Otter Creek Wildlife Area is located on John Redmond Reservoir near Burlington, Kansas. The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism has managed the area’s 1,637 acres since 1968 under license agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps manages the park areas and some wildlife area at John Redmond. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages approximately 18,500 acres on the upper end of the reservoir.

HUNTING

Public hunting is allowed on Otter Creek Wildlife Area. Like the USFWS, Wildlife and Parks requires all hunters to use steel shot only. Some regulations may differ in Corps areas.

Deer hunting will be archery and shotgun only, starting with the 2007 season. Only portable or floating hunting blinds or blinds constructed of natural materials are allowed. Tree stands are allowed, but they must be portable and must be removed within 14 days after the hunting season.

Portions of the USFWS Flint Hills National Refuge are closed to public access during certain dates. Be sure you can identify the various areas on the reservoir before your outing.

Target practice is not allowed on Otter Creek Wildlife Area. A NO TRASH POLICY is in effect. Visitors are asked to take their trash with them.

Deer hunting is archery and shotgun only.

FISHING

Frequent flooding and resultant high reservoir levels make fisheries management challenging. Flushing of fish through the dam gates does occur, and fish are numerous in the spillway below the dam. All anglers fishing in the spillway are required to wear personal flotation devices.

A KDWP-Corps cooperative rearing pond has produced good wiper numbers for several good years, and wiper survival in the reservoir has been excellent. Anglers may also expect to catch channel catfish, crappie, flathead, and white bass at John Redmond.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Wildlife management goals are to provide quality public hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities. Habitat includes native prairie grass, riparian timber, wetlands, and approximately 360 acres of cropland for wildlife feed and cover. Other management activities include limited water level management for waterfowl, controlled burns, tree and shrub plantings, and grass and legume plantings.

Ducks Unlimited’s MARSH program provided funding to construct a 15-acre marsh on the management area. The marsh’s water level is actively manipulated to provide a resting and feeding area for waterfowl and shorebirds.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Steel shot is required for all hunting. Hunters may not have lead shot in their possession while on the area.

Motor vehicles are restricted to established, maintained roads and parking areas.

A NO TRASH POLICY is in effect. Visitors are asked to take their trash with them.

Remember, John Redmond is a flood control reservoir. Low water crossings and some roads flood frequently, so please be cautious.

Special length and creel limits may be in effect for some fish species. Check the Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary and all posted notices before fishing.

Deer hunting is archery and shotgun only.