

**REVISED AGENDA**  
**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM**  
**COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Thursday, June 18, 2015**  
**Fort Hays State University – Robbins Center**  
**One Tiger Place, Hays, Kansas**

- I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:00 p.m.**
- II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**
- III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE April 23, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**
- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
- VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
  - A. Secretary’s Remarks**
    - 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Robin Jennison)**
    - 2. 2015 Legislature (Chris Tymeson)**
  - B. General Discussion**
    - 1. Wildlife Fees (Robin Jennison)**
    - 2. 2016 Turkey Regulations (Jeff Prendergast)**
    - 3. Tourism Update (Linda Craghead)**
    - 4. State Park Updates – Cedar Bluff and Webster (Linda Lanterman)**
  - C. Workshop Session**
    - 1. Park Regulations (Linda Lanterman)**
    - 2. Fishing Regulations (Doug Nygren)**
    - 3. Duck Zone Boundaries (Tom Bidrowski)**
    - 4. Late Migratory Bird Seasons (Tom Bidrowski)**
    - 5. Aquatic Nuisance Species in Kansas Discussion (Jessica Howell)**
- VII. RECESS AT 5:00 p.m.**
- VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.**

**IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

**X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**D. Public Hearing**

**1. Early Migratory Bird Seasons (Tom Bidrowski)**

**2. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. (Lloyd Fox)**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

If necessary, the Commission will recess on June 18, 2015, to reconvene June 19, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., at the same location to complete their business. Should this occur, time will be made available for public comment.

If notified in advance, the department will have an interpreter available for the hearing impaired. To request an interpreter call the Kansas Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698. Any individual with a disability may request other accommodations by contacting the Commission Secretary at (620) 672-5911.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2015 at Kansas Wetlands Education Center, 592 NE K-156 Hwy, Great Bend, KS

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 23, 2015  
Great Plains Nature Center  
6232 E 29<sup>th</sup> St N, Wichita, Kansas**

Subject to  
Commission  
Approval

The April 23, 2015 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at Great Plains Nature Center, Wichita. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Don Budd, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Roger Marshall and Aaron Rider were present.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

**III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Sheila Kemmis – Added Parks award before Secretary’s remarks. Moved Cabin Fees in the evening to right after evening award presentation.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE March 26, 2015 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Rider second. Approved. (Minutes – Exhibit B).

Chairman Lauber – Asked if Randy is going to be here or not? Sheila Kemmis – I have not heard from him in several months. Secretary Jennison – We will talk about that later.

**V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Tom Kneil, Sierra Club – Legislative issue, we support the department in opposing SB268 and SB269, stream maintenance and spotted skunk. Both bills usurp the authority of the department and set precedent in terms of giving legislature control of any species; this is of great concern to us. Quote from our wildlife chair of Kansas chapter (*read*) “Our state government and its agencies hold Kansas natural resources and wildlife in public trust. It is their job to help maintain species diversity and preserve critical habitat for reasonable public use and enjoyment.” Also, we are in support of designation of National Water Trail on the Arkansas River.

Michael Pearce – There seems to be a large exodus out of Topeka office, Mr. Secretary is it true you won’t be working out of that office? Do you expect that to change? Jennison – I will talk about that in my report.

Chairman Lauber – I told a constituent I would bring this up; use of night vision goggles and optics for predator hunting; replete with risk, but I said I would bring it up. There is new technology and new toys all the time and I see law enforcement people with heartburn over this.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Park Award – Linda Lanterman – Ryan Stucky, regional supervisor will be presenting some awards with his staff. Stucky – Thank you for allowing us to recognize some special people, Dana Smith, a counselor and has worked for the department for 28 years part time. *Presented plaque to Mr. Smith.*

Stucky - Also, we have a couple of life saving awards to give out; Brian Haug and Mike Satterlee will present those. Haug – Randal and Mason Gibson please come up (*read narrative – Exhibit C*). Randal and Mason were fishing on August 16 and saw a vehicle crash into the water at Mr. D’s boat ramp. Mason saw the vehicle traveling down the road toward the ramp at such a rate of speed that he did not think it would be able to stop before crashing into the lake. He alerted his father to the situation and at that time Mason saw and heard the vehicle crash into the water. Mason and his father got into their vehicle and drove the short distance to the boat ramp. The two men observed the vehicle that had gone into the lake was quickly sinking in the water. Randall and Mason also observed an adult female and two children coming out of the water appearing to be unharmed. The woman informed Randall and Mason that her husband was still in the vehicle and that the doors of the now submerged vehicle had closed as they exited. The vehicle was now submerged in the water deep enough the doors would not open leaving the man inside trapped. With disregard for their own safety, Randall and Mason both entered the water to attempt to free the husband from the vehicle. Mason made numerous trips between the sinking vehicle in the water and his father’s truck, getting tools for his father in an attempt to break a window out of the vehicle. After a few unsuccessful attempts, Randall was able to break the glass in the driver's side rear window enough that the husband, who was still inside the car, was able to kick the rest of the window out and exit the vehicle before it was too late. While going between vehicles, grabbing tools, and getting them to his father, Mason also took the initiative to call the Reno County Dispatch Center, relaying accurate and concise information to get Park Law Enforcement and EMS to the scene, as well as giving updates on the statuses of all the passengers. After everyone was safely out of the water, Randall and the husband who had been trapped in the sinking vehicle, were treated for minor cuts and scrapes by Emergency Medical Services. *Presented plaques to them for their heroic efforts.*

### **A. Secretary’s Remarks**

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission. Park revenues continue to be good, also improvement on Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) revenues. Big issue right now is legislature is coming back to town to construct the budget. Projections they made last fall have not been met, most likely consensus is that there needs to be revenue increase so tax increases expected. Don’t anticipate reductions on EDIF or state general fund (SGF) monies. Agency budgets may look a little better at the end of the session. To answer Mike’s question; I am moving to Wichita with my wife who got a promotion, I will have an apartment in Topeka. With the diversity of this department and personnel all over the state the biggest group of employees is in Pratt and I will be spending time there rather than

in Topeka. Expect to be in Topeka Mondays and Tuesdays and in Pratt on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Feel this is a great opportunity to understand issues in Pratt and communicate with staff in Pratt more. I interact with about eight or nine people there and we have about 80 people. Nothing unique for cabinet secretary's to not live in Topeka. Feel it is a good thing for the agency. Pearce – Thanks for the explanation. Several months ago, thought we were going to lose \$500,000 in the Parks, where is that? Craghead – It is right at \$500,000 for FY 2016 and FY 2017. Jennison – One million total. Pearce – Who should I talk to? Craghead – Chad Depperschmitt. Pearce – Who for Parks? Jennison – Either one of the Linda's.

2. 2015 Legislative Update – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. This is the first year of two-year cycle. Legislature on break and comes back on Wednesday for budget issues and a few legislators will deal with outlying bills. Following SB45 on concealed carry firearms. SB46 - was signed by the Governor on March 26 and dealt with domesticated deer having proper identification before movement of those animals. SB50 - deals with property taxes on bed and breakfasts. This bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation. SB59 – Wildlife and parks crimes can be heard by a magistrate judge. If bill passes out of House and passed by Senate; if bill passes one or the other a bill can be conferenced into one that has been passed by both and this bill was conferenced into HB2111. SB97 – regulates contact with dangerous animals. SB112 and SB113, department bills dealing with law enforcement on citations and forms of physical licenses, combined into SB113, trying to get it conferenced into another bill. About 40 bills that have passed one or the other house, only seven that have passed both. SB120 – regarding land purchases, signed by Governor on April 6, reduced to 160 acres without legislative approval, in four counties (NRD lands) can still purchase 640 without legislative approval. SB132 – regarding wolves and non-human primates, was referred to the Senate Committee on Natural Resources. SB134 – Noxious weed law, out of statute and into Dept of Ag hands with recommendations from the state advisory committee, which includes the department, bill not going anywhere. SB 169 – making channel catfish the official fish of Kansas, did not go anywhere. SB 178 – valuation of agricultural land, important to us, had a hearing, but is controversial and not going anywhere. SB 190 – operation of sailboat and sailboat classes passed Senate and House, below line on House general orders. SB262 – also HB2383 and one other bill regarding charitable gaming, many organizational partners would be able to have raffles and that sort of thing, last year Governor vetoed, went to vote of the people, anticipate one version will pass this year. SB268 & 269 – as mentioned by constituent, changes to stream maintenance and removing spotted skunk, both have been blessed, out of Sedgwick County; don't anticipate any movement this year. SB274 – seat belt bill; sailboat SB190 was added to this bill. HB2029 - is deer bill companion to SB45. HB2116 – was first catfish state fish bill. HB2117 – similar to the hunter education requirement, this would require anyone born on or after January 1, 1995 to complete boater safety. HB2168 – companion bill to SB50 on bed and breakfast taxation. HB2341 - dangerous animals. HB2341 - seized wildlife, disposition of antlers bill, passed House and was placed in Committee on Ag and Natural Resources, but came out of House Judiciary Committee and passed House floor, on House general orders. House Concurrent Resolution No. 5008 - amendment to constitution guarantee right to hunt, fish and trap, no time spent on it, NRA initiative, don't think an issue for us, would support it if it came up for hearing. Two bills on law enforcement, one said law enforcement shall give citation, let person off because no citation, trying to change from "shall" to "may"; and maleficent issue of losing job if permits not filled out properly. Licenses being purchased on phones don't need to forfeit license

or forfeit phone; can check to see if someone is suspended electronically today. Pearce – where is bill on antlers being returned to landowner? Tymeson – Passed House and routed to Senate Natural Resources, it is conferenceable, if germane to another bill. It is possible it is still alive this year.

## **B. General Discussion**

1. Tourism Update - Linda Craghead, assistant secretary Parks and Tourism, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit D). Get out your calendars and add Saturday April 25 is free park day and park clean up day. Along with partners KDHE and Westar Green Team, Cedar Bluff, El Dorado, Elk City, Lovewell and Perry will participate in “Keep It Clean Kansas” events. Invite commissioners to awards luncheon on April 29 at Cheney Sailing club to acknowledge state parks team. Media event in Overland Park to kick off national tourism week; it will be held at Prairie Fire Museum, will kick off Kansas Bucket List campaign. Also, will celebrate 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Kansas!* Magazine, which just won another award. Tourism brings significant amounts of money to the state; it encourages business development and has an important role. On May 11-14, we will host the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers in Kansas for Cast and Blast; there are two evening receptions which commissioners are invited to. On June 9-13, the Society of American travel writers will meet; they will start off in Wichita and work way up to Manhattan, and a full schedule of other locations. When it comes to advertising, we can only buy so much, but earned media is great for us. Experience they have here is critical, need to showcase state in a positive way. On top of that brand USA offered a competition to who would sell most flight tickets to the USA. Several travel companies are coming to Kansas and Oklahoma for this event. On May 27-30 Milford State Park will be host to Cabela’s National Team Tournament, expect 250 people fishing on Milford. Critical to build assets, a national program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is set to sunset in November, Linda and myself were both in Washington DC last week to try and explain the importance of these funds. If you have an opportunity to talk to legislators let them know how important that is to us. Secretary Jennison and I received a letter from Kingman County EMS, our law enforcement is the same as state troopers and other law enforcement officers in the state; and they expressed appreciation of Brian and Ryan who were first on scene to a heart attack, the gentleman did pass, but they did all they could. Our law enforcement are first responders and I want to thank Kevin’s team, the parks team and public lands team for all they do. They do a lot of Kansas.

2. Park Regulations - Linda Lanterman, parks division director, presented this regulation to the Commission. No changes to park regulations; however I want to introduce Ryan Stucky. Go out to state parks this weekend, free park entrance day. Many years ago, had a vision at Sandhills State Park to put a campground in there and within this administration the last four or five years we were able to make that possible. Ryan Stucky (PowerPoint – Exhibit E) – This has been an ongoing project for 10 years, Sandhills State Park campground, was not open for public camping. It is 1,123 acres, acquired in 1974, the twenty-second state park; 640 acres belonged to Kansas State Industrial Reformatory and they raised cattle to feed the inmates. They turned over the land to Kansas Park Authority, 320 acres was owned by the Dillon family and they donated those adjacent acres, and we bought 163 more acres. The area is primarily dunes with 15 miles of trails and allows upland bird and archery deer hunting by special permit. We have not quite finished the 64 utility campsites, but are getting there. The campground was funded with trail

grants, started excavation in 2006; 2007 excavated pit pond; 2008 built 15 sets of horse pens; 2009 and 2010 engineering planning overall campground utilities and roadway; 2011 dirt work to grade; 2012 hooked up to City of Hutchison water and sewer, and electric utility installed; 2013 placed rock on campsite and roadway base, concrete pads and installed CTX restroom; 2014 installed horse pens, campsite amenities, parking lots and sidewalks, paved roadway, planted grass and trees, placed cabin office and installed waterlines and faucets; and 2015 poured dumpster pads, planted more trees, landscaping and working on aesthetics. Of 64 sites, 44 have water, sewer and electricity; 20 have only water and electricity; 30 are back-in sites, and 34 are pull-through with 14 of those sites with horse pens, nine with water, sewer electric and electric, and five with water and electric (*showed photos on PowerPoint*). Burned 1,000 acres in one burn on March 26. We have seen a lot of horseback riders asking for these campgrounds. Under top soil it is solid clay and it holds water pretty well. Dedicated September 11, 2014. Sand Hills has 64 sites and took in \$20,000 from September 1 to December 31, at \$20,000 for the first four months of this year; if weather cooperates expect a good year. We compared to Cheney the number of campsites and revenue; Cheney has 681 campsites, with total revenue of \$541,456 in 2014 (second in state), and from January to April \$104,645; Sand Hills has 9.4 percent of the sites Cheney has and has 18.7 percent of the revenue Cheney has. Had a group out April 10 and filled the whole campground with horseback riders. We need even more horse pens and will try to build some this winter. Lanterman – Grant was an 80/20 match so we do the work for our match. Our guys are amazing at construction.

*Changed #3 and #4 to accommodate another PowerPoint presentation.*

4. Fisheries Management Update - Doug Nygren, Fisheries Section chief, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit F, PowerPoint – Exhibit G, handout – Exhibit H). Topics include the early spawn largemouth bass stocking experiment, blue catfish in federal reservoirs, Fishing's Future, synthetic fish habitat modules, changes in walleye production and management, and the new Kansas Aquatic Biodiversity Center at the Farlington Hatchery. Users of the resources, blue line is number of certified anglers (used to determine federal aid) steady decline in participation, yellow line is participation rate. Was 16 percent of population now 10 percent and this is happening nationwide, California is 2.5 percent. Every five years USFWS conducts a survey and Kansas anglers prefer largemouth, but actually fished for catfish, then black bass, crappie, temperate bass and percid; so we try to provide opportunities to do that. We do population surveys in the spring, electrofish and creel surveys; hatchery system; access program; and aquatic education. Focus on six topics. In 2009, started early spawn largemouth bass stocking at Meade Hatchery, tricked bass into thinking it is May and get them to spawn in February and March. Back in 1980s did survey with Dr. David Willis and decided to try this. These early spawn bass that have the potential to reach 8 inches at the end of their first year. Regular spawned bass only reach about 4½ to 5 inches at the end of the year. The early spawned fish have about 45 days extra and more food available to them. In 2013, we stocked early spawn bass in Clinton, Hillsdale and Melvern; one fish stocked at Hillsdale in 2013 was almost 12 inches long in 2014 when caught. We have already spawned 2.3 million fish this spring and wild bass haven't even started spawning yet. We will finish up in June. All bass are genetically marked since 2013. At Clinton poor year class, in 2013, stocked phase one which made up 20 percent of sample; Hillsdale phase one and two, caught no phase ones; at Melvern estimated 47 percent of 2013 year class, continuing to monitor this. Put some in Cedar Bluff, Herington, and a

few other locations. This is another success story: Just 15 years ago, there was consideration that the blue catfish be listed as a species in need of conservation or even threatened. Ichthyologists weren't seeing them in Kansas rivers or streams where they were native. In 1990, Milford Hatchery decided to raise blue catfish and stocked them in Milford Reservoir for eight years, then suspended stocking. Natural reproduction was found in 2003. Farlington Hatchery has taken over reigns on blue catfish and raise about 80,000 each year. They have been stocked at Milford and two other reservoirs. Expect these populations to be naturally sustainable over time and will be able to quit stocking. Blue catfish are fast becoming the most sought after catfish in Kansas; a tribute to our hatchery people. We're wrapping up Milford blue catfish movement study, and the take home message is that they use upper and middle stretches of the lake. None have left lake at lower or upper end. Can repeat study on other reservoirs as they develop. Have had a tremendous opportunity to work with Fishing's Future, they have volunteers that teach aquatic education events with us or by themselves. In three years we have 350 instructors that have been trained to spread the word on how fun it is to fish and take care of the sustainable environment. Started program of having fishing in the schools, have loaner kits that we make available to instructors. Another topic is synthetic fish habitat structures. Brush piles in lakes for fish attractors has been habitat for years, but they deteriorate, Georgia has come up with a cube made out of plastic PVC, they hold fish well and are similar to the tree structures, have about 1,000 so far. They are made at Honor Camp in El Dorado; volunteers put them out to locations provided by the biologists. Putting together GPS program to show where these are located within a lake. Kansas walleye initiative is new program, we reviewed all available information; walleye grow fast and die young and we don't have enough wild brood stock, have to stock, if continue to over fish may even hurt stocking program. Walleye populations are suffering, recruitment and growth overfishing is occurring. Not enough large adults to get good reproduction; anticipating plan in next year or two to make better walleye fishery statewide. New technological breakthrough in Iowa, walleye are reared in ponds until run out of food, they start eating each other. Can raise in dark in tanks, and we have pilot projects at Meade and Milford hatcheries. Fish are fed a special diet (otoem) bottom line is problem with feeding artificial diet, by rearing in total darkness and putting clay in tank they follow current and then introduce pellet to feed fish. Pellet is a high protein diet, they were eating plankton. Larva culture in the past, food has oil in it, when the fry come to the top to get air they would die because not getting enough oxygen; we're getting 100 percent of swim bladder inflation with this food. First attempt to put into ponds is tomorrow. Great project, experimental but holds great promise for us. Kansas Aquatic Biodiversity Center to be placed at Farlington Fish Hatchery to raise endangered and SINC species such as Neosho Madtom and certain mussels and host fish required to support those mussels. Will collaborate with universities and other scientific communities. Focus on rabbitsfoot and Neosho mucket mussels and Neosho madtom. (*Showed short video on prisoners erecting cubes and placing them in the water; bass spawning; walleye larvaculture; striped bass and wiper production; and blue catfish movement at Milford.*) Chairman Lauber – What is refugia? Nygren – If natural disaster and fish are destroyed, have genetic stock in captivity. Commissioner Marshall – Will have great earned media if fishing improves.

3. Fishing Regulations - Doug Nygren, fisheries section chief, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit I). Have reference document where we list length and creel limits. Add 35-inch minimum length and five/day creel for blue catfish at Melvern and change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on spotted bass and sauger at Melvern. At Clinton we're proposing a

35-inch minimum length limit and five/day creel on blue cats and an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass. At Elk City we're proposing a 35-inch minimum length limit and 5 per day creel on blue catfish; At El Dorado, which is success story, we're looking at a 25- to 35-inch slot length limit and five/day creel on blue cats and we'd like to reduce the length limit on largemouth, spotted and smallmouth from 18 inches to 15 inches; at Tuttle Creek, John Redmond, LaCygne and Pomona change blue catfish to five/day creel; several smaller impoundment changes as well. Commissioner Budd – Heard from fishermen on these changes? Nygren – Will have a chance at these meetings, biologists have also been reacting to some input. Other issues, large paddlefish bust last year, in Kansas and Oklahoma, taking fish for caviar; feeling that we needed to make some changes. Have language in 115-7-1 that is Missouri's existing paddlefish laws. Setline fishing, fish offshore instead of setline in open water, has to be connected to immovable object, can't have more than two hooks and may be able to set to concrete blocks, but must have a float to find the setline, float material shall be constructed only from plastic, wood, or foam and shall be a closed-cell construction. We will be discussing this further. Chairman Lauber – How many paddlefish harvested in Kansas? Sean Lynott – Highest was about 2,000 fish, average of 350 a year. Chairman Lauber – Most of the fish come up out of Grand Lake in Oklahoma? Nygren – Right. Chairman Lauber – What do you do with the eggs when you harvest a paddlefish? Nygren – That is what I meant that we have to work out the details. All of the states are different on how they handle this.

#### *Break*

5. National Water Trail – Arkansas River Update - Jessica Mounts, fisheries biologist, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit J, PowerPoint – Exhibit K). Following the success of the Kansas River being named a national water trail by the National Park Service (NPS) in July 2012, the department is seeking the same designation for a portion of the Arkansas River in Kansas. That goal is a little closer to being achieved thanks to technical assistance we will receive from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to develop the designation application. The ultimate goal is national water trail recognition for the Arkansas River Water Trail from Great Bend downstream to the Oklahoma border, which includes a network of public river access points providing recreational and conservation opportunities. Another benefit of the recognition includes enhancing prospects for communities and businesses to attract enthusiastic river-goers and boost local revenues. This portion of the river has relatively consistent flows and passes through six counties - Barton, Rice, Reno, Sedgwick, Sumner and Cowley, about 195 total miles. This classification will benefit recreation and conservation, attracts river users and boost local economy. The public may use the waterway between the ordinary high-water marks on each bank, but people aren't allowed to trespass on private property adjacent to the river. As a result, it is important to establish reasonably-spaced public access points and currently we have 15 public sites established in partnership with cities, counties and private landowners. The department will work with the NPS to engage additional partners and stakeholders, set priorities to analyze issues and opportunities, improve public information resources, and achieve the national water trail designation. The existing access points within the City of Wichita are more closely spaced, with additional sites above and below the city providing for longer float distances. The partnership of the Arkansas River Corridor Access plan (ARCAP) has continued for the last seven years and resulted in two new access points so far; but there is much more work to be done. While another 12 access points were

identified in the ARCAP, consistency and organization of directional signage is lacking, and the development of several of the 12 potential access points would enhance the recreational opportunities beyond the City of Wichita. Evaluation of the use of the water trail by paddlers, anglers and wildlife viewers is also a priority for making future decisions to serve the users of the water trail. Most recently, a multi-million dollar dam renovation at Lincoln Street in Wichita was completed, which included funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Coast Guard and KDWP and resulted in a fish passage and safe passage for boaters included within the new dam structure – as well as parking and put-in/take-out ramps above and below the dam. This project addressed two major river connectivity issues: safe passage for boaters downstream and the migration of native fishes upstream. The dedication for the Lincoln Street project is planned for May 1, 2015 at 1:30 pm. In addition to the previous improvements made to access, there is a strong community support for water quality, conservation, safety and the health of the river. In last 10 years, Ark River was looked at as untouchable, now accessible. Going forward, long-term lease in Rice County, just south of Alden, enhance with signage with a Kiosk; and also we have been approached by Westar Energy to supply Kiosks. Working on inventory and mapping with Google Earth, working on brochure similar to one done on Kansas River and update on the website. Downloadable information in arcGIS map. Really need to plan for growth to survive when we are all gone, plan for the future. Need additional public access points, about 30 miles in red circle with no sites. Build it to survive! National Park Service objectives are to expand public access; develop connection to parks, rivers and trails; advance protection and stewardship; and engage youth and youth organizations. Also putting together a law matrix on the website to let people know of legal and illegal things within city and county ordinances where people travel on the river. Mark hazards and portages. City of Wichita is revamping their ordinances and boating codes. Put together contacts and working on first press release. Timeline is to document existing sites and activities identify shortfalls, get public engagement and fishing the application which is almost complete and ready to be submitted. Commissioner Marshall – Where in Great Bend does it start? Mounts – Stone Lake, parking lot and short portage to the river.

6. Zebra Mussels Discussion - Jessica Howell, ANS coordinator, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit L, PowerPoint – Exhibit M). Aquatic species are non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems for water users in North America. Besides zebra mussels we have Asian carp which affect paddlefish, eat similar things and live in similar habitat. How are ANS spread? Can be natural, downstream or upstream; introduced by human transfers intentionally or unintentionally, through actual movement, or in the water. Started ANS program in 2005, involved state, federal and private entities. Goals were set to prevent new ANS introductions, prevent dispersal, eradicate or control to minimize effects, educate users, and support research; a copy of the plan is on our website. Do you think movement can be stopped? Two pronged approach, rely heavily on education; however we back that up with regulation to ensure people are doing the right thing. Clean, drain and dry is main message promoted in a variety of ways, one-on-one, handouts like collapsible minnow buckets, and literature (i.e. at Casey's gas stations, also we have tailgate wraps on fisheries pickups). Developing signage Kiosks to offer literature, eye catching information, about 6 ½ feet tall, putting at four parks as a pilot program. Following up with an evaluation, of whether effective or not. Work very hard on education. Regulations, first discussions in 2006 on bait, majority of work done in 2010 and 2011 through a number of workshops, finalized some in 2011 on wild-caught bait and revisited in 2012 on bluegill and

green sunfish. I want to hammer home, goal was twofold, minimize risk of spreading ANS while protecting fishing traditions. Commercial bait was one issue and wild-caught bait was the other. Concerned about transport of aquatic plants, bait, and movement of species. To address commercial side several regulations were passed; working with anglers and bait shops we came up with a list. We also addressed the water in that regulation, only potable or well water can be used in tanks where fish are sold. Any bait from other states must be certified free from select pathogens and purchase bait from certified bait shop. Those commercial regulations are great and have addressed those concerns (*yellow dots are those bait shops in 2011 and 2012, new businesses in green dots*). Came back in 2013 and asked what they thought of regulations and over 50 percent said they were satisfied or extremely satisfied; another 30 percent said they were moderately satisfied. On wild-caught bait regulations; spread of plants a concern but can't address plants as an agency; release of live baits, modified to include spread of waterborne contaminants, addressed through boating regulations, largest movement of water through boats, drain boat and remove drain plug, empty livewells; stops most of the concern, but not all of it. One of regulations in place is ANS designated waters, any waters with ANS species does not allow take of anything from those waters. Regulation on use where you catch it, use in common drainage where collected, can use bluegill or green sunfish, but not use from ANS waters. We had a lot of these same discussions before when we crafted this and we realize there is still some ANS concerns. Cost of large bluegill and green sunfish is prohibitive and catching your own bait was traditional. Developed list of pros and cons at that time. We recognize there is still a chance there might be an ANS species at some of the places where bluegill and green sunfish are removed. Always looking to improve ANS program. Whole point of program is to conserve natural resources for the future. Commissioner Budd – Were you here in 2011 and 2012? Howell – No, but my boss, Jason Goeckler, was and he is here. Commissioner Budd – Good job on your presentation, but zebra mussels is the reason you are here. It is a statewide issue and is already a problem in many of the reservoirs we have, so I would like to revisit this issue; is worse case scenario is that we leave it the way it is now? We need to stay on top of this issue. Chairman Lauber – Important issue, I was here, but the bigger concern that led to the bluegill and green sunfish prohibition, was the difficulty to identify the fish, similarities to young Asian carp. Feel we will be right back where we were, but don't know how much more restrictive you can become without having some social blow back. If you asked Jason or any biologist, you can be so restrictive to stop it, but have you given the public a chance to enjoy the resource? We can address the regulations again, but I think they were reasonably adopted. Commissioner Dill – Since 2011 and 2012, how many more lakes have been infected? Howell – Not sure, 23 lakes now, five in last two years. Commissioner Marshall – Where? Howell – In 2013 found Clinton, at Lake Shawnee and Lake Wabaunsee; 2014 also found at Pomona reservoir. Commissioner Budd – This is a unique issue, we know there is a problem and what causes the problem, in this case you need to be more restrictive to protect it. It has been a couple of years so I think we should revisit it. Chairman Lauber – Pomona was identified in 2014, but likely introduction occurred two to three years before? Howell – Likely one year before, not sure. Chairman Lauber – Received a lot of disdainful comments on this issue, expect a tremendous amount of blow back. Commissioner Budd – I would like Sheila to do roll call of names to see where Commissioners stand. *Raised hands if interested in workshop on this, four raised hands (Rider, Marshall, Dill, and Budd)*. Commissioner Marshall – What is the most likely way the new lakes were infected? Howell – Lake Shawnee is right in Topeka, Lake Wabaunsee is very rural, Clinton gets a lot of use. I cannot nail it down. Don't just find around boat docks but in entire

lake. Commissioner Marshall – What percentage by green sunfish, 10 percent? Howell – I don't know. Chairman Lauber – It seemed to be larger lakes that had a lot of boats in the beginning. Commissioner Marshall – Besides sunfish, anything else we could do to stop this? Howell – I would be happy to share a list with you. Commissioner Marshall – What else can we do what low hanging fruit? Howell – Aquatic plants. Commissioner Marshall – On strictly zebra mussels. Howell – Movement of water, we address water in bait buckets and bilge. Commissioner Marshall – Feel uphill battle and not attached to sunfish. Chairman Lauber – Can we control water? Tymeson – Can't stop people from getting a bucket of water from the lake. Commissioner Budd – Put together regulation options to control zebra mussels. Lean towards we can't win. Commissioner Marshall – Don't think bluegill and green sunfish are the culprit. Jennison – I think for future meeting we could have Jessica and Jason put together their wish list. What will have the greatest impact and how can we do that and if it requires regulatory change and whether it warrants commitment of funds. Howell – We can do that. Commissioner Marshall – It highlights we care. Commissioner Rider – What is the difference between the waters that are already infected compared to those not affected? Howell – The only difference is the ANS issue of not taking live fish. Zebra mussels or ANS? Commissioner Marshall – Zebra mussels at this time. Commissioner Dill – You put together your wish list, we may be able to come up with some private or public partnerships to help us do that. Chairman Lauber – The movement of zebra mussels is different than the movement of Asian carp. Howell – I think that depends on the water body. Commissioner Marshall – Compare to states surrounding us and if they are doing better and why. Howell – Number of invasions? Commissioner Marshall – Decreasing the spread to new water. Howell – That is a tall order and I will try to deliver. Unknown audience - Shocked at zebra mussels, Great Lakes ocean vessels is where they came from, with sea water. Howell – We coordinate with other state and federal agencies at a regional and national level. Keith Miltz – In presentation, there was concern on baitshops on commercial bait; but it turned out to not be a problem. The only basic difference is the water source, potable or well water. We could possibly have that requirement written into the regulation. Howell – Great idea, but can't regulate individuals, can regulate baitshops.

### **C. Workshop Session**

1. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. - Lloyd Fox, big game research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit N). This regulation covers deer seasons at Fort Riley. No changes since previous meeting. I have prepared calendars for you, it has additional days in October for youth and people with disabilities, four days; different firearms deer season, basically three segments; and additional days of archery opportunity. They have also requested no pre-rut season.

**VII. RECESS AT 4:24 p.m.**

**VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:35 p.m.**

**IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

**XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

#### **D. Public Hearing (moved up in agenda)**

*Notice and Submission Forms; Kansas Legislative Research Letter and Attorney General Letter (Exhibit O).*

1. Cabin Rates - Linda Lanterman, parks division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit P, handouts – Exhibit Q). Fee differentials based on occupancy of 65 percent to 84 percent; increase \$10 per weekend day, for estimated revenue of \$50,000. With 85 percent and above we are proposing a \$15 increase, an approximate revenue increase of \$15,000. At Scott State Park we are asking for \$20 for weekend day, an estimated \$2,700 revenue increase. Also, the two new cabins at Wilson, we are asking \$85 for weekdays and \$125 for weekend days. Occupancy on weekdays is not as high; the reservation system will allow us to have some dynamic pricing; so to help with occupancy, we are offering discounts of \$5 to \$10 for reservations of two to four consecutive weekdays, Monday through Thursday. An increase in total revenue of about \$80,000 if we do these proposed increases. Commissioner Dill – Fees not the same at parks? Lanterman – Based on occupancy and the difference in cabins. Can make adjustments if needed. Pearce – What is peak season? Lanterman – April through end of September. Pearce - \$10 per day of the weekend? Lanterman – \$10 per day and \$15 per day on weekend days. Pearce – Scott State Park is different? Lanterman – Yes, \$20 per weekend day. Tymeson – Similar to Secretary’s Orders, no vote needed. Chairman Lauber – On handout page, where is Clinton? Lanterman – Under Osage. As a matter of fact Clinton is the highest in the state.

#### **X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Pearce – We have some terms that are about to expire, what are they? Sheila Kemmis – Budd, Dill and Doll in June 2015, Marshall 2016, Hayzlett in 2017 and Lauber and Rider in 2018. Pearce – Thank you.

Statewide Habitat Award Presentation – Jake George asked for nominations for projects on private lands (Exhibit R, PowerPoint – Exhibit S). The nominating biologist is Bob Culbertson. Bob Culbertson – The Kansas Wildlife Habitat Conservation (KWHC) Award is a statewide award, modeled after the county-level soil conservation awards, which recognize farmers and ranchers who have completed projects designed to improve environmental quality or conserve natural resources such as soil, water, and energy. This year’s award goes to Stotts Ranch located in Elk County. Property is managed by Caleb, his wife Melissa and his father. Elk County is prairie timber and prairie savannah. Caleb and his father became involved in the ranch management in 2003. The ranch is located within the Cross Timbers ecoregion in southeast Kansas where prairie savannah was the historical vegetation. Caleb was concerned with the expansion of post oak and blackjack oak in this oak/savannah grassland community, and he was also seeing increased areas where the oaks were the dominant vegetation outcompeting the native grasses. There were also areas in the uplands where Osage orange and locust trees had become established. He had witnessed aerial spraying of herbicides to kill trees in these situations and thought there must be a better control and management method. Caleb partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism to reduce tree invasion by the use of cutting and stump herbicide treatment followed by prescribed fire. His goal was to not only reduce tree coverage, but also restore a more historically accurate prairie-savannah community. The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program administered by NRCS and Partners for

Wildlife Program (USFWS) provided technical and some financial assistance for this management. The results are producing more grass for livestock and improved conditions for grassland birds, including bobwhite quail. Caleb has also adjusted grazing rates and time of grazing to improve the prairie grass vigor. One of the first results of this management has been prescribed fires that are more effective in controlling re-sprouts and other trees. Caleb monitors the cut areas very carefully and when needed, will also follow up with ground treatments of herbicide to kill re-sprouting trees that are so thick the prairie grass is nearly absent. Caleb also involved Emporia State University Biology professor, William Jensen, to monitor the change in habitat conditions with grassland bird use. Numerous students have utilized the Stotts Ranch to conduct bird research and further the information base of grassland bird use in oak-savannah habitat (soon to be published in Wildlife Journal). Print and award presented by Jake George and Bob Culbertson to Caleb Stotts (*photo taken that included Caleb Stotts, Jake George, Bob Culbertson, Robin Jennison and Gerald Lauber*).

## **XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **B. General Discussion (continued)**

7. Late Migratory Bird Seasons - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit T). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within the frameworks when establishing state-specific waterfowl seasons. Late migratory game bird frameworks are published in August, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and other population and harvest data become available and recommendations from the various Flyway Councils are reviewed at the USFWS Service Regulation Committee (SRC) Meeting (July 29-30, 2015). The department annually establishes general waterfowl seasons, youth hunter waterfowl days and falconry waterfowl seasons during the late migratory game bird season setting process. Based on the 2014 duck population estimate of 49.2 million ducks (48 percent above the long-term average), 10.9 million mallards (42 percent above the long-term average) and a May pond count in the Prairie Pothole Region of 7.2 million ponds (40 percent above the long-term average), we will likely continue in the liberal package for the 2015-2016 season. Kansas has been in these liberal frameworks since 1996. We will workshop in June with vote in August. Commissioner Marshall – Concern of Quivira being closed while the whoopers are there. Rich can provide some of that information or we can at June meeting. Schultheis – We lose about half of the days based on the last ten years. Commissioner Marshall – If we move it sooner, that is before whoopers get there? Schultheis – Generally yes, that is the case, when cranes and whoopers are showing up is fairly similar. Bidrowski – Whether Quivira is in late or early zone will be discussed in zones. Pearce – Frustration because you never know when the whoopers are going to show up and you don't know what the weather will be like. Commissioner Marshall – In southeast zone, people are coming out of the woodwork, people in Kansas City area, concerned that Marais des Cygnes area will be closed. I can't figure out a good compromise, those people are reaching out. Bidrowski – Duck zone boundaries are intertwined with season dates. It is a preference. We let them know their preferences are known, have largest harvest numbers, we have had good duck populations for over 25 years. Schultheis – More often than not whoopers were present half of those days, don't have exact dates.

### C. Workshop Session (continued)

2. Webless Migratory Birds - Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit U). We are proposing no changes to the framework as presented.

3. Early Migratory Bird Seasons - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit V). Federal frameworks will not be set until June SRC meeting. Blue-winged teal (8.5 million) are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most passing through Kansas from late August through September, prior to the opening of the general duck season. Green-winged teal are also early migrants, and many arrive in September and October, but they are commonly found in Kansas throughout the winter, depending on weather conditions. This will be voted on at the June Commission meeting.

4. Duck Zone Boundaries - Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit W). Zoning is the establishment of independent seasons in two or more areas (zones) within states for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity for hunters throughout the state. An important condition is zoning shall not detrimentally change the harvest distribution pattern among species or populations at either the state or flyway level. Kansas duck zones are based geographically for habitat features contained in that zone rather than a latitude or longitude justification. The USFWS notified KDWP that any changes to duck zone boundaries are due by December 1, previously we were told May 1, 2016. These changes will not be in effect until the 2016-17. Dates and locations for public meetings are set and I have given you a copy (Exhibit X). Chairman Lauber – How will you get the word out about these meetings, besides through Pearce? Bidrowski – Through Mike Miller and Ron Kaufman and their staff. Chairman Lauber – Do you have any boundary options set? Bidrowski – We will take a map to meetings and look at what people are interested in. Chairman Lauber – Robert Wilson stated that the southeast zone was made twice as big as it should have been and should have only included Neosho. Commissioner Budd – I have gotten 17 emails from Marais des Cygnes people, like boundary the way it is and season the way it is. I have gotten none of the negative ones like Roger. Concern from singular private club north of Marais des Cygnes proper. Bidrowski – Club borders on north side of that. Commissioner Budd – Can we change that zone to take them out? If we stick to highways, it is hard enough to show zones without using county roads and county boundary lines. Chairman Lauber – I also got a lot of these emails, since emails all basically the same seem to be coming from one group. I used to get a lot of people in that area that said by the time everything freezes up, wanted earliest opener. Try to get most constituent involvement in these meetings. Commissioner Budd – Emails that I have got are not from same club, mine are from other parts of the country, the one on the northern boundary is wanting be removed. Bidrowski – There are about 40 clubs in that area. Commissioner Budd – You don't have any idea where you want to move the boundary to at this point? Bidrowski – Trying to approach with an open mind and have no bias at this point. Commissioner Budd – Keep Marais des Cygnes in southeast or take it out? Bidrowski – Depends on the season dates. Commissioner Rider – Waiting for public comment. Commissioner Marshall – Mine are not emails, but phone calls and people I am bumping into. Chairman Lauber – As Robert said, the southeast zone was never supposed to be that big I think. Commissioner Budd – What does Karl Karrow, manager at

Marais des Cygnes think? Bidrowski – Thought it would be okay to be a week later, but now two or three weeks later he feels he is losing some time. Commissioner Budd – What if we drew a line from Lyon to border? Bidrowski – Highway 54 is one we looked at. Commissioner Budd – What is going to determine your recommendation? Bidrowski – The hunters. Commissioner Budd – Why no meeting in Marais des Cygnes? Bidrowski – Pretty remote area; hope to cover interested parties at Erie or Overland Park meeting. Chairman Lauber – Earlier opener? Bidrowski – Odd weather event happened during the split last year and had a lot of migration. Chairman Lauber – Still want earlier opener. Bidrowski – Opener is on peak migration. Commissioner Budd – Can't guess the weather, but do have migration patterns. Chairman Lauber – Tom, I think you are doing the right thing, talk to constituents and do the best you can and make recommendations to benefit the sportsmen. Commissioner Budd – Know problem is the northern part of that zone, north of Marais des Cygnes, try to accommodate them. Commissioner Marshall – Can we email blast those that purchased a permit last year? Bidrowski – With KOALS we can. Pearce – Commissioner Rider, where do you live? Commissioner Rider – Columbus. Pearce - Do you hunt Neosho? Commissioner Rider – Yes, was a slower season. Before they start hitting the fields in early December, use Neosho Wildlife Area. Pearce – What date would you consistently hunt, what are parameters? Commissioner Rider – Around Thanksgiving or a touch later. Pearce – Through? Commissioner Rider – Mid-January I guess.

## **XII. Old Business**

*None*

## **XIII. Other Business**

### **A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

June 18, 2015 – Fort Hays State Robbins Center, Hays  
August 20, 2015 – Wetland Education Center, Great Bend  
October 22, 2015 – Burlington Library conference room, Burlington  
January 7, 2016 – Manhattan (new Flint Hills Museum)

Hayzlett – Had a couple guys who spoke about how they were treated at a Marina. Was there something done about that? I guess it happened again and it was more intense. Tymeson – Attempt to meet with Marina operator after last meeting, he has hired legal counsel and there continues to be issues there; suggested meeting between County Attorney, his attorney and myself. A number of individuals have expressed concerns. I'm sure there are issues both ways. Chairman Lauber – Marina operator overreaching his lease and sportsmen who are poking. Maybe Chris can get it resolved.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

# **Secretary's Remarks**

**Agency and State Fiscal Status**  
**No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting**

**2015 Legislature**

**No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting**

# **General Discussion**

### **License and Permit Fees**

Late this spring, a committee was assembled to begin discussing the potential to increase KDWPT revenues by raising prices on some of the department's issuances. This discussion is necessary for several reasons. First, hunting and fishing license fees have not been increased since 2002 and deer and turkey permit fees have remained the same since 1984. Fees have not kept up with inflation, and the uncommitted reserve in our Wildlife Fee Fund (WFF) has begun to shrink. Current priority programs cost more than annual revenue.

Fee increases were last seriously looked at in 2008. However, when projected revenues were higher than expected, fee increase discussions were put on hold.

When the committee compared Kansas fees to those of surrounding states, it was apparent that even with moderate increases, Kansas fishing and hunting fees will remain competitively priced. With goals of maintaining current priority programs, funding future programs, ensuring available federal funding can be matched, and maintaining healthy WFF ending balance the group has had the following preliminary discussions:

- 24-Hour Fishing License is priced too low and it should be a one-day license rather than a 24-hour license.
- 48-hour Waterfowl License may be unnecessary and priced too low (\$25).
- Revenue is lost every year because nonresident deer hunters are not aware that they need a NR hunting license in addition to their permit. One solution would be to sell the hunting license with the deer permit.
- Those purchasing a hunting/fish combination license should get a discount
- Value added packages should be developed
- Multi-year licenses should be considered
- Timetable – general discussion, June 18; Workshop Aug. 20, Public Hearing Oct. 22.  
Implement Jan. 1, 2016

At its last meeting, task force members discussed all issuance fees, except the youth and senior license fees, which have only recently been established. Statutory caps were considered, as well as potential resistance factors.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **B. General Discussion**

#### **2. 2016 Turkey Regulations [KAR 15-25-(5-6)]**

##### **Background**

The 2015 spring turkey season was open during all of April and May and included 3 different seasons (youth/disabled, archery, and regular). The fall 2014 season ran from October 1 through the end of January but was closed during the regular firearm deer season (Dec. 3-14). Hunting is regulated within the same 6 management units during both seasons (Figure 1). The 6 hunt units line up with the management units the department uses to monitor turkey populations and hunter activity. This consistency allows us to utilize our data to guide harvest recommendations.

The department currently sells spring turkey permits to >60,000 hunters and fall turkey permits to >10,000 hunters. Those individuals purchased 74,609 carcass tags for the most recent spring season (2015) and 12,976 for the most recent fall season (2014; Table 1). Non-residents accounted for 38.1% of Kansas's spring hunters and 26.0% of the fall hunters in the most recent seasons. Harvest has averaged around 33,000 and 13,000 over the last several spring and fall seasons, respectively (Table 1).

##### **Population Status and Productivity**

In recent years, the Kansas turkey population has increased in all but the western 1/3 and north-central portions of the state where populations have declined (Figure 1). The increases in the remainder of the state have been due to dry weather during the nesting and brood rearing periods which facilitated improved poult production. Despite the recent population increases in those areas, the population is still far below the peak levels observed in the mid 2000s. The recent dry conditions have had the opposite effect in western Kansas where an average precipitation year is much drier. The severe drought in western Kansas resulted in poor production over the last couple of years due inadequate vegetative structure and few invertebrates for poult foraging. The vegetative conditions were improved or maintained going into this nesting season across most of the state due to some timely precipitation during late spring of 2014. However, recent major precipitation events have coincided with the peak hatching period for turkeys which is usually detrimental to production.

##### **Discussion**

The department uses an adaptive management strategy to guide staff recommendations on wild turkey bag limits for both the spring and fall seasons. The strategy aims to maintain a high level of hunter success in every hunt unit and provides a consistent method of developing staff recommendations. The strategy includes a hierarchy of bag limit combinations and uses established triggers to determine when each one will be recommended. At the time of this report, the data from the spring 2015 season had not yet been analyzed. Thus, it is not yet known if any of the established triggers have been hit this year. The staff recommendation for the 2015 turkey bag limits will be presented at the next commission meeting. Recall, that recent commission action reduced bag limits during fall 2014 and changed the spring 2015 season structure.



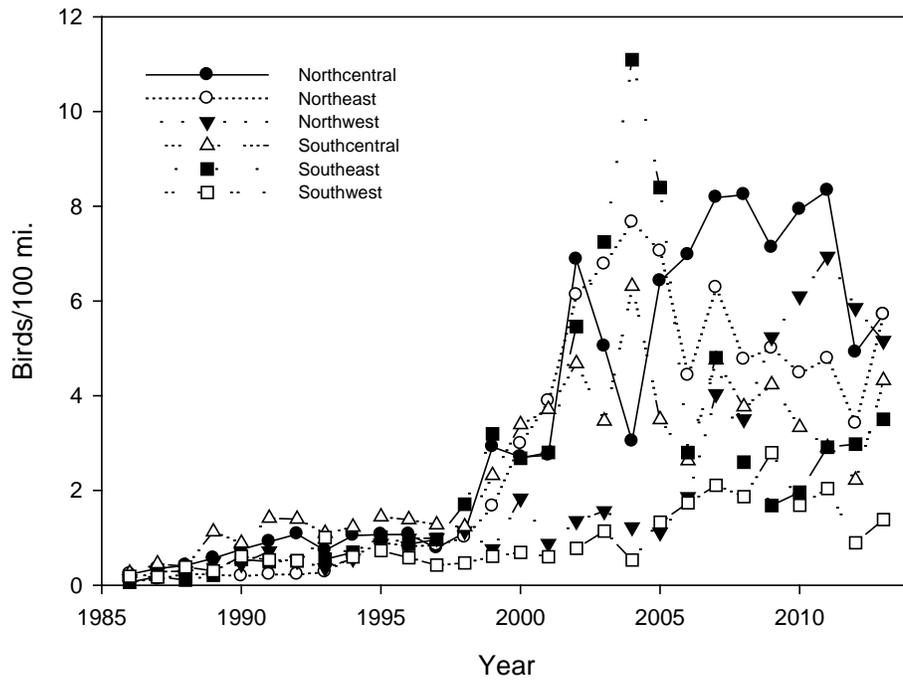


Figure 2. The spring rural mail carrier index (birds/100 mi. traveled) to wild turkey populations in the 6 Kansas management regions, 1986-2014.

**Tourism Briefing**

**No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting**

**State Park Updates**  
**PowerPoint presentations at meeting**

# **Workshop Session**

## **Park Regulations**

**No changes at this time – possible park presentations**

## **2016 Reference Document Proposed Changes for Special Length and Creel Limits:**

- Melvern Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish; change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on spotted bass and sauger.
- Clinton Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish; change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.
- Elk City Reservoir -- add a 35-inch minimum length limit and change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish.
- El Dorado Reservoir -- remove the 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass; change to a 25- to 35-inch slot length limit and a 5/day creel limit with no more than 2 fish 35 inches long or longer on blue catfish.
- Tuttle Creek, John Redmond, LaCygne, and Pomona Reservoirs -- change to a 5/day creel limit on blue catfish
- Bone Creek Reservoir -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit and 2/day creel limit on saugeye.
- Winfield City Lake -- add an 18-inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass.
- Osage State Fishing Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on largemouth bass.
- Severy City Lake -- change to a 13- to 18-inch slot length limit on largemouth bass.
- Olpe City Lake -- change to an 18-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass.
- Pleasanton City Lake - Old -- remove the 10-inch minimum length limit and the 10/day creel limit on crappie.
- Leawood - Ironwoods Park Pond -- change to a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Lenexa - Resurrection Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Louisburg - Lewis Young Park Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Louisburg City Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - East High School Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Heatherstone Park Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Oregon Trail Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Olathe - Stagecoach Park Pond -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Shawnee - Monticello Springs Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Gridley City Lake -- change to a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye.
- Lawrence - Sandra Shaw Community Health Park Pond -- add a 2/day creel limit on channel catfish.
- Osage City Lake -- change to a 5/day creel limit on channel catfish and a 50/day creel limit on crappie.
- Mt. Hope - Oak Street Park Pond -- Change name to Mount Hope Woodland Park Pond.
- Lansing City Lake No. 2 -- Change name to Lansing - Billy Blackwell Lake.

- Manhattan - Anneberg Park Pond -- Change name to Manhattan - Jerry Dishman Lake.

## **Other Proposed 2016 Fishing Regulation Changes.**

### **Change 115-1-1 (54). Definition of a setline.**

Current definition of a setline: "Setline" means that a string or cord that is anchored at one point, does not have more than two hooks, and is not associated with a hand-operated mechanical reel.

We propose that if a setline is set in a location where there is no suitable permanent anchor, there must be at least a weight of 25 pounds at the end of the setline to be considered "anchored." We also propose that if a float is used with a setline, float material shall be constructed only from plastic, wood, or foam and shall be a closed-cell construction.

## **DUCK ZONE BOUNDARIES**

### **JUNE 18, 2015**

#### **Background**

Zoning is the establishment of independent seasons in two or more areas (zones) within a state for the purpose of providing more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity. Zoning enhances the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters in specific areas.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) considers states' request to change duck zones every five years. The next opportunity for Kansas to alter its duck zone boundaries, if it chooses, will be for the 2016-2017 season. The USFWS must be notified by Dec. 1, 2015 of any proposed changes. Below are the federal guidelines for zoning:

- 1) A zone is a geographic area or portion of a state, with a contiguous boundary, for which independent dates may be selected for the regular duck season.
- 2) Changes for management-unit boundaries (i.e. High Plains Unit) are not subject to the guidelines and provisions governing the use of zones and split seasons for ducks.
- 3) Only minor (less than a county in size) boundary changes will be allowed for any grandfathered arrangement and changes are limited to the open season. (Kansas has no grandfathered boundaries).
- 4) Once a zone/split option is selected, it must remain in place for the following five years. Any state may continue the configuration used in the previous five-year period. If changes are made, the zone/split-season configuration must conform to one of the following options:
  - 1) No more than four zones with no splits,
  - 2) Split seasons (no more than three segments) with no zones,
  - 3) No more than three zones with the option for two-way (two-segment) split seasons in one, two, or all zones.

Although the zone boundaries are permanent for five years, the season dates and bag limits may be adjusted annually.

#### **Discussion**

Physiographically diverse states have added difficulty in selecting season dates that will accommodate hunted duck species (early vs. late migrants) and hunting style (i.e. marshes, fields, reservoirs, rivers, etc.) preferences. This is especially true for mid-latitude states like Kansas. Although zoning creates boundaries that can confuse some hunters, the objective of zoning for duck hunting is greater hunter opportunity and harvest. Zoning enhances the state's ability to match season dates with available habitat types, migration chronology, and season preferences of duck hunters for specific areas.

Kansas waterfowl hunters are just as diverse as Kansas waterfowl hunting opportunities. KDWPT typically receives strong – and often conflicting – opinions about seasons. Some hunters prefer early seasons while others prefer hunting in later seasons. Zones and splits are

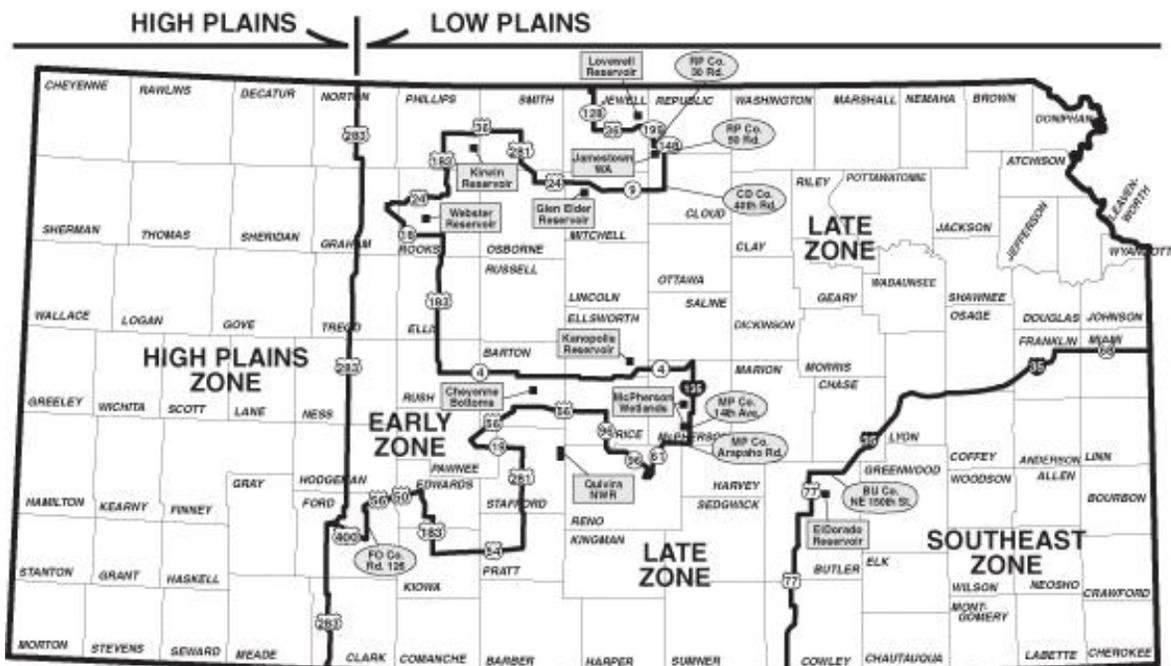
tools that help serve a broad constituent base. Zoning effectively increases season length for hunters willing to travel. The benefits of zoning increases under restrictive season length frameworks, as were in place from 1988 through 1992 (39-day total season length).

If the proposed changes are not adopted, the zones will continue as they have been for the 2011-2015 waterfowl seasons. If a state cannot meet the Dec. 1, 2015 deadline (due to incomplete feedback from sportsmen, commissions, etc.) but still wishes to change its configuration during the next open season, the second deadline will be May 1, 2016. HOWEVER, if this is the date of submission, the state may not implement the new configuration until the 2017-2018 seasons. It is unclear at this point whether those states would be allowed to have that configuration for only four years (until the next scheduled open season for zone/split changes in 2021), or allowed a full five years and change the date of the next open season to 2022. Each state is limited to only one change during the open season. That is, you cannot make a change for the 2016-2017 season, and then submit a new configuration on May 1, 2016 and make another change for the 2017-2018 seasons and beyond for the remainder of the five-year period.

### Duck Zones Historical Timeline

- 1972 Kansas was split into High Plains Low Plains
- 1996 Low Plains split into Early Zone and Late Zone
- 2011 Low Plains split into Early Zone, Late Zone and Southeast Zone

**Figure 1.** Current Duck Zone Boundaries





## United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Quivira National Wildlife Refuge  
1434 NE 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
Stafford, KS 67558  
Phone: (620) 486-2393 FAX: (620) 486-2315



May 28, 2015

Tom Bidrowski  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pratt, KS 67124-8174

Dear Mr. Bidrowski,

The Quivira NWR staff and I would like to thank you for sharing information on the public scoping for potential KDWPT Duck Zone Boundary changes. I appreciate the discussion we had at the refuge office, and also during the public meeting held at the KDWPT office in Wichita, KS. We look forward to hearing about the final decision, and will continue to work with your office regardless of what hunt zone changes that may occur.

I would offer a refuge comment toward "not changing" the Low Plains Early and Late seasons as they are currently designated, and would like to see Quivira continue under the Low Plains Late season if some boundary change does occur. The late season is more consistent with Quivira's management goals and objectives because it minimizes disturbance to whooping cranes. We also believe there are fewer disturbances to fall migrant waterbirds overall, even if by a few weeks.

I believe a more significant impact would be realized by hunters who take advantage of Quivira NWR and Cheyenne Bottoms being in separate hunt zones. Having both areas in the same hunt zone would decrease hunting opportunity when one or the other is closed (as during a split). Based on our feedback during CCP development, there is general satisfaction with the current waterfowl hunting program.

Thank you for taking the time to discuss the potential changes and consider our input. The decision making task on your part will be a difficult one, but we look forward to working with KDWPT on this management decision.

Sincerely,

Mike Oldham  
Refuge Manager, Quivira NWR  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## 2015-2016 LATE MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS

June 18, 2015

### **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The USFWS frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within the frameworks when establishing state-specific waterfowl seasons. Late migratory game bird frameworks are published in August, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and other population and harvest data are available and recommendations from the various Flyway Councils are reviewed at the USFWS Service Regulation Committee (SRC) Meeting (July 29-30, 2015). Working within the confines of the USFWS frameworks, KDWPT annually establishes general waterfowl seasons, youth hunter waterfowl days and falconry waterfowl seasons during the late migratory game bird season setting process.

### **DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS**

Since 1995, Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been adopted for setting duck hunting regulations in the United States. The AHM approach provides the framework for making objective decisions through four regulatory packages listed below. Optimal AHM strategies are calculated using: (1) harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights for midcontinent mallards.

#### **AHM Regulatory Packages**

- **Liberal package**
  - o Season Length: 74-day Low Plains Season, 97-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Moderate package**
  - o Season Length: 60-day Low Plains Season, 83-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Restrictive package**
  - o Season Length: 39-day Low Plains Season, 51-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 3 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Closed**

The 2015-2016 Federal Frameworks for ducks, mergansers and coots will not be determined until the USFWS SRC meeting on July 30. However, based on the 2014 duck population estimate of 49.2 million ducks (48 percent above the long-term average), 10.9 million mallards (42 percent above the long-term average) and a May Pond Count in the Prairie Pothole Region of 7.2 million ponds (40 percent above the long-term average), we will likely continue in the liberal package for Federal Frameworks for the 2015-2016 season. Kansas has been in these liberal frameworks since 1996.

Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks as prescribed by the liberal regulatory package.

**Outside Dates:**

- Between the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and the last Sunday in January (January 31 in 2016)

**Season Length:**

- *High Plains Unit:* 97 days. The last 23 days may start no earlier than the Saturday nearest December 10 (December 12 in 2015)
- *Low Plains Unit:* 74 days

**Bag & Possession Limit:**

- *Duck:* The daily bag limit is 6 ducks, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 pintails, and 1 canvasback
- *Merganser:* The daily bag limit is 5 mergansers, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. States have the option to include mergansers in the duck daily bag limit in which case the daily limit of merganser would be the same as the duck bag limit (6), of which two may be hooded mergansers
- *Coot:* The daily bag limit is 15 coots
- *Possession limit:* three times the daily bag limit.

**Zones/ Split Options:**

- *High Plains* – no zones and up to two segments
- *Low Plains* – three zones with each having up to two segments  
*Or three-way split season, no zones*

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset daily

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS**

States may select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons, under the following guidelines:

1. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate.
2. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

3. The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.
4. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
5. Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

## **CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT, AND LIGHT GEESE**

Harvest prescriptions for the Central Flyway's goose populations are based on population and harvest objectives as specified in population specific management plans. The 2015-2016 Federal Frameworks will not be determined until the USFWS SRC meeting on July 30. Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks.

### **Outside Dates:**

- *Dark Geese* (Canada, White-fronted, and Brant): may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and the Sunday nearest February 15 (February 14 in 2016)
- *Light Geese* (Ross's and Snow): may be selected between the outside dates of the Saturday nearest September 24 (September 19 in 2015) and March 10.
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: January 1 through April 30 (KAR 115-18-16)

### **Season Length, Bag and Possession Limits:**

- *Dark Geese*:
  - o Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 8
  - o White-fronted geese, states may select one of two options:
    - Option A: 74-day season with a bag limit of 2
    - Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 1
  - o Possession limit: three times the daily bag limit.
- *Light Geese*: not to exceed 107 days with a daily bag limit of 50 with no possession limit
- *Light Goose Conservation Order*: Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons and no daily bag or possession limits. Electronic calls as well as shotguns (no larger than 10 gauge) capable of holding in excess of 3 shells are permitted

### **Shooting hours:**

- *General Goose Seasons*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
- *Light Goose Conservation Season*: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

### **Zones/ Split Options:**

- *General Goose Seasons*: No zones and up to two segments
- *Light Goose Conservation Season*: No zones or splits

### **EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON**

In addition to general waterfowl seasons, falconers may take migratory game birds during the special "extended" falconry season. The combined total number of days of take (i.e. teal season, general waterfowl season, and falconry) cannot exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act imposed maximum allowable annual hunting days for any one species of 107. Listed below are the previous year's (2014-2015) Federal Frameworks for the extended falconry season.

#### **Outside Dates:**

- September 1 - March 10

#### **Season Length:**

- For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area. Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of three segments

#### **Bag & Possession Limit:**

- The daily bag limit may include no more than three migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate. The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit. These limits apply to falconry during both regular hunting seasons and extended falconry seasons. The falconry bag and possession limits are not in addition to regular season limits.

#### **Hawking Hours:**

- One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

## STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

### DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS

Staff recommends adopting a 96-day season in the High Plains unit and 74-day season in the Low Plains Unit (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours and option A for merganser limit. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Oct. 10 to Jan. 4 and Jan. 23 to Jan. 31
- Low Plains Early Zone Oct. 10 to Dec. 6 and Dec. 19 to Jan. 3
- Low Plains Late Zone Oct. 31 to Jan. 3 and Jan. 23 to Jan. 31
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Nov. 14 to Jan. 3 and Jan. 9 to Jan. 31

### YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

Staff recommends adopting two youth waterfowl hunting days. Adopt Federal Frameworks daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: One week prior to the opening of general duck season
- Low Plains Early Zone One week prior to the opening of general duck season
- Low Plains Late Zone One week prior to the opening of general duck season
- Low Plains Southeast Zone One week prior to the opening of general duck season

### CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT, AND LIGHT GEESE

Staff recommends adopting a 105-day season for dark geese (Canada geese or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese): and light geese (Snow and Ross's) and Option A for white-fronted geese. Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit for light and white fronted geese, and daily bag limit of 6 dark geese with 18 in possession and Federal Framework for shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

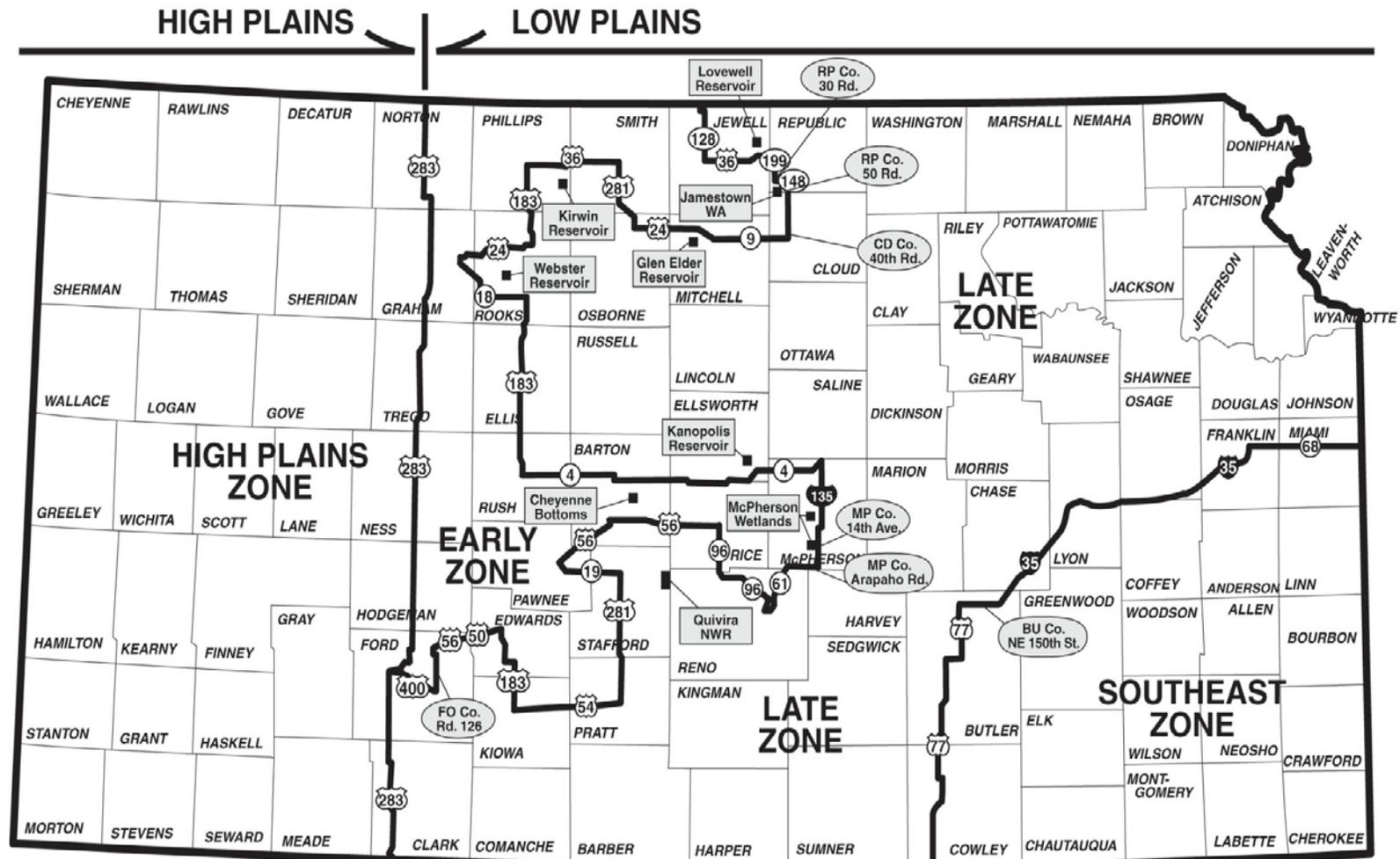
- o Dark Geese Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 and Nov. 4 to Feb. 14
- o White-fronted geese: Oct. 31 to Dec. 27 and Jan 30 to Feb. 14
  - If frameworks allow for 88 day season* Oct. 31 to Jan. 3 and Jan. 23 to Feb. 14
- o Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross's geese): Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 and Nov 4 to Feb. 14
- Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 15 to April 30

### EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON

Staff recommends adopting a 15-day season in the in the Low Plains Unit (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and hawking hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Closed to extended falconry season
- Low Plains Early Zone Feb. 25 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Late Zone Feb. 25 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Feb. 25 to Mar. 10

Figure 1. Kansas Duck Hunting Zones

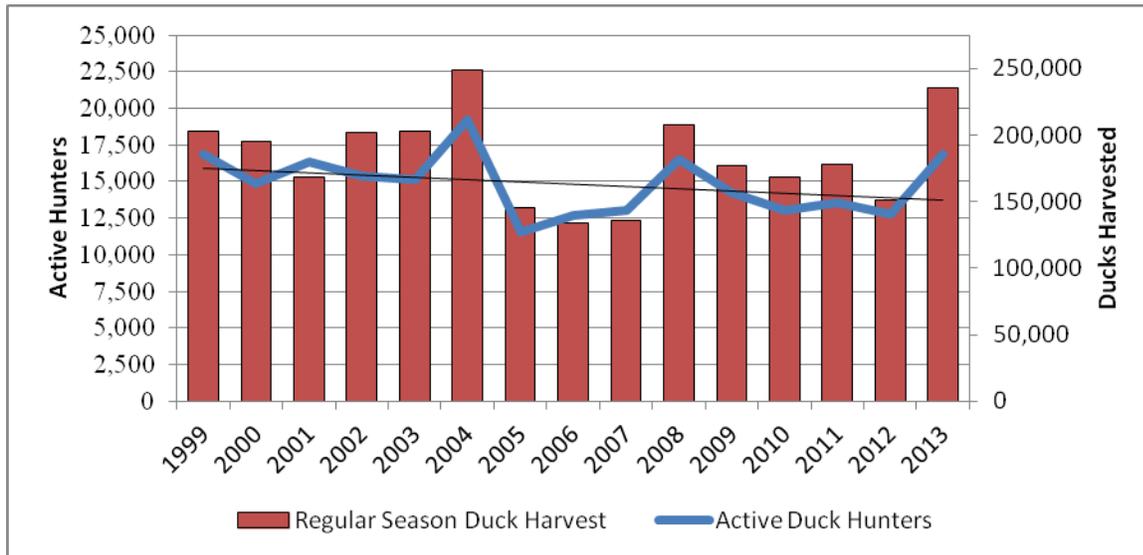




**Table 1.** Historic season dates by zone in Kansas from 1992 to 2014.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Season Days</b>	<b>High Plains (HP)</b>	<b>Low Plains Early</b>	<b>Low Plains Late</b>	<b>Low Plains Southeast</b>
<b>2014</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Dec 8 Dec 20 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Nov 01 - Jan 04 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Nov 8 - Nov 9 Nov 15 - Jan 25
<b>2013</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 5 - Dec 2 Dec 21 - Jan 26	Oct 5 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Jan 5	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Nov 2 - Nov 3 Nov 16 - Jan 26
<b>2012</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 6 - Dec 2 Dec 15 - Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Nov 15 - Jan 27
<b>2011</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 2 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 5 - Jan 8 Jan 21 - Jan 29
<b>2010</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 3 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 5 Dec 18 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
<b>2009</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 - Jan 5 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 - Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	--
<b>2008</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Dec 30 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Oct 25 - Dec 28 Jan 17 - Jan 25	--
<b>2007</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 13 - Dec 9 Dec 15 - Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	--
<b>2006</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 7 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 28	Oct 14 - Dec 10 Dec 16 - Dec 31	Oct 28 - Dec 31 Jan 20 - Jan 28	--
<b>2005</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 3 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 15 - Dec 11 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	--
<b>2004</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 4 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
<b>2003</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Jan 6 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 14 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 25 - Nov 2 Nov 8 - Jan 11	--
<b>2002</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 12 - Jan 7 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Oct 12 - Dec 15 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 26 - Nov 3 Nov 9 - Jan 12	--
<b>2001</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 12 - Jan 20	Oct 13 - Dec 16 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 27 - Nov 4 Nov 10 - Jan 13	--
<b>2000</b>	74 +23 HP	Sep 30 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 21	Oct 7 - Dec 10 Dec 23 - Dec 31	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 4 - Jan 7	--
<b>1999</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 2 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 23	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 6 - Jan 9	--
<b>1998</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 3 - Jan 3 Jan 14 - Jan 17	Oct 10 - Dec 13 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 24 - Nov 1 Nov 7 - Jan 10	--
<b>1997</b>	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Jan 4 Jan 15 - Jan 18	Oct 4 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Dec 28	Oct 25 - Dec 14 Dec 20 - Jan 11	--
<b>1996</b>	60 +23HP	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 7 - Jan 7	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Dec 29	Nov 2 - Dec 15 Dec 21 - Jan 5	--
<b>1995</b>	60 +23HP	Sep 30 - Oct 3 Oct 14 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 11 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	--	--
<b>1994</b>	49 +12 HP	Oct 15 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 21 - Jan 2	Oct 22 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 26 - Jan 2	--	--
<b>1993</b>	39 +12HP	Oct 16 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 5 Dec 22 - Jan 1	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 12	--	--
<b>1992</b>	39 +12HP	Oct 17 - Nov 8 Nov 21 - Dec 6 Dec 26 - Jan 6	Oct 31 - Nov 13 Nov 21 - Dec 6 Dec 26 - Jan 3	--	--

**Figure 1.** Estimates active duck hunters and duck harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.



**Table 3.** Estimates of active duck hunters, regular season duck harvest, and average duck per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, and total duck hunter days in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

Year	Active Duck Hunters	Regular Season Duck Harvest	Average Duck Hunter Days	Average Seasonal Duck Bag	Duck Hunter Days
1999	16,900	203,226	7.5	13.9	126,800
2000	14,900	195,555	7.2	15.2	107,400
2001	16,344	168,267	6.2	11.1	100,989
2002	15,426	202,093	6.7	13.9	102,744
2003	15,100	203,184	7.1	15.5	107,600
2004	19,200	249,126	6.5	14.2	124,000
2005	11,600	145,413	7.6	13.7	87,700
2006	12,663	133,701	6.7	12.8	85,416
2007	13,021	135,523	6.3	12.7	82,149
2008	16,531	208,056	6.4	13.9	106,154
2009	14,259	176,862	6.5	13.6	92,081
2010	13,053	168,422	6.1	14.3	79,064
2011	13,534	178,112	7.1	15.0	96,138
2012	12,739	150,901	7.1	13.7	90,851
2013	16,847	235,335	6.3	15.8	105,344
Long-term Average	14,808	183,585	6.7	14.0	99,629
% Change from 2012	+32.2%	+56.0%	+12.3%	+15.3%	+16.0%
% Change from LTA	+13.8%	+28.2%	+7.3%	+13.2%	+5.7%

**Table 4.** Duck species composition in the Kansas regular duck season harvest from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

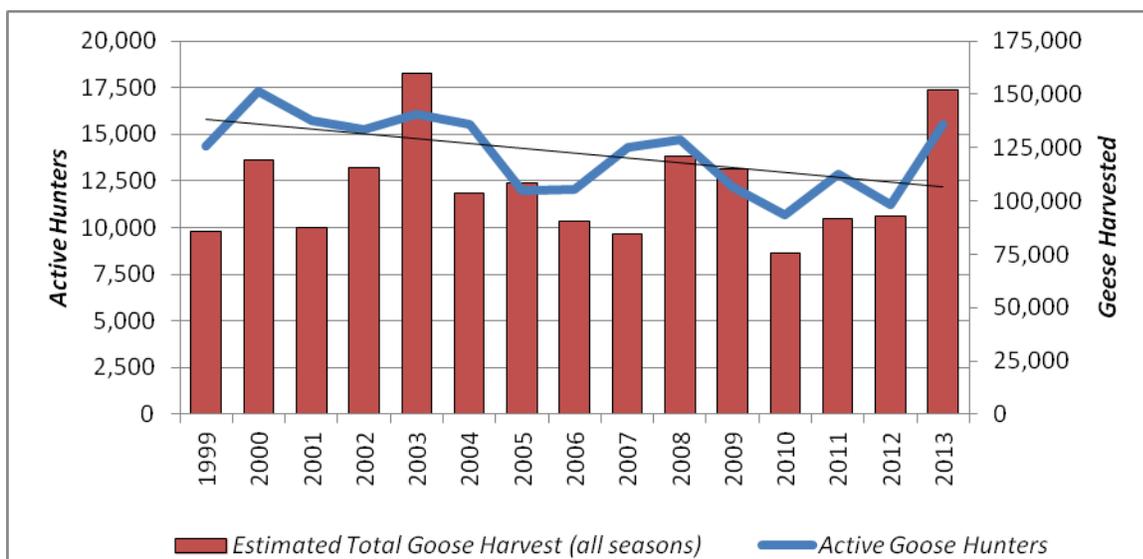
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Duck Harvest</b>	<b>Mallard</b>	<b>Gadwall</b>	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	<b>Blue-winged Teal</b>	<b>Pintail</b>	<b>American Wigeon</b>	<b>Northern Shoveler</b>	<b>Wood Duck</b>	<b>Diving Ducks*</b>
1999	203,226	114,167	27,189	21,918	6,936	5,410	7,075	4,578	4,439	10,404
2000	195,555	102,846	29,363	27,872	2,385	7,453	12,520	1,789	2,683	7,154
2001	168,267	97,739	19,154	20,049	1,074	7,339	6,265	3,401	3,938	8,055
2002	202,093	93,112	36,572	31,423	3,468	4,624	13,032	3,783	3,153	10,614
2003	203,184	95,711	41,063	24,536	4,258	4,157	15,513	4,258	3,751	8,315
2004	249,126	133,582	41,374	29,012	6,812	3,280	13,371	5,298	3,027	10,595
2005	145,413	84,193	21,629	13,197	1,588	3,666	7,332	4,277	1,589	7,453
2006	133,701	55,780	30,594	11,156	1,183	2,704	7,944	6,254	2,874	14,198
2007	135,523	61,041	27,687	22,182	1,296	2,591	6,638	4,210	1,133	7,125
2008	208,056	98,160	34,080	22,560	3,840	6,872	17,760	2,400	3,600	16,864
2009	176,862	80,574	27,589	23,569	3,654	5,664	11,511	7,674	3,106	11,876
2010	168,422	76,639	30,940	15,276	3,366	5,437	8,415	9,321	3,366	14,369
2011	178,112	85,163	29,553	18,113	4,131	5,243	8,262	8,262	2,224	14,777
2012	150,901	78,157	32,473	9,232	1,910	6,367	7,959	2,706	1,114	9,869
2013	235,335	94,432	34,188	32,861	20,414	12,115	9,460	12,945	2,655	15,435
Long-term Average	183,585	90,086	30,897	21,530	4,421	5,528	10,204	5,410	2,843	11,140
% Change from 2012	56.0%	20.8%	5.3%	255.9%	968.8%	90.3%	18.9%	378.4%	138.3%	56.4%
% Change from LTA	28.2%	4.8%	10.7%	52.6%	361.8%	119.2%	-7.3%	139.3%	-6.6%	38.6%

\* includes redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup, greater scaup, goldeneye and ruddy duck

**Table 2.** Historic general goose season in Kansas from 2006 to 2014.

Season	Canada Goose	Light Goose	White-fronted Goose
2014	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Dec 14 Jan 17 - Feb 15
2013	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Feb 01 - Feb 09
2012	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Feb 02 - Feb 10
2011	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Feb 04 - Feb 12
2010	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Jan 02 Feb 05 - Feb 13
2009	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Jan 03 Feb 06 - Feb 14
2008	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Jan 04 Feb 07 - Feb 15
2007	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Jan 06 Feb 09 - Feb 17
2006	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Jan 07 Feb 10 - Feb 18

**Figure 3.** Estimates active goose hunters and goose harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.





**Table 5.** Estimates of active goose hunters, total season goose harvest, average goose per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, total goose hunter days, and regular season harvest for Canada, light goose and white-fronted geese in Kansas from 1999 to 2013 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program.

Year	Active Goose Hunters	Total Goose Harvest	Avg Goose Hunter Days	Avg Goose Seasonal Bag	Goose Hunter Days	Canada Goose Harvest	Light Goose Harvest	White-fronted Goose Harvest	Light Goose Conservation Season
1999	14,400	85,700	6.5	5.9	93,300	66,255	12,048	5,476	11,165
2000	17,300	119,000	6.5	6.9	112,200	98,005	8,164	11,303	11,937
2001	15,715	87,499	5.7	5.6	89,663	72,707	4,405	4,721	35,138
2002	15,248	115,400	5.2	7.6	79,771	80,982	18,222	8,966	17,087
2003	16,100	159,700	7.2	9.9	116,200	123,866	19,263	9,735	65,608
2004	15,500	103,700	6.3	6.7	98,000	80,118	16,481	5,688	25,272
2005	12,000	108,300	7.1	9.1	84,800	99,178	3,689	970	18,802
2006	12,038	90,400	5.1	7.5	60,994	59,566	12,848	2,336	12,711
2007	14,294	84,699	5.6	5.9	79,723	59,968	10,943	13,788	4,260
2008	14,692	120,900	5.7	8.2	83,525	87,067	12,540	16,325	11,924
2009	12,213	115,201	6.5	9.4	78,955	92,267	4,267	12,267	15,244
2010	10,700	75,800	5.3	7.1	56,936	66,494	4,459	4,847	53,863
2011	12,900	91,653	5.9	7.1	75,795	51,900	19,876	19,877	62,092
2012	11,207	92,367	6.5	8.3	73,084	72,204	13,016	7,127	72,447
2013	15,543	151,837	5.7	9.8	88,386	108,657	27,253	15,927	92,825
Long-term Average	13,990	106,850	6	7.7	84,755	81,282	12,498	9,290	34,025
% Change from 2012	38.70%	63.30%	-12.70%	18.10%	20.90%	50.50%	109.40%	123.50%	28.10%
% Change from LTA	11.10%	42.10%	-5.90%	27.80%	4.30%	33.70%	118.10%	71.40%	172.80%

# **Aquatic Nuisance Species In Kansas**

## **Background**

Non-indigenous aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are the cause of significant ecological and socio-economic problems for water users in North America. ANS have spread beyond historic ranges and have adversely affected infested waters by threatening the integrity of these water resources. As the introduction and spread of ANS continues, the associated problems intensify and create a wide variety of problems for water users.

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) is greatly concerned with the risk ANS pose to the natural environment. To protect the natural resources of Kansas and to prevent the spread of ANS through public use of these resources, KDWPT has worked to address the spread of ANS by recreational boaters, the commercial bait industry, as well as baitfish collection, transport, and use.

Part of addressing these concerns included developing and implementing regulations that specifically target known pathways for ANS spread. Through the Commission, several regulations were adopted in 2011-2013 that greatly enhanced the ability of our agency to combat the spread of ANS, with the understanding that a few gaps in effectiveness existed. A brief discussion of closing those gaps through proposed regulation changes and other ANS priority actions will be presented, supplemented with a handout.

# **Public Hearing**

KANSAS REGISTER  
SUBMISSION FORM

Agency Number -- 710-01

Agency Name -- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Agency Address - 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200

Topeka, Kansas 66612-1233

Title of Document -- Public Hearing

Desired Date of Publication - April 16, 2015

**ITEMS SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE**

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the attached documents, and that they conform to all applicable Kansas Register publication guidelines and to the requirements of K.S.A. 75-431, as amended. I further certify that submission of these items for publication is a proper and lawful action of this agency, that funds are available to pay the publication fees and that such fees will be paid by this agency on receipt of billing.

Christopher J. Tymeson  
Liaison officer's typed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Liaison officer's signature

Department Attorney  
Title

(785) 296-2281  
Phone

---

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## Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

### Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2015 at Robbins Center, Fort Hays State University, 1 Tiger Place, Hays, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of a proposed regulation of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:00 p.m., June 18 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing and more business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting 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 business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. June 19 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and may request the meeting materials in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the meeting should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission Secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of 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 the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to [sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com) 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 regulation. 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 regulation.

The regulation that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-25-9a.** This exempt regulation establishes deer open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. The proposed version of the regulation merely changes the season dates to accommodate the training mission on Fort Riley.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed version of the regulation is not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and its 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.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEREK SCHMIDT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORIAL HALL  
120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597  
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296  
WWW.AG.KS.GOV

January 30, 2015

Chris Tymeson  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS 66612-1327

RE: K.A.R. 115-25-7; K.A.R. 115-25-8; K.A.R. 115-25-9; K.A.R. 115-25-9a

Dear Chris:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 77-420(b), we have reviewed the above-referenced regulations and have approved them for legality. The stamped regulations are enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEREK SCHMIDT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Fertig".

Sarah Fertig  
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure

cc: Rep. Sharon Schwartz, Chair, Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations  
Sen. Vicki Schmidt, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations  
Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Ranking Minority Member, Joint Committee on  
Rules and Regulations  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research, State Capitol, Room 68-W  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor, State Capitol, Room 24-E

STATE OF KANSAS

**RANEY L. GILLILAND**  
Director  
**MELISSA S. CALDERWOOD**  
Assistant Director for Research  
**J. G. SCOTT**  
Chief Fiscal Analyst  
**AMY DECKARD**  
Assistant Director for Information Management



**STAFF**  
LEGISLATIVE COORDINATING COUNCIL  
INTERIM COMMITTEES  
STANDING COMMITTEES  
LEGISLATIVE INQUIRIES

**KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT**

Room 68-West — State Capitol Building — 300 SW Tenth Avenue — Topeka, Kansas 66612-1504  
PHONE (785) 296-3181 • FAX (785) 298-3624 • TTY (785) 298-3677  
INTERNET: <http://www.kslegislature.org/kird> E-MAIL: [kslegres@kird.ks.gov](mailto:kslegres@kird.ks.gov)

May 7, 2015

Mr. Robin Jennison, Secretary  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
1020 S. Kansas Avenue, Room 200  
BUILDING MAIL

Dear Secretary Jennison:

At its meeting on May 6, 2015, the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations reviewed for public comment rules and regulations concerning KAR 115-25-9a, deer, open season, bag limit, and permits, additional considerations, Fort Riley. After discussion, the Committee had no comment.

Prior to filing with the Secretary of State, review the history sections of the rules and regulations to update them to the most recent statutory citations, making certain the citations for authorizing and implementing statutes are correct and complete. Please indicate your agency's website address in the filing notice where proposed regulations can be located. In addition, if your agency accepts written comments by e-mail include this information in the public notice. Further, e-mail requests for public accommodation should be included as a part of the notice. Finally, verify that the adoption by reference of any materials included in the regulations is properly completed as prescribed in the Policy and Procedure Manual for the Adoption of Kansas Administrative Regulations.

Please make this letter a part of the public record on these regulations. The Committee will review the regulations the agency ultimately adopts, and reserves any expression of legislative concern to that review.

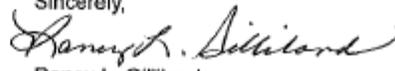
To assist in that final review:

Please inform the Joint Committee and me, in writing, at the time the rules and regulations are adopted and filed with the Secretary of State, of any and all changes that have been made following the public hearing. Please notify the Joint Committee and me, in writing, when your agency has adopted the regulations as permanent; delayed implementation of the regulations; or decided not to adopt any of the regulations.

Also, please indicate separately to the Joint Committee and me, any changes made to the proposed regulations reviewed by the Committee.

Based upon direction from the Committee, failure to respond to each and every comment contained in this letter may result in the request that a spokesperson from your agency appear before the Committee to explain the agency's failure to reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raney L. Gilliland".

Raney L. Gilliland  
Director

**2015 SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON**  
June 18, 2015

**BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops the frameworks for states to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. The USFWS frameworks establish maximum bag, possession limits and season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. September Teal Season Frameworks are published in late-June, after results from the May Breeding Duck Survey and recommendations from Flyway Councils are completed.

Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most passing through Kansas from late August through September, prior to the opening of the general duck season. Green-winged teal are also early migrants, and many arrive in September and October, but they are commonly found in Kansas throughout the winter, depending on weather conditions. Cinnamon teal are occasionally found mixed with flocks of blue-winged teal in Kansas.

Special teal seasons were initiated to provide additional harvest opportunities on blue-winged and green-winged teal. As long as the blue-winged teal May Breeding Population Index (BPI) is above 3.3 million, a 9-day teal season can be held. If the blue-winged teal BPI exceeds 4.7 million, a 16-day season can be allowed. The 2015 blue-winged teal breeding population total will not be known until late June, but based on last year's (2014) blue-winged teal breeding population of 8.5 million and spring habitat conditions in the Prairie Pothole Region, the 2015 BPI is expected to allow a 16-day season.

In the High Plains Unit of Kansas (west of Highway 283), the liberal package framework allows for 97 days of general duck season. Coupled with 2 youth hunting days, the addition of a 9 or 16 day teal season would exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's maximum allowance of 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. Thus, when the liberal package for the regular duck season is available and a teal season can be held, it is necessary to reduce the High Plains Unit teal season to 8 days, or reduce days in the High Plains Unit general duck season as not to exceed 107 hunting days. For the past five seasons, a 9-day teal season with 96-day regular duck season has been selected in the High Plains Unit to satisfy this criterion.

**PRIOR SEASON (2014) FEDERAL FRAMEWORK\* FOR SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON**

<b>Season Dates:</b>	Between September 1 and September 30, 2014
<b>Season Length:</b>	16 days if blue-winged teal BPI is above 4.7 million 9 days if blue-winged teal BPI is between 3.3 - 4.7 million
<b>Bag Limit:</b>	6 daily, 18 in possession (any combination of teal)
<b>Shooting Hours:</b>	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

\* Final Federal Frameworks will not be set until the June 26, 2015 after the USFWS Service Regulatory Committee Meeting.

## **Staff Recommendations**

### **Season Dates:**

#### Low Plains Zones (east of Hwy 283)

OPTION A: 16-day season running September 5 through September 20, 2015

**OPTION B: 16-day season running September 12 through September 27, 2015 (Staff Recommendation)**

#### High Plains Zone (west of Hwy 283) \*\*

OPTION A: 9-day season running September 5 through September 13, 2015

OPTION B: 9-day season running September 12 through September 20, 2015

**OPTION C: 9-day season running September 19 through September 27, 20152015 (Staff Recommendation)**

**Bag Limit:** 6 daily, 18 in possession (any combination of teal)

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

\*\* This selection may reduce the season length of the general duck season in the High Plains Unit by one day due to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act season length restrictions for any one species to 107 days. The regular High Plains Unit duck season in the liberal AHM package is allotted 97 plus two youth hunting days. In order to stay within the 107-day restriction either the September teal season or general duck season must be reduced one day from their allowable federal frameworks.

**Table 1.** Kansas September Teal Season Dates and September Teal Harvest\*

<b>Year</b>	<b>Low Plains Season Dates</b>	<b>Hunting Days</b>	<b>High Plains Season Dates</b>	<b>Hunting Days</b>	<b>Green- winged Teal</b>	<b>Blue- winged Teal</b>	<b>Total Harvest</b>
1992	Sept 12-20	9	Sept 12-20	9	4,267	12,902	17,169
1993	Sept 11-19	9	Sept 11-19	9	1,081	5,604	6,685
1994	Sept 10-18	9	Sept 10-18	9	2,217	7,083	9,300
1995	Sept 16-24	9	Sept 16-24	9	1,896	10,227	12,123
1996	Sept 14-22	9	Sept 14-22	9	1,415	17,115	18,530
1997	Sept 13-21	9	Sept 13-21	9	2,367	14,858	17,225
1998	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 12-20	9	8,454	19,727	28,181
1999	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 11-19	9	3,052	28,022	31,074
2000	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 9-16	8	4,621	27,724	32,345
2001	Sept 15-30	16	Sept 15-22	8	1,790	10,741	12,531
2002	Sept 21-29	9	Sept 21-28	8	3,783	8,723	12,506
2003	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-27	8	9,024	21,393	30,417
2004	Sept 18-26	9	Sept 18-25	8	2,901	19,173	22,074
2005	Sept 17-25	9	Sept 17-24	8	2,200	10,387	12,587
2006	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 16-23	8	4,733	23,664	28,397
2007	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-22	8	4,534	25,582	30,116
2008	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 13-20	8	7,200	15,120	22,320
2009	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-26	8	2,775	15,165	17,940
2010	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 18-26	9	1,812	16,829	18,641
2011	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	1,748	22,562	24,310
2012	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-23	9	4,298	19,420	23,718
2013	Sept 7-22	16	Sept 14-22	9	2,323	28,213	30,536
2014	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-28	9	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**

\* Harvest estimates from 1999 to current are based on Harvest Information Program (HIP). For years prior to 1999, harvest estimates are based on USFWS Mail Survey Questionnaire.

\*\* Harvest Data is not available until late July.

**115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley.**

(a) In addition to the archery seasons specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9, the open archery season for the taking of deer in the Fort Riley subunit shall also be September 1, 2015 through September 13, 2015 by individuals who possess the required authorization issued by Fort Riley to hunt for deer during the specified days.

(b) In addition to the season for designated persons specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9, in the Fort Riley subunit the season for designated persons shall also be October 9, 2015 through October 12, 2015.

(c) In the Fort Riley subunit, the open firearm season for the taking of deer shall be November 27, 2015 through November 29, 2015, December 19, 2015 through December 23, 2015, and December 26, 2015 through December 29, 2015.

(d) In addition to the archery season specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9, the open archery season for the taking of deer in the Fort Riley subunit shall be January 11, 2016 through January 31, 2016 by individuals who possess the required authorization issued by Fort Riley to hunt for deer during the specified days.

(e) In the Fort Riley subunit, the pre-rut white-tailed deer antlerless-only season specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9 shall be closed.

(f) This regulation shall be effective on and after July 1, 2015, and shall have no force and effect on and after March 1, 2016. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2014 Supp. 32-937.)

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**K.A.R. 115-25-9a.** Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations.

**DESCRIPTION:** This exempt regulation establishes additional considerations for the 2015-2016 firearm, muzzleloader and archery deer seasons. The main items in the regulation set the deer seasons on Fort Riley only in order to better accommodate the changing training mission at Fort Riley.

**FEDERAL MANDATES:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** No significant economic impact to the department, state agencies, small businesses or the public is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.