

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, August 15, 2019 at University of Kansas Edwards Campus, Best Conference Center, 12600 Quivira Rd, Overland Park, Kansas to consider the approval and adoption of proposed regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on the business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:30 p.m., August 15 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. and 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. August 16 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 regulations.

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@ks.gov 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 regulations. 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 regulations.

The regulations that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting are as follows:

K.A.R. 115-2-1. This permanent regulation establishes fees for various issues of the department. The proposed changes to the regulation create new hunting, fishing and combination hunting and fishing licenses for thirty percent service-connected disabled resident veterans.

Economic Impact Summary: The sale of the new proposed licenses reduce fees by approximately \$29,500 to the department. Otherwise, no substantial economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

K.A.R. 115-2-7. This permanent regulation establishes the backcountry access pass. The regulation is proposed for revocation.

Economic Impact Summary: The revocation of the regulation will have no fiscal impact and no other substantial economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

K.A.R. 115-5-3. This permanent regulation establishes the management units for furbearers and coyotes. The proposed changes to the regulation would remove otters from the statewide management unit in order to better manage harvest of otters.

Economic Impact Summary: No substantial negative economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

K.A.R. 115-5-3a. This new permanent regulation establishes the management units for otters. The new regulation would create otter management units in order to better manage harvest of otters.

Economic Impact Summary: No substantial negative economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

K.A.R. 115-25-11. This exempt regulation establishes the furbearer open season and bag limits. The proposed version of the regulation manages otter harvest by management units and open the season slightly earlier on opening day.

Economic Impact Summary: The sale of furharvester licenses generates \$182,300 to the department, all of which accrues to the wildlife fee fund, and approximately \$4,500,000 to the Kansas economy based on 2018 furharvester licenses sold. Otherwise, no substantial economic impact to the department, other state agencies, small businesses, or individual members of the public is anticipated.

Copies of the complete text of each regulation and its respective economic impact statement may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at ksoutdoors.com, or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman