

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 2009 firearm, muzzleloader, and archery antelope seasons. The hunting units include all of the area included during the 2008 season. An unlimited number of archery permits are authorized, however, recent trends indicate that about 171 people may apply for these permits for residents. 6 nonresident archery permits were issued in 2008 and it is anticipated that a like number will be issued in 2009.

The proposed unit boundaries for the 2009 firearm hunting season are the same as the 2008 unit boundaries. A total of 130 firearms permits are proposed in two management units as follows: Unit 2 - 94 permits and Unit 17 - 36 permits, an increase of 16 permits from the previous season. In addition, 48 muzzleloader permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2 - 24 permits, Unit 17 - 12 permits, and Unit 18 - 12 permits, an increase of ten permits from the previous season.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that 355 antelope hunting permits will be authorized. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$11,700. That amount represents equal participation in the antelope season by landowner/tenants and general residents, as well as nonresident participation. Approximately 1000 people will apply for an antelope permit. A \$5 nonrefundable application fee from all applicants will generate an additional \$5,000. Other administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department.

Approximately 1775 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 \$181,760 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.