

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

**DESCRIPTION:** The proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting bag limits, application periods and season dates for the 2005-2006 firearm, muzzleloader and archery deer seasons. There are three main changes from the 2004 seasons. First, the extended firearm season for antlerless white-tailed deer in January is lengthened to eight days. In 2004, the season was a total of two days. Second, individuals must have an antlered permit prior to purchasing an antlerless permit or game tag. Finally, any deer taken in unit 16, in addition to last season's units 1, 2, 3, 17 and 18, must be registered at a check station to allow for sampling and collection of deer parts with regard to chronic wasting disease. Otherwise, the proposal merely changes dates to fit the 2005-2006 calendar.

**FEDERAL MANDATES:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** Due to the reduced availability of white-tailed antlerless-only game tags, it is highly probable that the total numbers of permits and game tags sold will decrease for the 2005-2006 seasons. The amount of reduction, however, is difficult to anticipate at this time. Even if this reduction could be accurately estimated, however, estimated impact would be difficult to calculate because the actual economic impact from the 2004-2005 seasons is still unknown. As part of changes made 2001, a large proportion of deer permit sales in 2004-2005 occurred through other-the-counter sales, including sales through county clerks and private vendors, and therefore the department does not yet have total sales figures for last year. However, if the economic impact to the department, the general public, and other agencies from the 2005-06 seasons were to be similar to the estimate for the 2004-2005 seasons, total revenue to the department from the sale of all resident, nonresident, and landowner/tenant deer permits and game tags is estimated to be approximately \$5,000,000.

Approximately 415,000 days of hunting activity by 83,000 hunters are anticipated. A 2001 survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that big game hunters spent approximately \$512 per year on trip and equipment expenditures, thus the 2004 deer seasons in Kansas are anticipated to generate approximately \$42.5 million worth economic benefit to businesses providing big game goods and services. No other economic impact to state agencies is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None