



# Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Kansas

Third Quarter Report,  
July 1 - September 30, 2013



## Governor Dedicates River Ramp at Belvue

Governor Brownback dedicated the new Kansas River access ramp at Belvue on September 26. The Belvue ramp is the 19th access ramp along the river, and Belvue is the 15th city to host a ramp.

The dedication event included a 10 river-mile float down the river beginning at the Wamego ramp and ended at the new ramp. Nearly 100 people participated in the float.

The 173-mile long Kansas River National Water Trail was dedicated in July 2012. A new map of the river is now available that shows access ramp locations and describes key points of interest in the cities along the river.



Brian Leaders, National Park Service (left foreground), and Governor Sam Brownback (right foreground) paddle the Kaw during a 10 river-mile float trip preceding dedication of the Belvue ramp.

## There's No Place Like Kansas

The Division of Tourism recently released its FY 2013 performance summary, and among the results are the following numbers:

<b>76,193,525</b>	Total Impressions from broadcast, social media, print, digital and other marketing channels
<b>6,182</b>	Broadcast ads run
<b>628,000</b>	Publications printed, including Travel Guides, Outdoor Guides, Kansas! Magazine and Byway Guides
<b>30,485</b>	Followers on tourism social media sites
<b>200,000</b>	Travelers greeted at the travel information centers



## KWPT Commission Increases Bag/Possession Limits

■ Governor Sam Brownback appointed Gary Hayzlett, Lakin, to a four-year term on the Commission. Hayzlett served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1990 to 2012 and held numerous board and committee positions, including the executive council of the national Assembly of Sportsmen Caucus. He is an avid sportsman and wildlife supporter. Hayzlett replaces Debra Bolton.

■ The Commission approved the 2013 duck and goose seasons during a public hearing held in **Yates Center on August 1**. Summer breeding bird surveys show most species are well above long-term averages and, with good to excellent nesting habitat conditions, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided liberal season frameworks.

The daily bag limit for teal during the early teal season was increased from four to six, the daily bag limit for

Canada geese was increased from 3 to 6 and the daily bag limit for light geese was increased from 20 to 50.

Possession limits for ducks and geese were increased from twice the daily bag limit to three times the daily bag limit.

■ During a special public hearing **held by conference call on Aug. 29**, the Commission increased the possession limits for doves, sandhill cranes, snipe, rail and woodcock pursuant to changes in federal frameworks.



Wilson's, or common, snipe; one of only two shorebirds legally hunted in Kansas

## Parks

On July 26, the Kansas Department of Administration closed the bid process for development of a lakeside, destination resort at Clinton State Park near Lawrence. The State received one proposal from LodgeWell Resorts of Overland Park, Kansas. After reviewing the proposal and further considering the project, KDWPT and the Kansas Department of Commerce decided to reject the bid, revise the project scope and rebid the project at a later date.



# 25%

*Tuttle Creek and Hillsdale state parks' combined share of year-to-date state parks visitor numbers.*



## Conservation

Crew members from the KDWPT Stream Survey and Assessment Program traveled across the state this summer to sample aquatic life in Kansas' flowing waters. A team of biologists, stream ecologists and many volunteers visited 45 sites in nearly 20 different counties. Primary survey sites included the Saline and Smoky Hill River basins.

KDWPT has surveyed and assessed streams since 1994 to update its inventory of fish, mussels and other aquatic invertebrates in Kansas' 12 river basins. The results from each site are used to help manage native aquatic communities, including threatened and endangered species and species in need of conservation.

## Fisheries

■ KDWPT biologists confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in three Kansas lakes during the third quarter, bringing the total number of infested lakes to 21 by the end of the quarter.



Zebra mussels are invasive, sharp-shelled mollusks introduced into the U.S. in the bilge water of cargo ships.

■ An angler landed a surprise at Topeka's Lake Shawnee in July, when he caught a silver arowana, a primitive fish native to the Amazon River Basin. It probably was released by an aquarium owner who had tired of the animal. Arowanas can grow to 2 feet long or more in captivity and grow to nearly 4 feet long in the wild.

■ Sixteen lakes were placed under a public health advisory or warning this summer due to the presence of harmful algae blooms. Most of the lakes were community or county lakes, with the exception of Marion and Milford Reservoirs.

## Wildlife

■ The fourth draft of a comprehensive conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for endorsement, a plan offered by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) and state wildlife agencies in Kansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma. The latest version comes after extensive review and comment by stakeholders across the bird's five-state range. Once the USFWS endorses the plan, the states can begin implementing it in hope of precluding the need to list the species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

■ Rains during the third quarter brought welcome relief from prolonged drought and helped replenish dry wetlands around the state. As a result, prospects look good for a bountiful waterfowl season. Rainfall was especially welcome at Cheyenne Bottoms which had been virtually dry for nearly two years.

■ The *2013 Upland Bird Forecast* was released on September 30, and although population levels are projected to be less than favorable, upland bird hunters willing to travel to northern Kansas may find a silver lining to the season.

Extreme drought conditions persisted in most of the state again this year, and ideal vegetation conditions were scarce going into the breeding season. This left most upland game birds without sufficient brood rearing cover and insect abundance, and led to a lower than average chick survival rate. Although the rain that fell across much of the state in late summer came too late to improve the upcoming season, biologists anticipate upland bird hunters may see enhanced conditions and a potential for better production next summer as vegetation conditions continue to improve.

As with any forecast, predictions are general and regional in nature. Although survey data indicate below average bird populations, hunters willing to work will likely find pockets with adequate bird numbers. Going from poor to fair hunting can often be as simple as driving 30 miles.



**KDWPT**  
 **28,275**  
**Followers**

# Third Quarter Sales, Revenue and Park Visitors

## Licenses & Permits

Fish & Wildlife License or Permit Type	# Sold	Revenue	YTD Sold	YTD Revenue
Resident Fish (\$18)	22,433	403,794	147,573	2,656,314.00
Nonresident Fish (\$40)	1,347	53,880	9,711	388,440.00
Resident Combination Hunt/ Fish (\$36)	2,466	88,776	30,364	1,093,104.00
Nonresident Combination Hunt/ Fish (\$110)	95	10,450	966	106,260.00
5-Day Trip Fish (\$20)	1,615	32,300	3,973	79,460.00
24-Hour Fish (\$3)	24,719	74,157	55,618	166,854.00
3-Pole Permit (\$4)	1,795	7,180	19,554	78,216.00
Trout Permit (\$10)	528	5,280	10,387	103,870.00
Lifetime Fish (\$440)	17	7,480	71	31,240.00
Lifetime Combination Hunt/Fish (\$880)	29	25,520	169	148,720.00
Lifetime Hunt (\$440)	85	37,400	333	146,520.00
Lifetime Furharvester (\$440)	2	880	13	5,720.00
Lifetime Payments (variable)	201	19,964	663	68,883.00
Resident Hunt (\$18)	11,181	201,258	30,241	544,338.00
Nonresident Hunt (\$70)	4,663	326,410	29,795	2,085,650.00
Nonresident Jr Hunt (\$35)	213	7,455	1,440	50,400.00
Controlled Shoot Area (\$15)	271	4,065	4,307	64,605.00
48-Hour Waterfowl (\$25)	34	850	836	20,900.00
Resident Combination Hunt/Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$70)	124	8,680	440	30,800.00
Resident Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	106	4,240	547	21,880.00
Resident Hunt Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	76	3,040	163	6,520.00
Resident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	43,468	911,321	47,540	969,438.50
Nonresident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	2,185	458,461	23,899	7,571,626.00
Resident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	3,010	44,830	53,687	720,217.00
Nonresident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	302	7,670	23,654	651,000.00
Resident Elk Permits (variable)	102	6,795	106	7,621.00
Antelope Permits (variable)	326	13,780	1,106	40,480.00
Resident Furharvester (\$18)	362	6,516	4,234	76,212.00
Nonresident Furharvester (\$250)	6	1,500	42	10,500.00
Junior Furharvester (\$10)	12	120	138	1,380.00
Nonresident Bobcat License (\$100)	4	400	43	4,300.00
Other Hunt/Fish/Big Game Permits (variable)	52,779	65,280	64,472	107,656.00
Duplicate Hunt/Fish/Big Game	1,896	18,960	3,885	38,850.00
Commercial Licenses/Permits	345	39,400	1,066	68,357.00
Senior Hunt/Fish Licenses (variable)	985	9,351	6,563	49,289.00
Senior Hunt/Fish Lifetime Pass (\$40)	1,044	41,760	8,385	335,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178,826</b>	<b>\$2,949,203</b>	<b>585,984</b>	<b>\$18,551,020.50</b>

	Third Quarter	Year to Date
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$5,508,435</b>	<b>\$26,070,042.50</b>

New in 2013

## Other Sales

State Park Permits	# Sold	Revenue	YTD Sold	YTD Revenue
Annual Vehicle (variable)	6,968	145,328	41,780	827,382.00
Annual Camp (variable)	129	25,800	2,641	428,950.00
Duplicate Vehicle (variable)	143	1,430	107	1,100.00
Daily Vehicle (variable)	30,254	389,619	24,971	322,793.00
Daily Camp (variable)		162,125	344	160,890.00
Camp w/utility w/prime (variable)		791,664	0	979,023.50
14-Day Camp (variable)	73	7,227	708	64,646.00
Utilities (variable)		159,450	236	199,943.00
Prime Sites (\$2)	2,559	5,118	2,844	7,003.00
Group Camping (variable)		2,654	0	3,700.50
Annual Trail Permits (\$10)	75	750	353	3,530.00
Daily Trail Permits (\$2)	448	896	937	1,906.50
Reservations (\$11)	2,479	27,270	3,730	37,931.00
Country Stampede and Other Festivals (variable)		0	6	55,505.00
Yellow/Summons Penalties	451	7,027	247	4,237.00
Concession Marina Income PFF	8	27,399	65	91,786.00
Shelter Revenue (variable)		3,076	0	8,245.50
<b>Kansas State Park Passport</b>	<b>15,575</b>	<b>233,625</b>	<b>31,798</b>	<b>476,970.00</b>
Land Leases for Private Cabins on KDWPT Property	4	422	136	38,709.00
<b>TOTAL STATE PARK PERMITS</b>	<b>59,166</b>	<b>\$1,990,880</b>	<b>170,069</b>	<b>\$5,705,131</b>
Three-Year Boat Registrations	# Sold	Revenue	YTD Sold	YTD Revenue
Boats (\$30)	7,660	229,800	26,744	802,320
Boat Dealers (variable)	47	436	80	701
Boat Duplicates (\$10)	418	4,180	1,056	10,560
<b>TOTAL BOAT REGISTRATIONS</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>\$234,416</b>	<b>27,880</b>	<b>\$813,581</b>
Cabin Revenue		Gross Revenue*		YTD Revenue
Park Cabins		325,536		956,840
Public Land Cabins		8,400		43,470
<b>TOTAL CABIN REVENUE*</b>		<b>\$333,936</b>		<b>\$1,000,310</b>
* Gross cabin revenue before payment to Wildscape				

## Park Visitors

Location	Est. Visitors	YTD
Cedar Bluff	73,463	136,740
Cheney	149,591	291,901
Clinton	111,588	324,911
Crawford*	84,025	190,674
Cross Timbers	85,309	251,025
Eisenhower	56,373	119,160
El Dorado	247,671	370,407
Elk City	54,182	121,205
Fall River	100,883	106,607
Glen Elder	84,270	110,093
Hillsdale	200,689	476,085
Kanopolis	84,779	174,953
Kaw River	6,740	13,800
Lovewell	79,791	165,558
Meade	40,239	81,250
Milford	185,676	200,895
Perry	88,291	175,226
Pomona	43,934	93,360
Prairie Dog	83,932	187,382
Prairie Spirit Rail Trail	20,400	47,350
Sand Hills	9,576	19,620
Scott	44,271	114,745
Tuttle Creek	307,884	725,417
Webster	73,152	186,120
Wilson	97,416	202,049
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,414,125</b>	<b>4,886,533</b>

