

# Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks 1999-2000 Annual Report

This report briefly details department accomplishments in the year 2000. The Walk-In Hunting Area (WIHA) program continued to exceed expectations; the FISH program continued to grow; a record number of deer permits were offered; and the \$10 million facelift of our state parks' infrastructure neared completion. I am particularly proud of the progress the department has made with the "Pass It On" program, which was initiated to recruit new hunters and reverse the declining trend in hunter numbers. This fall, we will have unprecedented opportunities to get youth involved in hunting through special programs and special youth seasons, including a youth upland bird season, youth deer season and youth waterfowl seasons. As enthusiasm for this program grows, it will be expanded to fishing, camping and wildlife watching.

As we enter the 21st century, there are many challenges. We must ask ourselves, "Can we rise to the challenge of improving our outdoor recreation opportunities in Kansas?" The benefits to our economy and our quality of life are clear. It will take a concerted effort from all of us who love the Kansas outdoors to preserve what we enjoy and improve those resources for our children. Providing quality programs and customer service remain our top priorities. Through the efforts of dedicated staff, the support of Governor Bill Graves, and the backing of our diverse constituency, I believe the department moved forward in 2000 — a step closer to becoming the nation's premier producer of outdoor recreation opportunities.

*Steve Williams, Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks*



## Youth Programs

KDWP staff organized dozens of "special hunts," most of which are designed to accommodate quality hunting experiences for young hunters. Most special hunts are in areas not normally open to hunting,

such as state parks, refuge areas, or restricted access areas. In addition, the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission approved special two-day youth seasons for upland birds, deer, and waterfowl. The youth seasons allow young hunters, accompanied by adult hunters, to pursue game outside of normal season dates.

## Deer Hunting Opportunity

The department continued the trend in recent years of issuing an unprecedented number of deer permits. A total of about 180,000 deer hunting permits and extra tags were expected to be issued this deer hunting season, compared with about 170,000 in 1999. Most important for deer population control, the majority of increased permit num-

bers are targeted for does. The Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission also approved lengthening of the extended January antlerless-only season from 10 days in 1999 to 14 days this year. In addi-



tion, KDWP and the KWP Commission removed regulatory restrictions to provide increased hunting opportunity; leftover permits and deer game tags may be used in any season with equipment legal for that season.

### Law Enforcement

Conservation officers conducted a total of 78,757 license checks of hunters and anglers afield in 1999. In addition, they conducted 16,597 boat inspections. Those 95,354 encounters with hunters, anglers, and boaters resulted in 8,515 violations. Park law enforcement officers conducted a total of 148,904 park permit checks during the course of their duties in 1999, which resulted in the issuance of 3,642 summons. Their enforcement duties also resulted in more than 220 arrests, the majority of them for DUI, drug possession, or assault charges. Boating enforcement officers investigated a total of 50 reported boating accidents in 1999, down from 72 accidents the previous year. Boating accidents in 1999 resulted in five fatalities and \$51,800 in property damage.

### State Park Capital Improvements

Major improvements continued in 2000, the second year of a three-year renovation program in Kansas state parks. The final year of the renovation program is underway, enhancing parks in a variety of ways, from development of new campgrounds to construction of new shower houses and courtesy docks. Many of these improvements were made possible after the 1998 Kansas Legislature approved Gov.



Bill Graves' proposal for a one-time appropriation of \$10 million to begin to address critical infrastructure improvements at each of Kansas' 24 state parks. State park visitation reached 6.6 million in 1999, the second highest year on record.

### Special Events

State parks hosted more than 100 special events, ranging from full-blown outdoor music concerts to fireworks displays. The Country Stampede country music event drew about 106,000 people to Tuttle Creek State Park. About 7,000 people attended the Battle of Mine Creek Reenactment at Eisenhower State Park. Crawford State Park gained national recognition from the 8th Annual Summer Sizzler Triathlon, and also hosted a reunion of the Civilian Conservation Corps members who built the lake during the 1930s. Equestrian events became more common; Milford, Perry, Eisenhower, Hillsdale, El Dorado, Tuttle Creek, Scott, Cedar Bluff, and Kanopolis state parks all have facilities for riders to camp with their horses.

### AmeriCorps

State park managers received some much-needed help with the addition of 54 individuals to serve on the Kansas Outdoor AmeriCorps Action Team. The additional help was provided courtesy of a federal grant which awards each AmeriCorps team member a living stipend and, at the end of their minimum 1700 hours of service, an education credit award of \$4,725. AmeriCorps members help with renovation and development of public recreation areas and facilities, presentation of educational programs to the public, and assistance at local natural disaster sites in the state.

### Volunteers

State parks benefitted from more than 42,000 hours of assistance from a variety of



volunteer workers in calendar year 1999. Inmates from the Kansas Department of Corrections provided about half of that total. Camp hosts contributed more than 8,500 hours. Individual volunteers, friends group members, and Green Thumb workers contributed more than 11,000 hours of labor. Volunteers perform a variety of maintenance and cleanup chores, allowing permanent and seasonal KDWP employees to devote more time to critical maintenance and repair projects.

### Outdoor Recreation Grants

KDWP's Parks Division distributed \$500,000 to 46 Kansas communities for development of local recreation facilities. The Kansas Legislature appropriated the funding to assist city and county governments in recreation development such as ballfield construction and renovation, acquisition of playground equipment, and disabled-access improvements.

### Recreational Trails Grants

Grant monies were distributed to a variety of worthy public trail project applicants throughout the state. In FY 2000, the Parks Division disbursed a total of \$753,500 in National Recreational Trails Fund grants. The program is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration, and derives revenues from excises taxes on the sale of off-road recreational fuel.

### Hunting and Fishing Access

The popular Walk-In Hunting Areas (WIHA) program continued to grow dramatically. About 680,000



acres were leased from Kansas landowners for the 2000 hunting season, compared with 630,000 acres in 1999, and 490,000 acres in 1998. The agency's Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) program leased a total of 1,300 acres of ponds and 55 miles of stream reaches from private landowners for the 2000 season (March 1 through October 31).

### Fish Stocking

The department's Fish Culture Section stocked a total of 42.5 million fish, comprising 14 species, in Kansas' public fishing waters. In addition, a total of 125,591 channel catfish were stocked in urban lakes and ponds for the department's Urban Fishing Program. The popular trout fishing program benefitted from stocking a total of 136,610 catchable-sized trout.

### Hunter Education

A total of 1,263 volunteer hunter education instructors conducted more than 300 classes around the state, certifying just less than 12,000 students in 1999.

### Nature Center Completed



Work was completed this year on the \$1.2 million exhibit hall at the Great Plains Nature Center in Wichita, and a dedication ceremony was conducted in late August. The

center, which also houses KDWP's Region 4 office, had been scheduled to open as a visitor's center more than two years ago when a natural disaster struck at the contractor's place of business in Washington and destroyed most of the displays and dioramas destined for the exhibit hall. Projected annual visitation at the Great Plains Nature Center is 150,000.

### The 'New' Cheyenne Bottoms

A massive renovation project at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area was completed last year. A dedication ceremony was held at the Bottoms in May to commemorate the project completion. The internationally-acclaimed wildlife area has undergone a massive transformation during the past ten years. Pools were subdivided to allow more efficient and timely water manipulation. Nesting islands were built. Excavation of pools created enhanced water storage capacity and helps inhibit cattail expansion. Water control structures and pump systems were installed, allowing area managers to efficiently manage this critical wetland habitat.

### Wildlife Education

KDWP's Wildlife Education Section conducted 44 in-service environmental education workshops attended by 727 teachers and school administrators last year. The Section's wildlife reference center supplied a total of 21,958 environmental teaching aid resources to educators around the state, and certified 22 additional Outdoor Wildlife Learning Sites (OWLS) at schools. A total of 4,913 persons visited the Pratt Conservation Education Center; 7,806 visited the Milford Nature Center.

### Pass It On

The department debuted its Hunter Recruitment and Retention Plan, designed to increase the state's hunting participation rate to 15 percent by 2005. The program, designed by department staff and constituent organization representatives, incorporates a variety of strategies to enhance hunting partic-

ipation by the state's residents. The program incorporates strategies such as development of a network of outdoor mentors to assist young hunters, continued development of public hunting access, and enhancement of sport shooting opportunities.

### Environmental Review



In 1999, KDWP's Environmental Services Section reviewed 1,611 projects for potential environmental impacts to threatened or endangered species. Twenty-five projects required Action Permits because of impacts on critical habitats. The permits required on-site measures, such as avoidance of in-stream construction during peak spawning dates, or protection or replacement of critical habitats. Road and bridge projects represent the vast majority of projects reviewed, while other projects requiring action permits included stream channel alterations, utility projects, dam construction, mining, and industrial development.

### Internet Activity

KDWP added online license sales at its Internet website in September, 1999. More than \$336,000 in sales was logged at the website from that date through June 30, 2000. Anyone with an Internet connection and a printer can purchase and print many department issuances 24 hours a day, seven days a week over a secure system. The website also offers detailed information on hunting, fishing, boating, and state parks outdoor recreation in Kansas.

# Income July 1999-June 2000

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks relies on fees paid by the people it serves for most of its income. The sale of hunting and fishing licenses and associated permits accounts for about 43 percent of the department's annual income. Another 21 percent is derived from excise taxes paid on hunting and fishing gear and other outdoor equipment, which is distributed back to the state by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Park permits, boat registrations, and other license and permit sources account for another 21 percent. About 15 percent of the agency's funding comes from state general fund revenues. The tables on this page summarize calendar year 1999 license and permit sales.

## FISHING/HUNTING/FURHARVESTING

License/permit	Number sold	Revenue
Resident Fish (\$15.00)	190,481	\$2,857,215
Combination Fish/Hunt (\$30.00)	44,391	\$1,331,730
Nonresident Fish (\$35.00)	8,956	\$313,460
Five-Day Trip Fish (\$15.00)	4,918	\$73,770
24-Hour Fish (\$3.00)	89,411	\$268,233
Trout Stamp (\$7.50)	10,921	\$81,907
Lifetime Fish (\$240.00)	227	\$54,480
Lifetime Comb. Fish/Hunt (\$440.00)	899	\$395,560
Lifetime Fish (payments) (\$35.00)	46	\$1,610
Lifetime Comb. (payments) (\$35.00)	244	\$8,540
Lifetime Hunt (payments) (\$35.00)	126	\$4,410
Lifetime Hunt (\$240.00)	993	\$238,320
Resident Hunt (\$15.00)	94,161	\$1,412,415
Nonresident Hunt (\$65.00)	48,897	\$3,178,305
Nonresident Junior Hunt (\$30.00)	1,739	\$52,170
Controlled Shooting Area (\$13.00)	6,044	\$78,572
48-Hour Waterfowl (\$20.00)	528	\$10,560
Deer Permit (variable)	157,608	\$3,624,730
Turkey Permit (variable)	38,565	\$629,200
Adult Furharvester (\$15.00)	4,114	\$61,710
Junior Furharvester (\$7.50)	120	\$900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>703,389</b>	<b>\$14,677,798</b>

## STATE PARKS

Permit Type	Number Sold	Revenue
Annual Vehicle (\$29.50)	28,524	\$841,458
Annual Camp ( \$100)	2,343	\$234,300
Second Vehicle (\$14.50)	9,622	\$139,519
Duplicate Vehicle (\$5.00)	765	\$3,825
Exempt/Handicap Vehicle (\$0)	28,447	\$0
Daily Vehicle (\$3.50)	265,333	\$928,665
Daily Handicap Vehicle (\$0)	199	\$0
Daily Camp (\$4.50)	112,216	\$504,972
14-Day Camp (\$50.00)	1,407	\$70,350
Utility (1) (\$5.00)	17,062	\$85,310
Utility (2) (\$6.00)	90,990	\$545,940
Utility (3) (\$7.00)	17,914	\$125,328
Youth Group Camping (\$2.50)	3	\$7.50
30-Day Camp (\$90.00)	14	\$1,260
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>570,839</b>	<b>\$3,480,935</b>

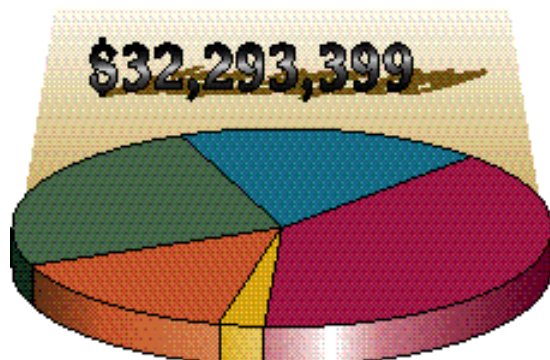
## THREE- YEAR BOAT REGISTRATIONS






Boats under 16 feet (\$15.00)	18,606	\$279,090
Boats over 16 feet (\$18.00)	18,663	\$335,934
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,810</b>	<b>\$622,767</b>

## FEDERAL AID

Coast Guard (boating safety)	\$ 313,364
Dingell-Johnson (fish)	\$3,044,685
Pittman-Robertson (wildlife)	\$2,446,181
Other	\$1,912,989
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,717,219</b>

# Expenditures (7/99 - 6/00)



 Fish	\$7,894,499	25 %
 Wildlife	\$12,398,728	37 %
 Parks	\$7,999,879	25 %
 Administration	\$3,105,026	10 %
 Boating	\$895,267	3 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$32,293,399</b>	