

**REVISED AGENDA**  
**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, PARKS & TOURISM**  
**COMMISSION MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**

**Thursday, March 23 2017**  
**Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald I & II Rooms**  
**1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas**

- I. CALL TO ORDER AT 1:00 p.m.**
- II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**
- III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**
- IV. APPROVAL OF THE January 5, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**
- V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**
- VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**
  - A. Secretary's Remarks**
    - 1. Agency and State Fiscal Status (Robin Jennison)**
    - 2. 2017 Legislature (Chris Tymeson)**
  - B. General Discussion**
    - 1. Tuttle Creek State Park Blue Chip Award (Linda Lanterman)**
    - 2. Blue Cross Blue Shield Parks Support Update (Linda Lanterman)**
    - 3. New Consolidated Licensing/Reservation System (Jason Dickson or Kyle Jackson)**
    - 4. Early Raccoon Hunting Season (Matt Peek)**
  - C. Workshop Session**
    - 1. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations (Richard Schultheis)**
    - 2. Waterfowl Regulations (Tom Bidrowski)**
    - 3. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations (Chris Tymeson)**
    - 4. KAR 115-8-1. Department lands and waters: hunting, furharvesting, and discharge of firearms. (Stuart Schrag)**
    - 5. KAR 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Fort Riley. (Matt Peek)**
- VII. RECESS AT 5:00 p.m.**

**VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.**

**IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

**X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

**D. Public Hearing**

1. **KAR 115-25-7.** Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits. (Matt Peek)
2. **KAR 115-25-8.** Elk; open season, bag limit, and permits. (Matt Peek)
3. **KAR 115-4-2.** Big game and wild turkey; general provisions. (Matt Peek)
4. **KAR 115-4-11.** Big game and wild turkey permit applications. (Matt Peek)
5. **KAR 115-25-9.** Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits. (Matt Peek)
6. **Secretary's Orders for Deer (Matt Peek)**

**XII. OLD BUSINESS**

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

If necessary, the Commission will recess on March 23, 2017, to reconvene March 24, 2017, at 9:00 a.m., at the same location to complete their business. Should this occur, time will be made available for public comment.

If notified in advance, the department will have an interpreter available for the hearing impaired. To request an interpreter call the Kansas Commission of Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698. Any individual with a disability may request other accommodations by contacting the Commission Secretary at (620) 672-5911.

The next commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017 at KDWPT Headquarters, 512 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pratt, KS.

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
Commission Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 5, 2017  
Flint Hills Technical College  
3301 W 18<sup>th</sup> Ave, Emporia, Kansas**

Subject to  
Commission  
Approval

The January 5, 2017 meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission was called to order by Chairman Gerald Lauber at 1:00 p.m. at the Flint Hills Technical College, Emporia. Chairman Lauber and Commissioners Ward Cassidy, Emerick Cross, Tom Dill, Gary Hayzlett, Aaron Rider and Harrison Williams were present.

**II. INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS, STAFF AND GUESTS**

The Commissioners and Department staff introduced themselves (Attendance roster - Exhibit A).

**III. ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO AGENDA ITEMS**

Sheila – Ryan Stucky will present Public Lands update, workshop item No. 2 in place of Stuart Schrag. Also, added workshop item No. 5, Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations, Chris Tymeson will present that. (Agenda – Exhibit B)

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE October 20, 2016 MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Gary Hayzlett moved to approve the minutes as corrected, Commissioner Tom Dill second. *Approved.* (Minutes – Exhibit C).

**V. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Dean Hollenbeck, President Flint Hills Technical College – Thank you for opportunity It's a pleasure to have groups like this come to our college. We have several programs here unique to Kansas, We offer 19 programs with 95 percent placement rate, from 1,000 to 1,300 students at any given time. We're working on this room and expect completion in about two weeks, expecting new carpet and refinishing doors. New chairs and tables came in yesterday. From Big Game Country in Colorado, have pictures of 4,000 to 5,000 elk standing outside my house. Big migration patterns in Steamboat/Craig area coming out of mountains; native there by way of Oklahoma and then came here; have good friends who are outfitters. You are welcome here and any time you need this facility we just need to get you on the schedule.

Susan Rathke, Director Emporia Visitor and Convention Bureau – Glad you are here. Nice to see you here, hope you will come back to Emporia. Might know us as gravel grinding capital of the world, trademarked that phrase. Received awards in 2016, received best Main Street in U.S. awarded by USA Today. Brought pens and put them back on the table, also great brochure (Exhibit D). Thanks for being here.

Terry Porter, Kansas Federation of Houndsmen – Sent copy of proposal (read – Exhibit E); add special raccoon hunting season, September 1 to October 31, brought to us by largest fur dealer in Kansas. With over-population, dealing with potential nuisance animal. Chairman Lauber – My recommendation would be to consider it, no shortage of raccoons and like chance to run dogs. Commissioner Cassidy – Is this a statewide thing, why are pelts so bad? Porter – Not sure if overpopulation, male coons start rubbing earlier; even at prime hides are not worth anything. Commissioner Cassidy – Not anything else going on? Porter – Not quality of hides, but the demand unless maybe a large coon. I myself haven't sold one for two years. Mating earlier and rubbing and ruining hides. Commissioner Cassidy – Not sure if some disease or something? Porter – Seeing some disease in my area. Chairman Lauber – Fur, especially lower end fur like coons, not politically correct in U.S. so furs go to Europe, and fur prices are down. Most people not doing for money, doing it to work your dogs and I appreciate opportunity. Would like someone to consider this and make sure there is no unintended circumstance. I fail to see a downside, but staff can look into this. Porter – Have a new email, different from proposal, [tsporter1@outlook.com](mailto:tsporter1@outlook.com); and phone number listed is correct to contact me if needed. Chairman Lauber – Good request. Porter – What legal right does hound hunter have to retrieve hound on land he is not supposed to be on? Guy called about his dog getting shot. Chairman Lauber – Complicated question with complicated answer. Tymeson – Trespass scenario. If person not hunting, criminal hunting wouldn't apply, but sticky situation. Chairman Lauber – Don't know how to advise you on that, no specific law of what rights a houndsman has. Porter – Is it legal to sell raccoon meat? Tymeson and Rankin – Yes, can sell furbearer meat.

Kim McGaughey, Ulysses – I come today because on June 19, I had three wardens come onto my property and shoot a deer that was on my property for 22 months. Not penned or chained, she came and went on her own, followed me home when she was about 9 months old. Had strong bond, she came in house, stayed sometimes 2-3 hours and then would go out. Two weeks after I had her I called Lakin and spoke to a game warden to tell him about the deer. He told me as long as she was not confined or penned I wasn't doing anything illegal. I did put a collar on her so she wouldn't get shot. Brought article from Ulysses and was contacted by Associated Press and USA Today. They came on the property and shot her five times, my property is posted, came to my job and issued a ticket at 4:30 and my deer was dead by 5:00. I called zoos to see if anyone could take it, but Garden City couldn't, Great Bend didn't have room and Hutchinson was closed. Jeff Goeckler sent out those three wardens. He said he was afraid for my health and wouldn't give me 14 hours more to find someplace to put her. Had cancer at 6 years, told I wouldn't walk or live, I fought to live because of animals, learned to walk again. They shot her in the leg and then four more times and threw her in back of truck. Shot her in driveway with handgun. Shot towards my horses and other wildlife on my property. Cruelty to animals to not feed invertebrate animal, have had birds, bucks and several herds of whitetail and muley deer in yard and she has never left with them. Been to neighbors and up to seven miles away but always came back.

Disappeared two weeks before, also earlier hurt her leg, I wrapped pipe and trauma tape on it for 8 weeks, but she limped after that. When I went for walks she would follow me. Have pictures of her visiting other people as well. She gave me joy, I connect with animals, maybe more than people and my job is saving lives. Jeff told he was using exigent circumstances. My understanding is that is used if a person's life is in danger. Story reached 12 states, people reached out to me. He told me what time I left that day, she came in one time that day, I begged

them not to shoot her, he said he didn't have resources for that, I had vet that would have given him the medicine to euthanize her. I tried to start paperwork to rehabilitate the deer and he said I couldn't because I was already in possession of her. Killed her 45 minutes after I was given ticket. Tanner Dixon shot my deer and other two men said they would take her somewhere. To shoot her in front of my daughter and husband was cruel. I have sister-in-law and friend with me and I have support from people I have never met. I want justice for my deer, not one like anyone else had. More than willing to show pictures I have. Cruel and unjust and my privacy was violated in 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> amendment, because they said they were watching for 3 days before this, could have given me time to do something. Chairman Lauber – I understand and I am sorry. Don't know what kind of response I can or should give. Ask Mark Rankin to issue a statement, head of law enforcement is sick. Mark Rankin – (Statement – Exhibit F) This is regrettable and emotional situation. Euthanizing wildlife is never a pleasant situation and officers did talk to local veterinarian who said he would check and then he advised them it was not possible in this situation. They tried to catch the deer with catch pole and couldn't because of size and age of deer. Being in CWD area they felt they must continue with enforcement action. Many people think it should have been taken care of differently. To become game wardens they all went to college for four years to obtain a bachelor degree in natural resource management, they participated in competitive testing and interview process to obtain their positions. The department is currently reviewing policies and training to resolve this situation in the future; may take time to ascertain how handled in other states; and looking at what equipment might be available. Some accounts have stated permits were available to possess the deer, but they are none available; domestic deer breeder permit issued by animal health commissioner and rehabilitation permits would not qualify for several reasons. This permit requires specialized training to possess and after treatment animal can be held for no more than 180 days; this was not an injured deer, the animal was a human imprinted deer that was fed so it could not survive in the wild. Neither permit would allow for possession of that deer. McGaughey – The vet contacted was not my vet, he would make sure she would be euthanized. Could have handled her; no danger, she wouldn't have hurt him for nothing. Rankin – In the past, two people have been killed by wild deer in Kansas that were kept as socialized deer. McGaughey – Aware of diseases carried by deer, not any more susceptible to deer parasites than we are to dogs. She was not sick. Rankin – At this time, hindsight is 20/20 and how things could have been done differently. McGaughey – Told under investigation, what investigation? Rankin – Not aware of that. McGaughey – Have video of them shooting her in leg and then four more times. That was not appropriate, afraid of officers and how this was handled. Chairman Lauber – We will see what we can do and see how it can be handled differently next time. With respect, don't know what to say. Robin Jennison – A lot of us in this room have sympathy and compassion for animals. Appreciate Rankin's statement, unique situation, law enforcement officers have to make decisions every day, look at this different. If we ever do, what we have learned from this will help us. Add to Chairman's comments and say I am sorry. McGaughey – I think those officers should be reprimanded, she did not have to be shot like that.

Terry VonWey, Waubaunsee County – Question on drones and what would be legal for hunting? Rankin – Unlawful due to statute, would take change in state law to do that. Can't supply location by electronic or mechanical means. VonWey – Against it, could use to chase deer. Rankin – Illegal for waterfowl. VonWey – Could fly drone over your property? Rankin – No. VonWey – Can I shoot it down? Rankin – I can't answer that, outside our expertise.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **A. Secretary's Remarks**

1. Agency and State Fiscal Status – Robin Jennison, Secretary, presented this update to the Commission. I have three handouts (Exhibit G). Park Fee Fund is performing well, 11 percent over last year; graph on last page, generally pull salaries out at last of year, but this year did not pull from EDIF or road fund early enough so pulled out of PFF, made adjustments, graph is right. On track, goal is to keep balances above last year's level and see how much more we need to transition to using PFF over other funds. Cabin Fee Fund performing better than last year, a good summer for park division. Continuing to do a good job and seeing reflection of actions taken by Commission. Wildlife Fee Fund, fee changes made are changing how funds come into those, \$10.6 million, show balances back to 2011. After fee increase up to over \$10 million; financially agency performing very well. Not as impacted as other agencies who rely on SGF and EDIF and state is looking at ways to fund those. They have work to do for 2018 and 2019 and see how it goes through the legislature this year, expected tax increase and may impact the parks. Commissioner Cassidy – Out of state fees went up from \$72.50 to \$97.50? Getting feedback? Jennison – I have gotten some. Mike Miller – I have had several calls on special hunt-own-land, sold more spring turkey than ever before, a few complaints but sales are up. Commissioner Cassidy – Getting some comments from vendors, asking for five-day hunting license and things like that. Jennison – No decrease in sales, big increase at once, no fee increase for several years, 2002 since last increase and 1986 for deer permits. Need to keep up with economy with set fees and opportunity; should have raised eight years ago and wouldn't have had this big of increase now. Had graph, we are in hump with surrounding states, caught up with them, the only one below us is Missouri but they have sales tax revenue. Chairman Lauber – Received some comments, expected more than I did. Unusual area was landowner tenant, went from peanuts to a lot of money. People who put land in trust and tried to use tenant situation and price did go up. No place to put tenant except in one category, from that standpoint that mismatch was corrected. Tymeson – Fair assessment on two complaints I received. Chairman Lauber – Don't like to raise fees, but glad we did because we needed the revenue.

2. 2017 Legislature – Chris Tymeson, chief legal counsel, presented this update to the Commission. Legislature starts Monday, first year of two-year cycle, typically 90 days and authorized 10 extra days. Mostly finance bills. Two committees where our bills go to in the House - Agriculture and Water and the Environment; one in the Senate, Agriculture and Natural Resources; so unsure where our bills will be routed. Looked at pre-file bills and a couple things we watch. One with civil asset forfeiture, will keep eye on those; conceal carry in capitol. Had one request to do presentation on zebra mussels. Six possible: 1) cabins, adjust process on fees 2) vessel registrations, raise cap, currently \$10/year; 3) law enforcement citations, electronic; 4) mandatory boater education; 5) designate state fish, one of four states without one; and 6) change name of Lake Scott State Park to Historic Lake Scott State Park. Chairman Lauber – One individual driving zebra mussel issue? Tymeson – Refrain from comment. There are sixty new legislators so learning process for new legislators.

*Break*

## B. General Discussion

1. Commissioner Permit Update and Drawing – Mike Miller, Information Services, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit H). January tradition, drawing for Commissioners permits. By statute, one elk, one antelope or up to seven deer permits may be issued with the limit of permits issued being seven. Qualified applicants include local chapters of nonprofit organizations based or operating in Kansas that actively promote wildlife conservation and the hunting and fishing heritage. An organization or chapter is eligible to receive a permit only once in a three-year period. Raised over \$400,000 for conservation since 2006. After the permit is sold by the organization, the cost of the permit is subtracted and 85 percent of the proceeds are sent to KDWPT to be used on approved projects. After the projects are approved, the money is sent back to the organization. The other 15 percent can be spent at the organization's discretion. In 2016, permits sold for \$64,550 (one elk and six deer) with 138 applications and 132 of those eligible (due to winning in past three years). Sheila Kemmis – 142 eligible applications this year, 146 total applications with four not eligible because won within last three years. Chairman Lauber – Do applicants let us know how they are going to market the permits? Some have higher market value than sold in the past. It is about fund raising and like more knowledge of where to bid on a permit. Miller – We can ask organizations how they are going to sell them. May not know or publicize how organizations market them. Chairman Lauber – Encourage we do that. Commissioner Williams – Heard elk have gone down in last several years. Miller – Hunters have expressed they didn't know how to bid on those permits. Audience – How do you determine who is eligible? Miller – Has to be a nonprofit organization, in Kansas. Audience – No designated hunting areas? Not on areas he can't usually hunt. Miller – Have available for public inquiries, link on website, under Commission. Tymeson – Market in way to gain maximum value.

### Drawing Winners (Exhibit ):

Commissioner Ward Cassidy – (1) – #118 PF Ringneck Renegades Chapter #647 (deer)  
Commissioner Emerick Cross – (2) – #38 NWTF Kansas Spur Hunters (deer) (*Originally stated was elk, but that was an error, requested deer*)  
Commissioner Tom Dill – (3) – #97 PF Johnson County Chapter (deer)  
Chairman Gerald Lauber – (4) – #104 QF Lyon County #3224 (deer)  
Commissioner Gary Hayzlett – (5) – #132 QF Marion County #3064 (deer)  
Commissioner Aaron Rider – (6) – #62 NWTF Decatur County Thunder Chickens (deer)  
Commissioner Harrison Williams – (7) – #78 DU Maize Chapter #161 (deer)

2. Tourism Update – Linda Craghead, Assistant Secretary, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit I – tourism handouts). Thank you for opportunity. Have video to show you, but have some guests will present as well. New calendar that came out with magazine, Kansas visitors guide fly off shelf, new Kansas Outdoor Guide, available in back of the room. Love partnerships in distribution of those. On travelks.com website has annual report from statewide perspective and initiatives from past year. Talk about tourism and value to Kansas. We know about hunting, fishing and camping and don't think of other aspects. Two members of Dirty Kanza 200 are here, Jim Cummins and Leland Dains; they brought value to state and recognition of great destination. *Showed marketing video on Dirty Kanza 200, put together by*

*Flint Hills Technical College students and instructors.*

Jim Cummings, Dirty Kanza 200 (bike ride on gravel) – Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to be here today. If presentation seems cobbled and unorganized it is, we were asked this morning to do this. Started in 2006, one of two original founders, Joel Dike and myself. We had 34 riders in 2006 and in 2017 we expect over 2,200 riders; every state in U.S. is represented and up to eight foreign countries. Impact of Dirty Kanza, to Emporia particularly, over \$3 million, most on weekend, but extended to far more than that. Stated vision of Dirty Kanza Promotions is to have Emporia be cycling vacation destination, will say, Colorado, California and other locations, but Emporia at top of list. Other amazing thing is impact on cycling industry in general, which was down due to Lance Armstrong era. Bike packing and gravel grinding are two genres keeping cycling industry afloat. We can marry those two genres and create gravel riding back packing events to utilize those opportunities to drive awareness for Flint Hills. Meeting with Linda this morning, last summer Leland and I went to the overlook on turnpike because we ride there, honored with Governor's Tourism award and we wanted to thank Governor personally. He mentioned Flint Hills Nature Trail and Governor told us we would be good partner.

Leland Dains – Even us in department, some haven't heard of it. Other areas, but here it is Emporia, Flint Hills and Kansas. A destination worth coming to, once we admit that, others will come, they do and have. Hope that next fall the Flint Hills Nature Trail will be complete, have official celebration to welcome all users to the trail. Next October, hopefully, for that. Not a competitive cycling event, but celebration of the trail with communities along the trail. Converted rail bed so town about every 10 miles. In Kansas, our people are best assets. That is experience we aim to provide. Hope that becomes an annual event. Craghead – These guys will fit you for bikes for October 7 and 8 celebration if interested. We have partnerships all across the state, not just municipalities, but people like these.

3. Webless Migratory Bird Regulations – Rich Schultheis, migratory game bird biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit J). No changes, staff recommendation options currently being considered include extending the extended exotic dove season to year-round with no changes to method of take regulations; extending the exotic dove season to year-round with an expansion to method of take regulations outside of the regular dove season; or including Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves in invasive and nuisance bird regulations that would permit year-round take with limited regulations on method of take. Our recommendation will be presented at next meeting in March. Chairman Lauber – Do we have any harvest information on these birds? Schultheis – About 30,000 Eurasian collared doves, not much when you consider 500,000 mourning doves. Chairman Lauber – What about woodcock? Schultheis – Survey estimates. Issue you run into is because so few people harvest them, less than 1,000 birds a year. Confidence levels for those birds is huge. A few people target those birds, but hard to identify them. Chairman Lauber – index.... Schultheis – Woodcock, not popular in Kansas, but other areas where it is. Relatively abundant species. Chairman Lauber – Do they utilize flyways like ducks? Schultheis – Same idea, similar to doves. States have harvest and population monitoring.

4. Waterfowl Regulations – Tom Bidrowski, migratory game bird program manager, presented this update to the Commission (Exhibit K). Talking about 2017/18 waterfowl seasons.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops frameworks within which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. Frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons. Only change is daily bag of pintail from 2 to 1. Staff recommendations at March meeting.

### C. Workshop Session

1. Antelope and Elk 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, furbearer research biologist, presented this report to the Commission. Antelope, KAR 115-25-7 (Exhibit L) – Provided overview at last Commission meeting, surveys scheduled for January 17 and 18, so will come back with recommendations at next meeting. Issues, because of limited resource, sold 516 permits last year including 272 over-the-counter archery. Other thing that comes up is use of crossbows during archery season, ended up not being an issue, having to get within 50 feet of them, very little or no difference. Chairman Lauber – Is population remaining the same? Peek – Winter aerial surveys in January, production surveys in July and August.

Elk, KAR 115-25-8 (Exhibit M) – Provided overview at last meeting and season dates are provided in briefing book. Not recommending any changes in season structure, bag limits, unit boundaries or permit types. Recommending 12 any-elk permits and 15 antlerless permits be authorized for Units 2 and 3 and authorized on Fort Riley, up by two permits from last year. Population on the Fort is doing well. We flew survey this week, a partial survey due to helicopter problems; they counted 163 elk including 49 antlered elk. Success rates were down for a year or two, but now back up to 75 percent, or better, for any elk permits. May be able to vote at next meeting. Chairman Lauber – What was that number? Peek – 163 elk, including 49 antlered elk. Chairman Lauber – What is a successful bull to cow elk ratio? Peek – Variable, Kansas has been good, years ago was 50 to 50, probably about two antlerless elk per antlered elk in recent years, but still high. In Colorado, 15 bulls per 100 antlerless elk. Chairman Lauber – In a non-hunted population, 50/50 at birth? Peek – Yes, at birth, theoretically you might have something close as adults, but then whole calf crop would be antlerless. Early surveys didn't get complete coverage or were overharvesting antlerless elk for awhile. Chairman Lauber – If we allow ten antlered permits and ten antlerless, we fill them about the same percent you would think population of bulls to cows would stay about the same? Peek – Antlerless elk success is not as high as any elk; limited to one month firearm segment on the Fort where any elk are open for all the seasons. Potential for antlers tends to motivate people to get out there and hunt, tend to hunt harder and go more. Commissioner Williams – How are elk looking in Cimarron area? Peek – No complaints so good from my perspective. Elk are not there consistently or not enough to predict. Commissioner Cassidy – Is that Unit 1 you were discussing? Peek – No Cimarron, in Unit 1 don't hear a lot about predictable herds in that area. Commissioner Cassidy – No hunting in Grassland area, Unit 1? I'm sorry I was looking at deer units, Unit 1 is closed because of the grasslands. Not there predictably during hunting season, they come on and calf only; run risk of not finding any elk there.

2. Public Land Regulations – Ryan Stucky, assistant public lands division director, presented this regulation to the Commission (Exhibit N). Two proposed changes to reference document under KAR 115-8-1: section 15 of under daily hunt

permits, want to take out wording for Glen Elder Wildlife Area that says Granite Creek Area during youth/mentor seasons, remove this wording so entire wildlife area would be included in daily hunt permit; under Region 3, add Marion Wildlife Area.

3. Deer 25-Series Regulations – Matt Peek, research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit O). First is KAR 115-25-9; establishes open season and bag limits and the calendar for 2017/2018 season presents a couple of situations where we might vary from where we have traditionally done in recent seasons. Typically whitetail antlerless-only season is the first January weekend that includes New Year's Day which is on a Monday, so we would either have an 8-day season or 1-day season, so changes the way season typically set up. What we would consider is a 1-day season, January 1 in deer management units (DMU) where one whitetail antlerless only permit is allowed. There would still be three different season lengths of whitetail antlerless-only seasons: 1-day, 7-day and 14-day season and the shortest season would not have a weekend day of hunting. At one time we did this in the past when calendar was the same and opened season on December 31 and caused confusion and dissatisfaction by archery hunters. Secondarily, we would like to consider addition to pre-rut season since January season in some units would only be one day, consider pre-rut season from October 7 and 8, to October 7-9, which would allow hunting during Columbus Day, a holiday for some hunters. Making total number of antlerless days only one day less this year. Seek public comments on those two things. Population surveys, hunter harvest surveys and deer vehicle accidents could then be used to determine which season opportunities each DMU would be placed in; in addition to hunter and landowner comments. Seasons dates are provided in briefing book and we are recommending to go with three-day pre-rut to include Columbus Day and 1-day antlerless season. Chairman Lauber – Statewide in October season? Peek – Yes, the pre-rut season is statewide. Secretary's Orders are where deer permit quotas are established for both residents and nonresidents for limited permits or any-deer permits, as well as unlimited permit availability. We have received comments on mule deer population declines, particularly in the east and there are several things that are potentially responsible for decline, but hunting permit availability is where we can impact that, competition for whitetail hunting, not always palatable for hunters, but at least we can impact the availability of permits. The obvious solution is a reduction in limited draw either-species, either-sex permits but over-the-counter type permits typically account for significant percent of mule deer permits and reductions in availability of the muzzleloader permit, hunt-on-your-own-land permit and the statewide archery permit needs to be put on the board for discussion at some point. We are not proposing any changes to those permits, but bring to Commissioners' attention that we recognize that traditionally unlimited permits are resulting in the harvest of mule deer. We are looking at ways to decrease mule deer harvest in the east units. Commissioner Dill – Comparison number on how many participate in pre-rut season, versus having extra day rather than extra day in the first season in January, doing two days there versus three days in pre-rut? In discussions, a lot go out in January and not a lot in October. Is one day only worthwhile? Peek – December 31 you mean? Commission Dill – January 2. Peek - January 1 and 2 would be a Monday and a Tuesday, still no weekend. We have that information and harvest is quite a bit lower for the two-day; in 2015/2016 pre-rut harvest was 1,800 and 14,600 hunter days afield. In first extended firearm season, the first couple of days, harvest was over 6,600, a little over three times as much, but that would have included a weekend day. Once you get out of the weekends harvest drops off and becomes comparable to pre-rut season. Chairman Lauber – Do we want to harvest more, or presumption that we will be asked to harvest more?

Peek – Presumption that some people will want to use their permit during that season because they have had that opportunity in recent years. Commissioner Dill – Pre-rut, or January season has more including the weekend? Peek – January season harvests a lot more, there is a lot more activity. There are people who have unfilled tags that are waiting on that season to put a deer in the freezer. Whether one day is going to satisfy most of them or not we don't know, we haven't had this scenario before so that is reason for doing that. Commissioner Dill – And October 9 is Columbus Day so that is part of the reason then? Peek – Yes. Phil Taunton, KVOE News – It was brought to my attention that you are looking at deer that have been diagnosed with foot rot, when is the Commission going to address that? Peek – Shane, do we have a positive diagnosis of foot rot? Shane Hesting – Not positive yet, don't know if more than normal, but in Facebook and emails lately and people more aware of what is going on this year. We will release those results when we get those back. Taunton – If get report that someone harvested a deer with that, who should they contact? Hesting – Yes, we sent samples in from Lyon County, one set per county to maximize cost. We will count the number of animals affected. May be due to hemorrhagic disease, they lose part of their hoof and that becomes infected and we have had a wetter year than normal and that alone promotes disease. Peek – We will probably track this like we tracked hemorrhagic disease and if significant outbreak will take into account in determining how much doe harvest in each DMU, for example. Chairman Lauber – Same as in cattle experience? Peek – Pretty much. Hesting – In infected animals, hoofs get damaged and deer move and get soybean stalks up in their hoof that causes damage; bacteria will not enter a healthy hoof, post rut animals are immune compromised making them more vulnerable, so difference in the dynamics of it, but basically the same organisms. Chairman Lauber – Will have hoof rot in certain areas, bacteria is in the soil or located in an area; same thing with deer? Hesting – Correct, the one you can do is prevent spread is not baiting or feeding deer at this time; bacteria can infect area and infect all deer that come there if they have a cut in hoof may get that. Could be part of hemorrhagic disease and we have no control over that except keeping them away from deer feeders. Chairman Lauber – Are we going to every try to get rid of deer feeding? Hesting – I don't think that was on the table. Work on other issues before we do that. Chairman Lauber – Good move, expect highly controversial. It's good for the corn business. Peek – Lloyd would say that ship has sailed, it is too prominent among people now. That doesn't mean an individual can't see what is going on and around their feeder looks like a cattle lot with all the vegetation gone and trampled down; that is the type of scenario mostly likely where this is going to get established and spread. People can voluntarily stop feeding and creating those types of situations for the well being of the deer. In 115-25-9a, military areas, Smoky Hill, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth. They have provided us with their preferences. Smoky Hill has requested to have deer hunting seasons at the same dates as the seasons established in KAR 115-25-9. Fort Riley has requested the same seasons with three exceptions. Fort Leavenworth also has a couple of exceptions to KAR 115-25-9. This is basically to accommodate military personnel to have a better opportunity to hunt with our limited deer seasons.

4. Big Game Permanent Regulations – Matt Peek, research biologist, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit P). KAR 115-4-2 general provisions: among other things gives deer and turkey opportunity to electronically register their animal; currently, unless a big game animal is taken on an either-sex permit, this requires the head to be naturally attached to the animal until taken to hunter's place of residence or a commercial processor and that can be problematic for hunters from other states who may not be able to legally transport a head back

and why electronic registration was established to allow hunters to bone out an animal and not have to transport it with head attached. Currently, electronic registration only applies to turkey and deer, but there is some potential for elk and antelope, even though all are either sex do have ability to issue doe-only type antelope permits. We recommend changing references from “deer” to “big game” so that any big game animal can be electronically registered if there was a demand. Chairman Lauber – Do most people know when they are supposed to register them and when they aren’t? Peek – They don’t have to ever do it, this is an option to better accommodate hunters. Chairman Lauber – If take deer to a locker plant and ask to have the head back am I supposed to electronically monitor that or have kind of permit to carry that head back? Peek – The carcass tag stays with the meat, so you could have a head without. We would recommend that you should have proof that the person had a permit, but not required. Rankin – Preferred, but not required, we can always look in the system to see if they did in fact have a permit. Chairman Lauber – Had that happen with my son-in-law and I wasn’t sure what I was supposed to do. Peek – In most cases, have part of permit you signed in your pocket, but not required by regulation. Commissioner Cross – How many hunters using that now, what percentage do we know? Peek – I don’t know the number. Miller – I don’t know the number either. Peek – Can’t tell you the number, but can tell you it is not heavily used, but is important option for people who come here from out-of-state and are going back into states where deer from Kansas head is not allowed in their state. Chairman Lauber – Have to be able to get on website to be able to do that? Peek – They can take pictures of animal with the permit and that will suffice until you can get logged in. KAR 115-4-4 big game legal equipment and taking methods: extensively modified in 2013, always new weapon or someone who wants to kill deer in unique way. Recent requests include requests to use air rifle and air bow. In the past, spear and atlatl (primitive spear throwing device) and we review these on occasion. This year no changes planned and may come back at some point and look at these at some point. Commissioner Cross – Do some of surround states allow air rifles? Peek – Some states do, but don’t know if surrounding states. Commissioner Cross – Had citizen repeatedly ask me about these and wondered if they had issues or concerns. Also, question if velocity is enough and what our concerns are. Peek – Energy in them is the question I have heard about them, if adequately lethal, but can’t speak to that. If we do open this back up for consideration in the future, we will evaluate those types of questions. KAR 115-4-6, deer management units: long term data not written in stone, but tend to think of them that way, so no changes recommended. KAR 115-4-11 big game and wild turkey permit applications: we did have discussion item here, received request to consider application deadlines so person could go in and apply for pronghorn, elk and deer permits at the same time; we are interested in considering this, but no change at this time because of new online licensing system; will revisit next year. Commissioner Harrison – When is new licensing system scheduled to come in? Todd Workman – Going through testing right now. KAR 115-4-13 deer permits, descriptions and restrictions: this regulation sets deer permit types; for example whitetail either-sex and whitetail antlerless-only either-species either-sex; these antlered deer permit types available have resulted in fair distribution of opportunity and satisfy a lot of common complaints from the past because of permit types we have in place; no changes recommended.

5. Threatened and Endangered Species Regulations – Chris Tymeson, legal council, presented this report to the Commission (Exhibit Q). With Keith and Chris Berens not here I am stepping up. Changes to Threatened and Endangered Species Act are due to a bill which took effect in July and required us to put some of our regulations into statute, generally takes about 90

days; most of them dealing with farming and ranching practices that do not require permits. Also, it requires us to provide recovery plans for listed species within four years of species being listed could not require action permits on those species. Also, need to provide annual reports to the legislature. Expect vote in June.

**VII. RECESS AT 3:43 p.m.**

**VIII. RECONVENE AT 6:30 p.m.**

**IX. RE-INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

**X. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ryan Warden – In regulations for last two years, noticed tagging/custody issues have come up. It says “no person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place other than his personal boat or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, transportation or storage or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed unless such birds have a tag attached”, explain that? Rankin – Specific question? Warden – I take all of these guys hunting, we ride in my truck, we kill 100 geese legally, 50 doves and 50 ducks, and I throw them in the back of my truck. We take off go to Dairy Queen in Lakin to eat, am I violating the law? Rankin – If separate piles, no; if common pile you will, yes, they will have to be tagged. Warden – If I don’t have them in separate piles, what violation will I be written for? Rankin – Statute 32-1008, which is where we adopt federal regulations by reference. Warden – Will that be a tagging violation? Rankin – Yes. Warden – Let’s say, theoretically I take all of these guys hunting and we attach tags to these ducks and geese and they are not separated, but each individually tagged in the back of the vehicle, is that an issue? Rankin – No. Warden - Are we making that clear to the public? There has been three outfitters in the state that have had over 50 federal agents show up at their lodge; mine personally was for this; one of the other outfitters I talked to was being ticketed because of this; there is other stuff being involved, but I also get feedback that people are calling Kevin Jones and he is not giving answers of separation and tagging, he is giving answers of separation now. I have talked to Kevin several times, talked to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Migratory Game Bird Division office out of Denver and they give me the same answer every time, separate and tag. Why do we have the biggest waterfowl outfitters being hit by USFWS for three and five years, two in the last year, Is it because we are not educating them enough on the law. I had no idea until I got charged for it. Based on that, I climbed down Kevin Jones neck and now in regulations, but no clarification on what needs to be done. Chairman Lauber – All of the hunters who harvested the game, needs to be separated and tagged even if we are in the vehicle with you? Warden – Don’t necessarily have to be tagged, they have to be separated and identifiable. The hunter should be able to identify which birds are his. The problem is, you know as well as I do, the birds go in the back of the truck and the blinds in on top of them. When they do that, and when a commercial outfitter does that it is a felony. Personally, I was facing up to \$15,000 in fines and up to six months in prison per case because I was selling the hunts as an outfitter. I had no clue. If you are not an outfitter and you do it, it is a misdemeanor. Chairman Lauber - It is only federal regulation isn’t it? Rankin - We didn’t actually write and adopt our own regulations, we adopt and follow federal regulations by reference. We follow same rules as USFWS does. Chairman Lauber – Were you

cited by state court or federal? Warden – I went through federal court and last two outfitters in last year also going through federal. What do we have to do to clear the water on what needs to be done in state of Kansas because the guys in the state aren't getting it and it is because, in my opinion, Kevin Jones isn't giving the right kind of information. Rankin – Kevin and I have discussed this and as far as I know we are on the same page. Warden – I agree he is more clear now. Is there something more we can get in regulations to make this more clear that birds need to be separated? The state of Louisiana issues a sample tag in regulations. We do a gift tag in our regulations. Chairman Lauber – Are we writing many citations on this at state level? Warden – I don't think so at state level, at federal level their number one ticket. Rankin – Federal agents are ones writing those. Warden – Statement from USFWS directly to me and directly to the guys at Prairie Thunder and Eagle Head Outfitters was that we are going to clear up how waterfowl is supposed to be done starting at the top. In my opinion, every hunter here who hunts waterfowl all needs to know that. Chairman Lauber – My concern is, be as clear as we can in regulations, giving as clear of legal picture as we can. Don't know if we should offer much more at our level since we are not actively pursuing it. Warden – I understand that statement, but should you be actively pursuing it. Do you have to enforce federal law? Rankin – We would not be enforcing federal law, we would be enforcing state law because we have adopted their frameworks; we would write it under 32-1008 and it would be a ticket in state court. We enforce all of them, but if the feds come in and say it is their case we defer to them because under federal jurisdiction under Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Warden – Enforcing and educating hunters on all of them? Rankin – Yes. Warden – Is there a way for me to access how many tagging violations have been issued in the state of Kansas in the last 20 years? Rankin – When we categorize and save our violations, I can tell you how many waterfowl violations, but not necessarily tagging violations. I would have to go back and look at the codes. Warden – Okay, because I had never heard of separating and could go to any refuge and find violations because nobody knows about it. Chairman Lauber – Not sure I was aware it, but it doesn't apply so much. Warden – Not asking to add to frameworks. If they are going to come in and write up people or not and USFWS is going to come in and create havoc in businesses that are bringing in; can't imagine how much revenue generated from plane tickets, food and lodging, etc.; hard on economy, hard on state and doesn't look good for state. How do we reach some compromise on clarity on that, and that may be this meeting, to get people to understand it is the law. Chairman Lauber – Don't have a good answer beyond that right now. Warden - Can we put a tag in the book? Tymeson – We probably could. Warden – Can we explain on the website that they have to separate and / or tagged? Can be in a bucket as long as the proper information is on it. Tymeson – Difficulty is when you start changing and you put the law in the summary and somebody's interpretation changes it a little bit and you getting away from what the law really says. We try to put what the law is in there. Warden – Sometimes law is pretty vague and tough for a normal person to read through. Here it says in custody of another person for picking, cleaning or transporting they have to be tagged. He is saying they just have to be separated. Tymeson – I don't think he said that, not under the transport of another person. Rankin – Under those conditions. Warden - So what defines transport of another person? If I drive a greyhound bus and 55 people are on the bus are they all transporting or am I the transporter? Tymeson – They are all transporting as long as you have them separated it is fine. Warden – So the 55 passengers on the greyhound bus are all transporters? Tymeson – They are accompanying their own bag limit. Warden – I didn't ask if accompanying their own bag limit, I asked if they were transporters? Chairman Lauber – Yes, they are transporting. Warden – Ok, so as long as you are there it doesn't matter whose vehicle it

is you are transporting even if you are not the driver? Chairman Lauber – I would say so. Tymeson – But they have to be separated. Warden – So, what is the answer? Put on website that they have to be separated or not do anything with it? Chairman Lauber – Propose that our people study this, not make decision at this time. I see your point. Need to use bolder print or something like that. Put specific law, no opine and let feds take the heat for any law that is there. See if there is a way to augment and education. Warden – That is all I want is you to educate them.

Steve Skerce, Council Grove – Change in licensing from 2-day waterfowl pass to full year license. I own a guide service and cater more to blue collar guy, people turning away from Kansas because of the change in price. Most of my clients stay in motels and eat in restaurants. Why did we go into that when all surrounding states have one or two day licenses? Chairman Lauber – To maximize income and create value for the consumer. Personally, not out of line to change 2-day waterfowl hunt. Don't know if Mike has any recollection beyond that. Probably an undue bargain for the purchaser and got a lot of nonresident pheasant hunters. Consistent with what we were doing. Mike Miller – Small percentage of our waterfowl hunters, looked at what increases were going to be, made more sense to go to annual license. Skerce – Curious, have group from Texas that come up, decided to go to Oklahoma for distance and price of the license. friends that come out, understand department's reason, but wanted answer on why it was changed. Chairman Lauber – Looked at big picture and was equitable and only one of out of ten waterfowl hunters. Skerce – Study done, on yearly license? Chairman Lauber – May have anecdotal information, but probably not going to roll back, but information we could glean after a couple of years, but not study per se. Skerce – Thought I would ask and see if you thought there was a trend. All of my clients stayed in local hotels, ate in restaurants and bought at grocery stores. Chairman Lauber – Every dollar matters, but sure elimination of that license is going to states have 2-day waterfowl pass and not sure it is hurting us, less strain on them as far as pocketbook goes. Chairman Lauber – Will know more as time goes on.

## **XI. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

### **D. Public Hearing**

1. Free Park Entrance and Free Fishing Days by Secretary's Orders – Linda Lanterman, Park Division Director, presented the Secretary's Orders (Exhibit R). We don't need to vote on this as it is Secretary's Orders. 2017 Free fishing June 3 and 4, no valid license needed. Free park entrance days, always do two days, one they chose and one together; doing May 6 and Black Friday and may come back later with Blue Cross Blue Shield Day. Tymeson – Can you touch on first day hikes? Lanterman – First year, national initiative, first year for state. Kansas had 18 sites this year, had over 500 participants, and hiked over 500 miles in state. National numbers are just coming in, but last year had over 155,000 miles in the nation with all state parks. It is growing event; similar to Let's Camp America, hope everybody can camp on the same weekend. Those are initiatives we tried to do together with the nation as a whole. It was a balmy 61 degrees and we had 200 people at Green Recreational Trail in Pratt, gave them water and hot chocolate and had a great time. Tuttle Creek (160) and Perry (100) had large groups and other parks had some participants as well, just not as big. A great way to get out and make structured, healthy initiatives for the New Year.

## **XII. Old Business**

*None*

## **XIII. Other Business**

### **A. Future Meeting Locations and Dates**

March 23, 2017 – Topeka, Capitol Plaza Hotel Conference Center

April 20, 2017 – Pratt, Headquarters Downstairs Conference Room

June 22, 2017 – Kansas City, George Meyn Community Center

August 10, 2017 (Tom Dill – would like to see state parks host meetings or nearby locations)

Cheney (will need special event permit for park entrance)

October 19, 2017 – Oakley or Scott City

Linda Craghead - February 8 is Tourism Day on the hill, tremendous interest, event in the evening and also hosting buffalo feed this day, lunch at Dillon Center. Also, like you to come to event in the evening. In the past, huge turnout for that event from legislative perspective.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

(Exhibits and/or Transcript available upon request)

# **Secretary's Remarks**

**Agency and State Fiscal Status**  
**No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting**

**2017 Legislature**  
**No briefing book items – possible handout at meeting**

# General Discussion

**Tuttle Creek State Park Blue Chip Award**  
**No briefing book item**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield Parks Support Update**  
**No briefing book item**

**New Consolidated Licensing/Reservation System**  
**No briefing book item – possible handout at meeting**

## **Early Raccoon Hunting Season**

At the January 2017 KDWPT Commission Meeting, a representative from the Kansas Federation of Houndsmen asked the Commission to consider establishing a September 1 – October 31 “early” raccoon season. Harvest would be restricted to hunting. Discussion centered around the facts that raccoons are abundant, pelt prices are currently low and the raccoon population needs to be reduced for damage and disease control.

Department staff do not support this recommendation.

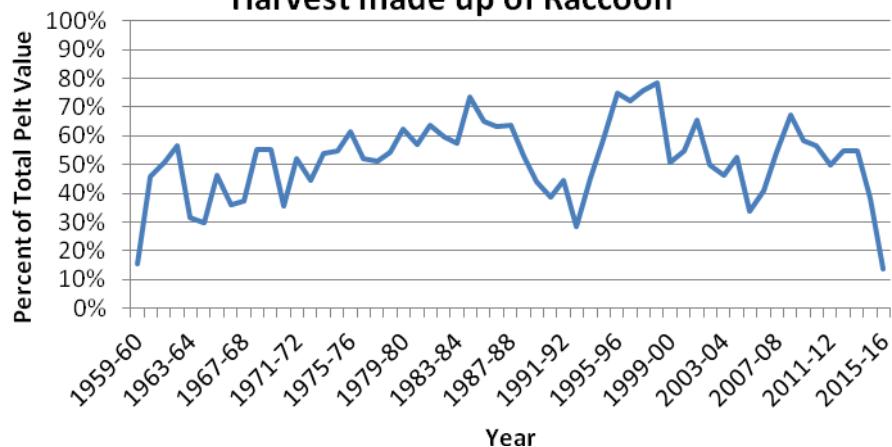
The raccoon has typically been our most important furbearer in the state in terms of total harvest and pelt value (see figure below). Most of those who view this animal as a valuable natural resource either aesthetically or economically will not favor a season to kill and leave lay.

Part of this proposal centered around damage control. There are already laws and regulations in place that allow for raccoons and other wildlife causing damage to be controlled. In addition, most of the same arguments that were made could be extended to deer, turkeys and other wildlife.

Nebraska has a similar season. It is very unpopular with many furharvesters. Only 2 percent to 3 percent of the total harvest occurs during this season. It does not result substantial population reduction (a fact that could be used to argue either side of the issue).

This is a matter of whether killing a raccoon for the sole purpose of training a hound is a legitimate use of a natural resource. For game species, killing an animal without attempting to use it would be considered wanton waste. Furbearers are not covered by the wanton waste regulations because of some of the complications of furharvesting. However, the Department staff support the concepts of the wanton waste regulations that can be applied here and result in our opposition to this proposal.

### Percent of Total Pelt Value of Kansas Furbearer Harvest made up of Raccoon



# Workshop Session

**Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism**  
**Webless Migratory Game Bird Briefing Item**  
March 23, 2017

### **Background**

Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves were first classified as legal game in Kansas with the creation of KAR 115-25-19 in 2003. Initially included in the regular dove season with an aggregate bag of 15, seasons and bag limits have expanded as populations continued to increase. Currently, Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves may be taken with no bag limit for six months of the year, during the migratory dove season from September 1 - November 29 and the extended exotic dove season from November 30 - February 28. Those taken during the migratory dove season in excess of the daily bag of migratory doves must retain a fully-feathered wing while being transported. Current regulations limit method of take to shotguns no larger than 10 gauge with shot ammunition that are incapable of holding no more than three shells in total capacity, pellet and BB guns, archery equipment and crossbows, or by falconry (KAR 115-20-7).

Harvest opportunities in other states of the Central Management Unit (CMU) have continued to liberalize as populations of Eurasian collared doves increase. Currently, take of Eurasian collared doves is open year-round in seven of the 13 states in the CMU (Figure 1).

### **Discussion**

Although there is no specific survey directed at monitoring the abundance of Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves in Kansas, anecdotal information and other surveys (Christmas Bird Count, Breeding Bird Survey) suggests the population continues to increase at a high rate. As numbers have increased, so have nuisance complaints and disease concerns. The majority of complaints have been for concentrations of birds associated with cattle feeding operations and grain elevators. Paramyxovirus related mortality events have become relatively frequent in states south of Kansas, and in 2015 Kansas experienced the first significant event in Eurasian collared doves in southwest Kansas.

Current seasons and regulations have resulted in minimal harvest, with only 35,000 of the more than 500,000 doves harvested annually since 2014 being Eurasian collared doves. With a significant portion of the population associated with urban areas where harvest opportunity may be limited, there is a need to expand method of take for the management of exotic dove populations.

### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends regulation changes to allow year-round take of Eurasian collared and ringed turtle doves. Recommended changes include eliminating the second segment of dove season open to the taking of exotic doves only in KAR 115-25-19, and instead including Eurasian Collared and Ringed Turtle Doves in KAR 115-20-2, which would allow year-round take with much broader method of take. An additional amendment to KAR 115-20-2 is needed to require a fully feathered wing on all Eurasian Collared or Ringed Turtle doves taken during the migratory dove season if birds possessed exceed the daily bag of migratory doves. Changes are also recommended for KAR 115-20-7 to apply only to migratory doves (mourning and white-winged doves). Finally, a change to the species table in KAR 115-16-3 is suggested to remove feral pigeons (rock dove), which is included in KAR 115-20-2.

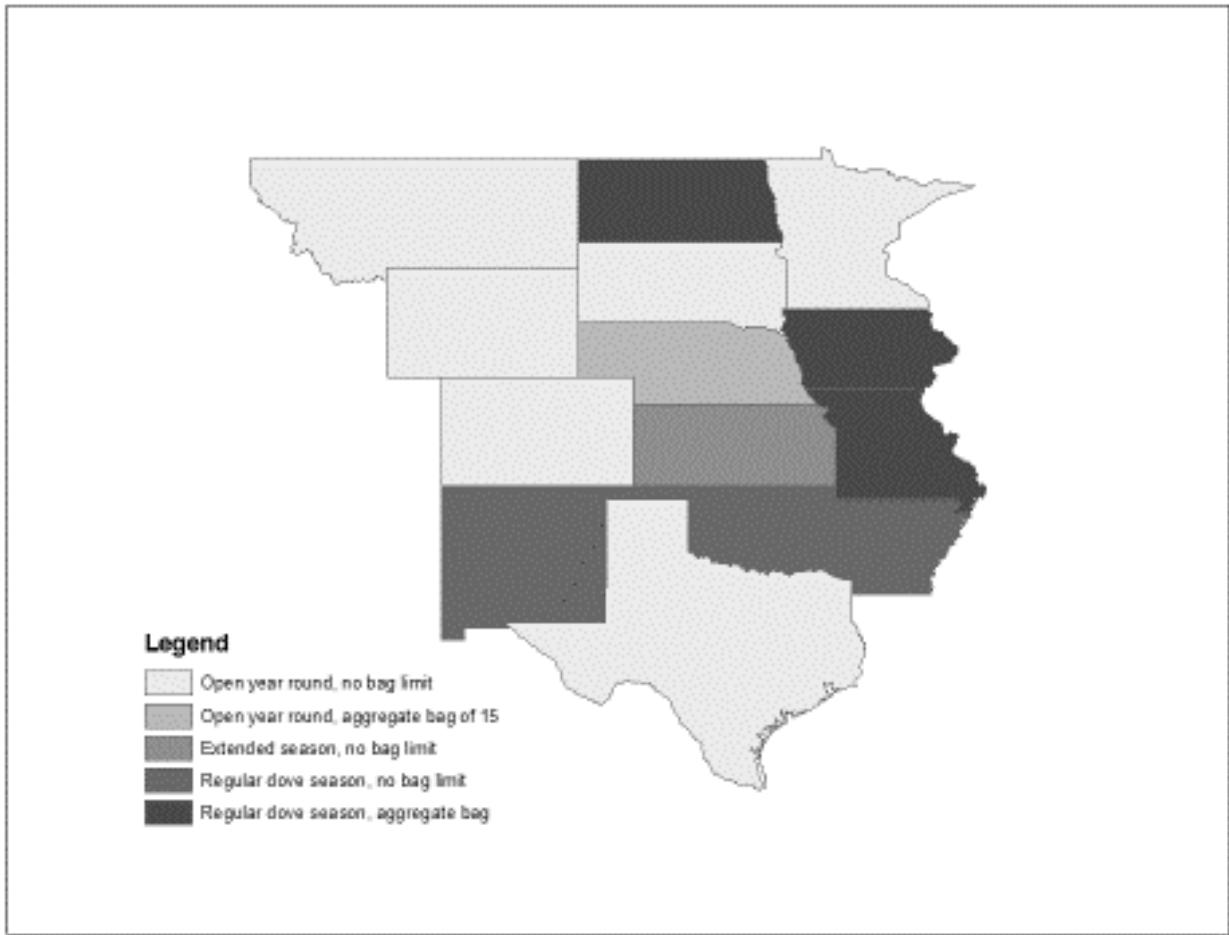


Figure 1. Current Eurasian Collared Dove harvest regulations in the states of the Central Management Unit.

## KDWPT WATERFOWL BRIEFING ITEM

March 23, 2017

### **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) annually develops frameworks within which states are able to establish migratory game bird hunting seasons. These frameworks establish maximum bag and possession limits, season lengths, and earliest opening and latest closing dates. States must operate within these frameworks when establishing state-specific migratory game bird seasons.

**SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON** - Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrating waterfowl, with most passing through Kansas from late August through October, often prior to the opening of general duck seasons. Green-winged teal are also early migrants but are commonly found in Kansas throughout the fall and winter, depending on weather conditions. Cinnamon teal are occasionally found mixed with flocks of blue-winged teal in Kansas. Special teal seasons were initiated to provide additional harvest opportunities for blue-winged and green-winged teal. As long as the blue-winged teal breeding population index (BPI) is above 3.3 million, a 9-day teal season can be held. If the blue-winged teal BPI exceeds 4.7 million, a 16-day season is permitted. The most recent blue-winged teal BPI was 6.7 million, allowing a 16-day season.

In the High Plains Unit of Kansas (west of Highway 283), the liberal package framework allows for 97 days of general duck season. Coupled with two youth hunting days, the addition of a nine- or 16-day teal season would exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's maximum allowance of 107 annual hunting days for any one migratory species. Thus, when the liberal package for the regular duck season is available and a teal season can be held, it is necessary to reduce the High Plains Unit teal season to eight days, or reduce days in the High Plains Unit general duck season as not to exceed 107 hunting days. For the past seven seasons, a nine-day teal season coupled with a 96-day regular duck season has been selected in the High Plains Unit to satisfy this criterion.

**DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS** - Since 1995, Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) has been adopted for setting duck hunting regulations in the United States. The AHM approach provides the framework for making objective decisions through four regulatory packages listed below. Optimal AHM strategies are calculated using: (1) harvest-management objectives specific to each mallard stock; (2) regulatory alternatives; and (3) current population models and associated weights for midcontinent mallards. The four AHM regulatory packages are:

- **Liberal package**
  - o Season Length: 74-day Low Plains Season, 97-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Moderate package**
  - o Season Length: 60-day Low Plains Season, 83-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 6 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Restrictive package**
  - o Season Length: 39-day Low Plains Season, 51-day High Plains Season
  - o Daily bag limit: 3 birds with various species restrictions.
- **Closed**

The USFWS prescribed regulatory choice for the 2017-18 general duck season is the “liberal” alternative. Kansas has been in the liberal alternative since 1997. The only species specific federal regulation change is that the northern pintail limit be reduced to 1 in the daily bag limit and 2 in possession.

GOOSE SEASONS - Harvest prescriptions for the Central Flyway’s goose populations are based on population and harvest objectives as specified in population specific management plans. There are no changes in harvest prescriptions for geese from the 2017-18 season.

YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS - States may select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as “Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days,” in addition to their regular duck seasons.

EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON - In addition to general waterfowl seasons, falconers may take migratory game birds during the special "extended" falconry season. The combined total number of days of take (i.e., teal season, general waterfowl season, and falconry) cannot exceed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act imposed maximum allowable annual hunting days for any one species of 107.

## **FEDERAL FRAMEWORK**

### **SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON**

**Season Dates:** Between September 1 and September 30, 2017  
**Season Length:** 16 days  
**Daily Bag Limit:** 6 daily (any combination of teal)  
**Possession Limit:** 18 in possession (any combination of teal)  
**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to sunset  
**Zones/ Split:** No zones or splits options

### **DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS**

**Season Dates:** Between the September 23, 2017 and January 28, 2018  
**Season Length:** *High Plains Unit:* 97 days. The last 23 days may start no earlier than December 09, 2017  
*Low Plains Unit:* 74 days  
**Daily Bag Limit:** *Duck:* 6 ducks, with species and sex restrictions as follows: 5 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, and 1 pintail.  
*Merganser:* 5 mergansers of which only 2 may be hooded mergansers.  
States have the option to include mergansers in the duck daily bag limit, in which case the daily limit of merganser would be the same as the duck bag limit (6), of which two may be hooded mergansers  
*Coot:* 15 coots  
**Possession Limit:** Three times the daily bag limit.  
**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset  
**Zones/ Split:** *High Plains* – no zones and up to two segments

*Low Plains* – 3 zones with each having up to two segments  
or no zones with three segments

## GOOSE SEASONS

- Season Dates:** *Dark Geese* (all geese except Ross's and snow geese): between September 23, 2017 and February 18, 2018  
*Light Geese* (Ross's and Snow): between September 23, 2017 and March 10, 2018  
*Light Goose Conservation Order*: between January 1, 2018 and April 30, 2018 (KAR 115-18-16). Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons
- Season Length:**  
*Dark Geese*:  
Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) not to exceed 107 days  
White-fronted geese - states may select either a season of:  
Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3  
Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2  
*Light Geese*: not to exceed 107 days  
*Light Goose Conservation Order*: Must be held outside of all other waterfowl seasons
- Daily Bag Limit:**  
*Dark Geese*:  
Canada geese (or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese) 8 geese  
White-fronted geese - states may select either a season of:  
Option A: 74 days with a bag limit of 3  
Option B: 88-day season with a bag limit of 2  
*Light Geese*: 50 light geese  
*Light Goose Conservation Order*: No daily bag limit
- Possession Limit:**  
*Dark Geese*: Three times the daily bag limit  
*Light Geese*: No possession limit  
*Light Goose Conservation Order*: No possession limit
- Shooting Hours:**  
*General Goose Seasons*: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset  
*Light Goose Conservation Season*: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset
- Zones/ Split:**  
*General Goose Seasons*: No zones and up to two segments  
*Light Goose Conservation Season*: No zones or splits

## YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

States may select two consecutive days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons, under the following guidelines:

1. The days must be held outside any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate.
2. The days may be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck-season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season, or within any other open season on migratory birds.

3. The daily bag limits may include ducks, geese, tundra swans, mergansers, coots, moorhens, and gallinules and would be the same as those allowed in the regular season. Flyway species and area restrictions would remain in effect.
4. Shooting hours would be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.
5. Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. In addition, an adult at least 18 years of age must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult may not duck hunt but may participate in other seasons that are open on the special youth day.

#### EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON

<b>Season Dates:</b>	Between September 1 and March 10
<b>Season Length:</b>	For all hunting methods combined, the combined length of the extended season, regular season, and any special or experimental seasons must not exceed 107 days for any species or group of species in a geographical area.
<b>Daily Bag Limit:</b>	No more than 3 migratory game birds, singly or in the aggregate
<b>Possession Limit:</b>	Three times the daily bag limit
<b>Hawking Hours:</b>	One-half hour before sunrise to sunset
<b>Zones/ Split:</b>	Each extended season may be divided into a maximum of three segments

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON**

Staff recommends adopting a 9-day season in the High Plains Unit (west of Hwy 283) and a 16-day season in the Low Plains Zones (east of Hwy 283) (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit Sep. 16 to Sep. 24
- Low Plains Zones Sep. 9 to Sep. 24

### **DUCK, MERGANSER, AND COOT SEASONS**

Staff recommends adopting a 96-day season in the High Plains unit and 74-day season in the Low Plains Zones (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours and option A for merganser limit. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Oct. 7 to Jan. 1 and Jan. 20 to Jan. 28
- Low Plains Early Zone Oct. 7 to Dec. 3 and Dec. 16 to Dec. 31
- Low Plains Late Zone Oct. 28 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 20 to Jan. 28
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Nov. 11 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 6 to Jan. 28

### **YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS**

Staff recommends adopting two youth waterfowl hunting days. Adopt Federal Frameworks daily bag limit, possession limit and shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: One week prior to general duck season (Sep. 30 and Oct. 1)
- Low Plains Early Zone One week prior to general duck season (Sep. 30 and Oct. 1)
- Low Plains Late Zone One week prior to general duck season (Oct. 21 and 22)
- Low Plains Southeast Zone One week prior to general duck season (Nov. 4 and 5)

### **CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT, AND LIGHT GEESE**

Staff recommends adopting a 105-day season for dark geese (Canada geese or any other dark goose species except white-fronted geese); and light geese (Snow and Ross's) and Option B (88-day season with a bag limit of 2) for white-fronted geese. Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit for light and whited fronted geese, and daily bag limit of 6 dark geese with 18 in possession and Federal Framework for shooting hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- Dark Geese: Oct. 28 to Oct. 29 and Nov. 8 to Feb. 18
- White-fronted geese: Oct. 28 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 27 to Feb. 12
- Light Geese: Oct. 28 to Oct. 29 and Nov. 8 to Feb. 18
- Light Goose Conservation Order: Feb. 19 to Apr. 30

### **EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASON**

Staff recommends adopting a 15-day season in the in the Low Plains Unit (See figure 1 for Kansas's Duck Hunting Zone Map). Adopt Federal Frameworks for daily bag limit, possession limit and hawking hours. Staff recommends the following season dates.

- High Plains Unit: Closed to extended falconry season
- Low Plains Early Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Late Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10
- Low Plains Southeast Zone Feb. 24 to Mar. 10

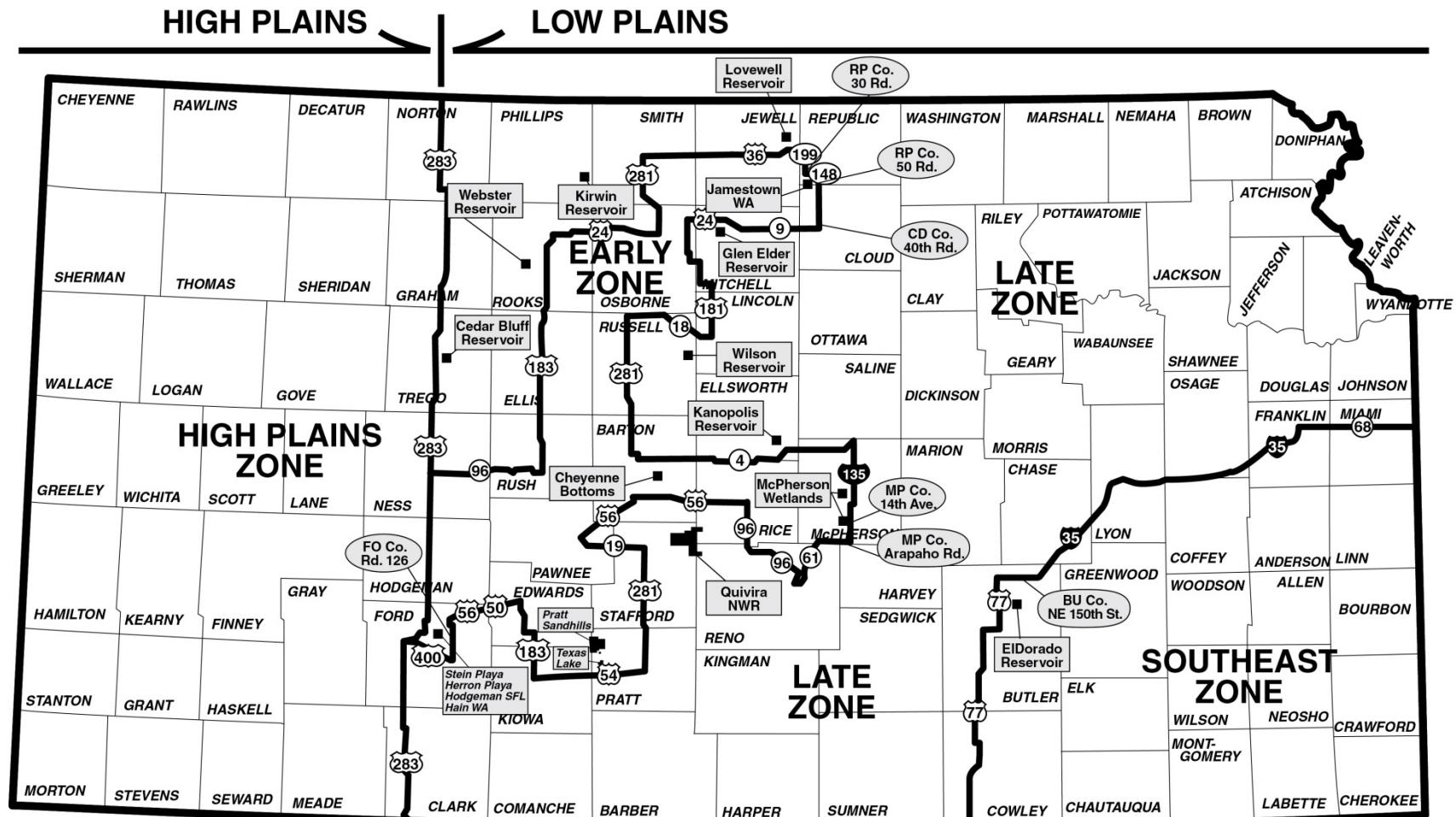
**Table 1.** Kansas September Teal Season Dates and September Teal Harvest from 1992 to 2016

Year	Low Plains Dates	Hunting Days	High Plains Dates	Hunting Days	Bag Limit	Green-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Total Harvest
1992*	Sept 12-20	9	Sept 12-20	9	4	4,267	12,902	17,169
1993*	Sept 11-19	9	Sept 11-19	9	4	1,081	5,604	6,685
1994*	Sept 10-18	9	Sept 10-18	9	4	2,217	7,083	9,300
1995*	Sept 16-24	9	Sept 16-24	9	4	1,896	10,227	12,123
1996*	Sept 14-22	9	Sept 14-22	9	4	1,415	17,115	18,530
1997*	Sept 13-21	9	Sept 13-21	9	4	2,367	14,858	17,225
1998*	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 12-20	9	4	8,454	19,727	28,181
1999*	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 11-19	9	4	3,052	28,022	31,074
2000	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 9-16	8	4	4,621	27,724	32,345
2001	Sept 15-30	16	Sept 15-22	8	4	1,790	10,741	12,531
2002	Sept 21-29	9	Sept 21-28	8	4	3,783	8,723	12,506
2003	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-27	8	4	9,024	21,393	30,417
2004	Sept 18-26	9	Sept 18-25	8	4	2,901	19,173	22,074
2005	Sept 17-25	9	Sept 17-24	8	4	2,200	10,387	12,587
2006	Sept 9-24	16	Sept 16-23	8	4	4,733	23,664	28,397
2007	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-22	8	4	4,534	25,582	30,116
2008	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 13-20	8	4	7,200	15,120	22,320
2009	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-26	8	4	2,775	15,165	17,940
2010	Sept 11-26	16	Sept 18-26	9	4	1,812	16,829	18,641
2011	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	4	1,748	22,562	24,310
2012	Sept 8-23	16	Sept 15-23	9	4	4,298	19,420	23,718
2013	Sept 7-22	16	Sept 14-22	9	6	2,323	28,213	30,536
2014	Sept 13-28	16	Sept 20-28	9	6	2,806	36,736	39,542
2015	Sept 12-27	16	Sept 19-27	9	6	3,620	28,504	32,124
2016	Sept 10-25	16	Sept 17-25	9	6	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**

\* Harvest estimates from 1999 to current are based on Harvest Information Program (HIP). For years prior to 1999, harvest estimates are based on USFWS Mail Survey Questionnaire.

\*\* Harvest Data is not available.

**Figure 1.** Kansas Duck Hunting Zones



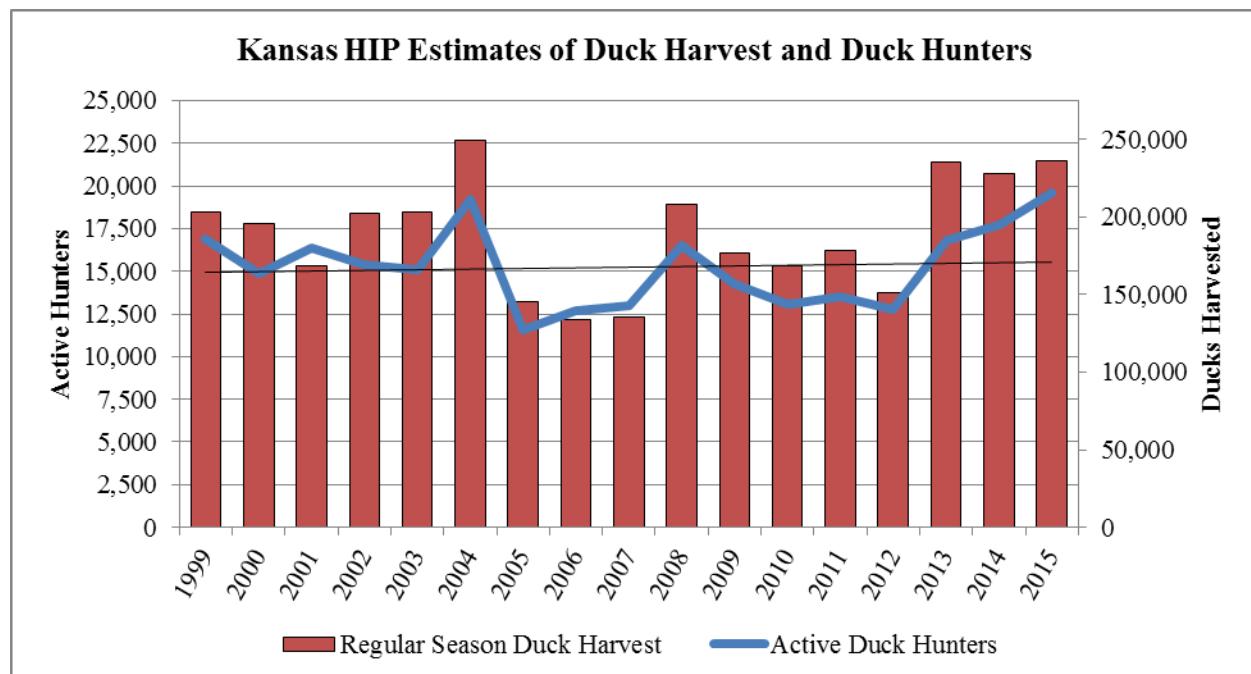
**Table 2.** Historic season dates by zone in Kansas from 1993 to 2016

Year	Season Days	High Plains (HP)	Low Plains Early	Low Plains Late	Low Plains Southeast
2016	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 – Jan 1 Jan 20 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 – Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 12 – Jan 1 Jan 7 - Jan 29
2015	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 – Jan 4 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 – Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Nov 14 – Jan 3 Jan 9 - Jan 31
2014	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Dec 8 Dec 20 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Nov 01 – Jan 04 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Nov 8 – Nov 9 Nov 15 - Jan 25
2013	74 +23 HP	Oct 5 - Dec 2 Dec 21 - Jan 26	Oct 5 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Jan 5	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Nov 2 – Nov 3 Nov 16 - Jan 26
2012	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 6 - Dec 2 Dec 15- Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Nov 15 - Jan 27
2011	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 2 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 8 - Dec 4 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Nov 5 - Jan 8 Jan 21 - Jan 29
2010	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 3 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 5 Dec 18 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
2009	74 +23 HP	Oct 10 - Jan 5 Jan 23 - Jan 31	Oct 10 - Dec 6 Dec 19 - Jan 3	Oct 31 - Jan 3 Jan 23 - Jan 31	--
2008	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Dec 30 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11- Dec 7 Dec 20 - Jan 4	Oct 25 - Dec 28 Jan 17 - Jan 25	--
2007	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 27	Oct 13 - Dec 9 Dec 15 - Dec 30	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Jan 19 - Jan 27	--
2006	74 +23 HP	Oct 7 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 28	Oct 14 - Dec 10 Dec 16 - Dec 31	Oct 28 - Dec 31 Jan 20 - Jan 28	--
2005	74 +23 HP	Oct 8 - Jan 3 Jan 21 - Jan 29	Oct 15 - Dec 11 Dec 17 - Jan 1	Oct 29 - Jan 1 Jan 21 - Jan 29	--
2004	74 +23 HP	Oct 9 - Jan 4 Jan 22 - Jan 30	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 30 - Jan 2 Jan 22 - Jan 30	--
2003	74 +23 HP	Oct 11 - Jan 6 Jan 17 - Jan 25	Oct 11 - Dec 14 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 25 - Nov 2 Nov 8 - Jan 11	--
2002	74 +23 HP	Oct 12 - Jan 7 Jan 18 - Jan 26	Oct 12 - Dec 15 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 26 - Nov 3 Nov 9 - Jan 12	--
2001	74 +23 HP	Oct 6 - Jan 1 Jan 12 - Jan 20	Oct 13 - Dec 16 Dec 24 - Jan 1	Oct 27 - Nov 4 Nov 10 - Jan 13	--
2000	74 +23 HP	Sep 30 - Jan 1 Jan 19 - Jan 21	Oct 7 - Dec 10 Dec 23 - Dec 31	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 4 - Jan 7	--
1999	74 +23 HP	Oct 2 - Jan 2 Jan 20 - Jan 23	Oct 9 - Dec 12 Dec 25 - Jan 2	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 6 - Jan 9	--
1998	74 +23 HP	Oct 3 - Jan 3 Jan 14 - Jan 17	Oct 10 - Dec 13 Dec 26 - Jan 3	Oct 24 - Nov 1 Nov 7 - Jan 10	--
1997	74 +23 HP	Oct 4 - Jan 4 Jan 15 - Jan 18	Oct 4 - Dec 7 Dec 20 - Dec 28	Oct 25 - Dec 14 Dec 20 - Jan 11	--
1996	60 +23HP	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 7 - Jan 7	Oct 12 - Dec 1 Dec 21 - Dec 29	Nov 2 - Dec 15 Dec 21 - Jan 5	--
1995	60 +23HP	Sep 30 - Oct 3 Oct 14 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	Oct 21 - Oct 29 Nov 11 - Dec 17 Dec 23 - Jan 5	--	--
1994	49 +12 HP	Oct 15 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 21 - Jan 2	Oct 22 - Oct 31 Nov 11 - Dec 11 Dec 26 - Jan 2	--	--
1993	39 +12HP	Oct 16 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 5 Dec 22 - Jan 1	Oct 23 - Oct 31 Nov 13 - Dec 12	--	--

**Table 3.** The 2016 duck population and pond estimates from the annual Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey and comparison to 2015 and long-term average. (Numbers are in millions). The 2017 estimates are not available until late July.

Species	2016	2015	% Change from 2015	% Change for Long-Term Average
Mallard	11.8	11.6	1%	51%
Gadwall	3.7	3.8	-3%	90%
American Wigeon	3.4	3.0	12%	31%
Green-winged Teal	4.3	4.1	5%	104%
Blue-winged Teal	6.7	8.5	-22%	34%
Northern Shoveler	4	4.4	-10%	56%
Northern Pintail	2.6	3.0	-14%	-34%
Redhead	1.3	1.2	8%	82%
Canvasback	0.7	0.8	-3%	26%
Scaup	5	4.4	14%	0%
<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>38%</b>
May Pond Counts	5.0	6.3	-21%	-4%

**Figure 2.** Estimates of active duck hunters and duck harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2015 based upon the Harvest Information Program. 2016 harvest data is not available until late July.



**Table 4.** Estimates of active duck hunters, regular season duck harvest, and average duck per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, and total duck hunter days in Kansas from 1999 to 2015 as estimated by the Harvest Information Program. The 2016 harvest data is not available until late July.

Year	Active Duck Hunters	Regular Season Duck Harvest	Average Duck Hunter Days	Average Seasonal Duck Bag	Duck Hunter Days
1999	16,900	203,226	7.5	13.9	126,800
2000	14,900	195,555	7.2	15.2	107,400
2001	16,344	168,267	6.2	11.1	100,989
2002	15,426	202,093	6.7	13.9	102,744
2003	15,100	203,184	7.1	15.5	107,600
2004	19,200	249,126	6.5	14.2	124,000
2005	11,600	145,413	7.6	13.7	87,700
2006	12,663	133,701	6.7	12.8	85,416
2007	13,021	135,523	6.3	12.7	82,149
2008	16,531	208,056	6.4	13.9	106,154
2009	14,259	176,862	6.5	13.6	92,081
2010	13,053	168,422	6.1	14.3	79,064
2011	13,534	178,112	7.1	15.0	96,138
2012	12,739	150,901	7.1	13.7	90,851
2013	16,847	235,335	6.3	15.8	105,344
2014	17,700	228,300	5.8	15.9	101,802
2015	19,600	236,200	5.0	12.1	98,300
<b>Long-term Average</b>	<b>15,260</b>	<b>189,310</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>99,678</b>
% Change from 2014	10.7%	3.5%	-12.9%	-6.2%	-3.4%
% Change from LTA	28.4%	24.8%	-25.0%	-12.2%	-1.4%

**Table 5.** Duck species composition in the Kansas regular duck season harvest from 1999 to 2015 and as estimated by the Harvest Information Program. The 2016 harvest data is not available until late July.

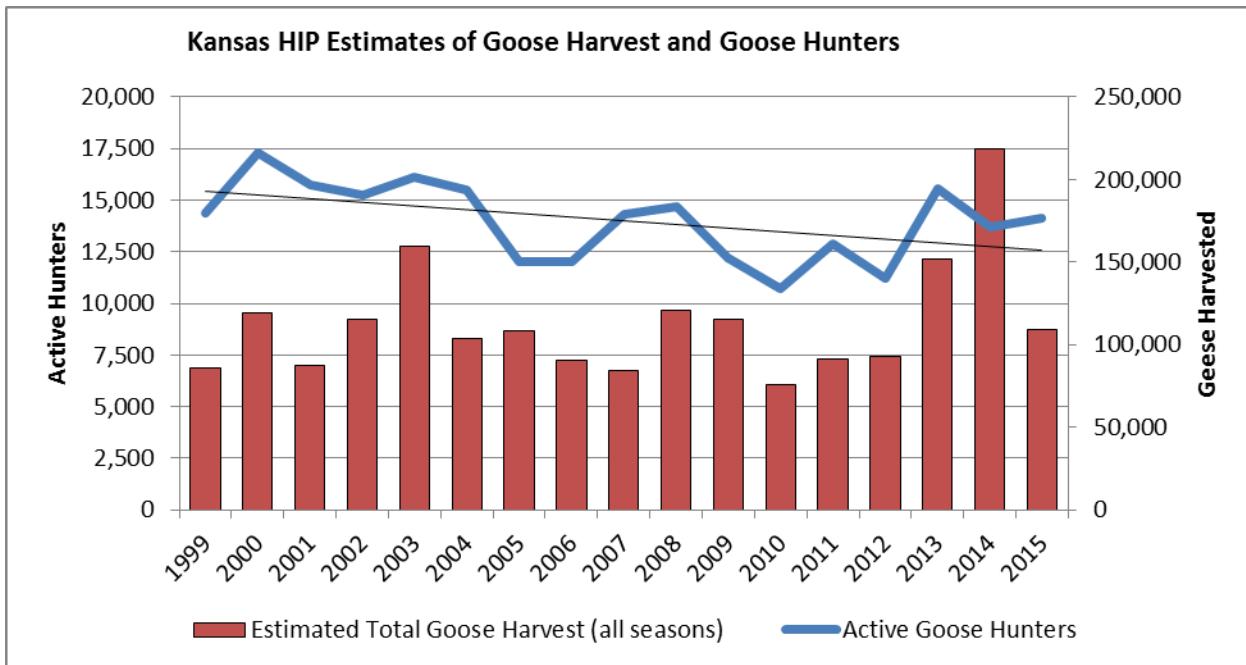
Year	Total Duck Harvest	Mallard	Gadwall	Green-winged Teal	Blue-winged Teal	Pintail	American Wigeon	Northern Shoveler	Wood Duck	Diving Ducks*
1999	203,226	114,167	27,189	21,918	6,936	5,410	7,075	4,578	4,439	10,404
2000	195,555	102,846	29,363	27,872	2,385	7,453	12,520	1,789	2,683	7,154
2001	168,267	97,739	19,154	20,049	1,074	7,339	6,265	3,401	3,938	8,055
2002	202,093	93,112	36,572	31,423	3,468	4,624	13,032	3,783	3,153	10,614
2003	203,184	95,711	41,063	24,536	4,258	4,157	15,513	4,258	3,751	8,315
2004	249,126	133,582	41,374	29,012	6,812	3,280	13,371	5,298	3,027	10,595
2005	145,413	84,193	21,629	13,197	1,588	3,666	7,332	4,277	1,589	7,453
2006	133,701	55,780	30,594	11,156	1,183	2,704	7,944	6,254	2,874	14,198
2007	135,523	61,041	27,687	22,182	1,296	2,591	6,638	4,210	1,133	7,125
2008	208,056	98,160	34,080	22,560	3,840	6,872	17,760	2,400	3,600	16,864
2009	176,862	80,574	27,589	23,569	3,654	5,664	11,511	7,674	3,106	11,876
2010	168,422	76,639	30,940	15,276	3,366	5,437	8,415	9,321	3,366	14,369
2011	178,112	85,163	29,553	18,113	4,131	5,243	8,262	8,262	2,224	14,777
2012	150,901	78,157	32,473	9,232	1,910	6,367	7,959	2,706	1,114	9,869
2013	235,335	94,432	34,188	32,861	20,414	12,115	9,460	12,945	2,655	15,435
2014	228,300	114,417	13,648	24,873	47,961	4,847	4,975	4,592	1,531	10,716
2015	236,200	112,358	31,068	20,813	39,816	6,033	9,803	4,524	1,508	8,897
<b>Average</b>	<b>189,310</b>	<b>92,828</b>	<b>29,892</b>	<b>21,685</b>	<b>9,064</b>	<b>5,518</b>	<b>9,873</b>	<b>5,310</b>	<b>2,688</b>	<b>10,983</b>
% Change from 2014	-3.5%	-1.8%	127.6%	-16.3%	-17.0%	24.5%	97.0%	-1.5%	-1.5%	-17.0%
% Change Average	25%	21.0%	3.9%	-4.0%	339.3%	9.3%	-0.7%	-14.8%	-43.9%	-19.0%

\* includes redhead, canvasback, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup, greater scaup, goldeneye and ruddy duck

**Table 6.** Historic general goose seasons in Kansas from 2006 to 2016.

Season	Canada Goose	Light Goose	White-fronted Goose
2016	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 04 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 04 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Jan 21 - Feb 12
2015	Oct 31 - Nov 01 Nov 04 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 01 Nov 04 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Jan 03 Jan 23 - Feb 14
2014	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Nov 09 Nov 12 - Feb 15	Nov 01 - Dec 14 Jan 17 - Feb 15
2013	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Nov 03 Nov 06 - Feb 09	Oct 26 - Dec 29 Feb 01 - Feb 09
2012	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Nov 04 Nov 07 - Feb 10	Oct 27 - Dec 30 Feb 02 - Feb 10
2011	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Nov 06 Nov 09 - Feb 12	Oct 29 - Jan 01 Feb 04 - Feb 12
2010	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Feb 13	Oct 30 - Nov 07 Nov 10 - Jan 02 Feb 05 - Feb 13
2009	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Feb 14	Oct 31 - Nov 08 Nov 11 - Jan 03 Feb 06 - Feb 14
2008	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Feb 15	Oct 25 - Oct 26 Nov 05 - Jan 04 Feb 07 - Feb 15
2007	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 Oct 28 Nov 07 - Feb 17	Oct 27 - Oct 28 Nov 07 - Jan 06 Feb 09 - Feb 17
2006	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Feb 18	Oct 28 - Oct 29 Nov 08 - Jan 07 Feb 10 - Feb 18

**Figure 3.** Estimates of active goose hunters and goose harvest in Kansas from 1999 to 2014 based upon the Harvest Information Program. The 2016 harvest data is not available until late July.



**Table 7.** Estimates of active goose hunters, total season goose harvest, average goose per hunter, average seasonal bag per hunter, total goose hunter days, and regular season harvest for Canada, light goose and white-fronted geese in Kansas from 1999 to 2015 based upon the by the Harvest Information Program. The 2016 harvest data is not available until late July.

Year	Active Goose Hunters	Total Goose Harvest	Avg. Goose Hunter Days	Avg. Goose Seasonal Bag	Goose Hunter Days	Canada Goose Harvest	Light Goose Harvest	White-fronted Goose Harvest	Light Goose Conservation Season
1999	14,400	85,700	6.5	5.9	93,300	66,255	12,048	5,476	11,165
2000	17,300	119,000	6.5	6.9	112,200	98,005	8,164	11,303	11,937
2001	15,715	87,499	5.7	5.6	89,663	72,707	4,405	4,721	35,138
2002	15,248	115,400	5.2	7.6	79,771	80,982	18,222	8,966	17,087
2003	16,100	159,700	7.2	9.9	116,200	123,866	19,263	9,735	65,608
2004	15,500	103,700	6.3	6.7	98,000	80,118	16,481	5,688	25,272
2005	12,000	108,300	7.1	9.1	84,800	99,178	3,689	970	18,802
2006	12,038	90,400	5.1	7.5	60,994	59,566	12,848	2,336	12,711
2007	14,294	84,699	5.6	5.9	79,723	59,968	10,943	13,788	4,260
2008	14,692	120,900	5.7	8.2	83,525	87,067	12,540	16,325	11,924
2009	12,213	115,201	6.5	9.4	78,955	92,267	4,267	12,267	15,244
2010	10,700	75,800	5.3	7.1	56,936	66,494	4,459	4,847	53,863
2011	12,900	91,653	5.9	7.1	75,795	51,900	19,876	19,877	62,092
2012	11,207	92,367	6.5	8.3	73,084	72,204	13,016	7,127	72,447
2013	15,543	151,837	5.7	9.8	88,386	108,657	27,253	15,927	92,825
2014	13,700	218,300	5.9	15.9	80,287	166,812	32,409	19,064	55,271
2015	14,100	108,900	4.1	7.7	58,200	71,175	21,928	15.817	41,416
<b>Average</b>	<b>13,973</b>	<b>113,815</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>84,476</b>	<b>86,628</b>	<b>13,743</b>	<b>9,901</b>	<b>50,635</b>
% Change from 2014	2.9%	-50.1%	-29.4%	-51.6%	-27.5%	-57.3%	-32.3%	-17.0%	-25.15%
% Change Average	0.9%	-4.1%	-31.6%	-5.6%	-29.8%	-20.5%	29.2%	13.7%	18.2%

**K.A.R 115-15-3: Threatened and endangered wildlife, special permits, and enforcement actions.**

**K.A.R 115-15-4: Recovery plan procedures.**

**Background**

Provisions of SB 384, which deal with threatened and endangered species, were amended into HB 2547 then included in HB 2156, which was passed and signed by the Governor on May 17, 2016. The new law, which takes effect July 1, 2016, makes general changes to the Nongame and Endangered Species Act, requiring changes to KAR 115-15-3 and KAR 115-15-4.

Summary of Current Law Changes:

**Special Permit Exceptions:**

- Normal farming and ranching practices, including government cost-shared agriculture land treatment measures, unless a permit is required by another state or federal agency
- Development of residential and commercial property on privately-owned property financed with private, non-public funds, unless a permit is required by another state or federal agency
- Activities for which a person has obtained a scientific, educational, or exhibition permit
- Declares that a permit required by another state or federal agency shall not include a certification or registration

**Recovery Plans**

- Requires that on and after July 1, 2016 for all new species listed as threatened or endangered by KDWPT, recovery plans will be completed within four years of the species being listed
- KDWPT is required to submit an annual report to both Senate and House Committees on Ag and Natural Resources
- KDWPT must publish and maintain each developed and implemented recovery plan on KDWPT website

Final language for the changes in current regulations is still being developed. Proposed changes being discussed at this time include the following:

**KAR 115-15-3: Threatened and Endangered Wildlife, special permits and enforcement actions**

- Changes to the definitions of terms that only apply to this regulation: actions, critical habitat, and permit from another state or federal agency
- Includes the addition of certain portions of the new law that pertain to this regulation as listed in the summary provided above

**KAR 115-15-4: Recovery Plans; procedures**

- Includes the addition of certain portions of the new law that pertain to this regulation as listed in the summary above

## Public Land Regulation Changes

### **XV. Daily Hunt Permits**

Daily hunt permits are required on the following properties:

#### **Region 1**

-Glen Elder WA – (Granite Creek Area during youth/mentor seasons) remove this wording; entire WA added to the daily hunt permit list

#### **Region 3**

-Marion WA - add

**K.A.R. 115-25-9a. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits; additional considerations; Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley, and Fort Leavenworth**

**Background**

This regulation has typically been brought to a Public Hearing in June. Personnel at Fort Riley requested this later period to finalize the seasons because the schedule for military training activities were occasionally unknown at the time KAR 115-25-9 was approved. The regulation has also been used to address legislative actions pertaining to deer hunting that were made after KAR 115-25-9 was approved.

**Discussion**

This year we will address all deer seasons on military subunits under one regulation. Personnel at Smoky Hill ANG, Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth have provided their preliminary preferences for season dates.

Smoky Hill ANG has requested the same season dates as those established in KAR 115-25-9.

Fort Riley has requested the same seasons as those established in KAR 115-25-9 with the following exceptions:

- Additional archery days from September 1-10, 2017, and January 2-31, 2018.
- Additional designated persons (i.e. youth/disabled) days from October 6-9, 2017.
  - No pre-rut firearm season for antlerless white-tailed deer.
- Firearm season dates of November 24, 2017 through November 26, 2017, and December 16, 2017 through December 24, 2017.

Fort Leavenworth has requested the same deer hunting seasons described in KAR 115-25-9 with the following exceptions:

- Firearm season dates of November 18-19, 2017, November 23-26, 2017, December 2-3, 2017, December 9-10, 2017, and December 16-17, 2017.
- An extended firearm season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 1-14, 2018.
- An extended archery season for the taking of antlerless-only, white-tailed deer shall be from January 15-31, 2018.

A deer hunter may use one antlerless-only white-tailed deer permit in Fort Riley, subunit 8A or Smoky Hill ANG, subunit 4A. A deer hunter may use up to five antlerless-only white-tailed deer permits in Fort Leavenworth, subunit 10A.

**Recommendation**

The proposed dates for the firearm season at the Smoky Hill Air National Guard subunit, Fort Riley subunit and at the Fort Leavenworth subunit will be reviewed again at the Workshop Session in April. Final action on these seasons shall be completed at the Public Hearing in June.

# Public Hearing

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_

**KANSAS REGISTER**  
**SUBMISSION FORM**

Agency Number -- 710-01

Agency Name -- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Agency Address - 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1233

Title of Document -- Public Hearing

Desired Date of Publication - January 19, 2017

**ITEMS SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE**

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the attached documents, and that they conform to all applicable Kansas Register publication guidelines and to the requirements of K.S.A. 75-431, as amended. I further certify that submission of these items for publication is a proper and lawful action of this agency, that funds are available to pay the publication fees and that such fees will be paid by this agency on receipt of billing.

Christopher J. Tymeson  
Liaison officer's typed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Liaison officer's signature

Department Attorney  
Title

(785) 296-2281  
Phone

---

This space for Register office use only

## Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

## Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald I and II meeting rooms, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of proposed regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:00 p.m., March 23 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing and more business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. March 23 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and may request the meeting materials in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the meeting should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission Secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698 to request special accommodations.

This 60-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to [sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com) if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulation that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-4-2.** This permanent regulation establishes general provisions for big game and wild turkey. The proposed changes would further address concerns with transportation of carcasses beyond the borders of the state and preventing potential disease transmission by allowing a method of electronic registration for elk and antelope.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed amendments to the regulation are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

**K.A.R. 115-4-11.** This permanent regulation establishes conditions for big game permit

applications. The proposed amendments would clean up issues related to previous changes in application dates and switching regulations.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, small businesses, other agencies, or the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and its respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at [www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman

Document No. \_\_\_\_\_

**KANSAS REGISTER**  
**SUBMISSION FORM**

Agency Number -- 710-01

Agency Name -- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Agency Address - 1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1233

Title of Document -- Public Hearing

Desired Date of Publication - February 16, 2017

**ITEMS SUBMITTED IN DUPLICATE**

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that I have reviewed the attached documents, and that they conform to all applicable Kansas Register publication guidelines and to the requirements of K.S.A. 75-431, as amended. I further certify that submission of these items for publication is a proper and lawful action of this agency, that funds are available to pay the publication fees and that such fees will be paid by this agency on receipt of billing.

Christopher J. Tymeson  
Liaison officer's typed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Liaison officer's signature

Department Attorney  
Title

(785) 296-2281  
Phone

---

This space for Register office use only

Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald I and II meeting rooms, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of proposed regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:00 p.m., March 23 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing and more business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. March 23 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and may request the meeting materials in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the meeting should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission Secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698 to request special accommodations.

This 60-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to [sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com) if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulations, in addition to those previously published, that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

**K.A.R. 115-25-7.** This exempt regulation establishes the open season, bag limits and permits for antelope. The proposed version of the regulation would decrease firearm and muzzleloader permits by fourteen total permits and update the season dates.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed amendments to the regulation are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

**K.A.R. 115-25-8.** This exempt regulation establishes the open season, bag limits and permits for elk. The proposed version of the regulation would increase limited-quota either-sex permits by two total

permits and update the season dates.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed amendments to the regulation are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

**K.A.R. 115-25-9.** This exempt regulation establishes the open season, bag limits and permits for deer. The proposed version of the regulation would update the season dates.

**Economic Impact Summary:** The proposed amendments to the regulation are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and its respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com), or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEREK SCHMIDT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORIAL HALL  
120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597  
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296  
[WWW.AG.KS.GOV](http://WWW.AG.KS.GOV)

January 10, 2017

Chris Tymeson  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS 66612-1327

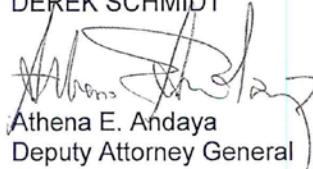
RE: K.A.R. 115-4-2 and 115-4-11

Dear Chris:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 77-420(b), we have reviewed the above-referenced regulations and have approved them for legality. The stamped regulations are enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEREK SCHMIDT

  
Athena E. Andaya  
Deputy Attorney General

Enclosure

Cc: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research, State Capitol, Room 68-W  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor, State Capitol, Room 24-E



STATE OF KANSAS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEREK SCHMIDT  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEMORIAL HALL  
120 SW 10TH AVE., 2ND FLOOR  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1597  
(785) 296-2215 • FAX (785) 296-6296  
WWW.AG.KS.GOV

February 3, 2017

Chris Tymeson  
Chief Legal Counsel  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
1020 S. Kansas Ave., Suite 200  
Topeka, KS 66612-1327

RE: K.A.R. 115-8-1; K.A.R. 115-25-7; K.A.R. 115-25-8; K.A.R. 115-25-9; K.A.R. 115-25-9a

Dear Chris:

Pursuant to K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 77-420(b), we have reviewed the above-referenced regulations and have approved them for legality. The stamped regulations are enclosed with this letter.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
DEREK SCHMIDT

Sarah Fertig  
Assistant Attorney General

Enclosures

Cc: Rep. Ron Highland, Chair, Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations  
Sen. Vicki Schmidt, Vice Chair, Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations  
Rep. John Carmichael, Ranking Minority Member, Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations  
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research, State Capitol, Room 68-W  
Natalie Scott, Office of Revisor, State Capitol, Room 24-E

**115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits.** (a) The open season for the taking of antelope shall be as specified in this subsection. The unit designations in this subsection shall have the meanings specified in K.A.R. 115-4-6.

(1) Archery season.

(A) The archery season dates shall be September 23, 2017 through October 1, 2017 and October 14, 2017 through October 31, 2017.

(B) The taking of antelope during the established archery season shall be authorized for Smoky Hill, unit 2; West Arkansas, unit 17; and Cimarron, unit 18. Unlimited archery permits for residents and nonresidents shall be authorized for the area.

(2) Firearm season.

(A) The firearm season dates shall be October 6, 2017 through October 9, 2017.

(B) The open units for the taking of antelope during the established firearm season and the number of permits authorized shall be as follows:

(i) Smoky Hill, unit 2: One hundred and twenty-two resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(ii) West Arkansas, unit 17: Forty-four resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(iii) Cimarron, unit 18: Fourteen resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(3) Muzzleloader-only season.

(A) The muzzleloader-only season dates shall be October 2, 2017 through October 9, 2017. Muzzleloader permits also shall be valid in the unit for which the permit is authorized

during the established firearm season dates.

(B) The open units for the taking of antelope during the established muzzleloader-only season and the number of permits authorized shall be as follows:

(i) Smoky Hill, unit 2: Thirty-four resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(ii) West Arkansas, unit 17: Ten resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(iii) Cimarron, unit 18: Six resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(b) The bag limit for each archery, firearm, and muzzleloader permit shall be one antelope of either sex.

(c) This regulation shall have no force and effect on and after March 1, 2018. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-937.)

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**K.A.R. 115-25-7.** Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits.

**DESCRIPTION:** This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2017 firearm, muzzleloader, and archery antelope seasons. The hunting units include all of the area included during the 2016 season. An unlimited number of archery permits are authorized, however, recent trends indicate that about 300 people may apply for these permits for residents. 6 nonresident archery permits were issued in 2016 and it is anticipated that a like number will be issued in 2017.

The proposed unit boundaries for the 2017 firearm hunting season are the same as the 2016 unit boundaries. A total of 180 firearms permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-122 permits, Unit 17-44 permits, and Unit 18-14 permits, a decrease of 10 permits from the previous season. In addition, 50 muzzleloader permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-34 permits, Unit 17-10 permits, and Unit 18-6 permits, a decrease of 4 permits from the previous season.

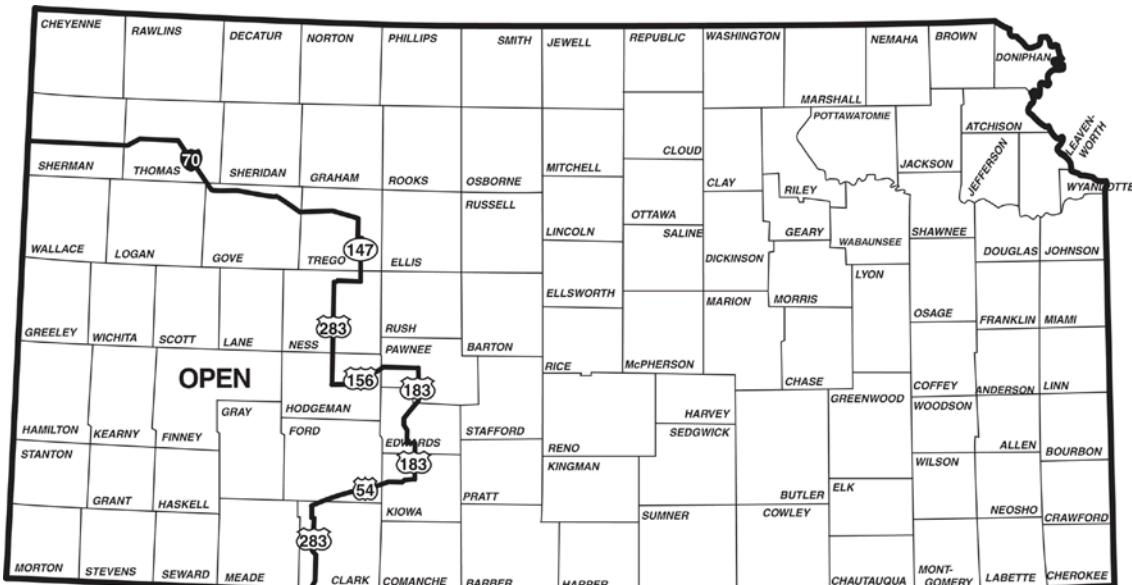
**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** It is anticipated that 500 antelope hunting permits will be authorized. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$25,000. That amount represents equal participation in the antelope season by landowner/tenants and general residents, as well as nonresident participation. Approximately 1000 people will apply for an antelope permit or preference point. A \$10 nonrefundable application fee from all applicants will generate an additional \$10,000. Other administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department.

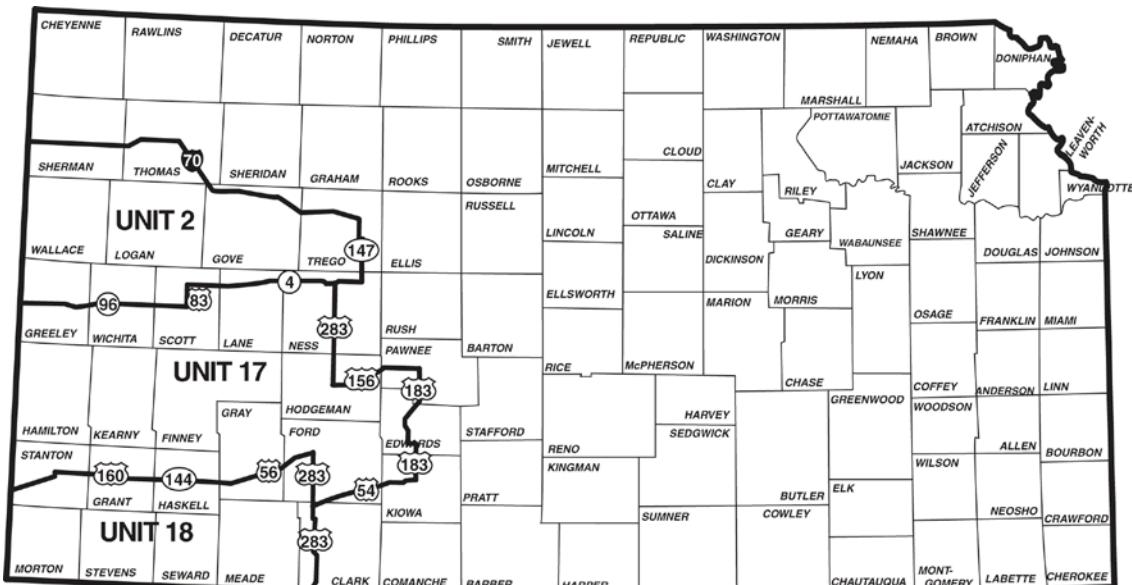
Approximately 2500 days of hunting activity will occur. The national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that an average big game hunter spent more than \$1100 per season, thus the antelope season may generate \$550,000 in direct economic benefits to businesses providing goods and services. There will be no other economic impact on the general public, small businesses or on other state agencies.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.

## Archery Pronghorn Unit



## Firearm, Muzzleloader Pronghorn Units



**115-25-8. Elk; open season, bag limit, and permits.** (a) The unit designations in this regulation shall have the meanings specified in K.A.R. 115-4-6b, except that the area of Fort Riley, subunit 2a, shall not be included as part of Republican-Tuttle, unit 2.

(b) The open seasons for the taking of elk shall be as follows:

(1) The archery season dates and units shall be as follows:

(A) Statewide, except Fort Riley, subunit 2a, and unit 1: September 11, 2017

through December 31, 2017.

(B) Fort Riley, subunit 2a: September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

(2) The firearm season dates and units shall be as follows:

(A) Statewide, except Fort Riley, subunit 2a, and unit 1: November 29, 2017

through December 10, 2017 and January 1, 2018 through March 15, 2018.

(B) Fort Riley, subunit 2a:

(i) First segment: October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017.

(ii) Second segment: November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017.

(iii) Third segment: December 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

(3) The muzzleloader season dates and units shall be as follows:

(A) Statewide, except Fort Riley, subunit 2a, and unit 1: September 1, 2017

through September 30, 2017.

(B) Fort Riley, subunit 2a: September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017.

(c) A limited-quota either-sex elk permit shall be valid during any season using equipment authorized for that season. Twelve either-sex elk permits shall be authorized.

(d) A limited-quota antlerless-only elk permit shall be valid during any season using equipment authorized for that season, except that a limited-quota antlerless-only elk permit shall be valid on Fort Riley, subunit 2a, only as follows:

(1) A first-segment antlerless-only elk permit shall be valid on Fort Riley, subunit

2a, only during the first segment. Five first-segment antlerless-only elk permits shall be authorized.

(2) A second-segment antlerless-only elk permit shall be valid on Fort Riley, subunit 2a, only during the second segment. Five second-segment antlerless-only elk permits shall be authorized.

(3) A third-segment antlerless-only elk permit shall be valid on Fort Riley, subunit 2a, only during the third segment. Five third-segment antlerless-only elk permits shall be authorized.

(4) All antlerless-only elk permits shall be valid on Fort Riley, subunit 2a, during the September 1, 2017 through September 30, 2017 archery and muzzleloader seasons.

(e) The bag limit shall be one elk as specified on the permit issued to the permittee.

(f) An unlimited number of hunt-on-your-own-land antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in units 2 and 3. A hunt-on-your-own-land permit shall be valid during any open season. The bag limit for each hunt-on-your-own-land elk permit shall be one elk as specified on the permit.

(g) An unlimited number of over-the-counter antlerless-only elk permits and either-sex elk permits shall be authorized in unit 3.

(h) This regulation shall have no force and effect on and after April 1, 2018.

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-937.)

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**K.A.R. 115-25-8.** Elk; open season, bag limit and permits.

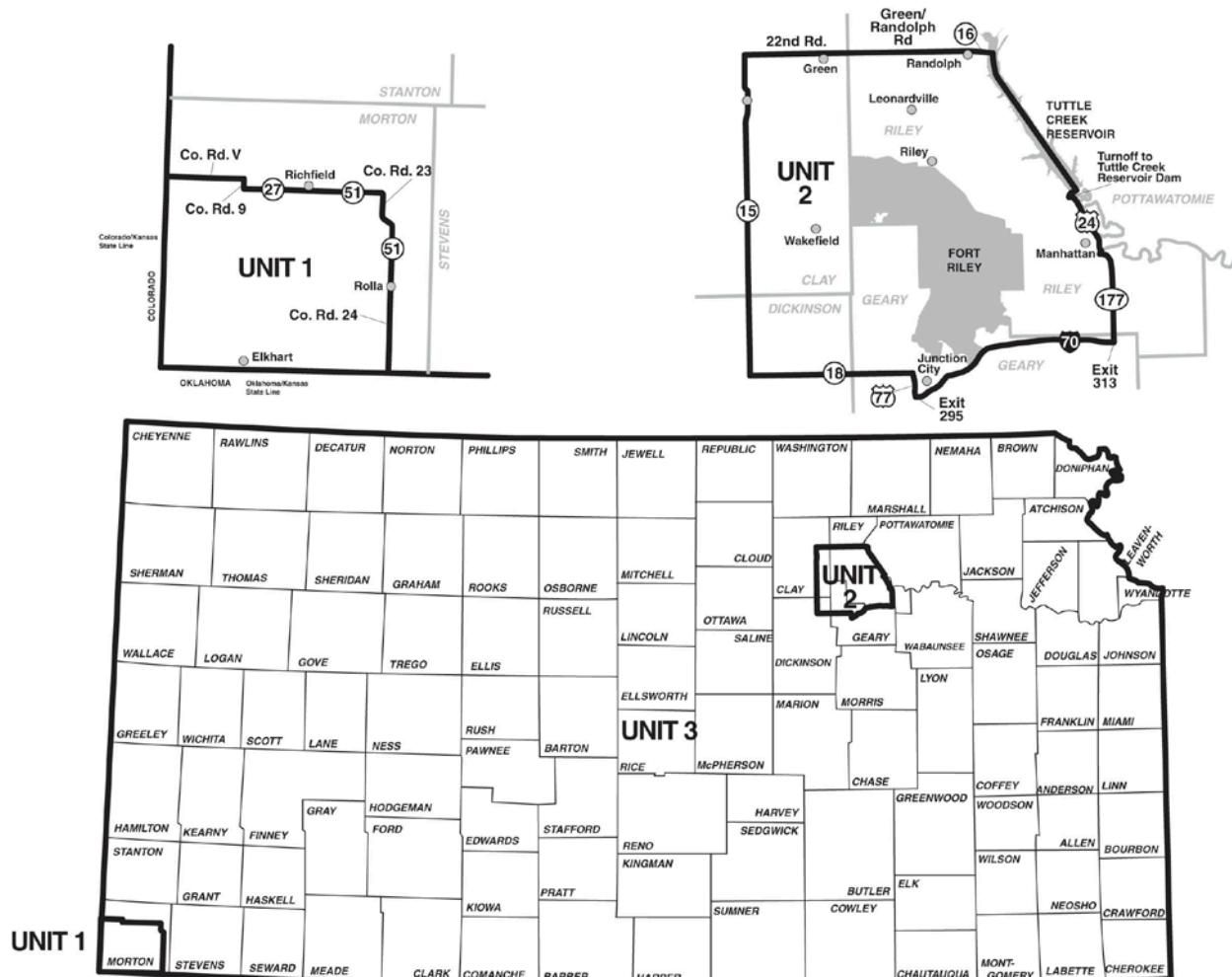
**DESCRIPTION:** This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2017-2018 muzzleloader, archery, and firearm seasons for elk. The units allow for statewide use for limited-quota permits, except in a portion of Morton County. Limited-quota elk and unlimited hunt-on-your-own-land (HOYOL) hunters would be allowed to hunt during any open season with the equipment that was allowed during that season. Unlimited general either-sex and antlerless-only permits would allow the use of the permits in all units but would exclude two units. Unlimited HOYOL either-sex and antlerless-only permits would be allowed statewide, except a portion of Morton County, Unit 1. The proposed regulation would allow elk hunting from September 1, 2017 through March 15, 2018 statewide (outside Fort Riley, except Unit 1). Fifteen limited-quota antlerless permits would also be valid during a September muzzleloader and archery equipment season on Fort Riley, Subunit 2a. However, only five limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits at a time would be made available for use during each of three seasons on subunit 2a (Fort Riley) (October 1, 2017 through October 31, 2017; November 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017; and December 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017). Twelve limited-quota either-sex elk permits would be valid from September 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017 on subunit 2a and from September 1, 2017 through March 15, 2018 in the remainder of the state, except Unit 1. Fort Riley military personnel would continue to control access to the military grounds for the purpose of elk hunting, and are expected to provide hunting access only during a portion of the available days during the open seasons. The seasons are intended to provide increased opportunity for those hunters drawing elk permits, and increased flexibility to address elk that may disperse off the Fort as well as those animals beginning to appear within other locations in the State. This represents an additional two limited-quota either-sex elk permits from the total limited-quota permits for 2016.

**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** It is anticipated that 27 limited-quota elk permits will be issued. Based on 2016 numbers, it is estimated that at least another 35 HOYOL permits will be issued and as well as 10 unlimited general permits. In addition, it is estimated that 1000 people will apply for the drawing permits or bonus points and those individuals pay a \$10 nonrefundable application fee. The application fee generates \$10,000. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$13,350. Administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department. Approximately 360 days of hunting activity may occur, thus providing \$79,200 economic benefit to businesses providing goods and services. To the extent the expanded unit, seasons, and permit numbers help prevent dispersal of elk onto private land, and therefore help prevent occurrence of damage from dispersed elk, there may be some positive economic impact to the general public. No other economic impact on the general public, small businesses, or on other state agencies is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.

## Elk Units



**115-4-2. Big game and wild turkey; general provisions.** (a) Possession.

(1) Each permittee shall sign, record the county, the date, and the time of kill, and attach the carcass tag to the carcass in a visible manner immediately following the kill and before moving the carcass from the site of the kill. The carcass tag shall remain attached to the carcass or in the possession of the permittee if transporting a quartered or deboned animal until the animal reaches the permittee's residence or a commercial place of processing or preservation and is processed for consumption. The permittee shall retain the carcass tag until the animal is consumed, given to another, or otherwise disposed of.

(2) Except for a wild turkey or big game animal taken with an "either sex" permit, the beard of the wild turkey shall remain naturally attached to the breast or the head of the big game animal shall remain naturally attached to the carcass while in transit from the site of the kill to the permittee's residence or to a commercial place of processing or preservation, unless the carcass has been tagged with a department check station tag, the permittee has obtained a transportation confirmation number after electronically registering the permittee's ~~deer~~ big game animal or wild turkey on the department's electronic registration site, or the permittee retains photographs necessary for electronic registration until registration occurs. "Electronically registering" shall mean submitting any necessary and relevant information and digital photographs of the ~~deer~~ big game head or turkey breast and of the completed carcass tag of sufficient clarity to display the species and the antlered or antlerless condition of the ~~deer~~ big game animal, the beard of the wild turkey, and the transaction number and signature on a completed carcass tag.

(3) Any legally acquired big game or wild turkey meat may be given to and possessed by another, if a dated written notice that includes the donor's printed name, signature, address, and permit number accompanies the meat. The person receiving the meat shall retain the notice until the meat is consumed, given to another, or otherwise disposed of.

(4) Any person may possess a salvaged big game or wild turkey carcass if a department salvage tag issued to the person obtaining the carcass is affixed to the carcass. The salvage tag shall be retained as

provided in paragraph (a)(1). Big game or wild turkey meat may be donated as specified in paragraph (a)(3) using the salvage tag number. Each salvage tag report prepared by the department agent issuing the tag shall be signed by the individual receiving the salvaged big game or wild turkey carcass. Each salvage tag shall include the following information:

- (A) The name and address of the person to whom the tag is issued;
  - (B) the salvage tag number;
  - (C) the species and sex of each animal for which the tag is issued;
  - (D) the location and the date, time, and cause of death of each animal; and
  - (E) the date of issuance and the signature of the department agent issuing the salvage tag.
- (b) Big game and wild turkey permits and game tags.

(1) Big game and wild turkey permits and game tags shall not be transferred to another person, unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation.

(2) In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, each big game and wild turkey permit or game tag shall be invalid from the date of issuance if obtained by an individual under any of these conditions:

- (A) Through false representation;
- (B) through misrepresentation; or
- (C) in excess of the number of permits or game tags authorized by regulations for that big game species or wild turkey.

(3) No individual shall copy, reproduce, or possess any copy or reproduction of a big game or wild turkey permit or carcass tag.

(c) Hunting assistance. Subject to the hunting license requirements of K.S.A. 32-919 and amendments thereto, the license requirements of the implementing regulations, and the provisions of paragraphs (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(3), any individual may assist any holder of a big game or wild turkey permit or game tag during the permittee's big game or wild turkey hunting activity. This assistance may include herding, driving, or calling.

(1) An individual assisting the holder of a big game or wild turkey permit or game tag shall not perform the actual shooting of big game or wild turkey for the permittee, unless authorized by K.A.R. 115-18-15. However, a permittee who is, because of disability, unable to pursue a wounded big game animal or wild turkey may designate any individual to assist in pursuing and dispatching a big game animal or wild turkey wounded by the disabled permittee.

(2) The designated individual shall carry the disabled permittee's big game or wild turkey permit or game tag and shall attach the carcass tag to the carcass immediately after the kill and before leaving the site of the kill.

(3) The designated individual shall use only the type of equipment authorized for use by the disabled permittee. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. ~~2013~~ 2016 Supp. 32-807, K.S.A. ~~2013~~ 2016 Supp. 32-937, and K.S.A. ~~2013~~ 2016 Supp. 32-969; effective June 1, 2001; amended April 22, 2005; amended April 16, 2010; amended April 20, 2012; amended July 18, 2014; amended P-\_\_\_\_\_.)

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**K.A.R. 115-4-2.** Big game and wild turkey; general provisions.

**DESCRIPTION:** The proposed changes would further address concerns with transportation of carcasses beyond the borders of the state and preventing potential disease transmission by allowing a method of electronic registration for elk and antelope.

**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** The proposed regulation is not anticipated to have any appreciable economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.

**115-4-11. Big game and wild turkey permit applications.** (a) General application provisions.

(1) Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, an individual shall not apply for or obtain more than one antlered or horned big game or wild turkey permit for each big game species or wild turkey, except when the individual is unsuccessful in a limited quota drawing and alternative permits for the species are available at the time of subsequent application or when the individual is the final recipient of a commission permit.

(2) Unless otherwise authorized by law or regulation, each big game or wild turkey permit application shall be signed by the individual applying for the permit.

(3) Subject to any priority draw system established by this regulation, if the number of permit applications of a specific species and type received by the designated application deadline exceeds the number of available permits of that species and type, a random drawing to issue permits of that species and type shall be conducted by the secretary.

(4) A hunt-on-your-own-land permit shall not be tabulated in a priority draw system if the permit would otherwise reduce the applicant's odds of receiving a big game permit through that draw system.

## (b) Deer permit applications.

(1) Subject to any priority draw system established by this subsection, in awarding deer permits in units having a limited number of permits, the first priority shall be given to those applicants who did not receive, in the previous year, a deer permit that allowed the taking of an antlered deer. All other deer permit applicants shall be given equal priority.

(2) In awarding a limited number of deer permits by a priority draw system, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference points. Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(A) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a priority draw system, a deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer.

(B) If the individual fails to make at least one application or purchase one preference point within

a period of five consecutive years, all earned points shall be lost.

(C) If an applicant obtains, by a priority draw system, a deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer, all earned points shall be lost.

(D) If the number of applicants with the most preference points exceeds the number of permits for specified units or permit types, then a drawing shall be held to determine the successful applicants.

(E) If an individual desires to apply for a preference point for a deer permit that allows the taking of antlered deer and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a preference point by paying the proper application or preference point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in ~~K.A.R. 115-25-9~~ this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one preference point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(3) If an individual is a final recipient of a commission deer permit, the individual shall not possess more than one regular antlered deer permit and one commission deer permit.

(4) Applications for nonresident limited-quota antlered deer permits shall be accepted in the Pratt office from the earliest date that applications are available through the last Friday of April each year. Any nonresident applicant may select, at the time of application, one deer management unit and up to one adjacent management unit where that permit shall be valid.

(5) Applications for resident firearms either-species, either-sex permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday of July.

(6) Applications for resident any-season white-tailed either-sex deer permits, resident archery deer permits, resident muzzleloader either-species either-sex permits, and hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through December 30.

(7) Each resident applicant for either-species, either-sex muzzleloader or firearm deer permits shall

select, at the time of application, the unit where the permit shall be valid. The west unit permit shall be valid in units 1, 2, 17, and 18. The east unit permit shall be valid in units 3, 4, 5, 7, and 16.

(8) Applications for antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through January 30 of the following year.

(9) Each nonresident applicant for a regular deer permit shall have purchased a nonresident hunting license before submitting the application or shall purchase a nonresident hunting license when submitting the application.

(c) Firearm antelope permit applications. In awarding firearm antelope permits, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference points. Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(1) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining a firearm antelope permit.

(2) If the individual fails to make at least one application or purchase one preference point within a period of five consecutive years, all earned points shall be lost.

(3) If an applicant obtains a firearm permit by a priority draw system, all earned points shall be lost.

(4) If the number of applicants with the most preference points exceeds the number of permits for specified units or permit types, then a drawing shall be held to determine the successful applicants.

(5) If an individual desires to apply for a preference point for an antelope firearms permit that allows the taking of an antelope and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a preference point by paying the preference point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in K.A.R. 115-25-7 this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one preference point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(6) Applications for resident firearm and muzzleloader permits shall be accepted in the Pratt office

from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday of June.

(7) Applications for resident and nonresident archery permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through October 30.

(8) If there are any unfilled permits after all timely applications have been considered, the application period may be extended by the secretary.

(9) Any applicant unsuccessful in obtaining a permit through a drawing may apply for any permit made available during an extended application period, or any other permit that is available on an unlimited basis.

(d) Elk permit applications.

(1) An individual receiving a limited-quota elk permit shall not be eligible to apply for or receive an elk permit in subsequent seasons, with the following exceptions:

(A) An individual receiving an any-elk or a bull-only elk permit may apply for and receive an antlerless-only elk permit in subsequent seasons.

(B) An individual receiving a limited-quota, antlerless-only elk hunting permit shall not be eligible to apply for or receive a limited-quota, antlerless-only elk permit for a five-year period thereafter. Subject to this subsection, however, this individual may apply for and receive an any-elk or bull-only elk permit without a waiting period.

(C) When a limited number of elk permits are awarded by a random draw system, each individual shall have an additional opportunity of drawing for each bonus point earned by the individual in addition to the current application. Bonus points shall be awarded as follows:

(i) One bonus point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a random draw system, an elk permit that allows the taking of an elk.

(ii) If an individual fails to make at least one application or purchase one bonus point within a period of five consecutive years, all earned bonus points shall be lost.

(iii) If an applicant obtains, by a random draw system, an elk permit that allows the taking of an

elk, all earned points shall be lost.

(iv) If an individual desires to apply for a bonus point for an elk permit that allows the taking of elk and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a bonus point by paying the proper application or bonus point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in K.A.R. 115-25-8 this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one bonus point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a bonus point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(D) Each individual who is the final recipient of a commission elk permit shall be eligible for a limited-quota elk permit, subject to the provisions of this subsection.

(E) Limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits and limited-quota either-sex elk permits shall be awarded from a pool of applicants who are Fort Riley military personnel and applicants who are not Fort Riley military personnel.

(2) Applications for hunt-on-your-own-land and unlimited over-the-counter elk permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through March 14 of the following year.

(3) Applications for limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits and limited-quota either-sex elk permits shall be accepted at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available through the second Friday in July.

(4) If there are leftover limited-quota antlerless-only elk permits or limited-quota either-sex permits after all timely applications have been considered, the application periods for those permits may be reopened by the secretary. Leftover permits shall be drawn and issued on a daily basis for those application periods reopened by the secretary. Any applicant unsuccessful in obtaining a permit through a drawing may apply for any leftover permit or any other permit that is available on an unlimited basis.

(5) Any individual may apply for or obtain no more than one permit that allows the taking of an elk, unless the individual is unsuccessful in a limited-quota drawing and alternative permits for elk are

available at the time of subsequent application or the individual obtains a commission permit pursuant to this subsection.

(e) Wild turkey permit applications.

(1) When awarding wild turkey permits in units having a limited number of permits, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who did not receive a permit in a limited wild turkey unit during the previous year. All other applicants shall be given equal priority.

(2) In awarding a limited number of wild turkey permits by a priority draw system, the first priority shall be given to those individuals who have earned the highest number of preference points.

Preference points shall be awarded as follows:

(A) One point shall be awarded to an individual for each year the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining, by a priority draw system, a wild turkey permit.

(B) If the individual fails to make at least one application or purchase one preference point within a period of five consecutive years, all earned points shall be lost.

(C) If an applicant obtains, by a priority draw system, a wild turkey permit, all earned points shall be lost.

(D) If the number of applicants with the most preference points exceeds the number of permits for specified units or permit types, then a drawing shall be held to determine the successful applicants.

(E) If an individual desires to apply for a preference point for a wild turkey permit and not receive a permit, the person may apply for and receive a preference point by paying the preference point fee and submitting an application during the application period specified in ~~K.A.R. 115-25-6~~ this regulation. No individual may apply for more than one preference point in the same calendar year, and no individual shall apply for a preference point in the same calendar year as the calendar year in which the individual is applying for a permit.

(3) Fall wild turkey permits for unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, youth turkey permits, and game tags for unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 may be purchased over the counter at designated locations,

from the earliest date in the year that applications are available through 5:00 p.m. on January 30 of the following year.

(4) Applications for spring wild turkey permits in unit 4 shall be accepted by the department from the earliest date that applications are available until midnight on the second Friday of February. If there are turkey permits left over after all timely applications have been considered, the application period may be reopened by the secretary. Leftover turkey permits shall be issued on a daily competitive basis until the day before the last day of the turkey season or until all turkey permits are issued.

(5) Spring wild turkey permits in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6, youth turkey permits, and game tags in unit 1, unit 2, unit 3, unit 5, and unit 6 may be purchased over the counter at designated locations from the earliest date that applications are available until midnight on the day before the closing date for the season. (Authorized by K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-807, K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-937, K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-969, and K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-970; implementing K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-937, K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-969, and K.S.A. ~~2014~~ 2016 Supp. 32-970; effective Sept. 10, 1990; amended May 27, 1991; amended June 1, 2001; amended April 18, 2003; amended Feb. 18, 2005; amended May 15, 2009; amended Feb. 5, 2010; amended April 8, 2011; amended May 24, 2013; amended Nov. 30, 2015; amended P-\_\_\_\_\_.)

## **ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT**

**K.A.R. 115-4-11.** Big game permit applications.

**DESCRIPTION:** This regulation addresses permit application requirements for obtaining big game permits. The proposed amendments would clean up issues related to previous changes in application dates and switching regulations.

**FEDERAL MANDATE:** None.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** The proposed amendments are not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.

**115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits.** (a) The open season for the taking of deer shall be as follows:

(1) Archery season.

(A) The archery season in all deer management units shall be September 11, 2017 through December 31, 2017.

(B) Archery deer permits also shall be valid during the portion of the extended firearm season beginning on January 1, 2018 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended firearm season and shall be valid with any legal equipment authorized during a firearm season, but shall be valid only for antlerless white-tailed deer during those dates.

(C) The number of archery deer permits based on a review of deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information shall be as established by the secretary with the concurrence of the commission.

(D) The urban antlerless-only white-tailed deer archery season shall begin on January 15, 2018 and extend through January 31, 2018 in all units designated as an urban deer management unit.

(2) Firearm season.

(A) The regular firearm season dates in all deer management units shall be November 29, 2017 through December 10, 2017.

(B) The pre-rut white-tailed deer antlerless-only season in all deer management units shall be October 7, 2017 through October 9, 2017.

(C) During the regular and extended firearm deer seasons, white-tailed either-sex deer permits issued for a deer management unit adjacent to or encompassing an urban deer management unit shall be valid in both the designated unit and the urban deer management unit.

(D) The number of firearm deer permits for each management unit based on a review of

deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information shall be as established by the secretary with the concurrence of the commission.

(3) Muzzleloader-only season.

(A) The muzzleloader-only season in all deer management units shall be September 11, 2017 through September 24, 2017. Muzzleloader deer permits shall also be valid during established firearm seasons using muzzleloader equipment, except that during the portion of the extended firearm season beginning on January 1, 2018 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended firearm season, these permits shall be valid with any legal equipment authorized during a firearm season. During an extended firearm season, only muzzleloader deer permits for deer management units open during these dates shall be valid, and only for antlerless white-tailed deer.

(B) The number of muzzleloader deer permits issued for each management unit based on a review of deer population indices, biological and ecological data, history of permit use and harvest rates, public input, and other relevant information shall be as established by the secretary with the concurrence of the commission.

(4) Season for designated persons.

(A) The season for designated persons to hunt deer shall be September 2, 2017 through September 10, 2017 in all deer management units.

(B) Only the following persons may hunt during this season:

(i) Any person 16 years of age or younger, only while under the immediate supervision of an adult who is 18 years of age or older; and  
(ii) any person with a permit to hunt from a vehicle issued according to K.A.R. 115-18-4 or a disability assistance permit issued according to K.A.R. 115-18-15.

(C) All resident and nonresident deer permits shall be valid during this season.

(D) All persons hunting during this season shall wear blaze orange according to K.A.R.

115-4-4.

(5) Extended firearm seasons.

(A) Each unfilled deer permit valid in unit 6, 8, 9, 10, 16, or 17, as applicable, shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season on January 1, 2018 in those units.

(B) Each unfilled deer permit valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 13, or 14, as applicable, shall be valid during an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1, 2018 and extending through January 7, 2018 in those units.

(C) Each unfilled deer permit valid in units 10A, 15, or 19, as applicable, shall be valid in an extended antlerless-only firearm season beginning January 1, 2018 and extending through January 14, 2018 in those units.

(D) Only antlerless white-tailed deer may be taken.

(E) Permits restricted to a specific unit shall remain restricted to that unit during the extended firearm season.

(F) Equipment legal during a firearm season shall be authorized with any permit.

(b) Unlimited resident hunt-on-your-own-land, special hunt-on-your-own-land, and nonresident hunt-on-your-own-land deer permits shall be authorized for all units. These permits also shall be valid during the portion of the extended firearm season beginning on January 1, 2018 and extending through the last open day in units open during an extended or special extended firearm season, but shall be valid only for antlerless white-tailed deer during an extended or special extended firearm season.

(c) Any individual may apply for and obtain multiple deer permits, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Any individual may apply for or obtain no more than one deer permit that allows the taking of an antlered deer, except when the individual is unsuccessful in a limited quota drawing

and alternative permits for antlered deer are available at the time of subsequent application.

(2) Any individual may obtain no more than five antlerless white-tailed deer permits. One antlerless white-tailed deer permit shall be valid statewide, except in unit 18, including lands managed by the department. Four additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 19 on lands not managed by the department, except Cedar Bluff, Glen Elder, Kanopolis, Lovewell, Norton, Webster, and Wilson Wildlife Areas and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge.

(3) Any resident may obtain no more than one either-species, either-sex permit through the application period described in K.A.R. 115-4-11.

(4) Nonresidents shall be eligible to obtain antlerless white-tailed deer permits. Otherwise, a nonresident shall be eligible to apply for and obtain only those permits designated as nonresident deer permits.

(5) No resident or nonresident shall purchase any deer permit that allows the taking of antlerless-only deer without first having obtained a deer permit that allows the taking of antlered deer, unless the antlerless-only deer permit is purchased after December 30, 2017.

(6) Any individual may obtain one antlerless-only either-species deer permit, subject to the number of antlerless-only either-species deer permits authorized.

(d) The bag limit for each deer permit shall be one deer, as specified on the permit issued to the permittee.

(e) No deer permit issued pursuant to this regulation shall be valid after January 31, 2018.

(f) This regulation shall have no force and effect on and after March 1, 2018. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2016 Supp. 32-937.)

## ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**K.A.R. 115-25-9.** Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits.

**DESCRIPTION:** The proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting bag limits, application periods and season dates for the 2017-2018 firearm, muzzleloader and archery deer seasons. There are some changes from 2015-2016 seasons. Season dates are adjusted to coincide with the calendar and all military seasons have been moved to K.A.R. 115-25-9a.

**FEDERAL MANDATES:** None

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** If the economic impact to the department, the general public, small business and other agencies from the 2017-18 seasons were to be similar to the estimate for the 2016-2017 seasons, total revenue to the department from the sale of all resident, nonresident, and landowner/tenant deer permits is estimated to be approximately \$13,147,937.50.

Approximately 575,000 days of hunting activity by 115,000 hunters are anticipated. A survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that big game hunters spent approximately \$1100 per year on trip and equipment expenditures, thus the 2017-18 deer seasons in Kansas are anticipated to generate approximately \$126.5 million worth of direct economic benefit to businesses providing big game goods and services. No other economic impact to state agencies, small businesses, or other individuals is anticipated.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:** None.

**K.A.R. 115-25-9.**  
**Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits.**  
**POSSIBLE AMENDMENT**

As a result of internal Department comment on the proposed regulation, the Department suggests that the following amendment be made to the version of the regulation submitted for public comment.

**K.A.R. 115-25-9. Deer; open season, bag limit, and permits.**

**1. Amend proposed subsection (c)(2) on page 5 as follows:**

(2) Any individual may obtain no more than five antlerless white-tailed deer permits. One antlerless white-tailed deer permit shall be valid statewide, except in unit 18, including lands managed by the department. Four additional antlerless white-tailed deer permits shall be valid in units 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10A, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 19 on lands not managed by the department, except ~~Cedar Bluff, Glen Elder, Kanopolis, Lovewell, Norton, Webster, and Wilson Wildlife Areas and Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge.~~

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
2017 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS

The Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks, and Tourism, as authorized by K.A.R. 115-25-9, hereby establishes the 2017 deer season permit quotas in the following deer management units:

**2017 RESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

**ANTLERED DEER PERMITS**

**STATEWIDE; ARCHERY ONLY:**

Either Species Either Sex ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**STATEWIDE; ARCHERY, FIREARMS &  
MUZZLELOADER:**

White-tailed Deer Either Sex ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND;**

**UNITS 1-19:**

Either Species Either Sex ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**WESTERN MULE DEER;**

**UNITS 1, 2, 17, & 18:**

Firearms Either Species Either Sex ..... 1425 <sup>c</sup>  
Muzzleloader Either Species ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**EASTERN MULE DEER;**

**UNITS 3, 4, 5, 7, & 16:**

Firearms Either Species Either Sex ..... 500 <sup>c</sup>  
Muzzleloader Either Species ..... open availability <sup>c</sup>

**ANTLERLESS DEER PERMITS**

**HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**PAWNEE; UNIT 5:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**SOLOMON; UNIT 7:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**KAW; UNIT 10:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

**RED HILLS; UNIT 16:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a</sup>

**CIMARRON; UNIT 18:**

**KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:**  
Whitetail Antlerless Only ..... <sup>a & b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

<sup>b</sup> Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
**2017 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**  
 Page 2

**2017 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**

**HIGH PLAINS; UNIT 1:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	850
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	50
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**SMOKY HILL; UNIT 2:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	466
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	40
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**KIRWIN-WEBSTER; UNIT 3:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1002
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	20
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**KANOPOLIS; UNIT 4:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	492
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	5
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**PAWNEE; UNIT 5:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	656
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	10
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**MIDDLE ARKANSAS; UNIT 6:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	538
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a

**SOLOMON; UNIT 7:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1603
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	2
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**REPUBLICAN; UNIT 8:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1940
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a

**TUTTLE CREEK; UNIT 9:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	981
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a

**KAW; UNIT 10:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1252
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a

**OSAGE PRAIRIE; UNIT 11:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	3109
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**CHAUTAUQUA HILLS; UNIT 12:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	2076
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**LOWER ARKANSAS; UNIT 13:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	621
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**FLINT HILLS; UNIT 14:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1856
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

**NINNESCAH; UNIT 15:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	1405
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Whitetail Antlerless Only.....	a & b

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

<sup>b</sup> Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.

**SECRETARY'S ORDERS**  
**2017 DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS**  
 Page 3

**2017 NONRESIDENT DEER SEASON PERMIT QUOTAS (Continued)**

**RED HILLS; UNIT 16:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	2103
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	5
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	<sup>a</sup>

**WEST ARKANSAS; UNIT 17:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	562
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	50
Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	<sup>a</sup>

**CIMARRON; UNIT 18:**

Whitetail Either Sex .....	304
Choice of Archery, Muzzleloader, or Firearms	
Mule Deer Stamp .....	20

**KANSAS CITY URBAN; UNIT 19:**

Whitetail Antlerless Only .....	<sup>a &amp; b</sup>
---------------------------------	----------------------

Any non-resident deer hunter with a whitetail either sex deer permit valid in Unit 9, 10, 11 or 14 may also hunt in unit 19.

**HUNT-ON-YOUR-OWN-LAND:**

**UNITS 1-19:**

Either Species Either Sex .....	<sup>c</sup>
---------------------------------	--------------

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

<sup>a</sup> One WTAO permit valid statewide, except DMU 18, and on KDWPT public hunting areas.

<sup>b</sup> Four additional WTAO permits valid only on private lands and wildlife areas specified in K.A.R. 115-25-9.

<sup>c</sup> Antlered deer permit option, one per hunter.