

Wildlife and Parks Commission

Notice of Hearing of Proposed Administrative Regulations

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife and Parks Commission at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 18, 2007 at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th Street, Colby, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of proposed administrative regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

A workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife and Parks Commission will begin at 1:30 p.m., October 18 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at 5:30 p.m. then resume at 7:00 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meetings for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete the hearing or other business matters, the commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. October 19 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public hearing and may request the proposed regulations and economic impact statements 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 of Deaf and Hard 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 proposed administrative regulations.

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 Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to sheilak@wp.state.ks.us if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulations. 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 regulations.

The regulations that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting are as follows:

K.A.R. 115-2-1. This permanent regulation establishes fees for various issues. The proposed amendments set prices for youth big game and turkey permits, remove game tag provisions for big game, set a price for a nonresident mule deer stamp, set a price for a youth paddlefish permit and reduce the daily fishing license fee.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed changes are expected to reduce amounts generated to the wildlife fee fund by \$90,677 in FY 08 and \$19,629.50 in FY 09. Otherwise, the proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-2-3a. This permanent regulation establishes cabin camping permit fees. The proposed amendments would add new locations and offer longer term stays at locations for

cabins that are in the process of being installed this coming calendar year, as well as increasing fees in two locations and reducing fees in one location.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-7-1. This permanent regulation establishes legal equipment, methods of taking and other provisions for fishing. The proposed amendments remove requirements related to barbless hooks for paddlefish and separate gigging from snagging.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-7-8. This permanent regulation establishes requirements for weigh-in black bass fishing tournaments using the tournament black bass pass. The proposed amendments would clarify that the use of the tournament bass pass is for black bass fishing tournaments.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-7-9. This new permanent regulation establishes requirements for weigh-in black bass fishing tournaments not using the tournament black bass pass. The proposed regulation would require minimum weigh-in requirements for black bass fishing tournaments that were not previously required to hold weigh-in tournaments.

Economic Impact Summary: There will be some economic impact to tournament organizers who are not currently using the tournament weigh-in procedures as they will have to acquire the necessary implements to properly conduct the weigh-in. Otherwise, the proposed regulation is not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-18-10. This permanent regulation establishes prohibitions, permit requirements and restrictions on the importation and possession of certain wildlife. The proposed amendments would add the diploid grass carp to the prohibited species list.

Economic Impact Summary: There may be some impact to the aquaculture industry by switching from diploid to triploid grass carp but any amount is purely speculative at this time. Otherwise, the proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-18-12. This permanent regulation establishes requirements, restrictions and permit duration for the trout permit. The proposed amendments would allow youths under 15 to fish for or fish for and possess trout without a permit, subject to limitations for creel under K.A.R. 115-25-14.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendment may reduce income to the wildlife fee fund but any amount is purely speculative at this time as well as possibly offset in the future with increased participation. Otherwise, the proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-18-20. This permanent regulation establishes requirements, restrictions and pass duration for the tournament black bass pass. The proposed amendments would clarify that

the use of the tournament bass pass is for black bass.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-25-6. This exempt regulation establishes the spring season, bag limit, permits and game tags for turkey hunting. The proposed amendments would increase the number of permits available in Unit 4 and open the youth/disabled season concurrently with the archery only season beginning April 1 and running through the opening day of the firearm season.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

K.A.R. 115-25-14. This exempt regulation establishes creel limits, size limits, possession limits and open seasons for fishing. The proposed amendments would add one new trout fishing location, modify creel and length limits for paddlefish and add new water bodies to the special creel limits, length limits and bait restrictions reference document.

Economic Impact Summary: The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies or the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulations and their respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us, or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Kelly Johnston, Chairman