

LOYEWELL STATE PARK SPRING NEWSLET



Welcome to this edition of the Lovewell State Park Spring Newsletter! We sincerely hope you enjoy it and will provide us feedback on the format and content.

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	STATE PARK FEES FOR	2024
Annual Vehicle		\$25.00
Kansas SR/Disabled Annual		\$13.75
Daily Vehicle		\$ 5.00
Kansas SR/Disabled Daily		\$ 3.25
Unconventional Vehicle Permit		\$52.50
Annual Camp Permit \$202		2.50 (\$252.50 after March 31)
14 Day Camp Permit		\$112.50
Daily Camp		\$ 10.00
Prime Site (all 50am)	sites and 24hr Generator)	\$ 2.00
Electricity		\$ 9.00
Elect/Water		\$11.00
Elect/Water/Sewer		\$12.00
Seasonal Campsite Elect		\$371.50 per month
Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water		\$431.50 per month
Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water/Sewer		\$491.50 per month
* Transaction Fee of	\$2.75 will be added to each	n campsite transaction TOTAL.
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Advice from sasquatch:

- Be Yourself!
- Embrace Mystery!
- Spend Time in the Woods!!
- Be Gentle on the Earth!
- Live a Legendary Life!

Clean, Drain and Dry!



KDWP recently utilized Aquatic Nuisance Species prevention funding to purchase Clean.Drain.Dry stations for several reservoirs in the state. The units are solar-powered, and will provide vacuum equipment for draining boat hulls and live wells

when leaving the reservoir. To prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species such as zebra mussels, it is recommended that boaters CLEAN their boat thoroughly, DRAIN all water, and DRY for 5 days before entering another body of water. The Lovewell Reservoir unit will be located at the Walleye Point parking lot, near the handicapped boat lift. Please Help Protect Our Waters!



Kansas Residents! Don't forget about the Kansas State

Park Passport! Available at the time of your vehicle license registration, only \$15.50

per vehicle!

SPECIAL EVENTS AT LOVEWELL FOR 2024

The 2024 special event season begins with a Free Park Entrance Day on May 4th, in cooperation with the Let's Camp America Promotion. An Open House is planned for visitors to tour the new Lookout and Pilgrim Yurts and Scout Cabin!

Free Fishing Weekend is June 1st and 2nd. A fishing license is not required to fish any public waters in the State of Kansas on these two days. The Kids Fishing Clinic will be held on Sunday June 9th, Kids 15 and under can learn the basics of fishing, from bait and tackle selection, to casting and fish identification, to fileting your catch! Join us Saturday, June 23rd for a Creature Feature interpretive program, to learn about native reptiles and amphibians! If you are in Jewell County the weekend of July 20th for the Mammoth Festival, be sure to visit the State Park for a special Mammoth program on Sunday the 21st! Campground Christmas will be held August 10th with lots of campsite decorations and holiday fun. Enter your campsite, decorate with your favorite holiday lights, inflatables, decorations and props, or

even dress yourselves up in costumes! You could win a great prize! Everyone is encouraged to cruise the park, taking in all of the holiday sights and sounds! The Fireworks Display is scheduled for Sunday Sept 1st, Labor Day weekend, at the Cedar Point Rock Jetty, beginning at dusk. But remember, this event can't occur without donations for the purchase of fireworks! The Lovewell Lake Fireworks Committee appreciates any donations. Contact Lovewell Marina to make a donation or for information for the Fireworks Committee. Another Free Park Entrance Day is September 8th in conjunction with the Annual 3D Archery Shoot. A classic car show is planned for Saturday September 21st. The final Free Park Entrance Day is part of the #OPTOUTSIDE campaign, encouraging folks to trade their traditional shopping plans for a day in the great outdoors, on Friday November 29th!



Visit Lovewell State Park for Campground Christmas!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Free Park Entrance	May 4		
Open House Tours	May 4		
Free Fishing Wknd	June 1/2		
Kids Fishing Clinic	June 9		
Creature Feature	June 23		
Mammoth History	July 20		
Campground Christmas August 10			
Fireworks Display **	Sept 1		
**Dependent on Fundraising **			
3D Archery Shoot	September 8		
Free Park Entrance	September 8		
Classic Car Show	September 21		

#Optoutside

Free Park Entrance November 29 Attend a Great Special Event at Lovewell This Year!

Lovewell State Park is a popular destination for family reunions, alumni reunions, weddings and company picnics.

Reserving a shelter is very economical, \$31 for a basic shelter, \$75 for a deluxe shelter, and \$200 for a two-day wedding rental! Contact us to schedule your own special event today!



GIVE THE GIFT OF THE OUTDOORS!! Birthday, Anniversary, Christmas, or Thank You gifts for the outdoor person in your life just got a whole lot easier, with a gift card for any dollar amount over \$25. The lucky recipient can use their gift card for vehicle and camping permits or merchandise at any Kansas State Park Office!! Treat your friends or family to a great adventure at a Kansas State Park this year!



LOVEWELL STATE PARK SOUVENIRS!!!

More Lovewell State Park Logo Items Available !!

If you haven't seen Lovewell State Park's Brand Logo, you are missing out! Stop by the office and check out our new merchandise available this season!! The gorgeous new Lovewell State Park Logo, with its nighttime campfire scene, has been screen-printed on youth and adult long- and short-sleeved t-shirts, hiking medallions, collector coins, key chains, magnets, posters, stickers, and now ADULT HOODIES!!



Jewell County — Mammoth Capital of the Great Plains!

Did you know that Columbian Mammoths once roamed Jewell County? Many Columbian Mammoth artifacts have been unearthed right here at Lovewell! Be sure to check out new interpretive panels about the history of Columbian Mammoths in Jewell County, installed at Lovewell Marina! These panels, with great information about these historic giants, were funded by Jewell County Economic Development. Don't forget to

visit Jewell County Historical Society Museum in Mankato KS, to view the artifacts and learn more!!

Deluxe Camping Cabins Updated



Two New Yurt-Style Cabins

Lovewell State Park's four deluxe cabins were such an exciting addition to the camping options back in 2009, with kitchens and bathrooms as an added amenity over the six existing rustic cabins. However, as you can imagine, the heavy use that they have received over the past 15 years have left them in poor condition and not up to the standard of facilities that the staff strives to offer. An opportunity arose in late 2023, to replace two of the deluxe camping cabins with Yurt-style cabins, offering living and sleeping areas and complete with heating/air, kitchen and 1/2 bath. The yurts have been designated to replace the Lookout and Pilgrim cabins, and will retain those names. Sleeping occupancy of each yurt will be determined once the interior is finalized and

furnished. The third deluxe cabin scheduled for replacement is the Scout Cabin. A newly constructed camping cabin was purchased from Neosho Community College Construction program. This cabin will have kitchen, full

bath/shower, bedroom and living areas much like the previous deluxe cabins, however the exact floor plan and sleeping occupancy is not known at the time of this newsletter's publishing. The fourth deluxe cabin, Settler Cabin, remains the same structure that was initially delivered in 2009. It has kitchen, full bath/shower, living area with futon and bedroom with a full size bed. Six rustic cabins are also available to rent, with bedroom and dining area, large counter area with outlets, but no kitchen or bath amenities. For all nine camping cabins at Lovewell, renters must provide all bedding, towels and toiletries. Deluxe cabins are furnished with stove, refrigerator, basic kitchen utensils, microwave, toaster and coffee pot.



Lookout Yurt Cabin In Progress



REGULATION

Our state park regulations are not new, but its always good to remind visitors as we look forward to the new park season. VEHICLE AND CAMPING EXPIRATION TIMES—All daily vehicle and camping permits expire at 2 pm following the last day purchased. If your vehicle is still in the state park or your camping unit is still in a primitive or utility campsite after 2 pm, another day MUST be purchased. 14-DAY STAY LIMIT—A camping unit is limited to 14 consecutive days in a campsite, utility and primitive, with the exception of designated seasonal campsites. Following the 14th day of your stay, you must move your camping unit from the campground, and/or remove it from the state park, for at least 5 days. GREY WATER DUMPING—all wastewater from camping units (BLACK and GREY tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. SPEED LIMIT—there is a 25 mph speed limit throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. The UNCONVENTIONAL VEHICLE PERMIT is available for golf cart and UTV type vehicles (no ATV's); use restrictions and regulations do apply. PETS—are allowed at Lovewell State Park, but must be kept on a 10 foot or shorter leash or chain at all times. Pets are not allowed inside any of the facilities, unless trained for assistance. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, swimming beach, park office, group shelters, and camping cabins (unless designated as pet-friendly). COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY— Commercial activity, such as the renting of sites and reselling reservations, is occurring on State Park property that is against agency regulations. KDWP regulation K.A.R. 115-8-19 states that no person shall advertise, engage in, or solicit any business, or make a charge for any event or service except as authorized by the Department on Department lands and waters. Persons or businesses found to be engaging in this activity can be ticketed resulting in a court appearance and related fines/costs.

With everyone abiding by state park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe and familyoriented park and enjoyable visits for all!! Thank you!

AmeriCorps Service

AmeriCorps is a national service program which allows

AmeriCorps Kansas

team members to gain service experience and knowledge through hands-on participation in a variety of projects. The grant is designed for long-term benefit to natural resources, recreational opportunities, and public awareness

of the outdoors. Typical projects performed by AmeriCorps members are environmental and outdoor recreation development, renovation of public recreation areas, presentation of environmental and outdoor related programs, and disaster response, as needed. Team Members must be at least 17 years old, have a high school diploma/GED, or agree to obtain one; a citizen of the US or permanent legal resident; pass a background check; and possess a strong desire for community service. Members who complete their term, are eligible for a significant education award, paid to a secondary education institution; in addition to the bi-weekly living allowance paid directly to the member. Contact the State Park Office for more information!



By KDHE's HAB Response Program



Blue-green algae are a natural part of the freshwater aquatic community and are normally present in low concentrations in most surface water, including lakes, streams and rivers. Under certain environmental conditions, blue-green algal blooms, also known as harmful algal blooms (HAB), can develop and strengthen very quickly. Some of these conditions may include warm temperatures, abundant sunlight, calm weather and high levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. Nutrients may enter the waterbody through external sources in the watershed, but also through internal releases of nutrients that may have accumulated in the waterbody over

time. Blooms take on a variety of appearances but are often described as a green or blue-green scum, floating clumps or strands, or water that is colored dark green. A bloom may be spread throughout the waterbody or may accumulate on a shoreline due to wind or wave action. HABs can produce potent toxins that can cause adverse health effects to humans and animals. Possible routes of exposure to these toxins for humans and animals include eating or drinking water or bloom material, skin contact and breathing in of water droplets. Potential exposure symptoms can range from mild to severe. If a person or animal experience's symptoms after exposure to a bloom, contact a medical professional or veterinarian immediately. Kansas Department of Health and Environment's HAB Response program monitoring is simultaneous with the water recreation season, April 1 through October 31. The program examines, evaluates and monitors events in public waterbodies to assess the level of risk associated with an algal bloom. KDHE issues public health advisories due to blue-green algae and provides a weekly update in response to HABs and their corresponding risk level. Lovewell Lake has experienced a number of HAB events, including an extended public health advisory due to blue-green algae issued during the 2023 recreational season. Lovewell Lake's beneficial uses are impacted due to elevated levels of nutrient enrichment. KDHE's historical data indicates that while Lovewell Lake has experienced HAB events in prior years, it has not experienced them every year. Due to several environmental factors, HABs can be unpredictable. The public is encouraged to stay informed and remain vigilant when heading out to Kansas waters to engage in recreational activity. Remember, when in doubt, stay out! Please check KDHE's HAB website for more information and to stay up to date on the latest advisories, kdhe.ks.aov/HAB



Rosehill Group Shelter Receives New Roof!

Kansas has a variety of outdoor sports groups for just about any outdoor activity you



Rosehill Group Shelter received a new roof in 2023! Donations were collected over several years by the Lovewell Lake Church Friends Group that sponsors the non-denominational church services each Sunday from Memorial Weekend through Labor Day Weekend. The beautiful limestone group shelter is also very popular as a venue for wedding and baptism special events throughout the year. In its prime, the structure served as a one-room schoolhouse: an important piece of the early development of the area community. In 2023, it was determined that there were enough donations to complete a new roof, to replace the existing roof which had fallen into disrepair. The project was approved for the structure by the Bureau of Reclamation and Kansas Historical Society. Many volunteers worked

diligently to remove the old shingles and underlayment. Donated funds were used to purchase new underlayment and historically accurate shake shingles. A local Belleville KS contractor, Eddy Darby, volunteered 100% of his labor for the project. The project was completed in August of 2023. This special project will prove to be invaluable for the longevity of this well-loved and very special facility!

Kansas Outdoor Sports Groups Assist Public Lands with Habitat Projects!

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

can think of whether it be camping, hunting, fishing, paddling, you name it. Some are local chapters of a larger statewide organization with an even larger national or global network. Some assist with funding for projects, while others support with funds and labor. Recently, Brzon and Lovewell Wildlife Areas hosted the Kansas Bowhunters Association (KBA) and the Kansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA). On March 25, 2023, ten members from the KBA chose

Brzon Wildlife Area for their Annual Conservation Day. Members constructed two wildlife waterers and planted 21 fruit trees in an old orchard originally planted by the former owner, Michael Brzon, who had donated his 320-acre farm to Kansas Department of Wildlife & Park's WILDTRUST program in 1989. Then on February 24, 2024, seven volunteers from Kansas BHA and two Pheasants Forever Habitat Specialists joined KDWP staff at Lovewell Wildlife Area to clear trees from neighboring landowners' fences, pull posts, and roll up old fence on the other sides of a 40-acre tract in preparation for a season of grazing to enhance wildlife habitat. KDWP had previously cleared the formerly native hay land of invasive eastern red cedars and other trees. This 40-acre tract was recently purchased from Pheasants Forever (PF) as part of a larger landholding. The remaining 268-acre tract was purchased by PF from a local landowner who's wishes were to have a conservation organization manage the property. This tract is awaiting transfer to KDWP pending Kansas legislative approval. Despite the typically erratic weather this time of year, volunteers for both events were treated to picturesque spring days. Although the work was physically demanding, volunteers ended the days with an overwhelming sense of accomplishment and a new appreciation for Kansas's beautiful public lands. If you would like to be involved in future Kansas KBA or BHA service projects, please visit: thekbasite.com or kansas@backcountryhunters.org

Visit the Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Area Information Pages

Visit https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWP-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Northwest/Jamestown OR https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWP-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Northwest/Lovewell for updates on area management, construction progress, upcoming events, and waterfowl migrations.





KANSANS FOR CONSERVATION

From Kansans For Conservation News

Evidence shows that current conservation efforts

are not sufficient to ensure a future with healthy and sustainable water, land, and outdoor recreation resources for Kansas. As a result, the agriculture, industry, and quality of life that depend on these resources is threatened. In 2017, a group of organizations

address the growing need for dedicated funding aimed at conservation in Kansas. This group, now called gathered to Kansans For Conservation, or KFC, conducted a feasibility study in 2018, a needs assessment in 2019, and incorporated as a 501(c)4 in 2022. Results from the needs assessment the group conducted showed the following:

• Most Kansans, and their Great Plains neighbors, said that being in nature is important to them -that it brought them a sense of peace and some of their happiest memories. They also agree that too little money is spent on conservation.

• Kansans solidly support increasing funding for conservation, and 63% of Kansans said they would feel more positively about their State Legislator and other government leaders who support increased spending on conservation and outdoor recreation. This view was expressed throughout the state and across party lines. Top-tier conservation funding priorities focus on water, wildlife, and farms.

• 95% of Kansas voters said that ensuring adequate water for people is extremely or very important. Nearly 90% placed the highest importance on conserving and restoring land around lakes, rivers, and streams to ensure water quality.

KFC decided on three tenets - Water - Working Lands - Quality of Life Currently there are 34 groups and they met for a hearing in the Kansas State Capitol on January 22, 2024. The following article about the testimony that day is reprinted with permission from the January 26 Kansans For Conservation News.

On Monday, January 22nd, the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources held a hearing on HB2541, which would establish a state conservation fund supporting working lands, wildlife, and outdoor recreation. The committee room was standing room only as conservation supporters filled its seats. Kansans for Conservation provided four presenters in support of the bill, displaying the diverse composition of the coalition and support for conservation funding. Josh Roe testified on behalf of the Kansas Corn Growers Association, Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, and the Kansas Farm Bureau. Roe outlined how conservation funding supports the long-term economic success of producers through voluntary measures and how rural communities are boosted through tourism from outdoor recreation. Dan Meyerhoff with the Kansas Association of Conservation Districts followed with an overview of conservation districts and discussed the \$86 million in applications the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received in 2023 from farmers but was unable to fund. Meyerhoff illustrated how HB 2541 would help close the gap. Next was Erika Devore of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association who provided a comprehensive overview of the economic, social, and health benefits that access to outdoor recreation provides to all Kansans. Rounding out the coalition's testimony was Abe Lollar with Ducks Unlimited. Abe discussed his experience working with private landowners to collaboratively achieve their management goals as well as the competitive advantages that neighboring states have over Kansas with existing state conservation funds. Including written, the committee received testimony from 30 proponents. Opponents to HB 2541 cited concerns about federal interference and involuntary land transfers. The coalition is actively working with legislators on language that would preclude these concerns and looks forward to collaborating with all stakeholders to continue the effort.

The annual expenditure necessary to begin to overcome pressing challenges to Kansas's land, water, and community and outdoor recreational and educational opportunities is estimated to be at least \$150 million. While a dedicated funding source has yet to be agreed on the 2019 survey showed a majority of voters say they would vote for an array of taxes or revenue streams if the funding were dedicated to conserving land, wildlife, and water, and providing recreation. In fact, these funding options receive solid support across the partisan spectrum. Dedicating existing sales-tax revenue from outdoor recreational equipment (e.g., Texas, Georgia) or a portion of lottery revenues (e.g., Oregon, Colorado) had the largest percentage of favorable votes. 77% of voters also support dedicating gaming taxes if Kansas legalizes betting on sporting events. Other options include increasing the current statewide sales tax by 1/10th of one cent (e.g. Minnesota) or dedicating a portion of the existing state sales tax (e.g. Arkansas, Missouri).

The natural resource challenges facing Kansans are enormous and reversing them demands a determined and powerful effort. Significant and sustained funding is essential. The challenge is daunting, but if it is neglected, the lives of Kansans and the robust character of the state will be forever diminished. It is now time for Kansas to do the same. The Kansans for Conservation Coalition is dedicated to working with our state's leaders, the agriculture community, and all conservation stakeholders (all Kansans) to create a fiscally responsible and publicly acceptable pathway to investing in our conservation legacy. To learn more about Kansans for Conservation go to:

Home | Kansans for Conservation - Promoting Conservation Funding in Kansas



2024 FISHING FORECAST!!

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR - is .5 ft below conservation pool, as of February 2024.

By Paul Stockebrand Fisheries Biologist

CATFISH - Good. The catfish population will again be very good in 2023 with all sizes of Channel Cats and Flatheads available to anglers and quality sized Blue Catfish showing up in the sample. Lovewell ranks first in terms of channel catfish density (16"). The fall 2022 Channel Catfish total catch rate went from 9.6 in 2022 to 7.8 in 2023. The biggest fish weighed 10.7 pounds with good numbers of fish greater than 5 pounds collected. Fortyseven percent of the fish sampled were between 16 and 20 inches, 24% percent were between 20 and 24 inches, and 10% were over 24 inches. The Flathead Catfish sample was higher this year with a density rating of 32.8, 2nd among Kansas reservoirs. The sample ranged from 14 to 46 inches with the biggest fish weighing 57 pounds. The majority (68%) of the sample was over 29" showcasing the number of big fish available to anglers. Channels and flatheads will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During irrigation releases, catfish can be caught close to the inlet and outlet structures and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. We collected 56 Blue Catfish in 2023 using low frequency electrofishing in August. There are now 900 tagged Blue Cats in the reservoir as we continue to study their movements and growth rates. Fish collected this year ranged from 11-38 inches and weighed up to 26.7 pounds. Five substock individuals were sampled in 2022. This is the first indication of natural reproduction of Blue Catfish. There is still a 35-inch minimum length limit on Blue Catfish at Lovewell for now. All Blue Catfish less than 35 inches must be released!

CRAPPIE - Fair/Good. The crappie population decreased in Lovewell. Consistent, steady recruitment since 2014 has allowed this crappie population to become one of the best in the state. The new regulations have also worked well by protecting the smaller, young fish and allowing plenty of these fast growing fish to reach legal size. Lovewell ranks 4th among the state's reservoirs in terms of White Crappie density (8"), 3rd in combined crappie density (8"), and 4th in Black Crappie density (8"). Half of sampled crappie were above the 10 inch length limit. The biggest White Crappie weighed 1.3 pounds. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition measured.

Don't forget the daily creel limit is 20 crappie per day and the minimum length limit is 10 inches.

WALLEYE - Poor/Fair. Lovewell Reservoir continues to support a low density Walleye population but provides quality size fish that anglers can catch throughout the year. Poor recruitment from 2013 to 2018 combined with a summer fish kill in 2018 that resulted in extensive Walleye mortality has continued to keep total numbers lower than desired. A significant decrease in shad numbers and a failed stocking due to poor water conditions last year could see further reductions in this species going forward. The density rating decreased this year from 1.8 to 0.2, and the preferred rating dropped down to 0.1. This continues a trend of lower catch rates since the 2012 sample but the 2019 year class should provide legal fish over the next couple of years. Almost 3 million Walleye fry were stocked in the spring of 2023 and 14,500 intermediates last fall to help improve Walleye recruitment. Fishing continues to be good from late April through mid-June with anglers drifting jig/nightcrawler combos having the best success, especially along 2-mile road. Trolling a variety of crankbaits in late July and early August around the dam and Walleye Point has yielded good catches of big walleye the past several years. Anglers are encouraged to carefully measure any questionable fish and handle sublegal fish with care.

18 inch minimum length limit in effect.

WHITE BASS - Poor. Following a good jump in 2022, the population was near 0 in the 2023 sample. The White Bass population is traditionally good to very good and anglers annually harvest high numbers of fish, but the fishing forecast ratings have reached an all-time low last year. The density rating (9") has dropped to 0.3 in 2023 from 7.7. Only 6 White Bass were sampled in the 9-15 inch range in total. This is another species that the

reduction in the shad population could be a factor preventing growth going forward. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights can be fair to good and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

WIPERS - Fair/Good. Lovewell continues to see moderate numbers of wiper in the fall netting samples. In 2023, the density rating is 2.5 and the preferred rating is 1.2. These are up slightly from 2022, but very similar to 2021. Approximately 19% of the catch was between 11 and 15 inches, 25% were 15 to 19 inches, and 39% were 20 to 24 inches. Lovewell ranks tenth in terms of wiper density among the state's reservoirs with the biggest fish weighing 5.5 pounds. Wiper fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2020 and produced a fair year class. In 2023, 600,000 fry were stocked. Similar to white bass, decent numbers of wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deepdiving rapalas along the north shore and the dam. Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those young wipers look very similar to white bass. The daily creel limit on wipers is 2 fish!

GET THE LATEST WEEKLY FISHING REPORTS FOR ALL AREA RESERVOIRS AT https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Fishing-Reports

Contact Information:

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Webber, KS 66970 Phone: 785-753-4971

Email: kdwp.lovewellsp@ks.gov

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