

115-5-1. Furbearers and coyotes; legal equipment, taking methods, and general provisions.

(a) Hunting equipment permitted during furbearer hunting seasons and during coyote hunting seasons shall consist of the following:

- (1) Firearms, except fully automatic firearms;
- (2) archery equipment;
- (3) crossbows; and
- (4) optical scopes or sights that project no visible light toward the target and do not electronically amplify visible or infrared light, except as specified in this regulation.

(b) Trapping equipment permitted during furbearer and coyote trapping seasons shall consist of the following:

- (1) Smooth-jawed foothold traps, except that all types of foothold traps may be used in water sets;
- (2) body-gripping traps;
- (3) box traps;
- (4) cage traps;
- (5) colony traps;
- (6) snares; and
- (7) deadfalls.

(c) The following general provisions shall apply to the taking of furbearers and coyotes:

- (1) Calls may be used in the taking of furbearers and coyotes.
- (2) Handheld, battery-powered flashlights, hat lamps, and handheld lanterns may be used while trapping furbearers or coyotes or while running furbearers.

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(3) Any .22 or .17 caliber rimfire rifle or handgun may be used to take trapped furbearers or trapped coyotes when using a light to check traps.

(4) Any .22 or .17 caliber rimfire rifle or handgun may be used while using a handheld, battery-powered flashlight, hat lamp, handheld lantern, or laser sight to take furbearers treed with the aid of dogs.

(5) Lures, baits, and decoys may be used in the taking of furbearers and coyotes.

(6) The use of horses and mules shall be permitted while hunting, trapping, or running furbearers and coyotes.

(7) The use of motor vehicles for taking coyotes shall be permitted while hunting coyotes, except as provided in subsection (d).

(8) The use of radios in land or water vehicles shall be permitted for the taking of coyotes.

(9) The use of dogs for hunting and during running seasons shall be permitted.

(10) Each body-gripping trap with an inside jawsread of eight inches or greater, when measured across the jaws at a 90-degree angle, shall be used only in a water set.

(11) Only landowners or tenants of land immediately adjacent to the right-of-way of a public road, or their immediate family members or authorized agents, may set slide-locking wire or snare-type cable traps as dryland sets within five feet of a fence bordering a public road or within 50 feet of the outside edge of the surface of a public road. Only these landowners or tenants, or their immediate family members or authorized agents, shall ~~may~~ possess the fur, pelt, skin, or carcass of any furbearer or coyote removed from these devices located within these specified limits.

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(12) A person shall not have in possession any equipment specified in subsection (a) while pursuing or chasing furbearers with hounds during the running season.

(13) All trapping devices included in subsection (b) shall be tagged with either the user's name and address or the user's department-issued identification number and shall be tended and inspected at least once every calendar day.

(14) Each foothold trap that has an outside jawspread greater than seven inches, when measured across the jaws at a 90-degree angle, shall be used only in a water set.

(d) For the seasons established by K.A.R. 115-25-12(b) and (c), ~~From January 1 through March 31,~~ the following provisions shall apply to the hunting of coyotes:

(1) Artificial light, scopes and equipment that amplify visible light, and thermal-imaging scopes and thermal-imaging equipment may be used for hunting.

(2) The use of vehicles when hunting with the equipment specified in paragraph (d)(1) shall be prohibited.

(3) The use of the equipment specified in paragraph (d)(1) shall not be authorized on department lands and waters.

(4) Each person using the equipment specified in paragraph (d)(1) in the manner prescribed in this subsection shall first obtain a permit from the department. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2024 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 32-1003; effective March 19, 1990; amended Nov. 15, 1993; amended July 19, 2002; amended Feb. 18, 2005; amended Sept. 4, 2009; amended July 22, 2011; amended July 26, 2013; amended May 31, 2019; amended Sept. 18, 2020; amended Dec. 23, 2022; amended P-_____.)

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Kansas Administrative Regulations Economic Impact Statement (EIS)

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
Agency

Kurtis Wiard
Agency Contact

785.296.1032
Contact Phone Number

115-5-1; 115-25-12
K.A.R. Number(s)

☒ Permanent ☐ Temporary

Is/Are the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

☐ Yes If yes, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. Budget approval is not required; however, the Division of the Budget will require submission of a copy of the EIS at the end of the review process.

☒ No If no, do the total annual implementation and compliance costs for the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), calculated from the effective date of the rule(s) and regulation(s), exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) (as calculated in Section III, F)?

☐ Yes If "Yes," then the agency shall not adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s) until the rule(s) and regulation(s) has been ratified by the Legislature with a bill, unless the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are: 1) mandated by the federal government as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program, as described in K.S.A. 77-416(b)(1)(B), and amendments thereto; 2) temporary rule(s) and regulation(s) adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 77-722, and amendments thereto; or 3) rules and regulations adopted pursuant to K.S.A. 2-3710 (Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board). Continue to fill out the remaining EIS form to be included with the regulation packet in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be independently analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

☒ No If no, continue to fill out the remaining form to be included with the regulation packet submitted in the review process to the Department of Administration and the Attorney General. The submitted EIS will be analyzed by the Division of the Budget for approval.

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Section I

Analysis, brief description, and cost and benefit quantification of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s). If the approach chosen by the Kansas agency to address the policy issue is different from that utilized by agencies of contiguous states or of the federal government, the economic impact statement shall include an explanation of why the Kansas agency's rule and regulation differs.

These regulation changes extend the night vision coyote hunting season by approximately three months. The current season is from January 1 to March 31. The changes will allow hunters to use night vision hunting equipment from September 1 through March 31, except for antlered deer firearm seasons. The changes also include a three-year sunset provision that would revert the season back to its prior dates if the provision is not later removed.

The approach of contiguous states is mixed. Nebraska allows night vision hunting of coyotes all year, while Missouri permits it from February 1 to March 31. Oklahoma does not generally allow hunting of coyotes at night with night vision equipment, though it is permitted year round to control coyotes causing livestock damage. Colorado prohibits night vision hunting of coyotes. The federal government does not regulate coyote populations. The Wildlife and Parks Commission considered the approach of all 50 states, input from various department staff, and significant public input, and it decided a trial three-year extended season was the best option for Kansas hunters.

Section II

Explain whether the proposed rule and regulation is mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program and whether the proposed rules and regulations exceed the requirements of applicable federal law.

The proposed regulation is not mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally assisted program.

Section III

Agency analysis specifically addressing the following:

- A. The extent to which the rule(s) and regulation(s) will enhance or restrict business activities and growth:

The regulation change will likely enhance business activities and growth through increased sales of night vision hunting equipment. However, based on data regularly collected by the Department, it is impossible to readily ascertain how much economic growth might occur.

- B. The economic effect, including a detailed quantification of implementation and compliance costs, on the specific businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, and local governments that will be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) and on the state economy as a whole:

No quantifiable economic effect is anticipated. Changes to the length of the night vision coyote season will have an indirect effect on businesses that sell night vision coyote equipment. Otherwise, there will not be noticeable impacts on local businesses, sectors, public utility ratepayers, individuals, or local governments.

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C. Businesses that would be directly affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s):

No businesses would be directly affected by the proposed regulation change. Sporting goods retailers who sell high-end hunting equipment could be indirectly affected. These retailers were consulted in the formulation of the rule change (see Section III.H. below).

D. Benefits of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) compared to the costs;

There are no costs associated with this regulation because it is merely expanding hunting opportunities, and any indirect benefits are not quantifiable within a reasonable degree of certainty.

E. Measures taken by the agency to minimize the cost and impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on business and economic development within the State of Kansas, local government, and individuals;

Since no costs are being imposed, no such measures were necessary.

F. An estimate of the total annual implementation and compliance costs that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governments, or individuals. *Note: Do not account for any actual or estimated cost savings that may be realized. Implementation and compliance costs determined shall be those additional costs reasonably expected to be incurred and shall be separately identified for the affected businesses, local governmental units, and individuals.*

Costs to Affected Businesses – \$0

Costs to Local Governmental Units – \$0

Costs to Individuals – \$0

Total Annual Costs – \$0

(sum of above amounts)

Give a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the above cost estimate.

There are no costs associated with this regulation because it merely expands hunting opportunities.

- ☐ Yes If the total implementation and compliance costs exceed \$1.0 million or more in implementation and compliance costs over the initial five-year period following adoption of such rule(s) and regulation(s) that are reasonably expected to be incurred by or passed along to businesses, local governmental units and individuals as a result of the proposed rule and regulation, did the agency hold a public hearing to find that the estimated costs have been accurately determined and are necessary for achieving legislative intent? If applicable, document when the public hearing was held, those in attendance, and any pertinent information from the hearing.
- ☐ No
- ☒ Not Applicable

If applicable, click here to enter public hearing information.

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Provide an estimate of any changes in aggregate state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), for both the current fiscal year and next fiscal year.

This regulation change will not affect state revenues and expenditures for the implementation of the proposed rules and regulations.

Provide an estimate of any immediate or long-range economic impact of the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) on any individual(s), small employers, and the general public. If no dollar estimate can be given for any individual(s), small employers, and the general public, give specific reasons why no estimate is possible.

This regulation change will have no economic impact on any individual, small employer, or the general public.

- G. If the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) increases or decreases revenues of cities, counties or school districts, or imposes functions or responsibilities on cities, counties or school districts that will increase expenditures or fiscal liability, describe how the state agency consulted with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and/or the Kansas Association of School Boards.

This regulation change will not increase or decrease the revenues of cities, counties, or school districts. Nor does it impose functions or responsibilities on cities, counties, or school districts.

- H. Describe how the agency consulted and solicited information from businesses, business associations, local governmental units, state agencies, or institutions and members of the public that may be affected by the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) or may provide relevant information.

The Department engaged the public in several respects when formulating these regulation changes.

On February 28, 2025, the Department published a press release announcing it would hold public comment sessions across the State to collect public input on potential changes to the night vision coyote hunting season. The following hearings were held by Department staff:

- March 10, 2025 (El Dorado)
- March 24, 2025 (Junction City)
- March 25, 2025 (Hays)

The proposed changes were discussed extensively at the following Wildlife Commission meetings:

- October 3, 2024 (Bonner Springs)
- November 21, 2024 (Wichita)
- January 30, 2025 (Manhattan)
- March 27, 2025 (Topeka)
- April 26, 2025 (Fall River)

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In addition, Department staff conducted an extensive survey of various Kansas citizens to measure their interest in potentially expanding the night vision hunting season. The survey randomly sampled 1,000 deer hunters, 1,000 landowners, 1,000 night vision hunters, 5,000 small game hunters, and 236 traditional coyote hunters. Highly summarized, a majority of all populations surveyed favored some expansion of the season.

Finally, Department staff solicited input from businesses it believed could be indirectly impacted through the sales of night vision coyote hunting, and their responses were generally positive, indicating that the change would likely enhance their businesses.

Section IV

Does the Economic Impact Statement involve any environmental rule(s) and regulation(s)?

- ☐ Yes If yes, complete the remainder of Section IV.
☒ No If no, skip the remainder of Section IV.

- A. Describe the capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), and the individuals or entities who would bear the costs.
- B. Describe the initial and annual costs of implementing and enforcing the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s), including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies, or other individuals who will bear the costs.
- C. Describe the costs that would likely accrue if the proposed rule(s) and regulation(s) are not adopted, the individuals or entities who will bear the costs and who will be affected by the failure to adopt the rule(s) and regulation(s).
- D. Provide a detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used.

[Click here to enter agency response.](#)

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