it the next year. It is getting to be a bigger problem for me, I have payments I need to make but not having the income because of the tags. I am sure I am not the only one. What are other outfitters doing? Graham – Talk to me after the meeting. Mann – I appreciate that, but you guys are the ones that would have a legal solution to my problem. Are you willing to look for solution on this? Chairman Lauber – We issue a certain number of tags; we have had an increase in demand. Other states with same issue, not alone in insuring a tag. It is still a draw process. Mann – I understand the challenge, in contact with my representative, Lisa Moore and senator, Elaine Bowers. Over the last couple of years, I know that has been a challenge for you. If there is a way an outfitter like me, who has been in business for over 20 years and not breaking any rules, to get my 15 tags. Secretary Loveless – Our conversation with outfitters made sense to me. Converse with each other, do you have room for more, communication is one thing I heard. If you had hunters that don't draw, talk to another outfitter and see if they have anyone to send to you. Demand for tags is going up and the value of your land. As an agency, we don't have that type of



mechanism. Mann – The challenge I have is I have the same guys coming for over 20 years and I want to keep them. In early years, had clients I didn't want. The challenge is knowing I am going to have them year after year. Next challenge is going to be baiting issue, which will affect rifle hunters. That is the way they hunt, out of blind watching over corn. I don't know how I would provide 4-5 guys hunting successfully. Corn stubble I could use, or buy crops from farmers to leave, most blinds in pastures, would affect that. Deciding on baiting issue before long?

Chairman Lauber – Sitting there, we are trying to get information and studies, but not bringing anything forward. No decisions have been made. Mann – Huge issue, I know your job to make sure we have deer herd. Another thing is turkeys, for nonresidents. Are you going to stick with current plan? I thought I could use that to offset deer hunter losses with turkey hunters. Having drawing for nonresidents, will that continue to happen or is it short term while turkeys rebound?

Chairman Lauber – We felt we had to cut back. We hope turkey numbers return. In public comments, nice if we could turn that around and have unlimited over the counter again. Mann – In my area we don't have turkey declines now, had them six years ago but not now. Assume leftover tag possibility in units? I am in Unit 3 for turkey. If you know how many issued in the past versus how many you are going to allow? Easier for me to find a hunter, if aware of possibilities. Secretary Loveless – Expert, Kent Fricke, is in the room. Kent Fricke – I don't have exact numbers in front of me, but the process we followed previously was non-resident tags over the counter, in five of six units, didn't sell on per unit basis. In post-season survey, asked for unit they hunted in. Estimated how many hunted in each unit, took five-year average and reduced by 25%. Our goal was to reduce pressure and harvest in some fashion, we did this through number of permits by restricting nonresidents and where they could hunt within the state. It depends on the unit. In Unit 3, hunters estimated were consistent, 3,000 to 4,000 hunters a year. Because it was consistent, we reduced by 25%. If we had a unit that was 4,000 four years ago and 2,000 last year, that average is going to probably be where the demand is. We don't know exactly but suspect in Unit 3 there is going to be relatively higher demand. That is one of the most consistent habitat and turkey numbers in the area. Mann – Goal was to drop 25%. So, likelihood of no tags left? Graham – Demand already exceeded in two weeks ago. Mann – With turkey, only a handful of guys come to hunt. I have had my hunters with me consistently. If I could get 5-10 for the season that would help, but probably not going to happen. Commissioner Sill – Our Kansas draw rates for deer, going into turkey, three out of four is still going to be successful in the draw. Our deer rates are still way higher than most states in those situations. I am curious how outfitters in other states have figured that out? Maybe we could learn from those folks, to figure out how they carry on business successfully with more uncertainty than we have here. Something that might be beneficial to us. Mann – I will visit with Graham later. My issue was keeping the same guys I have become friends with. If other outfitters are giving and taking, if too many offer me a couple of hunters to fill my spots. Did that early on, didn't like the guys I got. Want to keep the good people coming. It is a vacation for them, they look forward to coming back. If they can't get tags, mess for them and me.

Gerald Spelneck? (*did not sign in*) – I understand there is going to be a turkey population study starting soon. I want to give a little input. I think the population is down a little because of Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) and no way to limit traffic. A lot of folks hunt the area next to my property and there are 5-20 vehicles there during the hunting season. If half of them is taking birds and deer on that area, not easy to regulate. Hard to keep population up. Five years ago, I saw 30 turkeys, now five birds with two toms and three hens. I know there are predators too but believe decrease in population is WIHA. Our dirt roads turn into highways during hunting season. Hard to keep bigger deer. Take that into consideration when doing study.

Darryl Becker – We would not be in this predicament if it wasn't for people like Lloyd Fox and Department staff handled deer populations in the past and the reason people want to come here. It is a finite resource and the only thing that has changed is the amount of people who want to come here. Kudos to the Department. We must adjust if we still want to keep our resources for people in the state, as well. They are having harder times trying to find places to go. As far as letting more in, you are competing with yourself trying to lease WIHA land. The more permits you give, the more expensive it is going to be, and you have to pay, you are hurting yourself. The worst thing would be to move season further into November. Like I said before, because of the way the Department has handled things is why we have issues today. You guys have done a great job and are on the right track.

Duane Miller – *trouble getting him online.*

## **V. DEPARTMENT REPORT (continued)**

### **B. Secretary's Remarks**

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status Report – Secretary Brad Loveless, presented this update to the Commission. FY 2024 began July 1. Park Fee Fund (PFF), derived from entrance fees, camping fees and annual vehicle passes to state parks. Revenue for December was \$2.2 million, 50% higher than recent year's average. One of the reasons it is high in December is that is when people sign up for the coming year. Fiscal year to date is \$6.85 million, increase from the previous year. End of December balance was \$8.2 million. The cabin revenue is from parks and public land cabin rentals. Total revenue through December was just over \$280,000. Fiscal year to date is just under \$790,000, an increase from previous year. Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) is derived from sale of hunting and fishing licenses, big game permits and tags, to hunters and anglers. WFF revenue through December was \$2.4 million, similar to recent years. Year to date at end of December was \$10.7 million. The cash balance is something we are talking a lot about and one of the reasons the Assistant Secretary Stuart Schrag and Parks Division Director Linda Lanterman are at budget hearings in Topeka today. Cash balance in WFF at end of 2023 was \$22.1 million. We expect to cut into that a little because of increased costs for everything including programs constituents depend on. The Boat Fee Fund (BFF) is derived from boat registrations and with this money we provide boating safety, education, and access infrastructure to protect and support the boating public. Receipts through December were approximately \$61,000, an increase from previous years. Average fiscal year to date revenue is almost \$550,000. Balance at end of December is \$2.5 million. Governor provided her recommendations for agency budget for 2025 earlier this month. In hearings Monday with Senate and with House in two weeks. Lots of conversations about budget and trying to educate legislators on what we are recommending and why. Commissioner Lister – Any additional discussions on non-hunter or angler fees, or donations, or whatever you want to call it? Secretary Loveless – No. Great idea but nothing yet. We are having conversations and talking to other states on innovative ways to allow folks who aren't hunters or anglers to participate in supporting the efforts of the state. We don't have any ideas and had a meeting a couple weeks ago with other state directors. We are trying to figure out if there is a place for those users. If they have ideas or willingness that is always easier than getting legislature to agree with it. If user themselves say they want to pay and you talk with groups, and they have any ideas we would love to talk to them. Commissioner Sill – One of those means was already approved, the license places. Do you have an update on those? Secretary Loveless – This is challenging. Based on my recollection, we put designs through the Department of Revenue. The latest I heard; in December the only issue was they only add new licenses twice a year, we asked for January, and they said "no." So, the best we can hope for now

is July. It is a process we have no control over. It is not because they aren't doing anything, we are seeing a proliferation of personalized new license plates in Kansas for many causes. That is keeping them busy.

2. Legislative Update – Dan Riley, Chief Legal Counsel, presented this update to the Commission. The legislature is up and rolling and moving quickly. We took a hit just as the session started, you met Ashley Beason at Emporia, she hit the ground running, but she went to another agency who made an offer she couldn't refuse. So just us guys covering that. Hopefully we will be able to hire another person for that position. We have three statutes related to us (KDWP). Brad testified yesterday on SB 347 at the Natural Resources Senate committee. That bill that would require commission appointees be approved by the Senate. Secretary Loveless – The drift of the hearing from Senator Stephen who initiated the bill was concern that we were going to end up with commissioners appointed by Governor who are against hunting and fishing. They haven't heard that from you but other states. The word I heard was preemptive. They wanted to make sure that people representing the hunting and fishing interests. They mentioned strongly represented was their main concern. In our recommendations, we mentioned that all regulations had to fall under the statutes that legislature controls and our fees are controlled by caps. So, there is a lot of control already, but they don't feel that is enough so are pushing for this idea. Other thing I mentioned, while there, a representative had a bill he was going to initiate that would change appointment process for commissioners. He said he would recommend having nine commissioners, three appointed by Governor, two by the President of the Senate, two by Speaker of the House, and two by Attorney General. So, we will be dealing with that bill in the near future. Chief Counsel Riley – HB 2541 is before the House committee on natural resources and would establish a state conservation fund in the treasurer's office. It would be a dedicated fund and related funds that would relate to Wildlife and Parks in terms of peripheral funds connected to that. The bill's purpose is to establish funding for conservation purposes, a good thing. There would be grant processes tied into that. It would provide those grant funds for things like habitat establishment and general conservation purposes. That is proposed by Representative Blex on behalf of Kansans for Conservation. Secretary Loveless – That Kansans for Conservation group is 25-30 different groups. Groups like DU, PF, TNC, KPRA, Kansas Corn Growers and Kansas Wheat Growers, a whole host of agencies, a coalition of groups. Chief Counsel Riley – HB 2476, relates to Freedoms Frontier National Heritage Area established in 2006. It encompasses 29 counties in eastern Kansas and 12 western counties. It is difficult to follow purpose of it. They want to prohibit any designation in that area of national historic trails, there are five there now. It would require approval of the legislature. It would impact us because within that area we have 14 state parks, wildlife areas and other properties we manage. It would have impact on us if legislature took control of named trails and parks in that area.

Duane Miller (*online*) – Is there any progress on regulations on using drones on deer recovery? Chief Counsel Riley – I don't. Rich Schultheis (on drone committee) – We haven't had a lot of activity on that lately. In our regulations summary we touch on this. The interpretation of airborne hunting act and electronic equipment in transmitting the utilization of drone for hunting and retrieving game. We would turn to our Legal counsel on that. We have not had any recent conversations about changes to that regulation to become more permissive of drones. Chief Counsel Riley – We currently don't have anything in the process on drones.

### **C. General Discussion**

1. Commissioner Permit Update and Drawing – ~~Stuart Schrag, deputy secretary of operations~~, Jake George, wildlife division director, presented this update and led the drawing

(Exhibit F). Commissioner permits began in 2006, to provide one elk, one antelope or seven deer permits. Any active conservation-oriented organization or chapters of organizations can apply. We do the drawing for these permits, and they can auction those permits to the highest bidder. They can recoup the cost of permit, keep 15% to use for whatever conservation activities they choose and 85% is remitted back to the agency and they apply for use of those funds as needed. Since 2006, this process has raised over \$1.43 million for conservation in Kansas. This year we received 115 eligible applications. Last year we drew seven deer, and the average sale price was \$47,850, highest was \$51,000, with the total raised being \$321,000. Highest deer permit ever sold was in 2022 for \$55,000.

Drawing Winners (Exhibit G):

Comm. Emerick Cross: (1) – #77, Ducks Unlimited, State Committee Chapter # KS-001 (deer)  
Comm. Delia Lister: (2) – #38, Ducks Unlimited, Southwest Kansas Chapter # KS-0003 (deer)  
Comm. Warren Gfeller: (3) – #41, Pheasants Forever, Soloman Valley Chapter #450 (deer)  
Chairman Gerald Lauber: (4) – #55, Pheasants Forever, Walnut River Chapter #987 (deer)  
Comm. Lauren Queal Sill: (5) – #100, KS Bowhunters Association, NE Region (deer)  
Comm. Troy Sporer: (6) – #62, Ducks Unlimited, Rice County Chapter # KS-070 (deer)  
Comm. Phil Escareno: (7) – #72, Pheasants Forever, Wheat Country Chapter #905 (deer)

Commissioner Sporer – There was controversy a few years ago about the mother chapter taking all the money from the chapter that won and they didn't get any. What did we end up doing about that? George – I am not familiar with that. It would depend on the structure of the organization, some of them are top-down versus bottom-up type organizations. I think that would be a discussion between the chapter and the national organization. Commissioner Sporer – I guess no one remembers that but that is another conversation we need to have. Sheila Kemmis – Sometimes for those chapters more than one person applies, they only get one number and the first one in gets it. We don't have any say what goes on within the organization as far as projects. That 85% that is remitted to the agency is placed in their name and they apply for the funds for conservation projects. The 15% we don't know whether they send to local chapter or keep it in national organization.

2. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Rich Schultheis, assistant wildlife division director, research, presented this regulation (Exhibit H). I am here to introduce the webless migratory game birds regulations for 2024-25 season. The regulations for doves, cranes, snipe, rails, woodcock and crows must adhere to federal frameworks, similar to process we use for waterfowl. Unlike waterfowl, stability in federal frameworks allows us to include our webless regulations in our permanent regulations for the state of Kansas. There have been no changes to those federal frameworks, and we do not anticipate any changes to the proposed regulations for webless migratory game birds. The final staff recommendations will be presented at the March commission meeting. I provided summary of the likely season dates in briefing book.

3. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, migratory gamebird manager, presented these regulations (Exhibit I). Today is beginning of the annual waterfowl regulatory cycle for Kansas and pertains to 2024 and 2025 waterfowl seasons. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), with input from the Flyway councils, annually develops frameworks from which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. A briefing item was prepared including the frameworks and pertinent

background material. There are no changes in the federal framework from previous year. Staff recommendations will be provided at March 28 meeting.

#### **D. Workshop Session**

1. KAR 115-25-7 Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit J). Covered in detail at last meeting. No changes to season dates or permit types. This will be the same as last season. I don't have permit allocations for firearm and muzzleloader permits yet. Trying to get aerial survey completed but the snow cover out west has been a problem, we need the snow to melt in order to see the pronghorn. That is the holdup at this time. Will have permit allocations at next meeting.

2. KAR 115-25-8 Elk; open season, bag limit and permit – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit K). Covered in detail at the last meeting. At that time, we didn't expect any changes to season structure. We were expecting a little increase in limit draw permits valid at Fort Riley, due to relatively high populations. In discussions with Fort Riley staff and considered a couple of different options; to increase harvest without adding excessive pressure to the Fort. We want to maintain high quality hunting experience without excessive pressure. Option with most support is to establish a new season on the Fort for January, in which all unsuccessful hunters can fill their tag. This might allow hunters to address damage issues that sometimes occur just off the Fort. Also, it might allow an extra 5-6 elk to be harvested. Still considering options and isn't a recommendation yet. Will be back at next meeting with recommendation and permit allocations. Commissioner Sill – How many nonresident permits are in Unit 3 each year? Peek – Don't know off top of my head. I will get back to you on that.

3. KAR 115-25-9a Military deer seasons – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit L). We address all deer seasons on military subunits under one regulation separately than regular regulation to accommodate training activity. Typically, we have brought this regulation to public hearing in June. Fort Riley, in addition to regular whitetail season, they want additional antlerless season November 29, 2024, to December 1, 2024; firearm season December 14-22, 2024. I have a correction in the briefing book, where it says the deer hunter only use one white-tail antlerless permit, strike that. They have requested five white-tailed antlerless-only permits. They are trying to increase antlerless harvest on the Fort. Fort Leavenworth is requesting firearm season from November 16-17, 2024; November 23-24, 2024; November 28, 2024 to December 1, 2024; December 7-8, 2024; and December 14-15, 2024. They would like to participate in the extended firearms longest season January 1-19, 2025. The extended archery season for antlerless-only white-tailed deer will be January 20-31, 2025. Smokey Hill is requesting firearm season from December 4-15, 2024, which is the same as the statewide season. They also want the five additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits.

4. Big Game 4-Series Permanent Regulations – Levi Jaster, big game coordinator, presented these regulations to the Commission (Exhibit M). Requested to review muzzleloader materials that projectile can be made of. Currently the language is, tumble-on-impact, hard-cast solid lead, conical lead, and sabot bullets, and is preventing potential non-toxic ammunition choices. We are looking to striking the word "lead" from the regulation. On page 2, lowercase (b) muzzleloader, lead has been struck from that regulation and that is the changes that will occur. Commissioner Sill – Will this be ready for this fall? Chief Counsel Riley – Should be but no guarantee. Commissioner Sill – I just noticed on WIHA it says non-lead. Theoretically

muzzleloader hunters out of those WIHA areas if you don't get that in place. Those are some nice properties we like to have available. Jaster – Ask permission to move forward to promulgation process. Chairman Lauber – Move it forward. Chief Counsel Riley – Levi, send me final draft.

5. Carcass Movement Regulation – Levi Jaster, big game program, coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit N). Spoke with Dan on this. Working on polling other state regulations, trying to get some language put together. Hope to have potential language for regulation ready by next meeting. Dan raised some legal questions we are trying to get straightened out. Chairman Lauber – At last meeting I mentioned 40 miles, you seem to like 30. Also, I mentioned transport to processor. Is there a reason you don't like that? Jaster – Some language pulled from other states and how they regulated that 30–40-mile buffer. This is one of the issues Dan brought up, enforceability of that. We are trying to have to work through the other language. We are going to try get this to where it accomplishes the goal but doesn't leave too much ambiguity that would force Law Enforcement to make subjective calls. Chairman Lauber – There are less and less people that process deer and if we could have longer distance to transport people could do it without breaking the law. If they just went from kill to the processor. Jaster – We are looking into that and would fit recommendations we are submitting on heads and capes to the taxidermists too. Chief Counsel Riley – This has turned out to be really challenging. Hope to come up with something based on risk that doesn't relate to the mileage. If minimizing risk, it doesn't matter if they are going five miles or 50 miles. If we can work it out, hope to eliminate the mileage element entirely because that doesn't relate to the risk as much as other standards in the way they need to handle and process. Chairman Lauber – I think so too. Commissioner Sporer – I heard from constituents that said deer processor is 35 miles away, so going to continue to hear things like that. Chief Counsel Riley – I think it more critical to follow the steps rather than worry about how far you are going to haul it. Chairman Lauber – We are on the same page.

*Break*

6. Public Lands Regulation KAR 115-8-26 – Ryan Stucky, acting public lands director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit O). We have been presenting this new regulation addressing over pressure of nonresident waterfowl hunters on public lands. On April 27 last year in Bonner Springs, we presented this for the first time. Since then, we have talked about nonresidents spending more consecutive days on public waterfowl properties, hunting in larger groups, and spending more hours per day on those areas. We believe this has changed waterfowl behavior to a point there is growing concern they are not meeting their own dietary needs because of human pressure. Resident waterfowlers are also reporting changes in waterfowl increase in volume, which has decreased their opportunities on department lands and waters. We have vetted several regulation recommendations and idea on how we could restrict pressure while still giving nonresidents several days to hunt waterfowl. We believe the original proposal to restrict nonresident waterfowl hunters to hunt on public lands and waters to Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays. We have workshopped this five times. We have been in communication with our federal partners, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation. Those three partners agree with our proposal We are presenting the written regulation today and understand regulations for hunting are time sensitive. So, our recommendation is to move regulation promulgation process and have regulation in effect for start of the 2024 waterfowl season. Section (a), during an established hunting season for migratory waterfowl a non-resident shall be restricted to Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays for the hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl at the following locations, subsection (1) is department lands and waters, which means state parks, state lakes and recreational grounds,

wildlife areas, sanctuaries, fish hatcheries, natural areas, historic sites and other lands and waters and facilities that are under the jurisdiction and control of the Secretary through ownership, lease, license, cooperative agreement, memorandum of understanding, or other arrangement. Move on to the next three subsections numbers. (2), (3) and (4) which spell out the properties of our three federal partners. We want to list those properties individually so it would be clear as Kansas reservoirs and our national wildlife refuges in working with our federal partners. Our department legal staff reviewed several federal codes and regulations. In short, we see that federal regulation requires hunting and fishing regulations to be consistent with state law to the extent possible. Our department's legal staff and the federal partners do not see anything in the applicable federal law and regulations that would contradict the proposed draft concerning nonresident waterfowl hunters. Starting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer properties, you'll see two subsections. The first is listing of the reservoir properties; The second is listing of the Missouri River Fish and Wildlife mitigation lands. We decided to list these separately for clarity as they are federally owned by the Corps under Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks lease and are adjacent to the navigable Missouri River. So, they are a bit unique and that is why we listed them in in the regulation again. Section (b), the following definitions. We mentioned the water and we went ahead and listed the migratory waterfowl under KSA 32-1008 and also definition of a non--resident in subsection (2). We then listed four other subsections which addresses the nonresident lifetime license holder, the non-resident active-duty military personnel, active-duty military personnel, immediate family, and nonresident full-time students which would all qualify as residents. The next subsection was department lands and waters, and I've already went through that definition. We then move to section (c), these restrictions shall not apply to the spring snow goose Conservation Order season. We have had discussions on that. Subsection (d), we changed this one at the last commission meeting. These restrictions shall not apply to property enrolled and designated as either a Walk-In Hunting (WIHA) or integrated Walk-In Hunting (iWIHA) areas which accounts for a little over a million acres. We were asked "why," and I think when you look at those properties and the contracts which are written on those, we felt that those acres out there will give those folks the opportunity, if they can't be on public lands, to enjoy that walking hunting property. Section (e), these restrictions shall not apply to navigable rivers in Kansas which are the Kansas, Missouri, the Arkansas Rivers. Section (f) is the new one we have added since the last commission meeting, these restrictions shall not apply to the special hunts program or other department authorized waterfowl programs. Commissioner Sporer – Any talk about being able to scout by boat on days other than Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays? What was consensus of the agency on trying to regulate that? Stucky – There won't be any restrictions on reservoirs or any boating, there are some restrictions in place on state-owned wildlife areas. Commissioner Sporer – So, nonresident will be able to scout the Bottoms? Stucky – There are some in the reference document. Waiting to get through this before we go back and adjust the reference document. Commissioner Sill – For the taking of migratory waterfowl, it doesn't say anything about being on the marsh walking around or disrupting the wildlife. Stucky – In the definitions of take, is why we added take and that is pursuing and disrupting waterfowl. Commissioner Sill – Is that clear enough for the average person? Stucky – We have verbiage in our hunting regulations summary that talks about taking of wildlife. Commissioner Sill – Taking includes scouting or harassing? Stucky – Do you see what they are talking about? Commissioner Sill – We have heard of activity where they are driving around flushing birds. Not just nonresidents. When you look at scouting that is subjective. Going out to see if waterfowl is one thing, but to get in a boat, and run up and down through Cheyenne Bottoms is another. Stucky – We have some restrictions on that already. We are looking to fine tune the reference document to cover that once this is in place. Commissioner Sill – That is shaky. Looking at nonprofessional reading that and my observation. Not telling you it's wrong, just concerned. One other concern. On (d), the fact that it does not apply to WIHA or i-WIHA is

confusing, or potentially confusing. When we make public land regulations, such as baiting and trail cam issues, that applies to public lands and WIHA. So, we are treating this different. Some room for confusion. The more similar the better off we are. Commissioner Sporer – I have thought about it and asked, not that many areas are waterfowl areas, there are only a handful so not a big deal. I understand the idea you can't put cameras on public lands or walk in areas, but I don't know how big of deal it would be to say waterfowl areas. They are not the problem area we are having. WIHA is not our main issue or problem. Chairman Lauber – Ready for promulgation process? Graham – I don't run waterfowl hunts, but some in Association do. From somebody that deals with private ground, I run 3,500 acres next to Melvern Lake. I have 37 landowners in that area. This has been discussed 6-7 times. You are at the point where it has affected the private sector. A lot of landowners approached me to lease land for waterfowl, most from out of state. We know what happens when they lease to those guys and most of them from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Missouri and most residents here have hunted there. What it does is the guys hunting there for free are out of there. Now leasing ponds to nonresidents. Residents don't want to pay to hunt. You will actually tip people from hunting on private lands, off those areas. It will happen. Not outfitters, just nonresident hunters. Chairman Lauber - Is it ready to start promulgation process? Chief Counsel Riley – That is up to the Commission and Ryan if he is satisfied with it. I mentioned at first workshop that we need supporting information with this. Why this is necessary and required, what intended to resolve, will draw attention and will have impact on revenue. We get cost analysis because we make decisions for benefit of species and habitat and some of the people, we have to convince about morals of what we are doing. They are focused entirely on revenue. We need to bulk up in terms of supporting documentation every time we submit an economic impact statement. We can include why we are doing it, why necessary. We anticipate a number of complaints when that kind of documentation is received. Make sure when we promulgate that no matter what we do it will be set in limbo. Chairman Lauber – Commission is ready to go there, and we will have to do that no matter when we do it. Stucky – Our federal partners are in favor of this and encourage us to get it going as soon as possible. Chief Counsel Riley – That is relevant, make sure we tell the story of why this is necessary. Chairman Lauber – Do it.

Chairman Lauber – We have five pending regulations (7 and 8) that we don't discuss anymore.

7. Pending Regulations (Exhibit P) – Dan Riley, legal counsel:

- K.A.R. 115-7-3, 7-2, 7-9, 7-10 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations
- K.A.R. 115-25-14 Fishing (Reference Document)
- K.A.R. 115-5-1 Furbearer regulations
- K.A.R. 115-8-1 Public Lands regulations (Reference Document)
- K.A.R. 115-30-4 Fire Extinguishers; Requirements

8. Published in the Federal Register (Exhibit Q) – Dan Riley, legal counsel: We will vote on these at the March 28 meeting.

- K.A.R. 115-4-11 Big game and wild turkey permit applications
- K.A.R. 115-25-11 Furbearer Regulations
- K.A.R. 115-30-10 Personal Watercraft; Definition, Requirements and Restrictions

## **VII. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

*None*



## **VIII. OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Sill – Coming out of busy fall season for game wardens. I have seen multiple stories about poaching incidents they have been investigating and other situations. Biologists and game wardens have gotten death threats just for doing their jobs. As a Commission, I want to say “thanks” to employees. You are smart and know what you are doing, handle yourself professionally, work hard and don’t get paid that well. Thank you to every person in the Department. You go above and beyond, and public has no idea about the people who grade roads to get to boat ramps, do maintenance, clean outhouses and all kinds of other duties. Thanks to every person in the Department.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

*March 28 – Topeka, Topeka and Shawnee County Library, Marvin Auditorium, Rm 101C*  
*April 25 – Salina, K-State Campus, College Center Conference Room, 2310 Centennial Rd*  
*June 20 – Hays*

Chief Counsel Riley – Don’t set August. We are going to look at the full schedule of meetings. We have an extra meeting there, so we will either move it or take it out.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

**Administrative  
Rules and  
Regulations  
Public  
Hearing**  
(pursuant to KSA 77-421)

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife and Parks Commission (the Commission) at 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Topeka & Shawnee Co. Public Library, Marvin Auditorium 101C, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS, 66604, to consider the approval and adoption of a proposed administrative regulation of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The public hearing will begin at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the location above. Other Commission business will follow and will include general discussions, which may include educational presentations, workshop sessions, and public comment opportunity following the public hearing. The meeting will continue until all business is complete.

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

This 60-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or to [sheila.kemmis@ks.gov](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ks.gov), if submitted electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally regarding the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the Commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulation that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-4-11.** This regulation changes old language for the purpose of making it clearer.

**Economic Impact Summary:**

No economic impact is determined since nothing other than language clarity is being changed.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and economic impact statement may be obtained by writing the Chairperson of the Commission at the address above, electronically on

the Department's website at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 20 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**115-4-11. Big game and wild turkey permit applications.** (a) General application provisions.

(1) Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, an individual shall not apply for or obtain more than one antlered or horned big game or wild turkey permit for each big game species or wild turkey, except when the individual is unsuccessful in a limited quota drawing and alternative permits for the species are available at the time of subsequent application or when the individual is the final recipient of a commission permit.

(2) Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, each big game or wild turkey permit application shall be signed by the individual applying for the permit.

(3) Subject to any priority draw system established by this regulation, if the number of permit applications of a specific species and type received by the designated application deadline exceeds the number of available permits of that species and type, a random drawing to issue permits of that species and type shall be conducted by the secretary.

(4) A hunt-on-your-own-land permit shall not be tabulated in a priority draw system if the permit would otherwise reduce the applicant's odds of receiving a big game permit through that draw system.

(b) Deer permit applications.

(1) Subject to any priority draw system established by this subsection, in awarding deer permits in units having a limited number of permits, the first priority shall be given to those applicants who did not receive, in the previous year, a deer permit that allowed the taking of an antlered deer. All other deer permit applicants shall be given equal priority.

(2) In awarding a limited number of deer permits by a priority draw system, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 20 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

points. Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(A) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a priority draw system, a deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer.

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

(C) If an applicant obtains, by a priority draw system, a deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer, all earned points shall be lost.

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

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

(3) If an individual is a final recipient of a commission deer permit, the individual shall not possess more than one regular antlered deer permit and one commission deer permit.

(4) Applications for nonresident limited-quota antlered deer permits shall be accepted in the Pratt office from the earliest date that applications are available through the last Friday of

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 20 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

April each year. Any nonresident applicant may select, at the time of application, one deer management unit and up to one adjacent management unit where that permit shall be valid.

(5) Applications for resident firearms either species, either-sex permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday of June.

(6) Applications for resident any-season white-tailed either-sex deer permits, resident archery deer permits, resident muzzleloader either-species either-sex permits, and hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through December 30.

(7) Each resident applicant for either-species, either-sex muzzleloader or firearm deer permits shall select, at the time of application, the unit where the permit shall be valid. The west unit permit shall be valid in units 1, 2, 17, and 18. The east unit permit shall be valid in units 3, 4, 5, 7, and 16.

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

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

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

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

<b>RECEIVED</b>
<b>DEC 20 2023</b>
<b>SCOTT SCHWAB</b>
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>

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

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

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

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

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

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

APPROVED

NOV 14 2023

DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DEC 18 2023

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED  
DEC 20 2023  
SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE



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

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

(9) ~~Any applicant unsuccessful in obtaining a permit through a drawing may apply for any permit made available during an extended application period, or any other permit that is available on an unlimited basis. If the applicant receives a permit made available during an extended application period or on an unlimited basis, that individual shall not receive a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual received that other permit.~~No individual may purchase an unlimited permit during the same calendar year in which they also apply for a permit or purchase a preference point.

(d) Elk permit applications.

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

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

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

(C) When a limited number of elk permits are awarded by a random draw system, each

APPROVED

NOV 14 2023

DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DEC 18 2023

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED  
DEC 20 2023  
SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

individual shall have an additional opportunity of drawing for each bonus point earned by the individual in addition to the current application. Bonus points shall be awarded as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

<b>RECEIVED</b>
<b>DEC 20 2023</b>
<b>SCOTT SCHWAB</b>
<b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>

through March 14 of the following year.

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

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

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

(e) Wild turkey permit applications.

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

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

(A) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 20 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

unsuccessful in obtaining, by a priority draw system, a wild turkey permit.

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

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

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

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

(3) Fall wild turkey permits for unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, youth turkey permits, and game tags for unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 may be purchased over the counter at designated locations, from the earliest date in the year that applications are available through 5:00 p.m. on January 30 of the following year.

(4) Applications for spring wild turkey permits in unit 4 shall be accepted by the department from the earliest date that applications are available until midnight on the second Friday of February. If there are turkey permits left over after all timely applications have been considered, the application period may be reopened by the secretary. Leftover turkey permits

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 18 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

<b>RECEIVED</b>
<b>DEC 20 2023</b>
<b>SCOTT SCHWAB</b> <b>SECRETARY OF STATE</b>

shall be issued on a daily competitive basis until the day before the last day of the turkey season or until all turkey permits are issued.

(5) Spring wild turkey resident permits in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, youth turkey permits, and game tags in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 may be purchased over the counter at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available until midnight on the day before the closing date for the season.

(6) Applications for spring wild turkey for nonresident permits in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, and game tags in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 shall be accepted by the department when applications are available approximately four weeks prior to the second Friday of February until midnight on the second Friday of February. If there are turkey permits left over after all timely applications have been considered, the application period may be reopened by the secretary. Leftover turkey permits shall be issued on a daily competitive basis until the day before the last day of the turkey season or until all turkey permits are issued. Any nonresident applicant may select, at the time of application, one turkey management unit where that permit shall be valid. (Authorized by K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-807, K.S.A. 32-937, K.S.A. 32-969, and K.S.A. 32-970; implementing K.S.A. 32-937, K.S.A. 32-969, and K.S.A. 32-970; effective Sept. 10, 1990; amended May 27, 1991; amended June 1, 2001; amended April 18, 2003; amended Feb. 18, 2005; amended May 15, 2009; amended Feb. 5, 2010; amended April 8, 2011; amended May 24, 2013; amended Nov. 30, 2015; amended April 21, 2017; amended April 26, 2019; amended October 7, 2022, amended July 21, 2023, P-\_\_\_\_\_.)

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

APPROVED

**DEC 18 2023**

ATTORNEY GENERAL

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 20 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**Kansas Administrative Regulations  
Economic Impact Statement (EIS)**

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Agency

Dan Riley  
Agency Contact

785.296.1032  
Contact Phone Number

115-4-11  
K.A.R. Number(s)

Permanent     Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

No    If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024 (as calculated in Section III, F)?

Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration, the Attorney General, AND the Division of the Budget. The regulation(s) and the EIS will require Budget approval.

No    If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

**RECEIVED**  
  
DEC 20 2023  
  
SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## Section I

Brief description of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

The proposed amendments will make the regulation clearer and removes old language that that should have been removed in a previous change. The proposed amendments do not change the intent of the regulation as already in place,

## Section II

Statement by the agency if the rule(s) and regulation(s) exceed the requirements of applicable federal law, and a statement if the approach chosen to address the policy issue(s) is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or the federal government. *(If the approach is different or exceeds federal law, then include a statement of why the proposed Kansas rule and regulation is different.)*

The are no relevant federal laws or standards. The proposed amendments do not change currently in place Kansas regulations. Missouri, Nebraska, and Colorado all have employed similar provisions to address shrinking game populations.

## Section III

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

- A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth;  
No impact anticipated
- B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that would be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole;  
No compliance or implementation costs are anticipated.
- C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s);  
No direct impact on businesses is anticipated
- D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs;  
The regulation language will be clearer and more understandable.
- E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals;  
Not applicable as the regulation intent and effects are not changing.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or members of the public.

Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized.

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$No annual implementation or compliance costs are anticipated.

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$None

Costs to Members of the Public – \$None

**Total Annual Costs – \$None**  
(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

Click here to enter agency response.

- Yes If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024, and prior to the submission or resubmission of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.
- No
- Not Applicable

The proposed changes were presented publicly at KDWP Commission meetings held November 17, 2022, with 24 public attendees; January 12, 2023, with 30 public attendees; March 9, 2023, with 39 public attendees; April 27, 2023, with 24 public attendees; June 22, 2023, with 32 public attendees; and August 17, 2023, with 43 public attendees.

Provide an estimate to any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

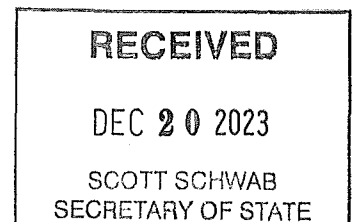
Not Applicable

Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

Not Applicable

G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)





Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

Not Applicable

- H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, associations, local governments, state agencies, or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

Public hearings with online access, publication in the Kansas Register, and on the agency website.

## Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

- Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.  
 No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.

- A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the persons who would bear the costs.

Click here to enter agency response.

- B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other persons who would bear the costs.

Click here to enter agency response.

- C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, as well as the persons who would bear the costs and would be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).

Click here to enter agency response.

- D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

Click here to enter agency response.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife and Parks Commission (the Commission) at 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the Topeka & Shawnee Co. Public Library, Marvin Auditorium 101C, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, Topeka, KS 66604, to consider the approval and adoption of a proposed administrative regulation of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The public hearing will begin at 12:00 p.m., Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the location above. Other Commission business will follow and will include general discussions, which may include educational presentations, workshop sessions, and a public comment opportunity following the public hearing. The meeting will continue until all business is complete.

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

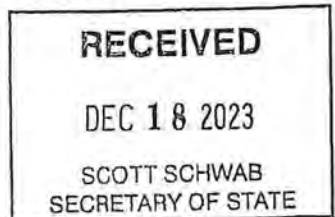
This 30-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or to [sheila.kemmis@ks.gov](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ks.gov), if submitted electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally regarding the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the Commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulation that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-25-11.** This regulation makes changes to the raccoon and opossum harvest season.

**Economic Impact Summary:** There will be no cost to implement this change. There may be approximately 2,500 licensed fur harvesters who participate in this new season. It is unknown how many days each will participate or what their daily expenditures will be. However, if we estimate each would participate for 20 days with expenditures of \$20 per day, that will equal \$1,000,000 in expenditures by participants. In addition, if 20 new small businesses or individuals were hired to conduct control activities for 30 days each at \$100 per day, that would be an additional \$60,000 of economic impact.



# Proposed

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and economic impact statement may be obtained by writing the Chairperson of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the Department's website at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman

**RECEIVED**

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

115-25-11. Furbearers; open seasons and bag limits. (a) All hunting, trapping, and running seasons begin at 12:01 a.m. on the opening day and close at ~~12:00 midnight~~ 11:59 p.m. on the closing day.

(b) The open season for the taking of badger, bobcat, gray fox, red fox, swift fox, mink, muskrat, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk, and weasel by hunting and trapping shall be from the first Wednesday after the second Saturday in November through the last day of February of the following year. The bag limit for these species shall be unlimited.

(c) The extended season for the taking of raccoon and opossum by hunting and trapping shall be from the first day of March through the first Tuesday after the second Saturday in November of the same year. Trapping equipment permitted during this season shall consist of box traps, cage traps, and foot-encapsulating traps commonly known as "dog-proof" traps. The bag limit for these species shall be unlimited.

~~(e)~~(d) The open season for the taking of beaver by trapping shall be from the first Wednesday after the second Saturday in November through ~~March 31~~ the last day of March of the following year. The bag limit shall be unlimited. Muskrat that are incidentally taken after the close of the open season for muskrat but during the open season for beaver by trapping may be possessed. The bag limit for incidentally taken muskrat shall be 10 animals.

~~(d)~~(e) The open season for the taking of otter by trapping shall be from the first Wednesday after the second Saturday in November ~~and through March 31~~ the last day of March of the following year. The season bag limit shall be ~~10~~ ten otters per trapper. No more than one otter may be taken from the following otter management units: Western, Solomon, Smoky-Saline, Republican, and Middle Arkansas. No more than two otters may be taken from the

APPROVED

NOV 14 2023

DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DEC 18 2023

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

following otter management units: Big Blue, Kansas, Upper Neosho, and Lower Arkansas. No more than five otters may be taken from the following otter management units: Verdigris and Missouri. No more than 10 otters may be taken from the following otter management units: Lower Neosho and Marais des Cygnes.

(e)(f) The open season for the running of ~~bobcat, gray fox, red fox, opossum, and raccoon~~ bobcat, gray fox, and red fox shall be from ~~March 1~~ the first day of March through ~~November 8~~ the Wednesday after the first Saturday in November. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 32-807; amended P-\_\_\_\_\_.)

APPROVED

NOV 14 2023

DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DEC 18 2023

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Kansas Administrative Regulations  
Economic Impact Statement (EIS)

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Agency

Dan Riley  
Agency Contact

296-1032  
Contact Phone Number

115-25-11  
K.A.R. Number(s)

Permanent     Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

- Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.
- No    If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024 (as calculated in Section III, F)?
  - Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration, the Attorney General, AND the Division of the Budget. The regulation(s) and the EIS will require Budget approval.
  - No    If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (if Required)

RECEIVED  
DEC 18 2023  
SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

## Section I

Brief description of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

This regulatory change would open the raccoon and opossum harvest season to year-round.

## Section II

Statement by the agency if the rule(s) and regulation(s) exceed the requirements of applicable federal law, and a statement if the approach chosen to address the policy issue(s) is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or the federal government. *(If the approach is different or exceeds federal law, then include a statement of why the proposed Kansas rule and regulation is different.)*

N/A

## Section III

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

- A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth;
- This change may enhance business opportunity to a small degree associated with intensive management of raccoons and opossums on private land to increase turkey and upland bird survival and nest success.
- B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that would be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole;
- Participation in this new extended harvest season will be voluntary and, therefore, will not create any new implementation or compliance costs.
- C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s);
- There could be some new opportunity created for animal damage control businesses to conduct "predator control" types of activities as landowners learn these species can now be removed year-round. However, current regulations already allow these species to be taken under that scenario so the impact is likely to be minor.
- D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs;
- The regulation will allow land and property owners more options in managing nuisance raccoons and opossums.
- E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals;
- There are no new costs or negative impacts to businesses from this change.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

- F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or members of the public.

*Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized.*

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$0

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$0

Costs to Members of the Public – \$0

**Total Annual Costs – \$0**

(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

This change does not impose any new costs on businesses or individuals.

- Yes      If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024, and prior to the submission or resubmission of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.
- No
- Not Applicable

Provide an estimate to any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

There will be no cost to implement this change.

Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

There may be approximately 2,500 licensed fur harvesters who participate in this new season. It is unknown how many days each will participate or what their daily expenditures will be. However, if we estimate each would participate for 20 days with expenditures of \$20 per day, that will equal \$1,000,000 in expenditures by participants. In addition, if 20 new small businesses or individuals were hired to conduct control activities for 30 days each at \$100 per day, that would be an additional \$60,000 of economic impact.

- G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE



Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

Any changes to these revenues are minor and these groups were not consulted.

- H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, associations, local governments, state agencies or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

KDWP surveyed licensed fur harvesters to assess their support and willingness to participate in this proposed season extension. KDWP has also received numerous public comments at Commission Meetings and general correspondence indicating widespread and decisive support for this change.

## Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

- Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.  
 No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.

- A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the persons who would bear the costs.
- B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other persons who would bear the costs.
- C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, as well as the persons who would bear the costs and would be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).
- D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 18 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission  
Notice of Public Hearing**

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife and Parks Commission (the Commission) at 12:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, Marvin Auditorium, Room 101C, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, Kansas, 66604, to consider the approval and adoption of a proposed administrative regulation of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The public hearing will begin at 12:00 p.m., on March 28, 2024, at the location above. Other Commission business will follow and will include general discussions, which may include educational presentations, workshop sessions, and public comment opportunity following the public hearing. The meeting will continue until all business is complete.

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

This 60-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S. Kansas Avenue, Suite 200, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or to [sheila.kemmis@ks.gov](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ks.gov), if submitted electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally regarding the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the Commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulation that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-30-10.** This regulation defines personal watercraft operating requirements and restrictions.

**Economic Impact Summary:**

There is no cost associated with the regulation change.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the Chairperson of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the Department's website at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman

**115-30-10. Personal watercraft; definition, requirements, and restrictions.** (a) Personal watercraft shall mean any vessel that uses an inboard motor powering a jet pump as the vessel's primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than the conventional manner of sitting, standing, or kneeling inside the vessel.

(b) Personal watercraft shall be subject to all applicable laws and regulations that govern the operation, equipment, registration, numbering, and all other matters relating to vessels whenever a personal watercraft is operated on the waters of this state, except as follows:

(1) A personal watercraft shall not be operated unless each person aboard the watercraft is wearing a ~~type I, type II, type III, or type V~~ United States Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.

(2) Each person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to the operator's person, clothing, or personal flotation device, as appropriate.

(3) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft between sunset and sunrise.

(4) Each person shall operate a personal watercraft at no-wake speeds of five miles per hour or less when within 200 feet of the following:

- (A) A dock;
- (B) a boat ramp;
- (C) a person swimming;
- (D) a bridge structure;
- (E) a moored or anchored vessel;

APPROVED

NOV 14 2023

DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED

DEC 21 2023

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

- (F) a sewage pump-out facility;
- (G) a nonmotorized watercraft;
- (H) a boat storage facility; or
- (I) a concessionaire's facility.

(5) A person shall operate a personal watercraft in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers that endanger life, limb, or property shall be prohibited. This prohibition shall include weaving through congested vessel traffic or jumping the wake produced by another vessel at an unsafe distance.

(6) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft unless the person is facing forward.

(7) A person shall not operate or use a personal watercraft to tow a person on waterskis, kneeboards, inflatable crafts, or any other device unless the personal watercraft is designed to accommodate more than one person.

(8) No person in possession of a personal watercraft shall permit another person to operate the personal watercraft unless that person has met the boater education requirements as specified in K.S.A. 32-1139 and amendments thereto.

(c) A boat livery shall not lease, hire, or rent a personal watercraft to, or for the operation by, any person who has not met the boater education requirements as specified in K.S.A. 32-1139 and amendments thereto.

(d) The provisions of paragraphs (b) (4), (5), (6), and (8) shall not apply to a person participating in a regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or exhibition that has been authorized or permitted by the department or is otherwise exempt from this authorization or permit requirement.

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 21 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 28 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

(e) This regulation shall be effective on and after January 1, 2008. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-1103 and K.S.A. ~~2006 Supp.~~ 32-1119; effective June 13, 1994; amended June 11, 1999; amended Jan. 1, 2008).; amended P-\_\_\_\_\_.)

**APPROVED**

**NOV 14 2023**

**DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATION**

**APPROVED**

**DEC 21 2023**

**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 28 2023**

**SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

# Kansas Administrative Regulations Economic Impact Statement (EIS)

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks  
Agency

Dan Riley  
Agency Contact

296-1032  
Contact Phone Number

115-30-10  
K.A.R. Number(s)

Permanent     Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

- Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.
  
- No    If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024 (as calculated in Section III, F)?
  - Yes    If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration, the Attorney General, AND the Division of the Budget. The regulation(s) and the EIS will require Budget approval.
  
  - No    If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

**RECEIVED**

DEC 28 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**Section I**

Brief description of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

Update regulation 115-30-10 to comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulation terminology. The current regulation requires a personal floatation device (PFD) to comply with a label stating a size Type I-V. The regulation change removes this older terminology and updates it with current U.S. Coast Guard regulation which uses a performance level of 50,70,150, and 275. The update in regulation does not have any effect on PFD requirements, only updates the terminology used on the PFDs.

**Section II**

Statement by the agency if the rule(s) and regulation(s) exceed the requirements of applicable federal law, and a statement if the approach chosen to address the policy issue(s) is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or the federal government. *(If the approach is different or exceeds federal law, then include a statement of why the proposed Kansas rule and regulation is different.)*

The regulation change follows federal regulation but does not exceed federal laws.

**Section III**

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

- A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth;

The regulation change will not affect or restrict business activities or growth.

- B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that would be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole;

The regulation change will have no effect and only changes the terminology for what is required in a personal floatation device. It does not change the kind or size of personal floatation device needed or required.

- C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s);

None.

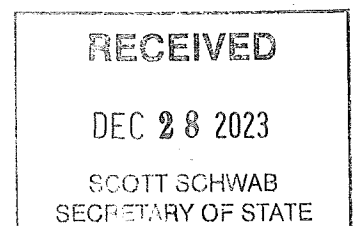
- D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs.

There is no cost associated with the regulation change.

- E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals.

There is no cost associated with the regulation change.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (if Required)



F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or members of the public.

Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized.

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$0

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$0

Costs to Members of the Public – \$0

**Total Annual Costs – \$0**

(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

Not applicable.

- Yes
  - No
  - Not Applicable
- If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million over any two-year period through June 30, 2024, or exceed \$3.0 million over any two-year period on or after July 1, 2024, and prior to the submission or resubmission of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.

Provide an estimate to any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

There is no cost associated with the regulation change.

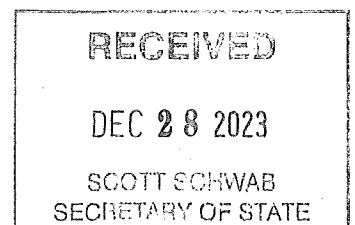
Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

There is no cost associated with the regulation change.

G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

There is no cost or effect upon cities, counties, or school districts associated with regulation change.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)





- H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, associations, local governments, state agencies, or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s).

The change is mandated by the U.S. Coast Guard to conform to their terminology.

## Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

- Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.  
 No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.

- A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the persons who would bear the costs.

Not applicable.

- B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other persons who would bear the costs.

Not applicable.

- C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, as well as the persons who would bear the costs and would be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).

Not applicable.

- D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

Not applicable.

DOB APPROVAL STAMP (If Required)

RECEIVED

DEC 28 2023

SCOTT SCHWAB  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
**2024 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

The Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks, as authorized by K.A.R. 115-25-9, hereby establishes the 2024 deer season permit quotas in the following deer management units:

**2024 RESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

**ANTLERED DEER PERMITS**

STATEWIDE; ARCHERY ONLY:

Either Species Either Sex ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

STATEWIDE; ARCHERY, FIREARMS & MUZZLELOADER:

White-tailed Deer Either Sex .....open availability <sup>c</sup>

HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND;

UNITS 1-19:

Either Species Either Sex .....open availability <sup>c</sup>

WESTERN MULE DEER;

UNITS 1, 2, 17, & 18:

Firearms Either Species Either Sex ..... 1072 <sup>c</sup>

Muzzleloader Either Species ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

EASTERN MULE DEER;

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

Firearms Either Species Either Sex ..... 68 <sup>c</sup>

Muzzleloader Either Species ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**ANTLERLESS DEER PERMITS**

HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

PAWNEE; UNIT 5:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a

SOLOMON; UNIT 7:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a

TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a

KAW; UNIT 10:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a

OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:

Whitetail Antlerless Only a & b

RED HILLS; UNIT 16:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a

CIMARRON; UNIT 18:

KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... a & b

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

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

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
**2024 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

Page 2

**2024 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

**HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	510
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	29
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	334
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	23
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	813
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	4
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	475
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	0
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**PAWNEE; UNIT 5:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	680
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	0
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	565
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a

**SOLOMON; UNIT 7:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1520
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	0
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1865
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a

**TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1182
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a

**KAW; UNIT 10:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1339
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a

**OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	3429
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	2189
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	615
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	2006
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

**NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1625
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	a & b

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

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

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
**2024 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

Page 3

**2024 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS (Continued)**

**RED HILLS; UNIT 16:**

Whitetail Either Sex ..... 1786  
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms  
Mule Deer Stamp ..... 0  
Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:**

Whitetail Either Sex ..... 634  
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms  
Mule Deer Stamp ..... 43  
Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**CIMARRON; UNIT 18:**

Whitetail Either Sex ..... 248  
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms  
Mule Deer Stamp ..... 19

**KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:**

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

**HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND;**

**UNITS 1-19:**

Either Species Either Sex ..... <sup>c</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

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

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

# **Secretary's Remarks**

**Agency and State Fiscal Status**

**No briefing book items – possible handout after the meeting**



**2024**  
**Legislative**  
**Update**

**EDITION**  
March 4, 2024

**SB = Senate Bill | HB = House Bill**  
**CR = Concurrent Resolution**

## HB 2006 (2023 Session)

### Making the use of artificial light for the purpose of spotting, locating or taking wildlife unlawful and restricting rule and regulation authority.

This bill was prefiled on 1/5/23. On 1/9/23, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

No hearings were scheduled for this bill in 2023.

Background: In 2020, following extensive public input, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission approved the use of artificial light and thermal-imaging equipment for hunting coyotes at night beginning with the 2021 season. Use of the special equipment is allowed only with a Night Vision Equipment Permit on private lands, during a dedicated season, and without the aid of a vehicle.

Agency Stance: In 2023, KDWP opposed HB 2006 because it sought to reverse the carefully reached decision of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission, which was informed by public input and sound scientific data.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).



## HB 2079 (2023 Session)

### Establishing a statutory white-tailed deer firearm season and requiring KDWP to provide resident hunting license holders select permits for free.

On 1/18/23, this bill was introduced in the House, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget.

No hearings were scheduled for this bill in 2023.

Background: HB 2079 was introduced by Legislators in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources; It was not introduced by KDWP, and biologists and other key subject matter experts at KDWP had significant concerns regarding HB 2079.

If approved, HB 2079 would have required KDWP to issue every Kansas lifetime hunting or combination lifetime license holder with an any-season white-tailed deer permit free of charge; every hunting license holder with an antlerless white-tailed deer permit; and establish an annual firearm white-tailed deer season on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day through the second Sunday in December.

Agency Stance: In 2023, KDWP opposed HB 2079 in its original form due to its lack of biological merit, the impediment it would create for Kansas to receive matching federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and because the Legislative process limits opportunity for critical public input (when compared to the regulatory process followed by the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission).

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

---

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

---

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2308 (2023 Session)

### Establishing a hunting outfitter task force that shall study the hunting outfitter industry in the state of Kansas and may make recommend changes to the law and rules and regulations.

This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on 2/6/23.

No hearings were scheduled for this bill in 2023.

Background: Currently, guides and outfitters in Kansas are not regulated by a central entity. In Kansas, law, rules and regulations pertaining to hunting and associated outdoor recreation are set by either the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (via Secretary's Orders), its Commission (Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission), or by the Kansas Legislature; or, by federal entities (such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

In recent years, KDWP's Administration has been regularly meeting with members of the guiding and outfitting industry to proactively exchange information – and establish best practices – with the intent to develop mutually-beneficial outcomes through consistent communication and collaboration.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2430 (2023 Session)

### Providing for requirements for use of funds allocated to agencies for the purpose of supporting unhoused individuals and creating penalties for unauthorized camping on government-owned land.

This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Welfare Reform on 2/20/23. This bill had a hearing on 3/2/23.

The Committee on Welfare Reform held a "Roundtable Discussion on Homelessness" on 3/23/23.

Background: Also referred to as the "Safe Cities Act." HB 2430 sought to address homelessness; specifically, public camping, sleeping or obstruction of public right-of-ways, including roads and sidewalks; and, unauthorized sleeping, camping or long-term shelters on state or local government-owned lands.

This bill outlined what political subdivisions shall not do; the power of the Attorney General; special stipulations for political subdivisions with a higher per-capita rate of homelessness than the state average; and, violation terms.

Agency Stance: TBD

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## SB 105 (2023 Session)

### Authorizing the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks to purchase land in Jewell county.

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 1/26/23. On 1/27/23, this bill was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

No hearings were scheduled for this bill in 2023.

Background: The property is approximately 264 acres and is adjacent to Lovewell Reservoir Wildlife Area. It is particularly well suited for an addition to the Lovewell Wildlife Area because it contains an excellent diversity of habitat types, cropland, rangeland, hayfields and woodlands. The diversity of habitat promotes healthy populations of deer, turkey, bobwhite quail, pheasant, greater prairie chicken and various furbearer and non-game species.

Where strategic land acquisitions make sense, per K.S.A. 32-833(a)(2), KDWP must obtain the approval of the Legislature to purchase a tract or tracts of land which are greater than 160 acres in the aggregate.

KDWP pays the current appraised/fair market value for lands.

And, KDWP makes payment of moneys in lieu of taxes comparable to the ad valorem tax payments of surrounding lands for any land purchased.

Agency Stance: Because of its ability to positively impact the amount of lands open to public access, KDWP supported SB 105 in its original form.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

---

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

---

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2476

### **Requiring legislative approval of any national heritage area or national historic trail in the state of Kansas and prohibiting state funding of any national heritage area or national historic trail unless such funding is first approved by the legislature of the state of Kansas.**

This bill was prefiled for introduction on 11/15/23.

On 1/8/24, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This bill had a hearing scheduled for 2/14/24. No action has been taken as of the date listed on this report.

Background: The Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA), established in 2006, encompasses 29 counties in eastern Kansas and 12 counties in Western Missouri. FFNHA's mission is to support and promote the hundreds of willing partners including historic sites, museums, historical societies, libraries, and other cultural-heritage tourism destinations. Within the 29 Kansas counties, there are 14 State Parks and two additional State Park-managed properties. These 16 properties are important economic engines to the local communities they are situated within. Additionally, this area contains KDWP Wildlife Areas.

Kansas has five designated National Historic Trails, including the Santa Fe Trail (1987). Flint Hills Trail State Park (118 miles long) closely aligns with the Santa Fe National Historic Trail for approximately 30 miles and is on the same direct alignment for approximately 6 miles.

Due to the current locations of the 16 State Park properties, within the FFNHA and aligned with the Santa Fe National Historical Trail, House Bill 2476 would have a direct effect on operations, revenues and expenditures for the Parks Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Currently, KDWP is requesting clarifying amendments to subsections (b) and (c) of the bill prohibiting only the use of state funds or properties from being expended for the promotion or benefit of the Heritage Sites.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2524

### Eliminating certain camp site and cabin fees for senior citizens at Kansas State Parks.

On 1/17/24, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

No hearings have been scheduled as of the date listed on this report.

Background: This bill would require KDWP to reduce the fees for camp sites and cabins by 50 percent for Kansas residents age 65 and older. If enacted as introduced, the Department anticipates an annual loss of revenue totaling \$778,000 beginning with Fiscal Year 2025; However, if these funds are replaced in Fiscal Year 2026 with Economic Development Initiatives Funds (once the Director of Accounts and Reports transfers the certified amount), then HB 2524 is not likely to have an overall fiscal effect on agency operations.

Agency Stance: Neutral

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

---

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

---

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2541

### **Establishing the state conservation fund, the working lands conservation fund, the wildlife conservation fund and the Kansas outdoors fund, providing for the use of moneys from such funds, requiring certain reports to the governor and the legislature and authorizing certain transfers to and from such funds.**

On 1/18/24, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

This bill had a hearing on 1/22/24. No action has been taken as of the date listed on this report.

Background: KDWP's fish and wildlife programs are funded in two ways: 1) the sale of hunting, fishing, and furharvesting licenses and permits sold to both residents and non-residents, and 2) federal dollars returned to KDWP from federal excise taxes on equipment purchases made by hunters and anglers. The amount of money KDWP receives from these excise taxes depends on the number of licenses and permits sold, as a 25% match is required from the Department's funds.

Some KDWP programs are currently limited by state funding and would be bolstered by a state conservation fund.

As such, KDWP sees the value of such a fund for conservation efforts. And, as one of the agencies that would be required to administer the grants described in HB 2541, KDWP has the capacity to fulfill the requirements of this bill, so long as the Department be permitted to hire additional full-time employees to process grant applications and establish the required advisory boards.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2582

### **Increasing the membership of the Kansas wildlife and parks commission from seven to nine, granting membership appointment authority to multiple state officers and prohibiting more than three commissioners from being residents of the same congressional district.**

On 1/24/24, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget.

This bill had a hearing scheduled for 2/16/24. The Committee recommended this bill be passed as amended. Therefore, this bill is now on General Orders in the House.

Background: Serving as a regulatory body for KDWP, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission is a seven-member, non-partisan board made up of no more than four members of any one political party. Commissioners – appointed by the Governor and the Governor’s Office of Appointments – serve staggered four-year terms and advise the Secretary on planning and policy issues regarding administration of KDWP.

All Commission meetings are accessible and open to the public, and time is always set aside for public comment.

The Commission's Mission is that of the Department's: "To conserve and enhance Kansas' wildlife and its habitats, ensuring current and future generations appreciate and enjoy these living resources and associated recreation, while informing the public of the status of Kansas' natural resources, gaining understanding and support in achieving this mission."

Agency Stance: Opposed. Because members of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission are carefully selected to provide geographical and political equity – and because the end products (rules and regulations) of the Commission already require external review and/or approval from the Department of Administration, Attorney General’s Office, the Office of Budget, and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations – KDWP does not believe additional legislative oversight is warranted.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).



## HB 2671

### Lowering nonresident hunting license fees to \$25 and requiring the fee for an annual hunting license to be refundable for any person who does not acquire a hunting permit for the applicable hunting license year.

This bill was introduced in the House on 2/1/24.

This bill had a hearing on 2/12/24; the bill was amended. The Committee Report recommended the bill be passed as amended.

On 2/23/24, this bill was stricken from the calendar.

Background: HB 2671 would lower all fees for nonresident hunters to a maximum of \$25.00, and it would require a refund to all nonresidents that do “not obtain a hunting permit for the applicable hunting license year...” The fees associated with this bill would include the hunting license, tag (KDWP understands this to mean permit), application fees, and transaction fees.

If enacted, HB 2671 would result in an overall reduction in revenue of more than \$18 million (approx 56% of annual license sales) and could render KDWP unable to capture more than \$20 million of available federal funds each year, for a combined fiscal impact of over \$38 million annually.

As interest in and applications for nonresident draws continue to increase annually with current fees, KDWP believes it is poor fiscal policy to reduce fees when the demand for nonresident hunting continues to increase. Additionally, HB 2671 would make it cost less for a nonresident to hunt here than a Kansan.

Agency Stance: Given the catastrophic impact on KDWP’s budget and biased favoritism provided nonresident hunters over Kansas residents, KDWP stands in opposition of this bill.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2672

### **Establishing transferable landowner appreciation permits for the hunting of white-tailed deer and allowing one landowner appreciation permit for every 80 acres of land owned, up to 10 permits, for a fee of \$0.**

This bill was introduced in the House on 2/1/24, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget on 2/2/24.

This bill had a hearing on 2/19/24. The Committee recommended the bill be passed as amended. This bill is now on General Orders in the House.

On 2/23/24, this bill was stricken from the calendar.

Background: If enacted, HB 2672 would repeal all landowner or tenant hunt-on-your-own-land big game permits; repeal all special hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits; create a new “landowner appreciation permit” for any valid white-tail hunting season; allow one landowner appreciation permit to be issued for every 80 acres of land owned, up to 10 permits; and establish application and transfer requirements for such permits.

KDWP possesses the public land records from 2019 for 101 of the 105 counties in Kansas. By grouping the landholdings into 80-acre tracts, staff have estimated there could be as many as 366,000 possible transferrable “landowner appreciation permits” for whitetail deer issued by this bill. The potential impact resulting from the widescale issuance of transferrable deer permits on the Kansas whitetail deer herd would be catastrophic.

At this time, KDWP estimates the total loss of direct revenue would be approximately \$3,492,360; and it is estimated Kansas would forego no less than \$940,801 in lost Pittman-Robertson funds beginning in fiscal year 2026, and every year thereafter.

Agency Stance: Given the negative impact on KDWP’s budget and species conservation efforts, KDWP stands in opposition of this bill.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

---

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

---

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## HB 2817

### **Removing the maximum fee amount for controlled shooting area operator licenses and allowing the secretary of wildlife and parks to adjust such license fee amount on an annual basis to cover any projected loss of revenue caused by enactments concerning wildlife fees by the legislature.**

This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Federal and State Affairs on 2/29/24.

Background: The current annual fee for a Controlled Shooting Area (CSA) permit is \$200.00. In Kansas, there are currently 296 CSAs permitted by KDWP. In fiscal year 2024, these CSAs generated \$59,200.00 in revenue for the Department.

Should HB 2817 be enacted – and the same number of permitted CSAs re-register – the CSA permit fee would double to \$400.00, generating an estimated total annual revenue of \$118,400.00.

In addition, subsection (g)(2) of the bill would allow KDWP to increase CSA permit fees to make up for any lost revenue in the current or previous fiscal year attributable to a legislative enactment concerning wildlife fees.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

*– report continued on next page –*

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## SB 347

### Requiring Senate confirmation of appointees to the Wildlife and Parks Commission.

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 1/16/24, and referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on 1/17/24.

This bill had a hearing on 1/24/24. On 2/7/24, the Committee Report recommended the bill be passed.

On 2/13/24, the Committee of the Whole recommended the bill be passed. On 2/15/24, the Senate passed this bill in Final Action, 24 to 15.

On 2/19/24, this bill was introduced in the House and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget on 2/20/24.

This bill was scheduled for discussion and possible action on 2/29/24.

Final action on this bill is anticipated to take place on 3/6/24 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 118-N.

Background: A precedence has been set that Senate confirmation be necessary for Commissions and Boards where members have the ability and authority to oversee agency budgets and/or personnel. In the case of KDWP, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission does not have such ability or authority; rather their primary function is to solicit public input during the regulatory promulgation process.

Oversight of KDWP – to ultimately include it's budgets and/or personnel – falls under the authority of the agency Secretary. And because the Secretary position is one that already requires Senate confirmation, KDWP does not believe Senate confirmation of Wildlife and Parks Commissioners (given their primary function) is warranted.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

– report continued on next page –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## SB 370

### **Requiring legislative approval of any national heritage area or national historic trail in the state of Kansas and prohibiting state funding of any national heritage area or national historic trail unless such funding is first approved by the legislature of the state of Kansas.**

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 1/18/24, and referred to the Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs on 1/19/24.

This bill had a hearing scheduled for 2/13/24. The committee recommended this bill be passed as amended.

This bill is currently on Senate General Orders.

Background: The Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA), established in 2006, encompasses 29 counties in eastern Kansas and 12 counties in Western Missouri. FFNHA's mission is to support and promote the hundreds of willing partners including historic sites, museums, historical societies, libraries, and other cultural-heritage tourism destinations. Within the 29 Kansas counties, there are 14 State Parks and two additional State Park-managed properties. These 16 properties are important economic engines to the local communities they are situated within. Additionally, this area contains KDWP Wildlife Areas.

Kansas has five designated National Historic Trails consisting of the Lewis and Clark (designated 1978), Oregon (1978), Santa Fe (1987), California (1992), and the Pony Express (1992). Flint Hills Trail State Park (118 miles long) closely aligns with the Santa Fe National Historic Trail for approximately 30 miles and is on the same direct alignment for approximately 6 miles.

Due to the current locations of the 16 State Park properties, within the FFNHA and aligned with the Santa Fe National Historical Trail, SB 370 will have a direct effect on operations, revenues and expenditures for the Parks Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Agency Stance: Neutral.

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).

## SB 417

### Removing the secretary of wildlife and park's authority to exercise the right of eminent domain.

This bill was introduced in the Senate on 1/29/24, and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on 1/30/24.

This bill had a hearing on 2/13/24. The Committee recommended this bill be passed as amended. Therefore, this bill will now be on General Orders in the Senate.

On 2/22/24, this bill passed via Emergency Final action; 25 to 14.

This bill was introduced in the House on 2/28/24 and referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources on 2/29/24. A hearing in this Committee is anticipated.

Background: K.S.A. 32-840, which provides the Secretary of KDWP the ability to exercise eminent domain under very select conditions, is a statute that was enacted in 1927 and has been used sparingly. In fact, KDWP has not exercised this right in more than 65 years.

Because it is not customary for the Secretary to exercise this right, and because extraordinary circumstances may exist in the future where the tools prescribed in K.S.A. 32-840 may one day be warranted, the Department opposes SB 417, which seeks to repeal K.S.A. 32-840.

Agency Stance: Opposed.

– End of Report –

## About KDWP

KDWP is a cabinet-level agency with a Secretary appointed by the Governor. It's mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural resources and associated outdoor recreation.

## About the Legislative Update

This report, compiled by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' (KDWP) Public Affairs Section, is updated regularly with bills in the current Kansas Legislative Session that potentially affect KDWP and/or KDWP's constituents.

## Legislative Resources

To view the full text of any bill, visit [www.kslegislature.org](http://www.kslegislature.org).

For questions, contact the State Library of Kansas' Legislative Hotline at 800-432-3924 or [infodesk@ks.gov](mailto:infodesk@ks.gov).



# 2023/2024 Legislative Sessions "Bills-At-A-Glance"

UPDATED  
3/4/24

	Introduced	Referred to Committee	Committee Hearing	Committee Action	General Orders	Final Action	Referred to Committee 2nd Chamber	Committee Hearing 2nd Chamber	Committee Action 2nd Chamber	General Orders 2nd Chamber	Final Action 2nd Chamber	Enrolled
HB 2006	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2079	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2308	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2430	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SB 105*	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2476	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2524	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2541	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2582	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
HB 2671	■	■	■	■	This bill was stricken from the calendar.							
HB 2672	■	■	■	■	This bill was stricken from the calendar.							
HB 2817	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SB 347	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SB 370	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
SB 417	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

2023

2024

SB = SENATE BILL  
HB = HOUSE BILL  
CR = CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION

■ = NO ACTION  
■ = ACTION

■ = PASSED  
■ = AMMENDED & PASSED

■ = NOT PASSED  
\* = KDWP BILL

# **General Discussion**



## **Trout program regulations - season length and permit prices**

Rainbow trout are purchased from commercial sources and stocked throughout approximately 30 water bodies in the state every winter. The season has been Nov. 1 through April 15th. Trout prices have risen from \$1.50 per fish in 2010 to \$3.50 per fish in 2023. The total cost of the program has risen from \$171,000 in 2010 to \$280,000 in 2023. Unfortunately, during that same timeframe the number of anglers purchasing a trout permit has remained relatively steady, contributing only \$125,000 annually. That equates to approximately 10,000 trout permits sold every year. Due to fiscal concerns, it has become evident that the department needs to make some changes.

In 2023 the Fisheries Division surveyed trout anglers to gain a better understanding of the program and its users. Some of the more significant takeaways from this survey indicate that these anglers are typically not harvest oriented, want to catch fish, and this is not their main fishing activity for the year. Nearly all would still buy an annual fishing license if trout were not available to them. Therefore, this program is an opportunistic one that simply adds to their annual experience of fishing in Kansas. It's a great program to make necessary changes to as the risk seems to be low. However, these changes should be made in a positive way where the opportunity still exists at a reasonable level.

Based on fiscal concerns and using the survey for guidance, we propose constricting the trout season and increasing the cost of the trout permit. We propose changing the trout season from Nov. 1 through April 15 to Dec. 1 through March 31. Many of the survey participants also suggested increasing the cost of a trout permit if it meant maintaining the program. We propose increasing the trout permit cost from \$12.00 to \$17.50. We do not propose increasing the youth trout permit.

## **Aquatic Species Recovery Program**

While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the lead agency for threatened and endangered species, state agencies are becoming more involved in imperiled species management. The only way recovery and eventual delisting for some listed species will occur is through propagation and reintroduction stockings. Improvements in habitat quality in areas where listed species used to occur presents a unique opportunity to reestablish self-sustaining populations. In 2021, KDWP entered into a programmatic agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that made species reintroductions possible by providing legal protections to landowners who participate in reintroduction and monitoring efforts. This agreement also gives KDWP the authority to work with 21 listed species across the state. In addition, KDWP now has the capability to propagate imperiled species at its own facility with the construction of the Kansas Aquatic Biodiversity Center in 2018. Recovery efforts under the program began in 2023 and to date, reintroductions have been conducted on state threatened Plains Minnow (*Hybognathus placitus*) and federally endangered Neosho Mucket (*Lampsilis rafinesqueana*). Herein I will present the background of the program and describe past and future recovery efforts for imperiled aquatic species in Kansas.

# **Workshop Session**

**KAR 115-25-7**  
**Antelope; open season, bag limit and permits**

**Background**

This regulation pertains to seasons, bag limits, unit boundaries, permits and tags for pronghorn antelope.

Western Kansas pronghorn antelope populations have supported a hunting season since 1974. The firearm pronghorn season has been four days long since 1990, starting on the first Friday in October. The archery pronghorn season was nine days long from 1985 to 2004 and included the two weekends prior to the firearm season. In 2005, the archery season was reopened on the Saturday following the firearm season and continued through the end of October but this extended season was eliminated last season (2023) to reduce archery harvest pressure. A muzzleloader season was initiated in 2001. It has begun immediately after the archery season and ran for eight days, the last four overlapping the firearm season. Mean success rates over the past five seasons have been 19% (archery), 67% (muzzleloader) and 72% (firearms).

**Discussion & Recommendations**

In response to declining pronghorn populations, the Department has taken steps with both limited and unlimited permits to reduce harvest in recent years. However, reproduction improved this year, and no changes to season structure or permit types are anticipated.

We propose unlimited archery permits be allocated for both residents and nonresidents. Firearm and muzzleloader permits will remain restricted to residents, with half assigned to landowner/tenants and the remainder awarded to general residents. Firearm and muzzleloader permit allocations will be determined following winter aerial surveys.

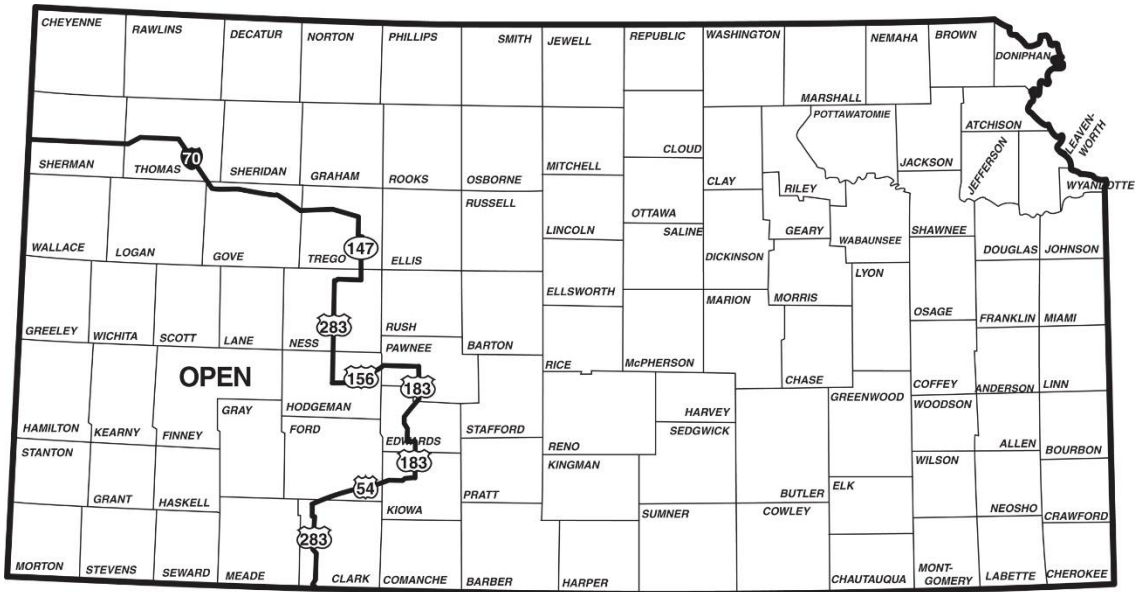
The season dates now established in this regulation will be:

September 21-29, 2024 for the archery season.

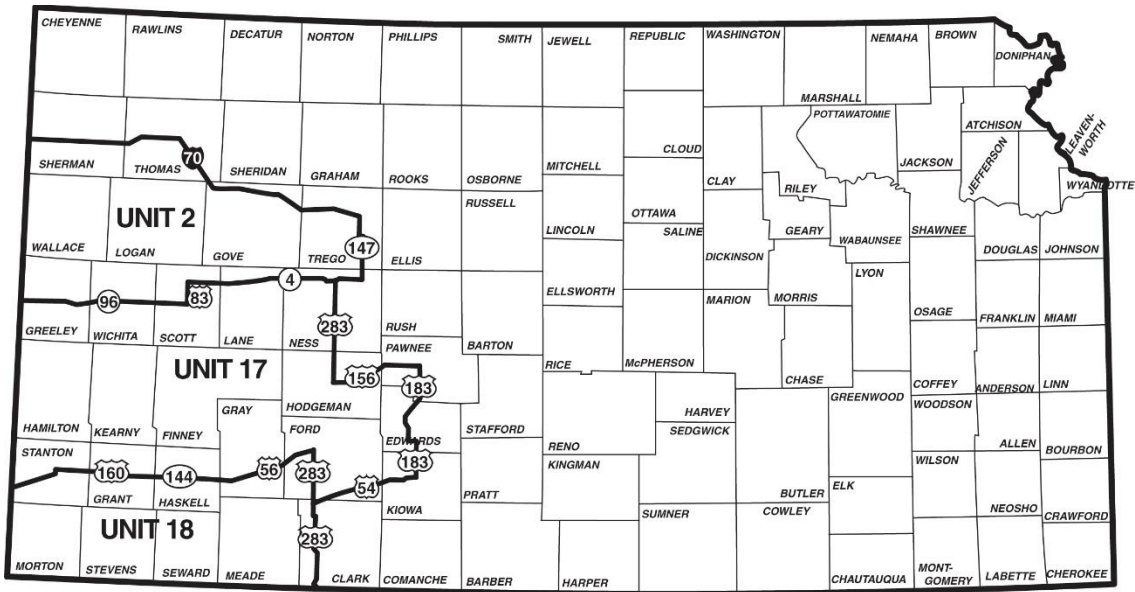
September 30-October 7, 2024 for the muzzleloader season.

October 4-7, 2024 for the firearm season.

# Archery Pronghorn Unit



# Firearm, Muzzleloader Pronghorn Units



## **KAR 115-25-8**

### **Elk; open season, bag limit and permits**

#### **Background**

This regulation pertains to seasons, bag limits, unit boundaries, permits and tags for elk hunting.

Elk were first reintroduced onto Fort Riley in 1986, and a hunting season was initiated in 1990. Most of the hunting opportunity in the state occurs on the Fort. However, elk do exist on private lands, though unpredictably in most of the state, with parts of southwest Kansas being the main exception. Elk also occur in the vicinity of Cimarron National Grasslands, but these elk are primarily found in neighboring states, and the Grasslands have been closed to elk hunting since 1995, following several years of heavy harvest pressure.

Since 1999, longer seasons and less restrictive permitting options have been authorized except near Fort Riley and the Grasslands. This framework is intended to allow for elk that may be causing crop damage or other conflicts on private land to be harvested, and for landowners to have the opportunity to maintain elk at desirable numbers on their own property while at the same time allowing the Fort Riley and Cimarron herds to be maintained.

#### **Discussion & Recommendations**

We do not currently anticipate any changes to bag limits or permit types.

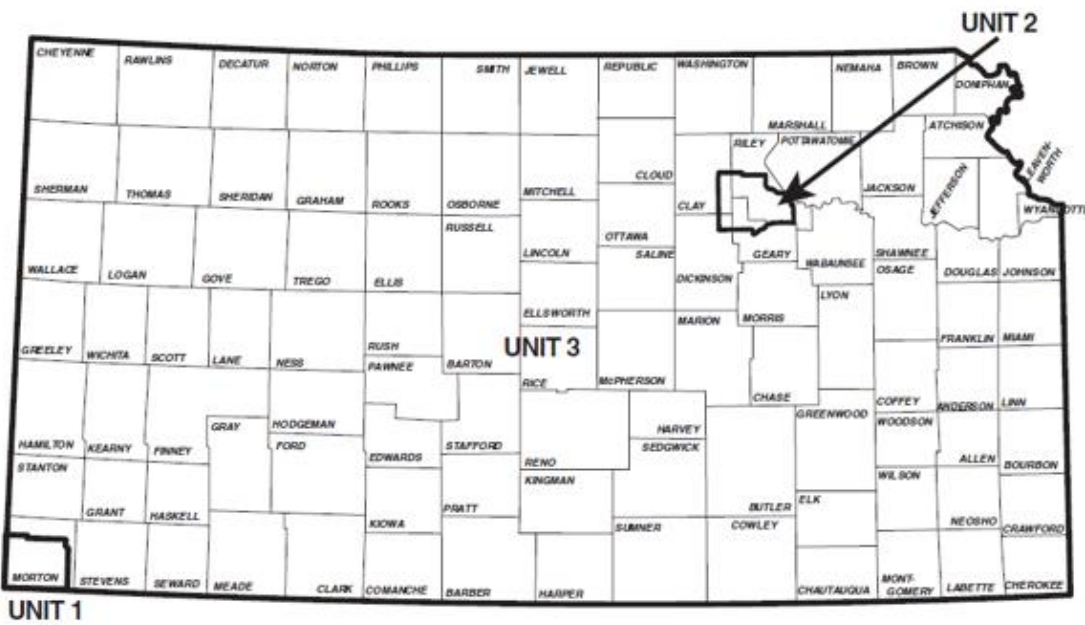
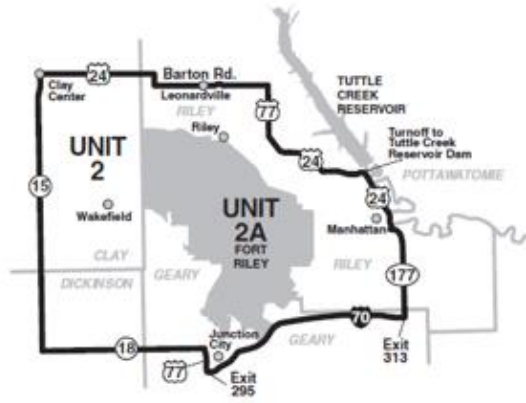
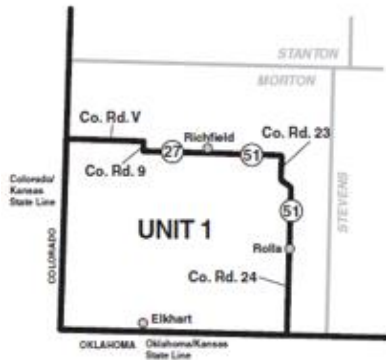
Unit boundaries are defined in K.A.R. 115-4-6b. Units 2 and 3 will be open to hunting.

Durable season dates are now established in this regulation and shall remain standard for existing seasons.

In addition to established seasons, we propose creating an additional firearms season on Fort Riley from January 1-31, 2025 open to all unfilled Fort Riley permit holders. It is hoped that this season will result in the harvest of a few more elk and create a little more flexibility in dealing with elk coming off the Fort.

Elk permits will be available only to Kansas residents, and permit applications will be separated into military and nonmilitary applicants. We propose that 12 any elk and 18 antlerless elk permits be authorized for Unit 2, which is the same number that has been authorized for the past 5 years. An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only and either-sex elk permits will also be authorized in Units 2 and 3. An unlimited number of general resident and landowner tenant antlerless-only and any-elk permits will be authorized in Unit 3.

# Elk Units



## **K.A.R. 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley, and Fort Leavenworth**

### **Background**

This regulation has typically been brought to a Public Hearing in June. This later period to finalize the seasons on the Kansas military subunits is necessary as the schedules for military training activities are occasionally unknown at the time KAR 115-25-9 is approved. The regulation has also been used to address legislative actions pertaining to deer hunting that were made after KAR 115-25-9 was approved.

### **Discussion**

We shall address all deer season on military subunits under one regulation. Personnel at Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth have been contacted and we have received preliminary information on the season dates that they prefer.

The proposed regulation:

**115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; military subunits.** (a) In addition to the pre-rut antlerless white-tailed deer only season specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9, in the Fort Riley subunit 8A an additional antlerless white-tailed deer only season shall also be November 29, 2024 to December 1, 2024.

(b) In the Fort Riley subunit, the open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be December 14, 2024 through December 22, 2024. A deer hunter may use only one white-tailed antlerless-only permit in Fort Riley.

(c) Five additional antlerless-only white-tailed deer permits shall be valid in subunit 8A.

(d) In the Fort Leavenworth subunit 10A, the open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be November 16, 2024 through November 17, 2024; November 23, 2024 through November 24, 2024; November 28, 2024 through December 1, 2024; December 7, 2024 through December 8, 2024; and December 14, 2024 through December 15, 2024.

(e) In the Fort Leavenworth subunit, the extended firearms season for the taking of antlerless-only white-tailed deer shall be January 1, 2025 through January 19, 2025.

(f) In the Fort Leavenworth subunit, the extended archery season for the taking of antlerless-only white-tailed deer shall be January 20, 2025 through January 31, 2025.

(g) In the Smokey Hill subunit, the open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be December 4, 2024 through December 15, 2024.

(h) Five additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be valid in subunit 4A. This regulation shall have no force and effect on and after March 1, 2025. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 32-807 and K.S.A. 32-937.)

### **Recommendation**

To accommodate both the U.S. Armed Forces' mission needs and deer hunting on the Kansas military subunits, adopt the proposed regulation providing for adjustments to the Kansas statewide deer seasons at those subunits.



# **Carcass Movement Regulation**

## **Discussion**

Movement of carcasses and improper disposal has been identified as a potentially major cause of the spread of CWD to new areas, often far from endemic areas and infected herds. Although all deer contracting CWD die, new strains of CWD have also been shown to increase prevalence in existing endemic areas as natural genetic resistance in that area may not affect the new strain, such that bringing new strains of CWD to an area is also a serious concern. Best management practices to slow the spread of CWD include limiting both interstate and intrastate movement of carcasses or the most infective parts.

### *Interstate Movement*

Potential Language:

Importation of wild cervid carcasses into Kansas is prohibited except for:

- Whole carcasses after a “not detected” CWD test is received from a test performed by an accredited laboratory;
- Quarters with all spine and head materials removed;
- Deboned meat;
- Cut and wrapped meat;
- Hides with excess flesh removed;
- Clean skulls;
- Clean teeth;
- Skull plate (cap) with antlers attached and cleaned of soft tissues;
- Antlers without skull plate (cap) attached;
- Finished taxidermy products and tanned hides;
- Heads and capes with not more than 6 inches of neck attached or antlers attached to uncleaned skull plate (cap) if they are submitted to a taxidermist within 72 hours after entry;
- Tissues for use at a diagnostic or research laboratory;
- Tissues for research, not being used at a laboratory, with prior approval by KDWP

Hunters must still maintain proof of sex as required by regulations.

### *Intrastate Movement*

Potential Language:

Movement of wild cervid carcasses more than 30 miles, or within any contiguous municipal area that intersects the 30-mile limit, outside of the deer management unit from which the carcass was obtained is prohibited except for:

- Whole carcasses after a “not detected” CWD test is received from a test performed by an accredited laboratory;
- Quarters with all spine and head materials removed;
- Deboned meat;
- Cut and wrapped meat;
- Hides with excess flesh removed;
- Clean skulls;
- Clean teeth;
- Skull plate (cap) with antlers attached and cleaned of soft tissues;
- Antlers without skull plate (cap) attached;
- Finished taxidermy products and tanned hides;

- Heads and capes with not more than 6 inches of neck attached or antlers attached to uncleaned skull plate (cap) if they are submitted to a taxidermist within 72 hours;
- Tissues for use at a diagnostic or research laboratory;
- Tissues for research, not being used at a laboratory, with prior approval by KDWP

Hunters must still maintain proof of sex as required by regulations.

**Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Briefing Item**  
**Webless Migratory Game Bird Regulations**  
*March 28, 2024*

**Background**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) develops frameworks annually, from which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state specific migratory game bird seasons. General stability in federal frameworks allows the inclusion of webless migratory bird regulations, bag limits, and season dates in KDWP permanent regulations, summarized below.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Regulation</b>	<b>Regulation Summary</b>
Crow	KAR 115-25-16	Open season, bag limit, and possession limit
	KAR 115-20-1	Legal equipment, taking methods and possession
Dove	KAR 115-25-19	Management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits
	KAR 115-20-7	Legal equipment, taking methods, and possession
	KAR 115-20-2	Exotic doves legal equipment, taking methods, possession, and license requirement
Sandhill Crane	KAR 115-25-20	Management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, bag and possession limits, and permit validation
Snipe, Rail & Woodcock	KAR 115-25-21	Snipe, rail, and woodcock; management unit, hunting season, shooting hours, and bag and possession limits

**Discussion**

Federal frameworks for webless migratory game birds are unchanged for the 2024-25 season. No changes are currently being proposed for webless migratory game bird regulations. A summary of seasons and bag limits currently included in regulation follows.

**Proposed 2024-25 Webless Migratory Game Bird Bag Limits and Season Dates**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Bag/Possession Limit</b>	<b>Season Dates</b>
Crow	no limit	November 10 – March 10
Migratory Dove	15/45	September 1 – November 29
Exotic Dove	no limit	year-round
Sandhill Crane	3/9	West Zone; October 19 – December 15 Central Zone; November 6 – January 2
Snipe	8/24	September 1 – December 16
Rail	25/75	September 1 – November 9
Woodcock	3/9	October 12 – November 25

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & PARKS BRIEFING ITEM**  
**2024-25 KANSAS WATERFOWL SEASON DATES, BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

March 28, 2024

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops frameworks from which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. The following is pertinent background material and USFWS frameworks with which Kansas may establish Kansas' 2024-25 waterfowl hunting seasons.

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON - Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most migrating through Kansas from August through October, often prior to the opening of general duck seasons. Green-winged teal are also early migrants but are commonly found in Kansas throughout the fall and winter. Cinnamon teal are occasionally found mixed with flocks of blue-winged teal in Kansas. Special teal seasons were initiated to provide additional harvest opportunities for blue-winged and green-winged teal when their populations are above certain thresholds. States can offer a 9-day September teal season when the blue-winged teal breeding population index (BPI) is above 3.3 million and a 16-day season is permitted when the blue-winged teal BPI exceeds 4.7 million. The most recent blue-winged teal BPI allows for a 16-day season for 2022. In the High Plains Unit of Kansas (west of Highway 283), the liberal package framework allows for 97 days of general duck season. Coupled with two youth hunting days, the addition of a nine- or 16-day teal season would exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's (MBTA) maximum allowance of 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. Thus, when the liberal package for the regular duck season is available and a teal season can be held, it is necessary to either reduce the High Plains Unit teal season to eight days or reduce days in the High Plains Unit general duck season to 96 days in order to not exceed 107-day MBTA limitation. For the past 10 seasons, a nine-day teal season coupled with a 96-day regular duck season has been selected in the High Plains Unit to satisfy this criterion.

DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS - Since 1995, Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been adopted for setting duck hunting regulations in the United States. The AHM approach provides the framework for making objective decisions through four regulatory packages listed below. Optimal AHM strategies are calculated using: (1) harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights for midcontinent mallards. The four AHM regulatory alternatives are:

**- Liberal Alternative**

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

**- Moderate Alternative**

- Season Length: 60-day Low Plains Season, 83-day High Plains Season
- Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Restrictive Alternative**
  - Season Length: 39-day Low Plains Season, 51-day High Plains Season
  - Daily bag limit: 3 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Closed Alternative**

GOOSE SEASONS - Harvest prescriptions for the Central Flyway's goose populations are based on population and harvest objectives as specified in population specific management plans.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. Youth waterfowl hunting days do not count against framework season dates but the total hunting days for any one migratory species cannot exceed 107 hunting days.

VETERANS AND ACTIVE MILITARY WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - States may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Veteran and Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. Veterans and active military waterfowl hunting days do not count against framework season dates but the total hunting days for any one migratory species cannot exceed 107 hunting days.

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON - In addition to general waterfowl seasons, falconers may take migratory game birds during the special "extended" falconry season. The combined total number of days of take (i.e., teal season, general waterfowl season, and falconry) cannot exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act imposed maximum allowable 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. This generally allows for additional 15 hawking days for waterfowl in Kansas Low Plain zones.

## 2024-25 WATERFOWL FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

### SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

- *Season Dates:* Between September 1 and September 30
- *Season Length:* Not to exceed 16 consecutive days
- *Daily Bag Limit:* 6 teal (any combination of teal)
- *Possession Limit:* Three times the daily bag limit
- *Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split:* No zones or splits options

### DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS

- *Season Dates:* Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and January 31.
- *Season Length:*
  - *High Plains Mallard Management Unit:* not to exceed 97 days. The last 23 days must run consecutively and may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 7).
  - *Low Plains Unit:* not to exceed 74 days
- *Daily Bag Limit:*
  - *Duck and Merganser:* any combination of 6 ducks and/or mergansers, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, and 1 scaup.
  - *Coot:* 15 coots
- *Possession Limit:* Three times the daily bag limit.
- *Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split:*
  - *High Plains – no zones and up to two segments*
  - *Low Plains – Three zones with each having up to two segments or no zones with three segments* Ducks zones are visited every five years. Next zone configuration window will be in 2026.

### GOOSE SEASONS

- *Season Dates:*
  - *Dark Geese* (all geese except Ross's and snow geese): Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 16).
  - *Light Geese* (Ross's and Snow): Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 21) and March 10.
  - *Light Goose Conservation Order:* Between January 1 and April 30. (KAR 115-18-16).
- *Season Length:*
  - *Dark Geese:*
    - *Canada geese or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese:* not to exceed 107 days
    - *White-fronted geese:* states may select either a season of:
      - Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3
      - Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2

- *Light Geese*: not to exceed 107 days
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons

*Daily Bag Limit:*

- *Dark Geese*:
  - Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) 8 geese
  - White-fronted geese - states may select either a season of:
    - Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3
    - Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2
- *Light Geese*: 50 light geese
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: No daily bag limit

*Possession Limit:*

- *Dark Geese*: Three times the daily bag limit
- *Light Geese*: No possession limit
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: No possession limit

*Shooting Hours:*

- *General Goose Seasons*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Light Goose Conservation Season*: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

*Zones/ Split:*

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

**SPECIAL YOUTH AND VETERAN/ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS**

- *Season Dates*: The Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days must be held outside any regular duck season on weekends, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate. Both sets of days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.
- *Season Length*: may select two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” and two days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting Days.” The days may be held concurrently or separately.
- *Daily Bag Limits*: The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules. The daily bag limits are the same as those allowed in the regular season frameworks except in States that are allowed a daily bag limit of 1 or 2 scaup during different portions of the season, in which case the bag limit is 2 scaup per day. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.
- *Shooting Hours*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- *Participation Restrictions for Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days*: States may use their established definition of age for youth hunters. However, youth hunters must be under the age of 18. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day. Youth hunters 16 years of age and older must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp).



- *Participation Restrictions for Veterans and Active Military Personnel Waterfowl Hunting*

*Days:* Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate. All hunters must possess a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (also known as Federal Duck Stamp).

**EXTENDED FALCONRY WATERFOWL SEASON**

- *Season Dates:* Between September 1 and March 10
- *Season Length:* For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area.
- *Daily Bag Limit:* No more than 3 migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate
- *Possession Limit:* Three times the daily bag limit
- *Shooting Hours:* One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Zones/ Split:* Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of three segments

**KDWP Season Setting Decision Process** - The setting of waterfowl seasons is a bio-political process, balancing not only biotic factors but also social implications. Season dates are a preference for where, when, how, and what one hunts. The season setting objective is to align season dates that allow greatest opportunity for participation and harvest for Kansas' diverse waterfowling. When developing waterfowl seasons, KDWP evaluate a variety of considerations, deriving their season date recommendations on spatial and temporal distribution of waterfowl abundance, timing of potential high hunter participation, peaks of harvest opportunity, climatic factors, as well incorporating hunter feedback. With stabilized federal frameworks over the past 27 years, KDWP is striving to establish consistency in its season date selections. Beginning in 2021, KDWP has been incorporating decision tools to assist in the season setting process by identifying important season date parameters for each of Kansas waterfowl seasons. This process is to develop season selection stability, reduce bias, and add transparency in the season date selections. Below are season date parameters in order of priority.

*September Teal Season* – Where 16-day season is permitted, open the second Saturday of September and end on the last Sunday of September. Where 9-day season is permitted, open the third Saturday of September and end on the last Sunday of September.

*Youth, Veteran, Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days* – To be held 1 week prior to the opening day of duck season in each of the respective Kansas duck zones.

*Early Zone Duck Season* – Where 74-day season is permitted, to open the second Saturday of October, end the season the Sunday on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, split the season whereas the first segment 58 days and the second segment has 16 days.

*Late Zone Duck Season* – Where 74-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, open the season on the last Saturday of October, split the season with first segment having 65 days and last segment 9 days, and the season split to be 19 days.

*Southeast Zone Duck Season* – Where 74-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, split season where the first segment ends on the Sunday on or after January 1<sup>st</sup>, open the season the Saturday closest to November 8<sup>th</sup>.

*High Plains Duck Unit Season* – Where 97-day season is permitted, end the season on the last Sunday of January, open the season on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of October, split season with first segment closing on the Sunday closest to or on January 1<sup>st</sup> and last segment 10 days.

*White-fronted Goose Season* – Where 88-day season is permitted, open with the Late Zone Duck Season, close the season on the Sunday closest to February 15<sup>th</sup>, split the season with the first segment ends on the Sunday closest to January 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Canada and Light Goose Season* – Where 107-day season is permitted, open with the Late Zone Duck Season, close the season on the Sunday closest to February 15<sup>th</sup>, the second segment to be 103 days and the first segment to have 2 days.

*Extended Falconry Waterfowl Season* – to be held 15 days ending the season on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

**KDWP STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR KANSAS' 2024-25 WATERFOWL SEASONS**

**September Teal Season**

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

- High Plains Unit                 Sep. 21 to Sep. 29
- Low Plains Zones Sep. 14 to Sep. 29

**Youth, Veterans and Active Military Waterfowl Hunting Days**

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

**Duck, Merganser, and Coot Seasons**

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

- High Plains Unit:   Oct. 12 to Jan. 05 and Jan. 17 to Jan. 26
- Low Plains Early Zone                                     Oct. 12 to Dec. 08 and Dec. 21 to Jan. 05
- Low Plains Late Zone                                     Oct. 26 to Dec. 29 and Jan. 18 to Jan. 26
- Low Plains Southeast Zone                             Nov. 09 to Jan. 05 and Jan. 11 to Jan. 26

**Canada, White-fronted, Brant, and Light Geese**

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

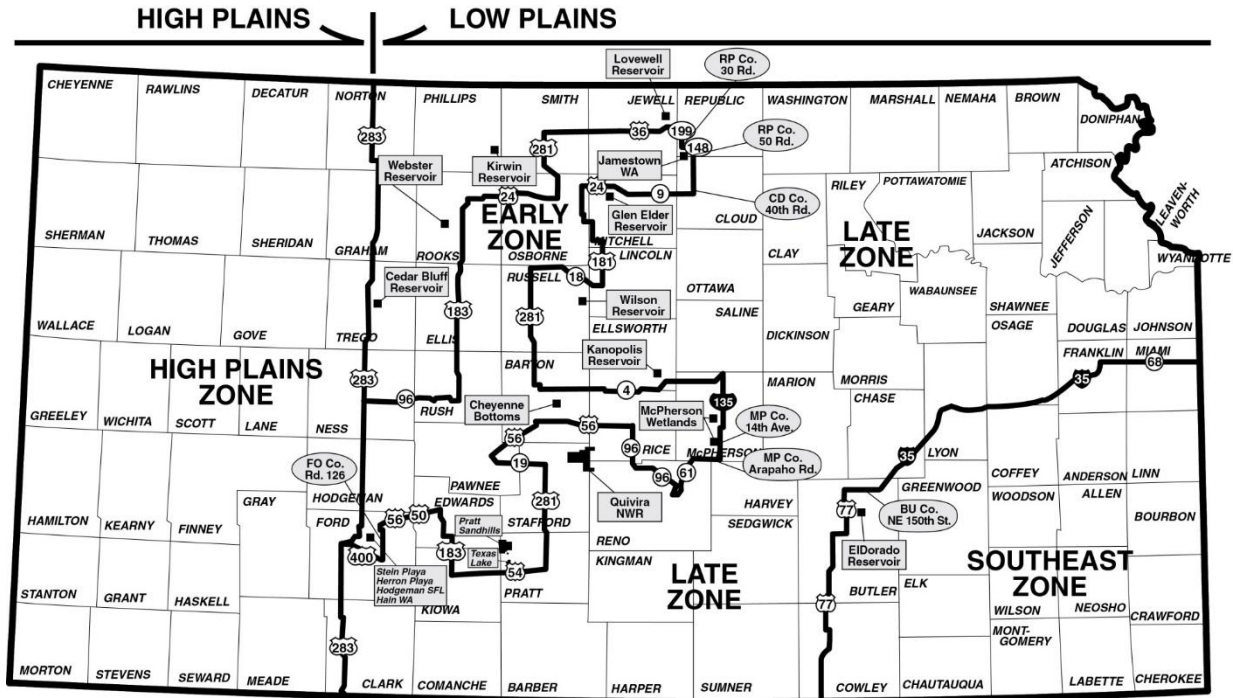
- White-fronted geese:                                     Oct. 26 to Dec. 29 and Jan. 18 to Feb. 09
- Dark and Light Geese:                                     Oct. 26 to Oct. 27 and Oct. 30 to Feb. 09
- Light Goose Conservation Order:                    Feb. 10 to Apr. 30

**Extended Falconry Waterfowl Season**

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

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

Figure 1. Kansas Duck Hunting Zones



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

- **K.A.R. 115-7-3, 7-2, 7-9, 7-10 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations (at AGs office)**
- **K.A.R. 115-30-4 Fire Extinguishers; Requirements (at AGs office)**
- **K.A.R. 115-25-14 Fishing (Reference Document) (At Dept of Admin)**
- **K.A.R. 115-2-3 Camping, utility, and other fees (At Dept of Admin)**
- **K.A.R. 115-8-1 Public Lands regulations (Reference Document) (awaiting edits)**
- **K.A.R. 115-8-26 new Public Lands regulations (awaiting edits)**
- **K.A.R. 115-4-4 Big game equipment (awaiting edits)**

---

## 2024 Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations

KAR(s)??? Require completion of an ‘AIS Affirmation’ prior to participating in these KDWP licensed activities that have a high risk of spreading AIS:

Operating a boat registered in Kansas in Kansas waters

The ‘AIS Affirmation’ would be a short summary to educate and raise awareness of what AIS are, their impacts, and how they are spread.

Potentially KAR 115-17-3? Require successful completion of ‘AIS Certification’ (<https://programs.ksoutdoors.com/Programs/Aquatic-Nuisance-Species-Certification-Course>) of applicants for a Commercial Fish Bait Permit.

KAR 115-7-3: Replace the word “nuisance” with “invasive” in all four instances in which it occurs.

KAR 115-7-2: Replace the word “nuisance” with “invasive” in all three instances in which it occurs.

KAR 115-7-9: Replace the word “nuisance” with “invasive” in the one instance in which it occurs.

KAR 115-7-10: Replace the word “nuisance” with “invasive” in all ten instances in which it occurs. Replace “ANS” with “AIS” in the one instance in which it occurs. Add Willow Lake and the Riley County portion of the Kansas River to the Kansas Aquatic Nuisance (Invasive) Species Designated Waters list.

---

## Boating Regulations Changes

### #2 K.A.R. 115-30-4 (Current Regulation)

**115-30-4. Fire extinguishers; requirements.** (a) United States coast guard approved hand portable fire extinguishers of type B, size I or type B, size II or both shall be carried on board each motorboat as determined by the following classes:

(1) Class A: at least one type B, size I fire extinguisher shall be carried if any one or more of the following conditions exist:

(A) an inboard engine;

(B) closed compartments under thwarts and seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored;

(C) double bottom construction not sealed to the hull or not completely filled with flotation materials;

(D) closed compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored; or

(E) permanently installed fuel tanks. Fuel tanks that cannot be moved in case of fire or other emergency or if the weight of the fuel tank precludes movement of the tank by an individual on board shall be considered permanently installed.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not apply if the motorboat has a United States coast guard approved built-in or affixed fire extinguisher in the motor area.

(3) Class 1: at least one type B, size I fire extinguisher shall be carried, except the provisions of this subsection

not apply if the motorboat has a United States coast guard approved built-in or affixed fire extinguisher in the motor area.

(4) Class 2: at least two type B, size I fire extinguishers or one type B, size II fire extinguisher shall be carried, except each motorboat that has a United States coast guard approved built-in or affixed fire extinguisher in the motor area shall only be required to carry at least one type B, size I fire extinguisher.

(5) Class 3: at least three type B, size I fire extinguishers or one type B, size I fire

---

extinguisher and one type B, size II fire extinguisher shall be carried, except each motorboat that has a United States coast guard approved built-in or affixed fire extinguisher in the motor area shall only be required to carry at least two type B, size I fire extinguishers or one type B, size II fire extinguisher.

(b) Each vessel, including each motorboat having an approved built-in or affixed fire extinguisher in the motor area, that has enclosed living spaces or galleys shall carry at least one United States coast guard approved type B, size I or type B, size II fire extinguisher in the living space or galley. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 1989 Supp. 32-1119; effective Jan. 1, 1991.)



USCG REGULATION CHANGE (REQUIRES UPDATING REGULATION)

## Fire Protection for Recreational Boats

New regulation goes into effect on 04/20/2022

Start Here

Is Fire Extinguisher  
Readily Accessible?

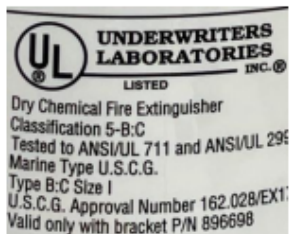
- ✓ Marine Type U.S.C.G.?
- ✓ Correct Classification (Note 1)?
- ✓ Not > 12 years old (Note 2)?

Good & Serviceable?  
(Note 3)

- Note 1 – a.** Extinguishers **UL Classified 5-B:C/10-B:C** (or greater) meet carriage requirements for ALL recreational vessels regardless of vessel age.
- b.** Extinguishers rated as **Marine Type USCG Type B:C, size I or size II** are only acceptable on vessels built model year 2017 or earlier.  
*(Model year means the period beginning June 1 of a year and ending on July 31 of the following year and being designated by the year in which it ends.)*
- c.** Ratings that include higher numbers or more letters are acceptable.
- d.** One 20-B extinguisher may be carried to replace two required 5-B extinguishers.
- e.** There are special rules for vessels built prior to 1952.
- Note 2 –** Make sure disposable fire extinguisher is not more than 12 years old from date stamp on bottle. Must be removed from service on 31 December of the 12<sup>th</sup> year.
- Note 3 –** See Good & Serviceable meaning below.

[Link to Federal Register Notice: 2021-22578.pdf \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

### Label example



### Date Stamp Example



**Good and serviceable** working condition means:

- (i)** If the extinguisher has a pressure gauge reading or indicator it must be in the operable range or position;
- (ii)** The lock pin is firmly in place;
- (iii)** The discharge nozzle is clean and free of obstruction; and
- (iv)** The extinguisher does not show visible signs of significant corrosion or damage.

[WWW.USCGBOATING.ORG](http://WWW.USCGBOATING.ORG)

---

## **2024 Fishing Regulations (reference document, part of KAR 115-25-14)**

### **Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits:**

- Clinton Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- Glen Elder Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- John Redmond Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- Melvern Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- El Dorado Reservoir – Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- Elk City Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, including only 1 30" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- Milford Reservoir - Change to a 10/day creel limit, with a 28" to 40" slot length limit, including only 1 fish 40" or longer, on Blue Catfish
- Graham County – Trexler Lake – Change to a 5/day creel limit on Channel Catfish
- Graham County – Trexler Lake – Change to a 2/day creel limit and 18" minimum length limit on Walleye
- Great Bend – Veteran's Lake – Change to a 21" minimum length limit on Saugeye
- Sherman County – Smokey Gardens - remove the 2/day creel limit on Channel Catfish
- Sherman County – Smokey Gardens - remove Catch and Release Only on Largemouth Bass
- Marquette - Eisenhower Park Pond - Add a 2/day creel limit and 15" minimum length limit on Channel Catfish

Remove Neosho Falls Dam, Erie Dam, and Oswego Dam on the Neosho River, Coffeyville Dam on the Verdigris River, and Ottawa Dam on the Marais des Cygnes River, from the list of Paddlefish Snagging Locations.

---

## Workshop Session – Pending Regulations

### Public Lands Reference Document

January 25, 2024

#### **KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting furharvesting, and discharge of firearms.**

##### **Background**

Subsection (e) of this regulation covers the Department’s Public Lands Division Special Use Restrictions. This reference document within the regulation is reviewed annually for revisions.

##### **Discussion**

The issue of excessive pressure on our public waterfowl hunting areas and concern over the negative impacts on waterfowl and resident hunter satisfaction has prompted additional action by the Department.

##### **Recommendations**

###### **I.) Access Restrictions**

The following properties have **specified** access restrictions (~~curfews~~) ~~during specific times during a 24 hour period.~~

###### **Region 1**

- Hain WA & SFL-no vehicle access during waterfowl seasons
- Greeley WA- Closed to all activities February 1 through August 31
- Pratt Backwater Channel-open 6 a.m. through 10 p.m.
- Sandsage Bison Range & WA--access subject to Posted Notice

###### **Region 2**

- Benedictine WA-use of parking lot ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise restricted to individuals authorized by permit
- Pillsbury Crossing WA-open 6 a.m. through 10 p.m.

###### **Region 3**

- Grand Osage WA – Access by Special Permit Only  
Access Through Main Gates Only
- Maxwell Wildlife Refuge-access restricted to main road, area closed to all activities, except during special events
- ~~-Neosho WA—no access into the wetland before 5:00AM and must exit wetland by one hour after sunset~~
- No access into a wetland before 5:00AM and must exit the wetland within one hour after sunset
- Neosho WA
- McPherson Valley Wetlands
- Slate Creek Wetlands
- Byron Walker WA
- Perry WA Wetlands

**Section VI. Boating Restrictions:**

**a.) No Motorized Boats**

**Region 1**

- Cheyenne Bottoms WA and Jamestown WA-motorized watercraft permitted only during the waterfowl seasons. No boats permitted from 4/15 through 8/15. No out of water propeller driven watercraft permitted at any time.
- Cheyenne Bottoms WA – Pool 3A
- Cheyenne Bottoms WA – Pool 4A after 1:00PM only
- Jamestown WA- Pintail, Puddler, Buffalo Creek, and Gamekeeper West Marshes
- Talmo Marsh

**Region 2**

- Milford WA-no motorized boats are allowed in any wetland areas except Mall Creek/Peterson Bottoms
- Perry WA -motorized watercraft permitted in wetlands only during waterfowl seasons

**Region 3**

- Elk City WA-Widgeon, Simmons, Housemound Marshes
- McPherson Valley Wetlands
- Neosho WA-motorized watercraft permitted only during waterfowl seasons. No motorized watercraft in Pools 4A and 4B. No out of water propeller driven watercraft permitted at any time

**Add subsection (d) No vessels allowed**

**-Cheyenne Bottoms WA = vessels permitted only during waterfowl seasons**

Vessel = watercraft or other artificial contrivance used, or capable of being used, as a means of transportation on water, other than a public vessel (USCG)

**XII.) Refuges**

The following properties have portions of the area designated as a refuge during specific periods of the year, or year-round. Access and activity restrictions are for refuge management, special hunts, or special permits.

**a.) Refuge Area Closed to All Activities Year Round**

**Region 1**

- Cedar Bluff WA (Operations Area East of Dam)
- Cheyenne Bottoms WA-Pool 1
- Lovewell WA (designated land area)

**Region 2**

- Benedictine WA
- Jeffrey Energy Center-Area #3
- Marais des Cygnes WA

**Region 3**

- Fall River WA
- McPherson Wetlands - South Refuge
- Mined Land WA Bison Pen located on Unit 1

- 
- Byron Walker WA; around headquarters and archery range
  - Cherokee Lowlands WA (Perkin's east and Bogner center tracts)

## **XV. Daily Hunt Permits**

*The Department is recommending adding all Public Lands properties (state fishing lakes and wildlife areas) into the electronic check-in/check-out system. This requirement would be for hunting activity only.*

Electronic ~~D~~daily use permits are required ~~on the following properties~~ through the department's licensing system for hunting activity on the following properties:

### **Statewide**

-All Department managed lands and waters (Wildlife Areas and State Fishing Lakes)

\*Excluding Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, Big Basin Prairie Preserve, and all State

Parks

-iWIHA properties

### **Region 1**

~~-Cheyenne Bottoms WA In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~

~~-Glen Elder WA~~

~~-Isabel WA~~

~~-Jamestown WA In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~

~~-Lovewell WA In addition to daily hunt permit, trapping permit is required from the manager to trap~~

~~-Talmo Marsh~~

~~-Texas Lake WA~~

### **Region 2**

~~-Benedictine Bottoms~~

~~-Blue Valley WA~~

~~-Bolton WA~~

~~-Clinton WA~~

~~-Dalbey WA~~

~~-Douglas SFL~~

~~-Elwood WA~~

~~-Hillsdale WA~~

~~-Jeffrey Energy Center WA Area # 2~~

~~-Kansas River WA~~

~~-La Cygne WA~~

~~-Lyon SFL~~

~~-Marais des Cygnes WA~~

~~-Melvern WA~~

~~-Milford WA~~

~~-Oak Mills WA~~

- Perry WA
- Tuttle Creek WA

**Region 3**

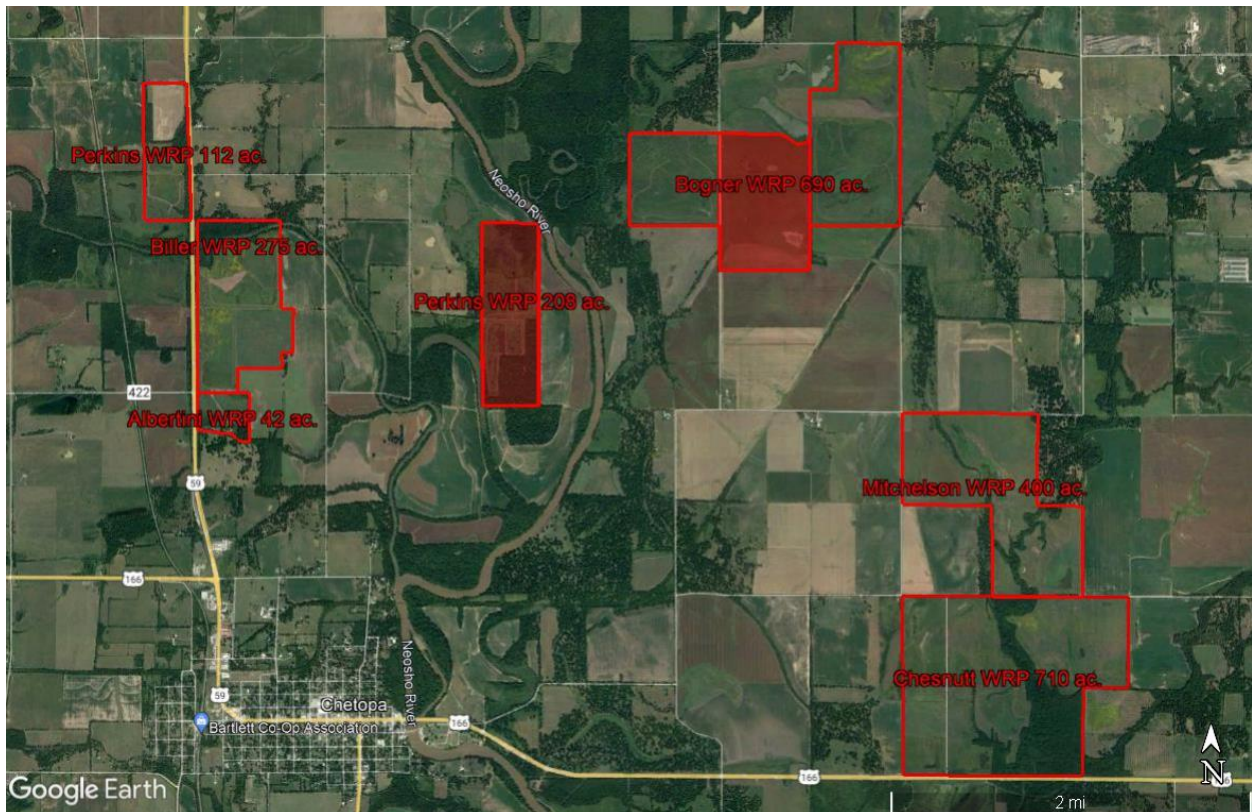
- Berentz/Dick WA
- Marion WA
- McPherson Wetlands
- Neosho WA
- Slate Creek Wetland

**XVI. Daily Use Permits**

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

**Region 2**

- Buck Creek WA
- Noe WA



---

**115-8-26. Nonresident waterfowl hunting.** (a) During any established hunting season for migratory waterfowl, a nonresident shall be restricted to Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays for the hunting and taking of migratory waterfowl at the following locations:

(1) department lands and waters;

(2) federal lands and waters owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Army, U.S. Army Corp of Engineer at the following reservoirs: Big Hill, Clinton, Council Grove, El Dorado, Elk City, Fall River, Hillsdale, John Redmond, Kanopolis, Marion, Melvern, Milford, Perry, Pomona, Toronto, Tuttle Creek, and Wilson; and

(3) federal lands and waters owned by the United States and administered by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation at the following reservoirs: Cedar Bluff, Cheney, Glen Elder (Wakonda Lake), Lovewell, Norton (Keith Sebelius Lake), and Webster.

(4) federal lands and waters owned by the United States and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Flint Hills National Wildlife Refuge, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge, Marais des Cygnes National Wildlife Refuge, and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge.

(b) The following definitions shall apply to this regulation:

(1) “Migratory waterfowl” shall have the same meaning as K.S.A. 32-1008(a)(2), and amendments thereto.

(2) “Nonresident” shall have the same meaning as K.S.A. 32-701(1), and amendments thereto, but it shall not include:

(A) a nonresident lifetime license holder, pursuant to K.S.A. 32-930(a)(2), and amendments thereto;

(B) a nonresident active-duty military personnel, pursuant to K.S.A. 32-980(b)(1), and amendments thereto;

(C) an active-duty military personnel and the immediate family members domiciled with such individual, pursuant to K.S.A. 32-980(b)(2), and amendments thereto; or

(D) a nonresident full-time student, pursuant to K.S.A. 32-930(b)(3), and amendments thereto.

(3) “Department lands and waters” shall have the same meaning as K.A.R. 115-1-1(a)(14)

(c) These restrictions shall not apply to the spring snow goose Conservation Order season.

(d) These restrictions shall not apply to property enrolled and designated as either a walk-in hunting access (WIHA) area or an integrated walk-in hunting access (iWIHA) area.

(e) These restrictions shall not apply to the navigable rivers in Kansas which are the Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas rivers.

---

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **D. Workshop Session (Pending)**

#### **Big Game 4-Series 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. 115-4-4. 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**

Recently, questions regarding the materials allowable muzzleloader projectiles may be made from have arisen. Currently the allowable projectiles include only: tumble-on-impact, hard-cast solid lead, conical lead, or sabot bullets. The regulation as written may not allow bullets made from modern nontoxic materials.

##### **Recommendation**

Proposed Regulation Change:

115-4-4. Big game; legal equipment and taking methods. (a) Hunting equipment for the taking of big game during a big game archery season shall consist of the following:

(1) Archery equipment.

(A) No bow or arrow shall have any electronic device attached to the bow or arrow that controls the flight of the arrow. Devices that may be attached to a bow or arrow shall include lighted pin, dot, or

holographic sights; illuminated nocks; rangefinders; film or video cameras; locking draws; and radiofrequency location devices.

(B) Each arrow used for hunting shall be equipped with a broadhead point incapable of passing through a ring with a diameter of three-quarters of an inch when fully expanded. A big game hunter



---

using archery equipment may possess non-broadhead-tipped arrows while hunting if the arrows are not used to take or attempt to take big game animals.

(2) Crossbows using arrows that are equipped with broadhead points incapable of passing through a ring with a diameter of three-quarters of an inch when fully expanded.

(A) A big game hunter using crossbow equipment may possess non-broadhead-tipped arrows while hunting if the arrows are not used to take or attempt to take big game animals.

(B) No crossbow or arrow shall have any electronic device attached to the crossbow or arrow that controls the flight of the arrow. Devices that may be attached to a crossbow or arrow shall include

lighted pin, dot, or holographic sights; illuminated nocks; rangefinders; film or video cameras; and

radio-frequency location devices.

(b) Hunting equipment for the taking of big game during a big game muzzleloader-only season shall consist of the following:

(1) Archery and crossbow equipment as authorized in subsection (a); and

(2) muzzleloading rifles, pistols, and muskets that can be loaded with bullets only through the front of the firing chamber and are .40 inches in diameter bore or larger. Only tumble-on-impact, hardcast solid lead, conical lead, or sabot bullets shall be used with muzzleloading rifles, pistols, and muskets.

(c) Hunting equipment for the taking of big game during a big game firearm season shall consist of the following:

(1) Archery and crossbow equipment as authorized in subsection (a);

(2) muzzleloader-only season equipment as authorized in subsection (b);

(3) centerfire rifles and handguns that are not fully automatic, while using only tumble-on-impact, hard-cast solid lead, soft point, hollow point, or other expanding bullets; and

(4) shotguns using only slugs.

(d)(1) Each individual hunting deer or elk during a firearms deer or elk season and each individual assisting an individual hunting deer or elk as authorized by K.A.R. 115-4-2 or K.A.R. 115-

18-15 during a firearms deer or elk season shall wear outer clothing of a bright orange color commonly

referred to as daylight fluorescent orange, hunter orange, blaze orange, or safety orange. This bright

orange color shall be worn as follows:

(A) A hat or other garment upon the head with the exterior of not less than 50 percent of the bright orange color, an equal portion of which is visible from all directions; and

(B) at least 100 square inches of the bright orange color that is on the front of the torso and is visible from the front and at least 100 square inches that is on the rear of the torso and is visible from the

rear.

(2) Lures, decoys except live decoys, and nonelectric calls shall be legal while hunting big game.

(3) Any individual may use blinds and stands while hunting big game.

(4) Optical scopes or sights that project no visible light toward the target and do not

---

electronically amplify visible light or detect infrared light or thermal energy may be used.

(5) Any range-finding device, if the device does not project visible light toward the target, may be used.

(6) Devices capable of dispensing lethal, debilitating, or immobilizing chemicals to take big game animals shall not be used.

(e) Shooting hours for deer, antelope, and elk during each day of any deer, antelope, or elk hunting season shall be from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

(f) Horses and mules may be used while hunting big game, except that horses and mules shall not be used for herding or driving big game.

(g) Firearm report-suppressing devices may be used.

(h) Handguns may be possessed during all big game seasons. However, no handgun shall be used to take deer except as legal equipment specified in subsection (c) during a big game firearms season.

(i) Dogs may be used to retrieve dead or wounded big game animals if the following requirements are met:

(1) Each dog shall be maintained on a handheld leash at all times while tracking the big game animal.

(2) An individual tracking big game animals outside of legal shooting hours shall not carry any equipment capable of harvesting the big game animal.

(3) Each individual harvesting a big game animal shall be limited to the equipment type for the permit and the season that is authorized.

(4) Each individual participating in the tracking of the big game animal shall have a hunting license, unless the individual is exempt by law or regulation. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A.

2020 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2020 Supp. 32-937; effective June 1, 2001; amended April 19, 2002;

amended April 22, 2005; amended June 2, 2006; amended April 13, 2007; amended April 11, 2008;

amended May 21, 2010; amended April 20, 2012; amended April 19, 2013; amended Sept. 4, 2014;

amended April 26, 2019; amended May 22, 2020; amended July 23, 2021.)