A person is silhouetted against a bright sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The person's reflection is visible in the water. The background shows a line of trees.

2013 Annual Report

KANSAS

DEPARTMENT OF

**WILDLIFE, PARKS
& TOURISM**



Robin Jennison
Secretary

"I encourage you to recall your own memorable experiences in Kansas and resolve to share your own authentic Kansas stories with others."

From the Secretary

Kansans are proud of their heritage and the beautiful state we share, but we have allowed others to shape our stories. Our natural, historic, cultural and tourist resources are destinations unto themselves. They attract a variety of people with a wide range of interests, but all share a desire for an enjoyable, memorable experience in Kansas.

People of all generations are now seeking active, authentic, participatory experiences – the kind of memory-making activities you can't get from sitting on your couch. We need to promote these kinds of experiences when we tell the stories of our state.

In 2011, Executive Reorganization Order 36 merged the state's natural resource agency with our tourism agency. Now the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is ideally suited to not only manage our natural resources but to also promote both them and our tourism assets for the benefit of Kansans, the nation and the world.

In this 2013 annual report, you'll learn how important tourism and outdoor recreation are to Kansas. They are closely related and work together to bolster the state's economy. You'll also read about the department's many activities, programs and accomplishments. As you browse the report, I hope you'll be reminded of your own memorable experiences in Kansas, and that you'll resolve to share your own authentic Kansas stories.



Significant Legislative Actions

Vessel Taxation (SB 83)

This bill was introduced as a result of the ballot issue which passed in November 2012 allowing the state constitution to be amended to permit a change to the way watercraft are taxed in the state. The law will reduce the percentage of value at which watercraft are assessed to 11.5 percent in 2014 and 5 percent in 2015 and thereafter. Signed 4-16-13.

Boating Under the Influence Time Period (HB 2218)

Current law makes it unlawful to operate a vessel with a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .08 at the time of or within two hours of operating a vessel. This law will increase the time period from two hours to three hours after operation of a vessel, making it consistent with state DUI laws for motor vehicles. Signed 5-23-13.

Wounded Warrior Deer Permits (HB 2030)

The law allows the department to issue 10 "Wounded Warrior Deer Permits" to disabled veterans who sustained injuries in combat and have a service-connected disability of not less than 40 percent. Signed 4-2-13.



Visitors to the newly renovated Kansas State Capitol are treated to a spectacular view of the dome's interior when looking overhead from the first-floor rotunda

The following actions took effect January 1, 2013:

Liquor consumption is allowed on lands owned or managed by KDWP, allowing state parks to be competitive with co-located federal parks. Alcohol possession is still controlled on specific public KDWP lands through regulation.

Resident state park patrons can buy an annual Kansas State Park Passport for \$15 through their Kansas county treasurer when they register their vehicle. The Kansas State Park Passport

expires when their vehicle registration expires a year later.

The hunting and fishing license exemption for residents older than 64 is no longer available. Instead, seniors can purchase a lifetime combination hunting/fishing license for \$40 or a senior annual fishing or annual hunting license for \$9, which is half-price of the current annual licenses. The license exemption now applies for persons 75 and older.

Legislature Approved Land Purchase

The legislature also approved the purchase of about 800 acres in Jefferson County to be used as a public hunting area. Seventy-five percent of the \$1.2 million cost will be funded with monies received from federal excise taxes on hunting and shooting equipment, and the remaining 25 percent will come from state wildlife fee funds which are derived from sales of hunting licenses and permits.

Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission

In 2013, Governor 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.

Some of the more significant commission actions in 2013 include the following:

- Increased possession limits for all migratory birds pursuant to changes in federal frameworks.
- Increased the daily limit for teal from four to six and Canada geese from three to six.
- Allowed using radio-frequency location devices attached to arrows.
- Approved short-term RV parking for \$50/month at Scott, Meade, Glen Elder, Kanopolis and Webster state parks.
- Approved simplified equipment regulations for big game and turkey that allow big game hunters to select any caliber centerfire rifle or handgun, any gauge shotgun with slugs, and any muzzleloader rifle and pistol .40 caliber or larger.
- Approved the use of crossbows during archery big game and turkey seasons for anyone with a valid archery permit.
- Turkey hunters are no longer restricted to 20-gauge shotguns or larger. All gauges will be allowed, using shot size No. 2 through No. 9. Regulations for turkey hunting allowing all shotgun gauges and crossbows during the archery season took effect April 19, 2013.
- Several reservoirs were added to the list where float-line fishing is allowed: Elk City, Fall River, Glen Elder and Lovewell.
- Established a two-day pre-rut whitetail antlerless-only season.

Law Enforcement



KDWPT law enforcement officers include natural resource officers (game wardens), park managers, park rangers and public land managers. As certified law enforcement offices, they often assist local, state and federal officers with investigations, search and rescue operations and emergency response.

OPERATION GAME THIEF

165 calls
(including 98 deer, 19 fish,
13 migratory game birds)

NOTICES TO APPEAR

4,059

WARNINGS

1,195

REPORTED HUNTING INCIDENTS

No fatalities were reported
Firearms Hunting Incidents: 6
(an all time low)
Tree Stand Incidents: 3

About the Commission

The Commission serves in an advisory and regulatory role to provide an interface between the public and KDWPT. It helps the agency balance sometimes competing interests for limited resources with the demand for more and better outdoor opportunities.

Seven commissioners are appointed by the Governor to serve staggered four-year terms. No more than four members may represent a particular political party. Regulations approved by the commission are adopted and administered by the Secretary. The commission hosts public meetings six to ten times per year at locations around the state which are video-streamed online.

There's no place like Kansas



The Kansas City Renaissance Festival in Bonner Springs is an annual fund-raiser for the Kansas City Art Institute and attracts more than 180,000 visitors over 16 days of events

The mission of the Tourism Division is to promote Kansas, encourage people to visit and travel in the state, and generate and facilitate tourism and travel-related spending by promoting recreational, historical, cultural and natural resources.

The media campaign, “There’s No Place Like Kansas” was launched in 2013 and utilized throughout all media. Most of the print advertising and digital display advertising was concentrated in the heaviest travel planning time of late spring and early summer.

A second push came in an early fall campaign. All of the television ads ran at these times. The spring television schedule included Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas and the fall ads ran exclusively in-state.

Seven community convention and visitors bureaus - Kansas City, Lawrence, Manhattan, Salina, Wichita, Hutchinson and Dodge City each contributed \$18,300 to help make the television campaign a reality. Without their help, the division could not undertake television advertising.

2013 marked the **return of an annual Official Travel Guide.** 300,000 Travel Guides were distributed both nationally and internationally before the end of October. **A Kansas Byways Guide, a derivative of the Travel Guide, and 100,000 Outdoor Guides** were also produced at the start of 2013. In September, in partnership with the Kansas Turnpike Authority, the Travel Guides were made available at all turnpike service areas. This met such great success that an additional 50,000 guides were ordered for 2014.

Tourists Spend \$\$\$ in Kansas

In Kansas in 2011:

\$8 billion

Expenditures generated by 32 million travelers and tourists in Kansas

\$236

What the average tourist spent

148,228

Number of Kansans directly and indirectly employed in tourism - the third largest industry in Kansas in terms of jobs

217

Number of tourists it takes to create a new job in Kansas

4.4%

Portion of the Kansas Gross State Product from tourism

14.4

Percent of all state and local tax receipts from tourism activities

\$917

Amount of tax relief tourism brings for each household

\$32

State and local tax receipts per tourist

Source: 2011 study by IHS Consulting

Tourism, continued

2013 also saw the launch of a new **TravelKS.com** website. Promoted through a robust digital marketing campaign including search engine marketing and display advertising, the site had an average of 3,000 visitors per day.



Kansas Travel Guide and the Outdoor Guide reach hundreds of thousands of people interested in experiencing what Kansas has to offer.

Agritourism continues to grow throughout the state, with more than 300 registered businesses at the end of 2013. They include vineyards and wineries, pumpkin patches, u-pick orchards, alpaca farms, ranch experiences, outfitters, lavender farms and restored farm venues that host events.

The department participates in **outdoor, travel and lifestyle shows** around the state and the country, most of which occur in the first quarter of the year.

In 2013, **staff attended 17 events** including travel shows in McAllen, Tex. and Chicago and outdoor/sporting shows in Denver, Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Pittsburg, Minneapolis, Nashville, Omaha and Fort Riley. More than 200,000 people attended the shows. Some of the activities staff conducts are distributing literature, answering questions, displaying artifacts and demonstrating outdoor skills.

During the summer, staff conducted marketing and educational seminars in Great Bend, Wellington, Columbus, Oakley, Concordia and Atchison.

In June, Tourism staff attended the **International Pow Wow (IPW)** in Las Vegas, a tourism marketplace designed to generate international visits to the U.S. It attracted nearly 6,400 delegates from the U.S. and 70 countries, including 1,300 tour operators that sell travel to U.S. and nearly 500 travel media. Kansas had 51 appointments with tour operators and met with new tour operators from Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Italy, Netherlands and Australia.

Tourism staff kicked off a five-month road trip across the state when they launched the **third year of the Faces & Places Tour** in June. Tourism staff and Kansas travel bloggers (“Roadies”) visited events in more than 20 cities before the tour concluded in mid-October. The Roadies covered more than 10,000 miles in a graphic-wrapped minivan, underwritten in part by Briggs Auto Group.

Division of Tourism Performance Summary, FY 2013

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



More than 48,000 subscribers enjoy one (or both) of the department's colorful, informative paid subscription magazines.

Trails

Hiking, biking, water and equestrian trails are a great way for families to enjoy time together outdoors. There are a number of wonderful trails in our state parks as well as trails that criss-cross the state.



Governor Sam Brownback (right) joined a large flotilla on the Kansas River in September 2013 to help dedicate the new Kansas River boat ramp at Belvue.



Hiking is not only fun, it can be part of a healthy lifestyle

The **Flint Hills Nature Trail** is the longest trail in the state and will undergo continued development this year, thanks to a \$2.4 million dollar grant and the partnership of several organizations, including KDWP, KDOT and the Kanza Rail Trail Conservancy. The funding will enable us to complete a section of the trail somewhere between Council Grove and Osawatimie. It will connect with the Prairie Spirit Rail Trail in Ottawa and eventually with the more than 300-mile long Katy Trail in Missouri.

The 173-mile **Kansas River National Water Trail** was dedicated in 2012, the second river in the nation to be honored with such a designation. We dedicated the new Kansas River access ramp at Belvue in September 2013. It is the 19th access ramp along the river. Our goal is to have an access ramp about every 10 miles. We will continue to improve access, encourage tourism development along all three

navigable rivers and promote wise use of these tremendous natural resources.

The **Wilson State Park Switchgrass Trail** has been designated an Epic Trail by the International Mountain Biking Association. This rating has already drawn mountain bikers from around the world to mark this trail off their bucket list of exciting bike trails.

Sand Hills State Park has been one of our lesser-developed state parks, and it will open a new 64-site campground in 2014 geared to equestrian trail users. It will also allow motorized UTV's in some areas. This project was supported by the National Recreational Trails program.

Finally, we have entered into a **partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture** to expand small businesses along trail corridors to help draw visitors to the corridors and promote economic growth.

Fishing

Fishing is a wonderful “gateway” sport, offering a relatively inexpensive way to introduce the family to the outdoors.

In 2011:

400,000 Anglers

Spent an average of \$521 each and a total of \$210,303,000 for trip-related and equipment expenses

4.2 Million

The number of days anglers fished in Kansas

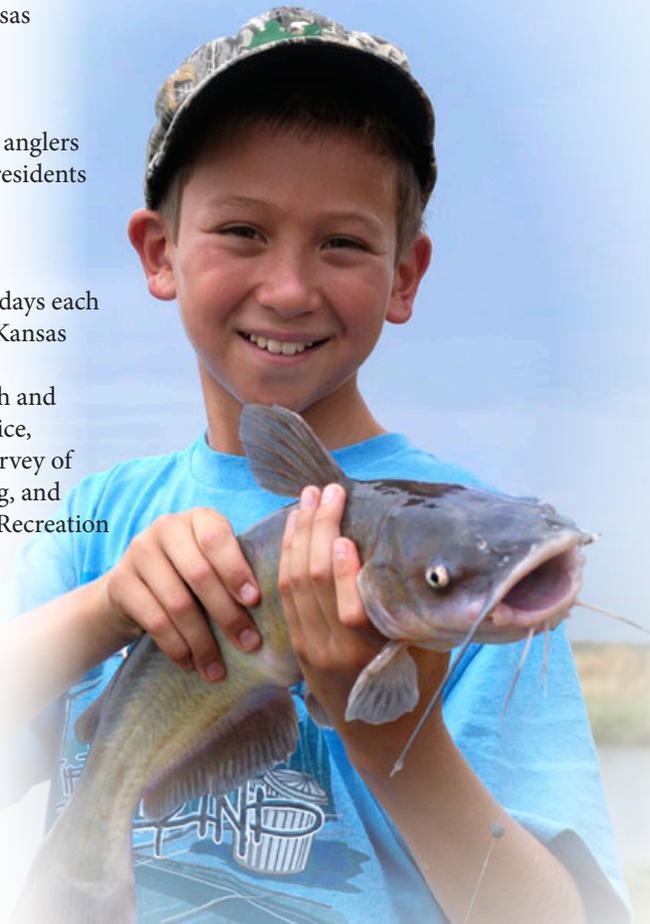
98%

The percentage of anglers who were Kansas residents

10

Average number of days each angler fished in Kansas

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation



The department launched a new **aquatic nuisance species outreach campaign** that included a brochure, radio ads and displays at our offices and nature centers. The materials will create a brand to help remind people about techniques to stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species.

The **Fisheries Impoundment and Stream Habitat Program (FISH)** partnered with private landowners to allow **free public fishing access to nearly 200 private farm ponds (2,500 surface acres of water) and 100 miles of stream and river access**, expanding the wealth of fishing access in Kansas.

In 2013, fisheries staff began **studying techniques to improve largemouth bass fishing**. Biologists can produce largemouth bass that are DNA-marked and hatched earlier than wild bass. Early-hatched bass can grow larger and survive better, and we expect the early produced largemouth bass to increase the number of preferred-sized largemouth bass for anglers. Final results are expected in 2018.

The department is working with **Kansas State University to track movements and food habits of blue catfish at Milford Reservoir**. Results from this project should help in managing blue catfish and give anglers information that will increase their success in catching this species.

Fishing, continued

The **Trout Stocking Program** provides a unique opportunity for anglers to fish for catchable-sized rainbow trout during the winter. In 2013, the department and local communities partnered and **stocked nearly 200,000 trout into 35 bodies of water in 29 counties**. This enjoyable winter fishing experience has gained popularity as more lakes are stocked with rainbow trout every year.

The **Urban Fishing Program** provides channel catfish large enough to catch and eat to the majority of the state's urban fishing lakes. In 2013, **130,000 pounds of catfish were stocked into 85 urban lakes**.

The **Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP)** partners with **124 communities to provide free fishing opportunities to its anglers**. The program also provides grants to improve the quality of these lakes for better fishing opportunities. In 2013, **13 grants were awarded to supplement over \$400,000 worth of fisheries improvements**. Examples of these projects range from disabled angler access, family friendly facilities and fishing docks to erosion control, lake aerations systems and aquatic invasive species control.



A biologist tags a blue catfish

In 2013:

105 million
fish were
produced by the fish
culture section

Of those, the following
numbers were stocked:

2.7 million
Largemouth Bass
16 million
Wipers
43 million
Walleye
3.3 million
Sauger
7.9 million
Saugeye

In addition:

74,000
Blue Catfish Fingerlings
280,000
catchable-sized
Channel Catfish
were stocked into public
waters across the state



ProtectKSWaters.org is the department's new campaign brand to help stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species such as zebra mussels, white perch and Asian carp.

Hunting

An estimated 4,000,000 people visited our state wildlife areas and state fishing lakes in 2013.

Squirrels, like this gray squirrel, are popular small game animals



Kansas hunting opportunities are well-known throughout the country. Hunters from every state come to hunt our deer, waterfowl, turkey and upland game birds. Less known, but growing in importance, is wildlife watching.

We have undertaken several habitat and wetland restoration projects to improve upland game bird, dove and waterfowl habitat and create more hunting opportunities on public lands. The efforts have paid off and we expect hunter numbers to be near all-time highs.

Two premier locations for waterfowl hunting and bird watching are Cheyenne Bottoms and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge – the crown jewels of our state’s wetlands. At Cheyenne Bottoms, a new water diversion pipe was installed in 2013 to replace the aging canal that carried water diverted from the Arkansas River into the Bottoms during periods of high flow on the river.

Many of our wetlands suffered from low water in the last few years due to the drought. However, the drought also opened opportunities to enhance the wetlands in preparation for the return of the rains. There were considerable wetland enhancements made across the state the last several years. Projects have been completed at Jamestown, McPherson Valley

Wetlands, Slate Creek, Cheyenne Bottoms, Neosho, Marais des Cygne Wildlife Area, Perry, Clinton, and Elk City Wildlife Areas.

These wetland restoration efforts have paid off. Waterfowl hunting at Cheyenne Bottoms is expected to be at or near all time highs, with an **estimated 10,000 hunter-days afield for the 2013 season.**

Coming soon is a major wetland restoration project at **Neosho Wildlife Area** to improve water utilization including water distribution and management. This will greatly enhance the wetland’s pools and improve waterfowl hunting opportunities.

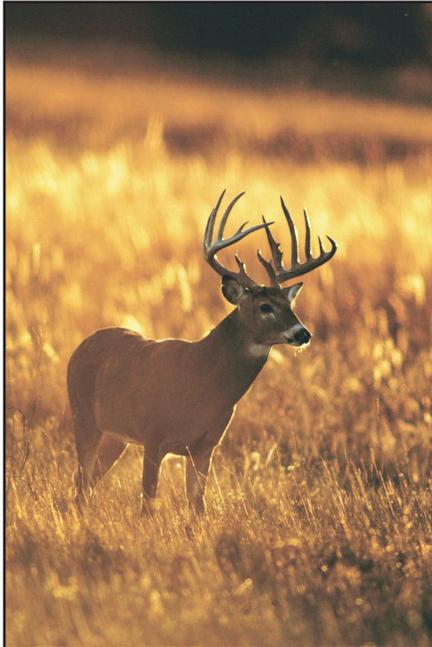
Kansas is an upland bird hunters’ paradise with long seasons and liberal bag limits for pheasant, quail, and prairie chicken. **During the 2012-13 season, department surveys show 47,248 Kansas residents and 20,150 non-residents spent an estimated 287,540 days hunting pheasants.**

Kansas is a destination for deer hunting. Department surveys show that **101,161 Kansas residents and 22,034 non-residents for a total of 123,195 deer hunters during the 2012 deer season. These hunters spent an estimated 1.3 million days afield and reported harvesting 94,070 deer.**



Mentoring young hunters helps them learn to respect the outdoors and ensures a lasting hunting tradition

Hunting , continued



Kansas is known around the country for its trophy-class white-tailed deer

Kansas also attracts turkey hunters. We sold about **73,000 spring permits and game tags in 2013 which was up about 10,000 from 2012. The number of individual spring hunters was about 47,000 which was an increase of about 5,500 over 2012 numbers.**

The Walk-In Hunting Access Program (WIHA) was started in 1995. This past year, more than **1 million acres of private lands were enrolled under contracts that pay Kansas landowners** to allow public hunting

on their lands. Most agreements are for one to three years. Recently, the Department received a \$3 million dollar grant from the Farm Services Agency through the Voluntary Public Access Habitat Incentive Program that was used to gain long-term (10 to 15 year) hunting and fishing access agreements with private landowners to gain access to approximately 45,000 acres of private lands. This program was part of the 2008 federal farm bill.

The Department has begun a **quail habitat initiative** which centers around Melvern Wildlife Area and the Grand Osage Wildlife Area. These public lands are used as demonstration areas to show landowners how to institute habitat practices on their own property. The private land habitat practices are then cost shared at 100 percent by KDWPT and other partners such as National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever and USDA agencies NRCS and FSA.

A similar program to highlight pheasant habitat development has also been started. The Pheasant Initiative will center around Glen Elder Wildlife Area and Norton Wildlife Area. Practices are currently under development and are set to start outreach and implementation to landowners in the near future.

In Kansas in 2011:

283,000

Number of hunters 16 yrs. old and older who hunted in Kansas

5,509,000

Total days of hunting in Kansas

18

Average days of hunting per hunter

\$401,452,000

Total amount spent by hunters for trip-related and equipment expenses

\$1,409

Average amount spent by each hunter

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

THANK YOU!

Many habitat improvement projects are completed with the invaluable help of partners such as Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, The Nature Conservancy, and many local civic and community groups that recognize hunters bring an important economic benefit to their regions.

State Parks

Despite drought and a sagging economy, parks visitation held fairly steady in 2013 as more people sought outdoor leisure close to home.



More than 6.5 million people visited Kansas state parks in 2013.

State Park Passport sales began in January 2013 and more than 70,000 people have taken advantage of this opportunity to buy discounted annual park passes when they register or renew their vehicle registrations. We expect sales to grow as more people take advantage of this to explore our great state.



Theresa Vail was named Miss Kansas in June 2013. Her platform is Overcoming Stereotypes and Breaking Barriers. Theresa loves the outdoors and she is an expert archer. KDWPT and the Miss Kansas Organization partnered for Theresa to become our agency spokesperson and help promote outdoor activities. She has spoken to children in many Kansas schools about stereotypes, women in non-traditional roles and the importance of outdoors activities. She is always well received, especially when she demonstrates her expert archery skills.



Miss Kansas, left, coaches a young archer



Cabins like this beauty at Cross Timbers State Park are popular with visitors who prefer to rough it with a few more luxuries available.

Our **state campgrounds and cabins** are popular destinations and are used year-round. The state parks receive visitors from every state and many foreign countries. KDWPT now has 120 rental cabins in the state. Wilson State Park is adding two new modern cabins, and the park's existing cabins already have the highest occupancy rating of our rental cabins statewide. Many state park cabins offer a full range of home-like comforts – including heating, air-conditioning, bathrooms with showers, separate bedrooms and kitchens with refrigerators, stoves and ovens. Outside, guests can enjoy a spacious porch or deck and use an adjacent fire ring and picnic table for cooking and dining under a blue Kansas sky.

State Parks, continued

Park Visitors Enjoy Special Activities

People of all generations are seeking active, authentic, participatory experiences – the kind of memory-making activities you can't get from sitting on your couch. The creativity of state park employees to engage park visitors and help spark memorable experiences knows no bounds. From fishing tournaments to cardboard boat races, they work hard keep the excitement going all season long and give the public ample opportunities to enjoy a variety of outdoor experiences.

The **premier statewide event** that helps kick off the outdoor recreation experience is the statewide free entrance day and open house scheduled for a Saturday in March. In 2013, March 9, was the selected day. Some of the special activities – which vary by park – included cabin tours, courtesy boat inspections, guided trail hikes, food and refreshments, fishing derbies, prize drawings, shooting range open houses, scavenger hunts, disc golf tournaments and natural history programs.

During the open houses, park visitors can take advantage of low, off-season camping permit prices. March 31 is the last day annual camping permits are priced at off-season discounts. On April 1, the prices increase to their regular prime-season levels. Visitors can purchase annual camping permits



"Float Your Boat" at Milford State Park attracts creative cardboard boat designs

and make cabin or campsite reservations during the open houses, as well.

Special events keep people coming back throughout the summer and fall and include campsite decoration contests, chili cook-off contests, fishing tournaments, 5K and 10K runs, sand castle contests, movie nights, equestrian trail rides and more.

Some of the more spectacular events included a Glow in the Dark 5K run

at Elk City State Park, Fall River Rendezvous at Fall River State Park, North American Trail Ride Conference and Prairie Long Rifle Rendezvous at Kanopolis State Park, Halloween in the Park and the Sea to Sea Bicycle Tour at Meade State Park, the 135th Anniversary of the Battle of Punished Women's Fork Symposium near and in Scott State Park, Float Your Boat contest at Milford State Park and the 3rd annual Iron Man Triathlon at Clinton State Park.

Shooting Sports

Participation in firearm and archery shooting sports is rising, and public shooting ranges offer a family-oriented place to safely enjoy these sports.

“Bang for the Buck”

In Kansas in 2011

230,135

Target shooters enjoyed 4.18 million participant/days of shooting

\$111.8 million

Amount spent on target shooting activities

\$13.6 million

Amount generated in state and local taxes

1,760

Number of jobs supported by recreational shooting

Source:
National Shooting Sports Foundation

Hillsdale State Park (south of Olathe in northern Miami County) opened the first phase of a new shooting range this past year. The 50, 100 and 200-yard ranges were opened, and a trap and skeet field is under construction with completion scheduled for spring 2014.

El Dorado State Park opened an archery range that has proven to be very popular with archers of all ages, and the park plans to start work on a shooting range this year.



There are 82 public shooting ranges in Kansas. Not all of them are operated by the department.

In 2013



- 98** Teachers certified
- 681** Total # of certified teachers
- 20** Schools added
- 225** Total participating schools

Enjoying Nature

Watching wildlife, studying plants, photographing the beauty of Kansas and plein air painting are among the many outdoor activities people can enjoy in the Sunflower State.



Cheyenne Bottoms, north of Great Bend, is a popular spot to watch birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds.

The first annual **Kansas Birding Big Year** began April 2013 and ended Dec. 31, 2013. Fifty-four participants signed up for the competition. The first place winner in the adult division spotted and identified 319 bird species, setting a high mark for future competitors. There were three age categories: youth (18 and under), adult (18-64), and senior (65 and older), with most participants entering the adult age category.

Designed to get more folks outdoors and watching birds, the Kansas Birding Big Year competition came about after Secretary Robin Jennison saw the popular movie “The Big Year,” depicting avid bird watchers trying to see as many species as they could in a single calendar year. Secretary Jennison thought it would be a fun and interesting way to get Kansans interested in bird watching, and the competition took flight.

In June of 2013, working with the city of Galena, the department assumed operations of the **Southeast Kansas Nature Center at**

Schermerhorn Park south of Galena. Our plans include offering more outdoor education programming in the Center and surrounding areas that is relevant to the curriculum in area schools, enhances regional ecotourism efforts and promotes cooperation among area educators. The Center is also a feature of the Kansas Route 66 Historic Byway.

The department operates **four nature centers/museums and is a partner in the operation of two more.** In 2013, an estimated 58,950 people visited these facilities. Education staff conducted more than 2,500 programs, reaching more than 77,300 participants of all ages.

Enhanced interpretative signage at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area will tie in with the Wetlands and Wildlife National Scenic Byway, the Kansas Wetland Education Center, the Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area, and The Nature Conservancy’s Cheyenne Bottoms Preserve to inform and educate visitors about wetland wildlife.

Watching Wildlife Helps Economy

In Kansas in 2011:

792,000

The number of people 16 yrs old and up who participated in wildlife-watching activities,

\$262

Average amount spent by each wildlife watcher

\$208,415,000

Total spent by wildlife watchers for trip-related and equipment expenses

Source: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation

Enjoying Nature, continued

ECO-MEET

Kansas ECO-MEET is a program to challenge and inspire interest, appreciation and understanding of the natural sciences and the Kansas environment through inter-scholastic competition. The 15th statewide ECO-MEET was held at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston on November 3, 2013. There were



eight regional competitions, with 388 students participating. Eighty-eight students subsequently moved on to the statewide competition. The planned regional event in southeast Kansas was cancelled because of expected low attendance, but the department hopes to add it and a new location at Garden City in 2014.

Hikers at the Konza Prairie Biological Station south of Manhattan enjoy the flowers adorning this 8,616-acre segment of native tallgrass prairie in the Kansas Flint Hills.



Project WILD Education Program

The department contracts with the non-profit **Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education (KACEE)** to train teachers to integrate environmental education concepts in the classroom using Wildlife in a Learning Design (WILD) guides. WILD is a unique, award-winning conservation education program that emphasizes wildlife. At

its heart are activities that teach basic wildlife concepts to students while they develop learning techniques and problem solving skills. Reading, writing, arithmetic and other skill areas are woven into these activities. They foster an awareness of wildlife and promote responsible behavior and attitudes toward the environment.

The following numbers of teachers were trained through KACEE to integrate environmental education concepts in the classroom:

- Project WILD: 291
- Project WILD Aquatic: 122
- Growing up WILD: 355
- Flying WILD: 15
- Science and Civics: 6

Boating & Water Safety

It's not realistic for boaters to think they can put on their life jacket in time if they're in an accident. Think about trying to fasten a seat belt in the middle of a car crash.



Watch for the Wear It Kansas boat while enjoying time on the lake.

The department launched a “Wear It Kansas” boat in 2013 to teach boaters about the importance of wearing a life jacket, proper life jacket practices and ways to improve their safety while on board. Boating coordinator Erika Brooks cruised several lakes to give away free t-shirts and tank tops to reward boaters wearing life jackets. The boat made appearances at Big Hill, Wilson, El Dorado, Pomona and Milford reservoirs.

2013 was a tragic year for natural-water drownings, with 23 reported fatalities. Many of the deaths might have been prevented if life jackets had been worn. Most were not the result of boating accidents, but were related to swimming or attempting to rescue others in distress.

During 2013 there were **25 reportable boating accidents** (a decrease of six from 2012 and 18 from 2011) involving six injury, 15 non-injury, and four fatalities. A total of 29 vessels were involved in the 25 accidents resulting in \$53,195 in property damage.

Of the total accidents, five involved occupants wearing life jackets and 20 where they were not.

In late June, the department participated in “Operation Dry Water” (ODW), a national event sponsored by the National Association of Boating Law Administrators created to raise awareness of safety issues relating to boating while under the impairment of alcohol and drugs. ODW checks were held at 15 locations across the state involving 36 officers who recorded 232 hours and checked 82 vessels resulting in 246 boater contacts. Officers recorded 19 citations, 11 warnings and two BUI arrests.



A “Boatload” of Benefits

For Kansas in 2012:

\$898.7 million

Annual economic impact of recreational boating

97,672

Registered boats

\$382.6 million

Spending related to recreational boating

137

Number of boating-related businesses

7,063

Estimated number of jobs supported by boating

\$291.9 million

Estimated total labor income from boating

Source: National Marine Manufacturers Association

Learning Outdoor Skills

Learning the skills, safety measures and ethics necessary to enjoy the outdoors is fun and rewarding. Sometimes, taking a class is required for purchasing a license or permit.

BECOMING AN OUTDOORS WOMAN 220 participants



PASS IT ON
1,500 young and novice shooters and hunters participated in outdoor skills days and special hunts



HUNTER EDUCATION
Total classes conducted: **339**
Students certified: **10,433**



BOATER EDUCATION
1,762 students certified



AQUATIC EDUCATION
In 2013, staff and volunteers reached nearly **7,000** children and adults at over **200** fishing events.

The **Angler Instructor Program** held four events and certified **50** volunteer instructors.



FURHARVESTER EDUCATION
Instructor-led classes: **10**
Students certified through instructor-led classes: **83**
Students certified through the online course: **1,829**

Users Fund Programs

State General Fund does not support outdoor or tourism programs, staff

Fish and Wildlife

Funding for KDWPT's fish and wildlife programs comes from two sources 1) the sale of hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses and permits which supply the **Wildlife Fee Fund** and 2) federal dollars returned to Kansas from the federal excise taxes hunters and anglers pay on equipment they purchase.

The federal dollars stem from the **Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration (WSFR) Programs** which are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were enacted under the **Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts**. This approach to funding wildlife conservation is used by all the states and was endorsed by hunters and anglers themselves.



The amount of money returned to Kansas is based primarily on the numbers of licenses and permits the agency sells. The federal funds require a 25 percent state match which comes from sales of hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses and permits, not the State General Fund. **By law, fee funds and federal funding cannot be diverted for other uses.**

Sport Fish Restoration funds are used for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. **Wildlife Restoration** funds are used to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wildlife and habitats; provide public use and access to wildlife resources; hunter education; and developing and managing shooting ranges.

KDWPT leverages license and permit revenues and WSFR funding to benefit wildlife, anglers, hunters and boaters. WSFR funds are usually specific to game animals and sport fish, but habitat enhancement efforts benefit all fish and wildlife. Popular programs such as Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA), Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitat (FISH), and Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) are possible because of the WSFR program.

Other programs funded with a combination of federal funds and license revenues include aquatic nuisance species monitoring and education.



Boating and Boating Safety

KDWPT's boating programs serve the needs of recreational boaters for access, education, boat registration and boating safety. Programs are funded by a mix of 1) state boat registration revenues which go into the **Boating Fee Fund** and 2) Recreational Boating Safety Program funds administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

As the USCG describes it, "user pays/user benefits," since the federal monies are paid by boaters and anglers

from federal excise taxes attributable to motorboat and small engine fuel use and on sport fishing equipment such as rods and reels.

KDWPT uses boat registration revenues along with matching federal funds – the amount of which is determined by the number of registered watercraft – to support boating-related programs such as:

- Developing, improving, and maintaining docks, boat ramps, toilet facilities; and inspecting marinas
- Enforcing vessel operation, sanitation, sound muffling and boating under the influence laws
- Investigating boating accidents and thefts, officer training, and search and rescue operations
- Administering boating education and water safety programs, publishing boating information, and appearing at fairs and boat shows

Funding, continued

State Parks

As of FY2013, the state's 26 state parks no longer receive State General Fund revenues and rely almost entirely on user fees. Park operations, programs and staff are funded primarily through the sale of park entrance permits and campsite fees which go into the **Park Fee Fund** and cabin rental fees which supply the **Cabin Fee Fund**. The state parks also receive monies from the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF). Funds are used to operate and maintain the state parks, fund state park law enforcement and provide safe, enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for **more than 6 million visitors**.

Some federal funding has been used to enhance state park trails and facilities, although the funds cannot be used

for park operation and maintenance activities.

Grants from the U.S. Department of the Interior's **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** have been used for planning, acquisition, and development of state and local outdoor recreation facilities. The program awards grants to provide 50 percent reimbursement to projects sponsored by cities, counties, and other public agencies to acquire land or develop outdoor recreation facilities.

Traditionally, about 65 percent has been awarded to local sponsors and 35 percent has been invested in state projects, although that may vary. The state/local funding ratio is determined by KDWPT. Since 1965, Kansas has received over \$50 million and funded

approximately 650 LWCF projects in nearly every county.

Funding for some trail development and improvements may come from the federal **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** administered by KDWPT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds for this program are appropriated by the FHWA to KDWPT for recreational trail development. The program provides 80 percent matching funds, on a reimbursement basis, for eligible recreational trail and trail-related projects. Projects must fall into one or more of three categories: motorized, non-motorized, or diversified recreational trail or trail-related projects. Projects that provide for improved ADA and environmental impacts are a high priority.

Kansas Tourism

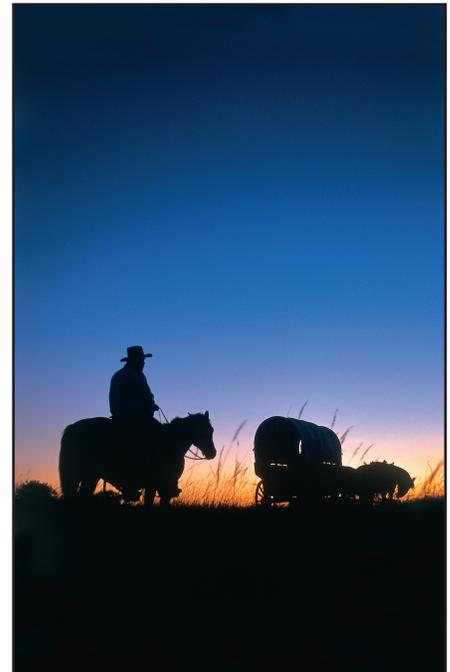
The Tourism Division is funded by revenues from the EDIF fund along with income from sales of products and services such as Kansas! magazine, advertising and display space in publications and shows and the Blue Sign Logo program which KDWPT manages (the revenues are transferred from KDOT). The non-EDIF revenues go into the **Tourism Publication and Sales Fee Fund**.

The Tourism Division publishes Kansas! magazine; promotes Kansas attractions and destinations in-state, nationally and internationally; markets the Kansas Byways; administers the Kansas Agritourism program; provides the tourism industry with news, research, marketing tools and education; and hosts the state's official

travel and tourism website (TravelKS.com) where industry partners can promote local and regional attractions, activities and events. Division employees – assisted by other department employees as needed – staff displays at outdoor recreation and tourism industry trade shows.

The division also administers two local grant programs that are funded with EDIF funds:

- Attraction Development Grants designed to help develop new tourism attractions or the enhance existing attractions.
- Tourism Marketing Grants assist with innovative, dedicated advertising and marketing.

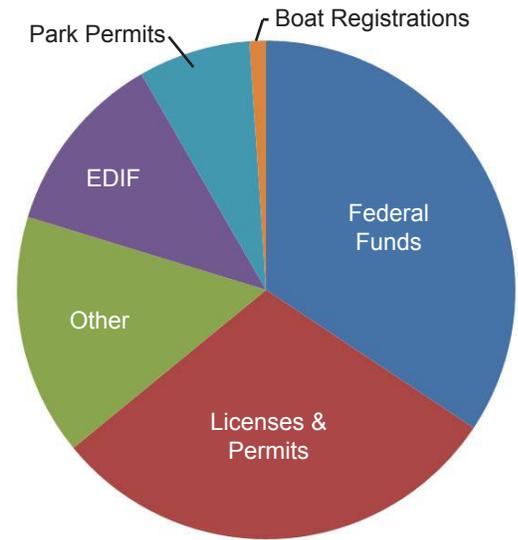


Financial Overview, FY 2013

FY2013 Revenue*

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Hunting and Fishing Licenses & Permits Sold	\$23,478,365
Federal Funds (detailed in next chart)	27,112,312
Park Permits Sold	5,745,471
Boat Registrations Sold	842,742
State General Fund	0
Economic Development Initiatives Funds (EDIF)	9,414,802
Other	12,365,225
TOTAL AGENCY REVENUE	\$78,958,917

* Includes carryover appropriations

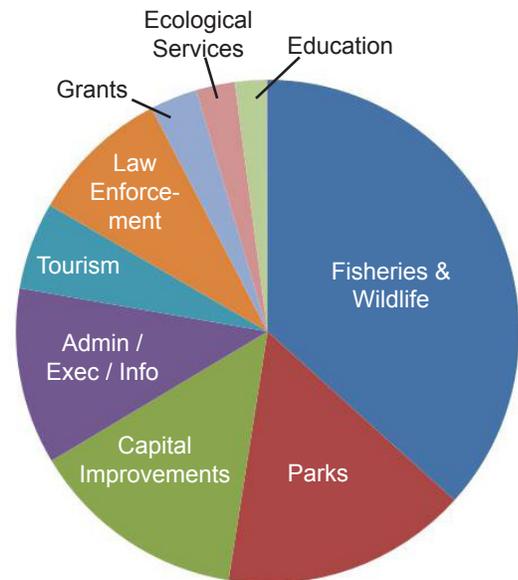


FY2013 Federal Funds Received

SOURCE	AMOUNT
U.S. Coast Guard – Recreational Boating Safety	\$698,981
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Sport Fish Restoration Act (Fisheries)	5,775,118
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Wildlife Restoration Act (Wildlife)	15,390,994
Other Federal Funds	5,247,219
TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS RECEIVED	\$27,112,312

FY2013 Agency Expenditures

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Fisheries and Wildlife	\$27,273,212
Parks	11,742,651
Capital Improvements	10,369,325
Administration, Executive Services,	4,170,308
Information Services	8,426,717
Law Enforcement	6,697,746
Tourism	4,170,308
Grants	2,259,279
Ecological Services	1,852,898
Education	1,513,535
Debt Service	41,273
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$74,346,944



CY 2013 Licenses and Permits Sold

FISH & WILDLIFE LICENSES & PERMITS	# SOLD	REVENUE
Resident Fish (\$18)	150,159	\$2,702,862.00
Nonresident Fish (\$40)	10,008	\$400,320.00
Resident Combo Hunt/Fish (\$36)	39,305	\$1,414,980.00
Nonresident Combo Hunt/Fish (\$110)	1,165	\$128,150.00
5 Day Trip Fish (\$20)	4,202	\$84,040.00
24 Hour Fish (\$3)	59,825	\$179,475.00
3 Pole Permit (\$4)	20,778	\$83,112.00
Trout Permit (\$10)	12,909	\$129,090.00
Lifetime Fish (\$440)	100	\$44,000.00
Lifetime Combo Hunt/Fish (\$880)	306	\$269,280.00
Lifetime Hunt (\$440)	570	\$250,800.00
Lifetime Furharvester (\$440)	23	\$10,120.00
Lifetime Payments (variable)	857	\$88,721.00
Resident Hunt (\$18)	61,639	\$1,109,502.00
Nonresident Hunt (\$70)	51,185	\$3,582,950.00
Nonresident Jr Hunt (\$35)	2,200	\$77,000.00
Controlled Shoot Area (\$15)	9,774	\$146,610.00
48-Hour Waterfowl (\$25)	2,062	\$51,550.00
Resident Combo Hunt/Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$70)	656	\$45,920.00
Resident Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	565	\$22,600.00
Resident Hunt Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	413	\$16,520.00
Resident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	159,079	\$3,272,088.50
Nonresident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	27,108	\$7,742,986.00
Resident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	61,378	\$837,217.00
Nonresident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	26,002	\$713,570.00
Resident Elk Permits (variable)	126	\$9,646.00
Antelope Permits (variable)	1,127	\$41,500.00
Resident Furharvester (\$18)	8,650	\$155,700.00
Nonresident Furharvester (\$250)	119	\$29,750.00
JR Furharvester (\$10)	333	\$3,330.00
Nonresident Bobcat License (\$100)	87	\$8,700.00
Other Hunt/Fish/Big Game Permits (variable)	102,734	\$239,564.50
Duplicate Hunt/Fish/Big Game	8,328	\$83,280.00
Commercial Licenses/Permits	1,205	\$77,077.00
SR Hunt/Fish Licenses (variable)	7,319	\$57,119.00
SR Hunt/Fish Lifetime Pass (\$40)	9,751	\$390,040.00
TOTAL	842,047	\$24,499,170.00

Licenses and permits can be purchased at many KDWP offices, with a toll-free telephone call (1-800-918-2877), online, or from one of more than 600 license vendors located around the state. A list of license vendors, organized by county, is available online at ksoutdoors.com.

CY 2013 State Parks Permits Sold

STATE PARKS PERMITS	# SOLD	REVENUE
Annual Vehicle (variable)	50,395	\$1,002,714.00
Annual Camp (variable)	3,082	501,550.00
Duplicate Vehicle(variable)	268	2,710.00
Daily Vehicle (variable)	55,225	751,716.00
Daily Camp (variable)	344	358,142.00
Camp w/utility (variable)	0	2,027,267.50
14-Day Camp (variable)	835	76,463.00
Utilities (variable)	236	493,085.00
Prime Sites (\$2)	5,652	12,960.00
Group Camping (variable)	0	7,841.50
Annual Trail Permits (\$10)	459	4,590.00
Daily Trail Permits (\$2)	1,385	4,102.50
Reservations (\$11)	14,609	157,602.00
Country Stampede and Other Festivals (variable)	6	55,505.00
Yellow/Summons Penalties	765	12,457.00
Concession Marina Income PFF	82	145,430.00
Shelter Revenue (variable)	0	12,097.50
State Park Passport (new in 2013)	47,373	907,050.00
Cabin/Lease Camp	153	53,169.00
TOTAL	180,869	\$6,586,452

The bulk of the Parks Division funding is from the sale of the permits listed above. Beginning in FY 2013, the agency no longer receives State General Funds and, instead, receives Economic Development Initiatives Funds (EDIF). HB 2729, enacted into law by the 2012 Legislature, created a new annual vehicle permit called the Kansas State Parks Passport, which went on sale in 2013. Long term, it is expected to help increase and stabilize the funding from annual parks permits.

CY 2013 Cabin Revenues

Park Cabins	\$1,115,384.00
Public Lands Cabins	56,420.00
TOTAL	\$1,171,804.00

CY 2013 3-year Boat Registrations Sold

	# SOLD	REVENUE
Boats (\$30)	28,633	\$858,990
Boat Dealers (variable)	83	731
Boat Duplicates (\$10)	1,110	11,100
TOTAL	29,826	\$870,821

CY 2013 State Parks Visitation

STATE PARK	VISITATION
Cedar Bluff	153,735
Cheney	326,462
Clinton	372,255
Crawford*	219,812
Cross Timbers	324,113
Eisenhower	143,016
El Dorado	702,044
Elk City	197,870
Fall River	264,479
Glen Elder	218,436
Hillsdale	595,409
Kanopolis	192,441
Kaw River	27,790
Lovewell	179,142
Meade	87,471
Milford	460,089
Perry	186,517
Pomona	149,292
Prairie Dog	214,280
Prairie Spirit Trail	65,950
Sand Hills	23,146
Scott	131,563
Tuttle Creek	861,159
Webster	208,173
Wilson	224,014
TOTAL	6,528,658

Visitation to the state's 26 state parks follows a seasonal trend – most people visit between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Weather and lake conditions strongly influence attendance figures, particularly during holiday weekends such as Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day.



ksoutdoors.com



travelks.com