Kingman State Fishing Lake and Byron Walker Wildlife Area are located on U.S. Highway 54 seven miles west of Kingman, along the South Fork of the Ninnescah River. The area encompasses 5,178 acres, including the 144-acre Kingman State Fishing Lake constructed in 1933. The area offers a wide variety of hunting and fishing. Campers, hikers, and bird watchers will also find the area attractive.

**FISHING**

Kingman State Fishing Lake offers excellent fishing for largemouth bass, crappie, and channel catfish. Other species stocked in the lake include bluegill, redear, and northern pike. Special length and creel limits are posted at the lake entrance. Crappie generally spawn in April, and good numbers can be found around brush piles and the rock jetties. Northern pike get active as the ice melts in February. They are usually found spawning in weedy areas along the shoreline. Some fish have reached 4 feet in length. Channel catfish are extremely popular and are frequently caught using prepared baits. Some trophy fishermen pursue big reeders using a flyrod. Largemouth bass can be caught year-round near any cover type using various lures and minnow imitations.

The area also has numerous ponds that hold fish. These are indicated on the map and can provide excellent fishing for largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill. Take a kid to one of the ponds and you’re guaranteed a good day.

**HUNTING**

The diverse habitat on Byron Walker Wildlife Area includes riparian woodlands, native prairie, wetlands and marshes, and cropland, which makes the area great for hunting a variety of game. Most of the prairie habitat has been enhanced with tree and shrub strips, disked strips, and food plots. The wetlands are managed using moist-soil techniques with millet plantings to attract waterfowl. Crops are also planted to benefit game species. Upland bird hunting is generally good. Quail are the primary species on the area, and numbers are typically good. Pheasants can be found on the area, but numbers are generally low because of the lack of suitable habitat. Hunters with dogs should be careful of traffic on U.S. Highway 54, which runs through the area.

Fox squirrels are abundant in the timbered areas. Black walnut and bur oak trees are attractive to squirrels when bearing nuts and acorns. Cottontails are abundant near clover or alfalfa patches or brushy habitats. Occasionally, jack rabbits can be taken on the area. Hunting with beagles can be very productive.

White-tailed deer hunting is very popular on Byron Walker. Numbers are generally good and can be found in every habitat on the area. Bowhunters can improve their shooting skills at the archery range located adjacent to the area headquarters.

Turkey hunting is excellent on the area. The special youth/handicap season gives young and handicapped hunters the opportunity to hunt before the regular season opener.

Area ponds and windmills can offer exciting pass shooting for doves. Dove hunting can remain good through early October.

Waterfowl hunting offers some exciting diversity on the area. The west 1/3 of Kingman State Lake is open to waterfowl hunting, with the remainder of the lake managed as a refuge. In addition, eight marshes are located north and west of the lake and three more are located south of the lake on the south side of highway 54. The Ninnescah River and a dozen or more ponds are also open to waterfowl hunting.

**FACILITIES**

Picnic tables, fire rings, pit toilets, and a group shelter are available for campers, picnickers, and fishermen. Camping is permitted in designated areas only. Two boat launching facilities are located on the east side of the lake. Motorized boating in Kingman State Fishing Lake is restricted to fishing and hunting only, and a no-wake policy is enforced. An archery range is available during daylight hours at the headquarters. To ensure all visitors can enjoy their trip to the lake, alcohol and cereal malt beverages are prohibited.

**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

Vehicles are restricted to maintained roads and parking areas. Off-road vehicle use is prohibited. A no trash policy is in effect for this area, so please take your trash with you.

Any blinds used must be tagged, portable and temporary or made of native materials found at the blind site. Target shooting on the area is prohibited. Consult information signs on the area for all regulations that apply to the area.

Baiting is prohibited.

**Kingman SFL & Byron Walker WA**

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, political affiliation, and military or veteran status. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1000 S Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS 66612.

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**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

- (Regional Office) (316) 683-8069
- (Area Office) (620) 532-3242