

ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

K.A.R. 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits.

DESCRIPTION: This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2016 firearm, muzzleloader, and archery antelope seasons. The hunting units include all of the area included during the 2016 season. An unlimited number of archery permits are authorized, however, recent trends indicate that about 325 people may apply for these permits for residents. 15 nonresident archery permits were issued in 2015 and it is anticipated that a like number will be issued in 2016.

The proposed unit boundaries for the 2016 firearm hunting season are the same as the 2016 unit boundaries. A total of 190 firearms permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-126 permits, Unit 17-48 permits, and Unit 18-16 permits, an increase of 36 permits from the previous season. In addition, 54 muzzleloader permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-36 permits, Unit 17-10 permits, and Unit 18-8 permits, an increase of 10 permits from the previous season.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that 530 antelope hunting permits will be authorized. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$27,875. That amount represents equal participation in the antelope season by landowner/tenants and general residents, as well as nonresident participation. Approximately 1150 people will apply for an antelope permit or preference point. A \$5 nonrefundable application fee from all applicants will generate an additional \$5,575. Other administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department.

Approximately 2650 days of hunting activity will occur. The national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that an average big game hunter spent more than \$1100 per season, thus the antelope season may generate \$583,000 in direct economic benefits to businesses providing goods and services. There will be no other economic impact on the general public, small businesses or on other state agencies.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: None.