Native Americans from the Wichita and Osage tribes once hunted the flood plains and upland areas surrounding Fall River, attracted to this area by the great number of wildlife. These flood plains and rolling uplands still allure those who enjoy the outdoors.

Positioned between the crossed timber area of the Chautauqua Hills to the east and the grasslands of the Flint Hills to the west, this area provides a remarkable diversity of plant and animal life. The forested flood plains, the blackjack Savannah’s and the tall grass prairies make this a most interesting place to visit. Completed in 1949, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the reservoir forms a lake of 2,450 surface acres at conservation pool level and a shoreline of nearly 40 miles.

In 1961, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks entered into a license with the Corps of Engineers of 9,352 acres of land and water on the upper reaches of the impounds for fish and wildlife management. The visitor is encouraged to participate in hiking, fishing, hunting and other outdoor activities permitted on the area.

**HUNTING**

The area is managed for a variety of game and non-game species. There are 8,632 acres open to public hunting. The hunter will find good populations of dove, quail, deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel and waterfowl.

Fall River Wildlife Area hosts special Youth Dove hunts each year for youth’s age 15 and under. Contact the area manager for information concerning these special hunts.

Farming for wildlife, native plant restoration, timber management and prescribed burning are used to provide food and cover for a variety of wildlife including non-game species.

Programs of marsh and water management provide some excellent habitat for all types of waterfowl and shorebirds.

**FISHING**

Fisheries management on the 2,400 reservoir includes largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, white bass and channel catfish. White bass is considered excellent particularly in early spring in both Otter Creek and Fall River above the reservoir.

Camping on designated areas and canoeing along Fall River and Otter Creek are activities that visitors can pursue.

All uses of the area must be aware of state rules and regulations. Consult information boards for information on direct questions to the Fall River Wildlife Area Office located on the area.

**REFUGES**

The remaining 720 acres have been set aside as waterfowl refuges. By providing feeding, resting and roosting sites, the refuges help retain large populations of migrating waterfowl for a longer period of time, thereby assuring more waterfowl hunting opportunity.

Fall River Wildlife Area’s two refuge areas are closed to all types of activity year round and are clearly marked with standard red and white “STOP-REFUGE AREA-NO HUNTING” signs.

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**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

All users of the wildlife area must be aware of state rules and regulations. Consult information boards on the area or direct questions to the Fall River Wildlife Area office located near Climax.

The area provides needed habitat for area wildlife. Species include the bald eagle, great horned owl, wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and over 200 species of migratory and year-round birds.