

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

K.A.R. 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits.

DESCRIPTION: This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2006 firearm, muzzleloader, and archery antelope seasons. The hunting units include all of the area included during the 2005 season. An unlimited number of archery permits are authorized, however, recent trends indicate that about 125 people may apply for these permits for residents. New for this year is the addition of unlimited nonresident archery antelope permits. It is anticipated that demand for those permits will be low.

The proposed unit boundaries for the 2006 firearm hunting season are the same as the 2005 unit boundaries. A total of 130 firearms permits are proposed in two management units as follows: Unit 2 - 100 permits and Unit 17 - 30 permits, an increase of 12 total permits from 2005.

In addition, 44 muzzleloader permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2 - 26 permits, Unit 17 - 10 permits, and Unit 18 - 8 permits, an increase of 6 total permits from 2005.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that 309 antelope hunting permits will be authorized. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be \$12,500. That amount represents equal participation in the antelope season by landowner/tenants, general residents and nonresidents. Approximately 1100 people will apply for an antelope permit. A \$5 nonrefundable application fee from all applicants will generate an additional \$5,500. Other administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department.

Approximately 800 days of hunting activity will occur. The national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that an average big game hunter spent more than \$512 per season, thus the antelope season may generate \$158,208 in economic benefits to businesses providing goods and services. There will be no other economic impact on the general public or on other state agencies.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: None.