

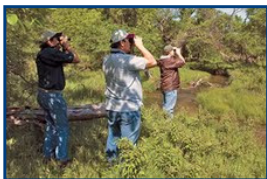


Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism



Quarterly Report
January 1 - March 31, 2013

Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife Watching Big Business in Kansas



The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has released the Kansas results of the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

The survey found that 1.2 million residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older fished, hunted, or watched wildlife in Kansas, spending a total of **\$906 million** on trip-related and equipment expenses. The results included:

- 400,000 anglers spent an average of \$521 each and a total of **\$210,303,000** for trip-related and equipment expenses.
- 283,000 hunters spent an average of \$1,409 each and a total of **\$401,452,000** for trip-related and equipment expenses.
- 792,000 persons participated in wildlife-watching activities, spending an average of \$262 each and a total of **\$208,415,000** for trip-related and equipment expenses.



Travel and Tourism Support Economy

Travel and tourism in Kansas are powerhouse industries, according to a 2011 study on the benefits of travel and tourism for Kansas conducted by IHS Consulting. In 2011, Kansas' 32 million travelers and tourists generated expenditures of \$8 billion. In addition:

- The average tourist spent \$236.
- In terms of jobs, tourism was the third largest industry in the state, directly and indirectly employing 148,228 Kansans.
- Only 217 tourists are required to create a new job in Kansas.
- Tourism was responsible for 4.4 percent of the total Kansas Gross

State Product, and tourism activity provided 14.4% of all state and local tax receipts.

- Tourism provided \$917 in tax relief to each Kansas household.
- Kansas state and local tax receipts equaled \$32 per tourist.

Spreading the Word

Each year, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP) participates in outdoor, travel and lifestyle shows around the state and the country.

During the first quarter, staff members attended 17 events including travel shows in McAllen, Tex. and Chicago, Ill. and outdoor/sporting shows in Denver, Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Pittsburg, Minneapolis, Nashville, Omaha and Fort Riley. More than 200,000 visitors attended the shows.

Some of the activities staff conducts are distributing literature, answering questions, displaying artifacts and demonstrating outdoor skills.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIONS

2012 Laws Effective January 1, 2013

Liquor in State Parks

Liquor consumption is allowed on lands owned or managed by KDWP, allowing state parks to be competitive with co-located federal parks. Alcohol possession is still controlled on specific public lands through regulation.

Kansas State Park Passport

Resident state park patrons can buy an annual Kansas State Park Passport (annual park vehicle permit) for \$15 through their county treasurer when they register their vehicle. It expires when their registration expires a year later.

Senior Lifetime Licenses

The hunting and fishing license exemption for residents older than 64 is no longer available. Seniors can now buy a lifetime combination hunting/fishing license for \$40 or a senior annual fishing or annual hunting license for \$9 - half-price of the regular annual licenses. The exemption now applies for persons 75 and older.

Commission Active in First Quarter

The Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission adopted six regulations at its March meeting in Topeka. The changes simplify hunting regulations, allow more flexibility in legal equipment, and offer more opportunities for people interested in outdoor recreation.

White-tailed Deer Permits

Established a fee for a nonresident combination either-sex/antlerless only white-tailed permit, as directed by the 2012 legislature. The new permit fee was set at \$315 and will provide nonresidents applicants successful in the drawing with a permit that includes two carcass tags, one valid for an antlered white-tailed deer or an antlerless deer

2013 Legislative Initiatives

Vessel Taxation

This bill was a result of the ballot issue passed in November 2012 allowing the state constitution to be amended to allow a change to the way watercraft are taxed. The bill reduces the percentage of value at which watercraft are assessed to 11.5 percent in 2014 and 5 percent in 2015 and thereafter. It was signed by the governor on April 16.

Boating Under the Influence Time Period

Current law makes it unlawful to operate a vessel with a blood or breath alcohol concentration of .08 at the time of or within two hours of operating a vessel. This bill would increase the time period from two hours to three hours after operation of a vessel, making it consistent with state DUI laws for motor vehicles. This bill began as SB 49 and was later incorporated into conference committee report for HB 2218.

Boater Education Requirements (SB 50)

This bill would require anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 to complete an approved boater education course before operating a vessel without supervision. Currently, any person born after January 1, 1989, age 12-21, must have boater education to operate a vessel without supervision. The bill was referred to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and had a hearing on Jan. 24.

Wounded Warrior Deer Permits (HB 2030)

The bill allows the department to issue 10 "Wounded Warrior Deer Permits" to disabled veterans who were injured in combat and have a service-connected disability of not less than 30 percent. It was signed by the governor on April 2.



and one for a white-tailed antlerless deer. The combination permit will be the only choice for nonresidents.

Hunting Equipment

Approved simplified equipment regulations for big game and turkey. Big game hunters can now select any caliber centerfire rifle or handgun, any gauge shotgun with slugs, and any muzzleloader rifle and pistol .40 caliber or larger.

Crossbows are now legal equipment during archery seasons for anyone with a valid archery permit. Turkey hunters are no longer restricted to 20-gauge shotguns or larger. All gauges will be allowed, using shot size No. 2 through No. 9. Equipment regulations for turkey

hunting allowing all shotgun gauges and crossbows during the archery season took effect April 19, 2013.

Electronic Devices on Bows

Amended restrictions on electronic devices attached to bows to allow cameras, rangefinders, and radio frequency devices attached to arrows designed to make retrieval of hit deer more efficient.

2013 Deer Season

The 2013 deer season was approved, and it includes a pre-rut white-tailed antlerless-only season mandated by the 2012 legislature (October 12-13, 2013).

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Fisheries News

■ During March, fisheries staff collected **5 million** sauger eggs at Lake Perry, and **73 million** walleye eggs at Hillsdale and Cedar Bluff reservoirs. Milford was the site of saugeye production.



■ The American Fisheries Society (AFS) presented KDWPT with the 2012 Sport Fish Restoration Outstanding Project award for the agency's Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) program in the category of Sport Fishery Development and Management.

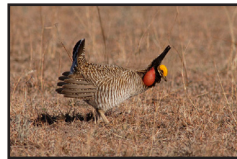
Hillsdale Shooting Range

KDWPT received approval from the USFWS to construct Phase 2 of the new shooting range at Hillsdale State Park. The bid was awarded to Penwell Equipment of Cassoday, Kan.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Plan

In December 2012, USFWS announced a proposal to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

KDWPT has been working with the Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group to produce a draft Range-wide Conservation Plan for the Lesser Prairie Chicken that addresses the decline of the population in Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas and



Colorado. The plan could influence the USFWS decision if it can show that lesser prairie chicken

populations can be managed at sustainable levels. A final decision will be made next fall.

Three public meetings were held in March 2013 to discuss the draft plan – March 5 in WaKeeney, March 6 in Lakin, and March 7 in Greensburg. More information is at <http://www.wafwa.org/>.

Cheyenne Bottoms Canal Improvements Begin

The Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area near Great Bend is a popular attraction for wildlife viewing and waterfowl hunting. Its pools were developed in the 1950's, and a system of diversion canals was constructed to help supplement natural water flows during long dry periods. Winding over 20 miles from the Arkansas River to the wildlife area, the system is a combination of man-made earth bank canals and natural waterways.

Originally, the system was capable of moving 80 cubic feet per second up to an allowed volume of 18,185 acre-feet per year. However, the flow capacity has declined through five miles of the system. The



clay soil liner had eroded away over the last 60 years, and as much as 43 percent of the water was seeping out. The flow was also being slowed by bank erosion, debris and dead timber. Combined, these factors reduced the efficiency to less than 45 percent of original design capacity.

In 2011, KDWPT authorized a project to replace five miles of canal with 60-inch diameter water-tight concrete pipe. The project is located four miles west of Great Bend, and stretches from just north of US-56 to the north fork of Dry Walnut Creek.

The \$5,479,000 construction began January 14, 2013, and is expected to be completed in July 2013, weather permitting.

Law Enforcement

■ In a joint law enforcement effort, officers from Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and USFWS netted a Missouri man for illegally killing three deer in Neosho County and transporting them across state lines to Missouri. More than \$5000 in fines was levied.



■ Game wardens are investigating the illegal taking of deer, elk and fish in cooperation with the Montana Fish and Game Department. At this time, there appears to be three Lacey Act violations and the case has evolved to include Montana, Kansas and Texas where the suspects live. The case is still under review by the U.S. Attorney's Office and awaiting filing of charges.

■ In cooperation with USFWS Agent Mike Damico in Nebraska, game wardens recently completed a two and one-half year investigation involving six Lacey Act violations and "felon in possession of firearms." Six deer were seized in Harper, Kansas in 2011 when the case began. The main suspect is serving jail time for felon in possession and other charges. A second suspect claims she was trying to establish her hunting skills to obtain a television contract. USFWS in Nebraska is handling charges on the two suspects.

SALES AND VISITOR INFORMATION

1st Qtr. Licenses & Permits

Fish and Wildlife License or Permit Type	# Sold	Revenue
Resident Fish (\$18)	30,824	\$554,832
Nonresident Fish (\$40)	2,448	97,920
Resident Combination Hunt/Fish (\$36)	18,872	679,392
Nonresident Combination Hunt/Fish (\$110)	460	50,600
5-Day Trip Fish (\$20)	141	2,820
24-Hour Fish (\$3)	3,327	9,981
3-Pole Permit (\$4)	7,866	31,464
Trout Permit (\$10)	7,658	76,580
Lifetime Fish (\$440)	28	12,320
Lifetime Combination Hunt/Fish (\$880)	79	69,520
Lifetime Hunt (\$440)	154	67,760
Lifetime Furharvester (\$440)	8	3,520
Lifetime Payments (variable)	265	26,979
Resident Hunt (\$18)	15,434	277,812
Nonresident Hunt (\$70)	7,427	519,890
Nonresident Jr Hunt (\$35)	344	12,040
Controlled Shoot Area (\$15)	4,019	60,285
48-Hour Waterfowl (\$25)	801	20,025
Resident Combination Hunt/Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$70)	144	10,080
Resident Fish Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	108	4,320
Resident Hunt Multi-year 16-20 (\$40)	59	2,360
Resident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	4,072	58,118
Nonresident Deer Permits/Tags (variable)	556	29,096
Resident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	18,837	199,177
Nonresident Turkey Permits/Tags (variable)	3,564	134,130
Resident Elk Permits (variable)	4	826
Antelope Permits (variable)		
Resident Furharvester (\$18)	3720	66,960
Nonresident Furharvester (\$250)	30	7,500
Junior Furharvester (\$10)	114	1,140
Nonresident Bobcat License (\$100)	19	1900
Other Hunt/Fish/Big Game Permits (variable)	7,306	20,771
Duplicate Hunt/Fish/Big Game	544	5,440
Commercial Licenses/Permits	496	10,807
Senior Hunt/Fish Licenses (variable)	2,330	9,077
Senior Hunt/Fish Lifetime Pass (\$40)	4,386	175,440
TOTAL	146,444	\$3,310,882

 **New in 2013**

Other 1st Qtr. Sales

State Park Permits	# Sold	Revenue
Annual Vehicle (variable)	15,954	\$292,219
Annual Camp (variable)	1,984	297,600
Duplicate Vehicle (variable)	15	150
Daily Vehicle (variable)	4,983	23,988
Daily Camp (variable)	344	7,559
Camp w/utility w/prime (variable)		208,201
14-Day Camp (variable)	388	32,980
Utilities (variable)	236	43,824
Prime Sites (\$2)	34	68
Group Camping (variable)		1,128
Annual Trail Permits (\$10)	171	1,710
Daily Trail Permits (\$2)	21	75
Reservations (\$11)	627	6,897
Country Stampede and Other Festivals (variable)	6	50,497
Yellow/Summons Penalties	34	503
Concession Marina Income PFF	50	74,196
Shelter Revenue (variable)		4,906
Kansas State Park Passport	8675	130,125
Land Leases for Private Cabins on KDWPPT Property	131	37,596
TOTAL STATE PARK PERMITS	33,653	\$1,214,220
Three-Year Boat Registrations	# Sold	Revenue
Boats (\$30)	6,216	\$186,480
Boat Dealers (variable)	3	15
Boat Duplicates (\$10)	117	1,170
TOTAL BOAT REGISTRATIONS	6,336	\$187,665
Cabin Revenue	# Sold	Gross Revenue
Park Cabins		\$296,060.00
Public Land Cabins		16,870
TOTAL CABIN REVENUE*		\$312,930
TOTAL REVENUE		\$5,025,697
* Gross cabin revenue before payment to Wildscape		

1st Qtr. Park Visits

Cedar Bluff	4,650
Cheney	44,270
Clinton	67,188
Crawford*	14,540
Cross Timbers**	39,654
Eisenhower	12,753
El Dorado	78,128
Elk City	14,134
Fall River**	19,429
Glen Elder	13,936
Hillsdale	53,896
Kanopolis	16,133
Kaw River	<i>No counts taken at this park</i>
Lovewell	13,595
Meade	6,171
Milford	50,338
Perry	14,409
Pomona	21,604
Prairie Dog	17,067
Prairie Spirit Rail Trail	9,250
Sand Hills	3,413
Scott	20,017
Tuttle Creek	86,708
Webster	15,312
Wilson	12,219
TOTAL	648,814
* Estimates for January and February only; counters malfunctioning	
** Incomplete estimate; March figures not available at press time	

