Welcome to this edition of the Lovewell State Park Spring Newsletter! We sincerely hope you enjoy it and will provide us feedback on the format and content.

STATE PARK FEES FOR 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee Type</th>
<th>Fee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Vehicle</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas SR/Disabled Annual</td>
<td>$13.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Vehicle</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas SR/Disabled Daily</td>
<td>$ 3.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconventional Vehicle Permit</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Camp Permit</td>
<td>$202.50 ($252.50 after March 31)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Day Camp Permit</td>
<td>$112.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Camp</td>
<td>$ 10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prime Site (all 50amp sites and 24hr Generator)</td>
<td>$ 2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>$ 9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect/Water</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elect/Water/Sewer</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal Campsite Elect</td>
<td>$371.50 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water</td>
<td>$431.50 per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal Campsite Elect/Water/Sewer</td>
<td>$491.50 per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Transaction Fee of $2.75 will be added to each campsite transaction TOTAL.

OFFICE HOURS THRU APRIL ARE 8AM TO 4:30PM MONDAY–FRIDAY. WEEKEND HOURS WILL BEGIN IN MAY.

2021 Kept Pace with 2020!!

There was little let down in Year TWO of the Covid-19 pandemic. Even though the public felt more at ease with public interactions, camping remained a high priority for those who relied on it heavily for entertainment in 2021. In fact, the launch date for 2021 reservations increased over 50% from the same launch the previous year. There were some differences, however. Camping in 2020 resulted in cabins and campgrounds fully occupied nearly 7 days a week, from April through August. For 2021, cabins and campgrounds were still full during the weekends, but occupancy dropped for the weekdays. Busy weekends began in May, rather than April; and camping waned in the latter weeks of July, rather than August. Most summer weekends are already reserved for 2022 camping cabins and for full hook-up utility sites. All utility campites are reservable (with the exception of designated seasonal and handicapped restricted campites), plus the 24hr Generator Loop at Willow. Remaining primitive campites at Lovewell State Park are all still first come-first serve. Use the CampItKS app, reserveamerica.com, kshuntfishcamp.com or call the Lovewell State Park office!

Revised Decals!

Your windshield decal looks a bit different for 2022, but still the same great value! A full calendar year entrance into any Kansas State Park for just $25.00 per vehicle!!! The UTV (unconventional vehicle) permit is $52.50. This permit is available for golf cart and utility-style vehicles (operational restrictions apply). Decal colors will change year to year.

Advice from a Rock!

- Stay Grounded!
- Try Your Hardest!
- Keep Still!
- Be Well-Rounded!
- Live in Balance!
- Start Each Day with a Clean SLATE!
- Never Take Life for GRANITE!!
Special Events at Lovewell for 2022

The 2022 special event season begins with a Free Park Entrance Day on May 7th to promote the “Let’s Camp America” campaign. Let’s Camp America is an initiative by the National Association of State Park Directors, to showcase the wide array of activities available to campers on an extended trip or close to home. LET’S CAMP AMERICA! is about building outdoor moments with family and friends. America’s State Parks are primed and ready to create America’s next camping generation. Free Fishing Weekend is June 4 and 5. A fishing license is not required to fish any public waters in the State of Kansas on these two days. The Kids Fishing Clinic will be held on Sunday June 12th, unless Covid concerns are still lingering. Kids 15 and under can learn the basics of fishing, from bait and tackle selection to casting, and fish identification to filleting your catch! The state park staff is bringing back “Whatever Floats Your Boat” for Father’s Day, June 19th. Build and race a cardboard boat at the Southwinds Beach area, you may win prizes for best time or best decorated boat!

Campground Christmas will be held August 13 with lots of campsites decorations and holiday fun. Enter your campsite or group of campsites, decorate with your favorite holiday lights, inflatables, decorations and props, or even dress yourselves up in costumes! You can win a great prize! Everyone is encouraged to cruise the park, taking in all of the holiday sights and sounds! Moving the Fireworks Display to Labor Day weekend in September was a popular decision in 2020 and 2021 and will continue for 2022. The new location at the Cedar Point Rock Jetty has been very popular as well. It is a better environment for detonating the fireworks, and visible from many areas of the park. But remember, this event can’t occur without donations for the purchase of fireworks! The Lovewell Lake Fireworks Committee appreciates any donations. Contact Lovewell Marina to make a donation or for information for the Fireworks Committee. Another Free Park Entrance Day is September 11th in conjunction with the 3D Archery Shoot. The final Free Park Entrance Day is part of the #OPTOUTSIDE campaign, encouraging folks to trade their traditional shopping plans for a day in the great outdoors! Be sure to visit the Lovewell Marina and Grill website for additional special events that they will be sponsoring!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Let’s Camp America</td>
<td>May 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Park Entrance</td>
<td>June 4/5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kids Fishing Clinic</td>
<td>June 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatever Floats Your Boat</td>
<td>June 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campground Christmas</td>
<td>August 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks Display **</td>
<td>September 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Dependent on Private Fundraising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D Archery Shoot</td>
<td>September 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Park Entrance #Optoutside</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Free Park Entrance</td>
<td>November 25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lovewell State Park is a popular destination for family reunions, alumni reunions, weddings and company picnics. Reserving a shelter is very economical, at only $33.75 for the day. Contact us to schedule your own special event today!

Lovewell Marina To Add New Events!!

The staff at Lovewell Marina is looking forward to the 2022 season, with some big plans! This summer, Lovewell Marina plans to hold several new special events. Be watching for announcements of a possible fishing tournament or two. We would like to add outdoor movies for the whole family! We will continue to host several weekends of live music featuring local talent, and may add a 5K walk/run event. We are excited to be working toward bringing back the famous Lovewell Mud Volleyball tournament! We are also working on new meal specials and some new menu items for you to enjoy! Keep updated by visiting our Facebook page (Lovewell Marina & Grill). We thank you for your continued patronage. Come and see us, we are looking forward to the 2022 season!
NEW RETAIL MERCHANDISE!!!

Stop by the office and check out our new merchandise available this season!! The gorgeous new Lovewell State Park Logo, with its nighttime campfire scene, has been screen-printed on youth and adult t-shirts! Youth short-sleeve shirts are $15, long-sleeve shirts are $19. Adult short-sleeve shirts start at $22, and long-sleeve shirts start at $25. Get yours before they sell out! Also available to purchase are four different scents of Ranger Ready Insect Repellent. This repellent lasts 12 hours, and comes in scent Zero, Amber, Lavendar, and Orange. Try some this season!

Kansas State Parks’ two online options for booking reservations: reserveamerica.com and kshuntfishcamp.com, have both added a new feature for finding available campsites and cabins to book for the weekend! Look for the ‘Camping This Weekend’ link, and you will find a list of all state parks that have availability for the upcoming weekend! Cabins can be reserved online up to 2 days prior to arrival. Campsites have a 1 day window, with cutoff at 12 noon the day before arrival.

Study Affirms Lovewell State Park as Contributor to Economic Growth

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and the Center for Economic Development and Business Research (CEDBR) at Wichita State University (WSU) recently polled 39,156 visitors who stayed at a Kansas state park between April 1, 2020 and September 11, 2020, including those who visited Lovewell State Park. The purpose? To better understand Kansas state parks’ contributions to regional and state economies. Here’s how Lovewell State Park contributes to Kansas economies:

- 302,240 – The total number of visitors Lovewell State Park welcomed in 2020
- 166 – Lovewell State Park’s total contribution to area jobs
- $4,309,427 – Lovewell State Park’s total contribution to the labor force
- $7,690,924 – The total financial benefit Lovewell State Park generated area-wide.

Qualitative information was also captured from survey respondents, such as their overall sense of satisfaction, value and perception of authenticity related to their stay. Across all Kansas state parks, 91.9 percent of visitors indicated they would recommend Kansas state parks to others, and 79.9 percent indicated they would revisit the same state park within a year. According to responses, the top three benefits survey respondents took away from their stay included spending quality time with family, decreased stress levels and increased quality of life. “Our state park staff remains committed to offering services and facilities where families can make lasting memories and add to their quality of life,” stated Lovewell State Park Manager Thane Loring. Survey respondents across all Kansas state parks had an average party size of four people, stayed 4.1 days and spent approximately $510 each trip. “No matter the income level of our visitors, Kansas state parks remain an affordable, ‘close to home’ getaway that everyone can enjoy,” added Kansas State Parks director Linda Lanterman.
REGULATION REMINDERS

Our state park regulations are not new, but it's always good to remind visitors as we look forward to the new park season. **VEHICLE AND CAMPING EXPIRATION TIMES**—All daily vehicle and camping permits expire at 2 pm following the last day purchased. If your vehicle is still in the state park or your camping unit is still in a primitive or utility campsite after 2 pm, another day **MUST** be purchased. **14-DAY STAY LIMIT**—A camping unit is limited to 14 consecutive days in a campsite, **utility and primitive**, with the exception of designated seasonal campsites. Following the 14th day of your stay, you must move your camping unit from the campground, and/or remove it from the state park, for at least 5 days. **GREY WATER DUMPING**—all wastewater from camping units (BLACK and GREY tanks) must be disposed of at dump stations only. **SPEED LIMIT**—there is a **25 mph speed limit** throughout the entire park. Speed should be reduced even further when entering and driving the individual campground roads. The **UNCONVENTIONAL VEHICLE PERMIT** is available for golf-cart and UTV type vehicles (no ATV's); use restrictions and regulations do apply. **PETS**—are allowed at Lovewell State Park, but must be kept on a 10 foot or shorter leash or chain at all times. Pets are **not allowed** inside any of the facilities, unless trained for assistance. This includes all shower and restroom facilities, swimming beach, park office, group shelters, and camping cabins (unless designated as pet-friendly). **WATER USAGE**—Lovewell State Park staff asks that you only use the water that is necessary to operate your camper, keep your water hose connections in good operating condition, and notify us of leaks at your water hookup, or the appearance of an underground water leak near your campsite. **With everyone abiding by state park regulations, we can continue to provide a safe and family-oriented park and enjoyable visits for all!!** Thank you!

**Commercial Activity in Kansas State Parks**

In a memorandum published in May 2021, KDWP explained regulations regarding commercial activity in Kansas State Parks. “Commercial activity, such as the renting of sites and reselling reservations, is occurring on State Park property that is against agency regulations. KDWP regulation K.A.R. 115-8-19 states that no person shall advertise, engage in, or solicit any business, or make a charge for any event or service except as authorized by the Department on Department lands and waters. Persons or businesses found to be engaging in this activity can be ticketed resulting in a court appearance and related fines/costs.”

**Follow Us On Facebook!! Lovewell State Park—Kansas Wildlife & Parks**

“Like” us and turn on the push notifications for our page. You will get the latest on upcoming events, past events, information on facilities and lake status, great park photos, anything you want to know! Now you have the **inside track** on the most up to date information, no need to worry about unsubstantiated rumors! Status updates can also be found at **ksoutdoors.com** (click on **State Parks** >> **Lovewell**, >> **Park News**) or simply call our office during business hours. We will be happy to give you the most accurate, up-to-date information for your trip planning!

**GIVE THE GIFT OF THE OUTDOORS!! Birthday, Anniversary, Christmas, or Thank You gifts for the outdoor person in your life just got a whole lot easier, with a gift card for any dollar amount over $25. The lucky recipient can use their gift card for vehicle and camping permits or merchandise at any Kansas State Park Office!! Treat your friends or family to a great adventure at a Kansas State Park this year!!**
CATFISH - Good. The catfish population will again be very good, with all sizes of channel cats and flatheads available to anglers. Lovewell ranks 1st for channel catfish density (16") and 5th for preferred size fish (24"). The fall 2021 catch rate was much improved for most sizes compared to 2020, with the biggest numbers of fish in the 16 to 20 inch range. The biggest fish weighed 9 lbs with good numbers greater than 5 lbs collected. More than 50% of fish were between 17 and 21 inches, 25% were 12 to 16 inches, 18% were between 22 and 29 inches. Flathead catfish sampled this year (83 fish collected) ranged from 6 to 47 inches. The biggest fish weighed 48 lbs. The number of fish between 6 and 35 inches was relatively even with higher catch rates of trophy flatheads. Collected. Channels and flatheads will be vulnerable in all areas of the reservoir as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During irrigation releases, catfish can be caught close to the inlet and outlet structures and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. Over 100 blue catfish were collected in 2021, using summer low frequency electrofishing in June and July. There are now 900 tagged blue cats in the reservoir as we continue to study their movements and growth rates. Fish collected this year ranged from 21-39 inches and weighed up to 29 lbs. Natural reproduction of blue catfish has not been documented and will be needed to sustain this population without stocking. For that reason, there is still a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell.

CRAPPIE - Good. The crappie population remains very strong in Lovewell and catch rates dramatically improved from the 2020 sample. Consistent, steady recruitment since 2014 has allowed this crappie population to become one of the best in the state. The new regulations have worked well by protecting the smaller, young fish and allowing plenty of these fast growing fish to reach legal size. Lovewell ranks first in terms of white crappie density (8") and preferred size fish (10"), and 4th for lunker rating (12"), so anglers should be very pleased with the 2022 crappie season. Black crappie ranked 4th in density rating and 8th for preferred rating. The density rating improved from a combined 34.0 in 2021 to 126.4 in 2022. Over 80% of adult crappie were between 6 and 9 inches, 12% were 10 to 12 inches. An average of 26 age-0 fish were collected per trap indicating a fair year class but these fish grew well and should exhibit high survival. The biggest white crappie weighed 2.5 lbs and the biggest black crappie weighed 1.0 lb. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition. Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek, Inner Mill Creek, Cabin Cove, and the marina during late April and May when the fish are spawning. Don’t forget the daily creel limit is 20 crappie per day and the minimum length limit is 10 inches.

WALLEYE - Fair. Lovewell Reservoir continues to support a low density walleye population but provides quality sizes for anglers. Poor recruitment 2013 to 2018, combined with a fish kill in 2018 that resulted in extensive mortality, has continued to keep total numbers lower than desired. The density rating remained low at 1.1 while the preferred rating improved slightly to 0.5, but the lunker rating remained at 0 for the 4th consecutive year. The walleye density ranks 10th among the state’s reservoirs while the preferred rating will rank 4th. The trend has been lower catch rates since 2012, but the 2019 year class should provide legal fish over the next couple of years. Two million fry and 73,000 fingerlings were stocked in 2021 to help improve recruitment. A combination of fry, fingerlings, and intermediates have been requested for 2022 but fry and possibly intermediates are the most likely sizes to be stocked. Approximately 70% of the fish in the sample were greater than 18 inches. Overall, 10% were 8 to 9 inches, 20% were 16 to 17 inches, 30% were 18 to 20 inches, and 40% were 21 to 23 inches. Biggest fish weighed 4.4 lbs. Fish condition was excellent again this year. Fishing continues to be good from late April through mid-June with anglers drifting jig/nighcrawler combos, especially along 2-mile road. Trolling a variety of crankbaits in late July and early August around the dam and Walleye Point has yielded good catches of big walleye. Anglers are encouraged to carefully measure any questionable fish and handle sublegal fish with care. 18 inch minimum length limit in effect.

WHITE BASS – Fair. Following a decline in 2020, the population exhibited modest improvement in the 2021 sample. Although traditionally very good to very good with high harvest numbers, the fishing forecast ratings have reached all-time lows the past two years. The density rating (9") reached a low of 2.1 in 2014 and gradually improved to 4.9 in 2018 but dropped to 1.1 in 2020. A slight improvement ranks Lovewell 20th this year. The preferred rating (12") improved and ranks 20th among the state’s reservoirs. The lunker rating improved slightly from 0.4 to 0.5 as the catch rate of larger fish was the highest since 2013. Fish over 15 inches were collected for just the second time since 2014, with the biggest fish measuring 16 inches and weighing 1.9 lbs. Overall, 22% of the sample was 9 inches, 48% were 11 to 14 inches, and 50% were 15 to 16 inches. The best time to fish for Lovewell whites is during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can be productive. Night fishing using floating lights can be fair to good, and drifting or slabling over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

WIPERS – Fair/Good. The catch rate of wipers more than doubled in the latest sample and the stock catch rate is the highest seen in over a decade. A few were 2020-stocked fish but most included age-2 to age-5 fish, 18 to 23 inches. The density rating increased from 1.7 in 2020 to 3.9 in 2021. In addition, the preferred rating quadrupled from 0.4 to 1.6 which is easily the highest since 2008. Approximately 21% of the catch was between 11 and 14 inches, 39% were 15 to 19 inches, and 40% were 20 to 23 inches. Lovewell ranks 8th in wiper density, 5th for preferred rating (20") but no lunker size fish as the biggest fish weighed 5.9 lbs. Wiper fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2020 and produced a fair year class. Fry and fingerlings were requested in 2021 but only 9,000 fingerlings stocked. Fry and fingerlings have again been requested in 2022. Fishing for wipers is similar to white bass, but anglers also report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam. Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those young wipers look very similar to white bass. The daily creel limit on wipers is 2 fish!
AmeriCorps Service Opportunity!

AmeriCorps is a national service program which allows team members to gain service experience and knowledge through hands-on participation in a variety of projects. The grant is designed for long-term benefit to natural resources, recreational opportunities, and public awareness of the outdoors. Typical projects performed by AmeriCorps members are environmental and outdoor recreation development, renovation of public recreation areas, presentation of environmental and outdoor related programs, and disaster response, as needed. Team Members must be at least 17 years old, have a high school diploma/GED, or agree to obtain one; a citizen of the US or permanent legal resident; pass a background check; and possess a strong desire for community service. Members who complete a 300 hour term are eligible for a $1252 education award, in addition to the $305 bi-weekly living allowance. Contact the State Park Office for more information!

Join Our AmeriCorps Team Today!

Better Access for Inlet Canal Fishing

Rob Unruh, Public Lands Manager

One of the most popular area “fishing holes” is the Inlet Canal at the northeast corner of Lovewell Reservoir. The Inlet Canal is the location where the Republican River water enters the reservoir after being diverted at the dam at Guide Rock, Nebraska. Running water has a magical, attractive effect on fish and anglers are drawn there too. Water is brought into the reservoir to refill it during and after the summer irrigation season. It was an amazing engineering project designed primarily to supply irrigation water for agriculture but the side benefit of recreation is readily witnessed any summer day as literally hundreds of anglers use the Inlet area annually. To get to where the fish are, one has to navigate a set of concrete stairs or walk down a rocky, inclined path. To some, this is a barrier and prevents them from getting to the action. A project to improve access and take away some barriers has been proposed. Funding to construct a trail and fishing pier at the north side of the Inlet has been secured from Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, and a proposal has been requested to receive additional funding from the Bureau of Reclamation. The project would construct a driving, access trail from the existing access road to the bottom elevation next to the canal. This will get anglers with disability permits right down to a parking spot closer to the water. Hardened surfacing leading to a pier will provide a fishing place for those who were hindered by stairs or uneven ground. An ADA placard will be required to park at the bottom, but anyone will be able to access the lower Inlet Canal by walking the trail. While still in the design stages, hopes are that some construction can begin in 2022.

Visit the Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Area Information Pages
Visit www.ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Northwest/Jamestown
OR www.ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Wildlife-Areas/Northwest/Lovewell
for updates on area management, construction progress, upcoming events, and waterfowl migrations.
Partnerships Make Great Habitat

The Jamestown and Lovewell Wildlife Areas are fortunate to have one of the 14 Pheasants Forever Habitat Specialists on our Public Land Areas. Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) has been working with Pheasants Forever (PF) on this program for almost a decade. PF works with KDWP in hiring field staff to assist with the operation and special habitat projects on several of our State Managed Wildlife Areas. Through a contractual agreement, the Habitat Specialist is an employee of PF, however KDWP supervises these employees on habitat work while paying PF for a portion of the Habitat Specialists salary. This allows more boots on the ground to complete important habitat work that is needed on our wildlife areas. It also, as most of these hires are right out of college, provides individuals terrific opportunities to gain knowledge and experience that will carry them on in their career.

Going on our third year with this program, we have been able to complete some great habitat projects at Jamestown and Lovewell, such as transplanting live plum and chokecherry plants from an established thicket to propagate new thickets to provide more suitable woody cover for Bobwhite Quail and Rabbits. The extra personnel has allowed us to plan and complete several growing season burns, setting back encroachment from undesirable woody plants such as Cedar trees, set back cool season monocultures of grass, like Smooth Brome and promote the native warm season grasses and forbs that are very important habitat.

As mentioned above, this program provides a great steppingstone for those pursuing a career in Wildlife Management. Our first Habitat Specialist, Joe Daniels (who introduced himself on last years newsletter) has moved on to pursue wetland and hardwood management in Southeast Kansas. Joe was able to utilize his experiences at Jamestown and Lovewell to interview and successfully land the position of Assistant Public Land Manager with KDWP at Marais Des Cygnes Wildlife Area near Pleasanton, KS. We are happy to have him as a Public Land Manager for the agency and we know he will do great things for the natural resources of Kansas.

With Joe leaving, PF and KDWP went back to work to find a new Habitat Specialist for the Area. We held interviews and hired a young man who will be graduating from K-State in May with a degree in Wildlife Biology. Aden Shorney is originally from Lincoln, NE but raised in Basehor, KS, Aden has ties to Republic County as his family still owns and operates land northeast of Belleville. He obtained his Associates Degree and Certificate in the Wind Energy Program at Cloud County Community College. While in school, Aden pursued his love of the outdoors through fishing, hunting waterfowl and turkeys. After graduating from Cloud, he decided his passion was for the outdoors and wanted a career in managing habitat for wildlife. His determination and drive have led him to complete his bachelor’s degree in Wildlife Management; in May and will be stationed out of Jamestown soon after, continuing to pursue his dream of being a steward of the land and natural resources that he and so many others in Kansas love to pursue. Welcome Aden!
Nutter Marsh at Talmo Wildlife Area

Talmo Wildlife Area is located 8 miles north and 5 miles east of Concordia in north-central Kansas. This historic wetland encompasses a total of 1,400 acres and is well known for its salty soils and saline water that has also been referred to as “Seapo Marsh” (a Native American word meaning ‘great salt basin’). The Talmo Wildlife Area encompasses 942 acres on the west half of this great basin. While the eastern half of this large wetland complex is still relatively pristine, the west half was modified in the late 1960’s to early 1970’s in attempt to farm the salty soil. Since then, those modifications have been turned into managed moist soil marshes while the old and marginal crop ground has been converted to native warm season grasses. The newest modification, called Nutter Marsh, will be a new 100 acre wetland in the central portion of the complex, and is named for the family that last farmed the area. While still in the planning stages, funding has been secured and the engineering concept for Nutter Marsh has progressed enough that water control structures have been purchased and are ready to be installed in the 4,000 ft low earthen berm, once the environmental permits are secured. As with any construction project, the weather will play a factor with piling and compacting earth and it is hoped work can begin yet this year. The marsh will be filled from rainfall or snowmelt runoff, or as has been historically the case with this location: high flood flows from Coal or East Creek. Before Kansas was settled by Europeans, salt marshes and salt springs were used by wildlife, Native Americans, early travelers and the U.S. military. Wild animals of the plains, such as bison, deer, antelope, and elk, obtained salt from places known as licks or salt flats, where saline ground water reaches the surface and then evaporates during dry times leaving salt on top of the ground. Native Americans, explorers, and early ranchers obtained salt by evaporating water collected from salt springs which is what Seapo was famous for. During the wetter seasons of the year, waterfowl and shorebirds in large numbers used these areas for migration stopovers. The creation of Nutter Marsh will bring back a more stable, seasonal wetland in this complex.

Contact Information:
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Vacant  Park Ranger
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Carli McFarland  Game Warden
Brandon Tritsch  Wildlife Biologist
Vacant  Fisheries Biologist