

Approved 3-5-86  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES

The meeting was called to order by Senator Merrill Werts at  
Chairperson

8:00 a.m./~~p.m.~~ on February 25, 1986 in room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Thiessen - Excused

Committee staff present:  
Ramon Powers - Research  
Don Hayward - Revisor  
Nancy Jones - Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Ed Martinko - Kansas Biological Survey  
Steve Chaplin - The Nature Conservancy  
John Strickler - State Extension Forestry  
William Hambleton - Kansas Geological Survey

A motion was made by Senator Yost to approve minutes of the February 18 & 19, 1986 meetings, seconded by Senator Feleciano. Motion carried.

HCR 5030 - Relating to the State Biological Survey

Ed Martinko presented testimony as a proponent of HCR 5030 stating the Kansas Biological Survey was established in 1959 for the collection of information, preservation and study of locations and supply of native animals and plants. Previous legislation established a registry of natural scientific areas in Kansas and an inventory of significant geological and archeological sites as well as habitats of endangered species. This resolution will establish the Natural Heritage Inventory to be directed by the Kansas Biological Survey in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy. The database collected would identify the best remaining natural communities in Kansas for research and preservation. Implementation cost of the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory is estimated at \$266,000 with funding pledged from private, state and federal sources. There is a need for \$35,000 per year for two years from the state General Fund. Mr. Martinko stated the inventory will be an excellent source of information for all environmentally related agencies in Kansas. (Attachment A).

Steve Chaplin testified The Nature Conservancy, a private non profit conservation organization, has offered to assist the Kansas Biological Survey in the initiation of this inventory. The Nature Conservancy will initiate a private fund raising campaign to raise one-fourth of the proposed costs. He further stated the inventory will serve as a centralized clearinghouse of information on rare communities and species for reference by many agencies and the information generated can be a decision making tool. Three main objectives of the inventory as seen by The Conservancy are environmental planning, resource management and land protection. The programs of TNC are highly popular with the public and a valuable resource for environmentally related agencies in the 38 states where the Inventory is established. (Attachment B).

John Strickler testified the establishment of a National Heritage Inventory is a positive step for preservation of natural and scientific preserves. Extension Forestry works primarily promoting sound forest management and the identification of rare and critical woodlands through the Inventory will aid their efforts in recommendations to woodland owners for conservation and preservation purposes. He further stated the Extension Service feels the proposed Inventory will be a valuable tool for unified conservation efforts. (Attachment C).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES  
room 123-S, Statehouse, at 8:00 a.m./~~a~~m. on February 25, 1986

Mr. Strickler also presented written testimony in support of HCR 5030 by the Kansas Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Council. (Attachment D).

William Hambleton testified as favoring adoption of the resolution as utilization of the Inventory will enhance efforts to preserve and protect critical and unique habitats. Mr. Hambleton stated the National Heritage Inventory will give Kansas an opportunity to take a significant step toward establishing a Kansas Data Base for the use and benefit of all agencies related to environmental planning and development. Mr. Hambleton feels this is an opportunity not to be missed. (Attachment E).

Senator Kerr suggested the minutes should reflect that the appearance by Mr. Hambleton was the persuading factor in keeping the resolution viable for favorable adoption.

Mr. Chaplin explained how the Inventory will be established within the Biological Survey, which will compile information from all over the state. This agency will initiate a registry program with landowners and on a handshake agreement, the agency will tell landowners what they have in return for a promise from the landowner to inform the agency of any threatening developments to the selected site for conservation. This has been a very effective strategy for preservation of selected areas and endangered species, without any legal commitments. An added benefit is the voluntary selling of targeted sites to the Conservancy, paid for with funds raised through private funding. The State funding of \$35,000 for the Inventory is not in the Biological Survey budget and will be needed as a line item fund in the University of Kansas appropriation after the resolution is adopted. Mr. Martinko stated the requested funding is adequate for the estimated costs and the salary for a zoologist is included in the budget. Procedures for locating and enrolling areas to be preserved were explained.

It was stressed by the Conferees that strong support has been shown by many groups from all over the state for establishing this inventory. It was further noted that The Nature Conservancy quietly and effectively raises its own funds, spends it wisely and accomplishes the desired ends.

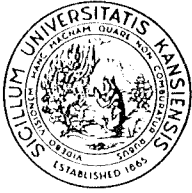
A motion was made by Senator Kerr to recommend favorably the adoption of HCR 5030, seconded by Senator Daniels. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be February 26, 1986.

# Quest List

2-25-86

- Stephen Chaplin - The Nature Conservancy  
Ray Sublett - " "  
John Strickler - State & Extension Forestry, KSU  
Ed Martin - Kansas Biological Survey  
William Hambleton - Kansas Biological Survey



# KANSAS BIOLOGICAL SURVEY

The University of Kansas

Raymond Nichols Hall  
2291 Irving Hill Drive—Campus West  
Lawrence, Kansas 66045-2969  
(913) 864-4777

## TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF HCR 5030 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE February 25, 1986

Chairman Werts, Members of the Committee:

In 1959 the Kansas Legislature established the Kansas Biological Survey at the University of Kansas to "determine the character, location, and supply of animals and plants, especially native animals and plants of economic and education importance and to publish reports on its findings" (K.S.A. 76-338). Since then the Survey has continued to collect, preserve and study thousands of specimens of plants and animals from every county in Kansas. These research collections provide the foundation for many basic research activities as well as the applied research programs of the Survey including such contemporary issues as biological water quality, fresh water ecology, the effects of toxic substances on aquatic organisms and the role of plant biology in medicinal and weed research.

Last year the Kansas Biological Survey assumed responsibility for the administration of the Natural and Scientific Areas Preservation Act (K.S.A. 74-6601-74-6613) and the creation of the Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board in accordance with HB 2610. The purpose of the act is to "secure for the people of Kansas the benefits of an enduring resource of natural and scientific areas by establishing a system of natural and scientific preserves..." The act also calls for the establishment of a registry of natural and scientific areas and an inventory of natural ecosystems including habitats of rare and endangered species and significant geological and archeological sites.

With these goals in mind the Survey and the Advisory Board have begun the process of enrollment of high priority areas into the natural and scientific areas system on the basis of selected pieces of existing information. However, an efficient and effective system of natural and scientific areas must be based upon an inventory that describes what natural elements (e.g. individual plants, animals and their community and ecosystem complexes) still exist in Kansas and on a comparative basis, which are imperiled and/or threatened with possible extinction. On the basis of these comparisons, preservation priorities can be established in an objective framework for the evaluation of potential natural and scientific areas in accordance with the inventory directives of the preservation act.

HCR 5030, passed by the House, directs the Kansas Biological Survey to establish a Natural Heritage Inventory for Kansas in cooperation with the Nature Conservancy, a non-profit national conservation organization committed to the preservation of natural diversity. The Nature Conservancy

2-25-86  
S. ENR

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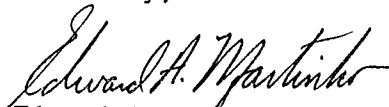
has established Natural Heritage Inventories in 38 states and has offered the Kansas Natural and Scientific Areas Program financial and technical assistance in the establishment of a Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory. The inventory, simply stated, would consist of the formation of a comprehensive computer-assisted ecological inventory of Kansas' biological diversity. The resulting database would identify the best remaining natural communities in Kansas through data compilation on rare and endangered species, critical habitats and exemplary ecosystems.

The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory proposal outlines an initial two-year effort to implement the inventory in Kansas estimated to cost of approximately \$266,000. The Nature Conservancy has outlined a funding package that utilizes various private, state and federal sources. The Conservancy has committed some of the private funds and has pledged to develop the additional funds contingent on an allocation from Kansas general funds of \$35,000 a year for each of the two years. At the end of this period the State will evaluate the program and its output products for continuation and maintenance.

The Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board has reviewed and endorsed the proposal and recommends that the State of Kansas provide an allocation of \$35,000 a year for two years to establish the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory in the Kansas Biological Survey. The Board feels that such an inventory is central to the efficient operation of the Advisory Board in keeping with its legislative mandate. The inventory will also facilitate environmental planning and economic development by providing current, rapidly accessible information to a variety of other state agencies including the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Park and Resource Authority, the Fish and Game Commission, State and Extension Forestry and the Water Office. The database will also be useful, for example, in the implementation of the Environmental coordination, Wetland Protection and Riparian Protection subsections of the Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Section of the Kansas Water Plan.

The Kansas Biological Survey and the Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board enthusiastically endorse the establishment of the Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory as a fundamental step in the creation of an effective system of natural and scientific areas in Kansas.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Martinko  
State Biologist  
Director, Kansas Biological Survey  
Chairman, Natural and Scientific  
Areas Advisory Board

EAM/jkm

# The Nature Conservancy

Midwest Regional Office

1313 Fifth Street S.E., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414

(612) 379-2207

Testimony on Behalf of HCR 5030  
Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
February 25, 1986

Chairman Werts and Members of the Committee:

Natural Heritage Inventories gather and maintain information on the precise location and current status of the best examples of natural communities and remnant populations of rare and endangered species. House Concurrent Resolution HCR 5030 would call for the establishment of a Natural Heritage Inventory in Kansas. The Nature Conservancy, a private nonprofit conservation organization, has offered to assist the Kansas Biological Survey in the joint initiation of a Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory through a public/private cooperative effort. The Nature Conservancy has agreed to initiate a private fund-raising campaign to raise nearly one quarter of the total proposed program costs.

The Natural Heritage Inventory methodology has been developed by The Nature Conservancy during the last 12 years. There are now inventories in 38 states across the country. The 38 existing heritage programs were started under a contract between an appropriate arm of state government and The Nature Conservancy. Such a relationship has been proposed in Kansas as well. The Nature Conservancy and the Kansas Biological Survey will jointly train and supervise program staff for the first two years. At the end of two years, the program will be reviewed for permanent status within the Kansas Biological Survey. More than half of the inventories started as a joint state/TNC effort have been incorporated into state government.

The Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory will serve as a centralized repository and clearinghouse of information on rare communities and species. The use of the information has two main applications. First, the information facilitates the continuing inventory by identifying gaps of information and by setting priorities for the acquisition of new information that is needed most. Data gathering and processing is a continuous and cyclical process. As the program matures, the available knowledge of the status and location of Kansas' biological diversity continually improves. Secondly, the information generated can be used as a decision-making tool. Information is produced in a comprehensible form for environmental planners, resource managers, and agencies and groups involved in natural area protection.



1. Environmental Planning. Many important biological resources have been inadvertently destroyed when relevant information was not available early in the planning process. Energy companies, public utilities and land developers have been among the strongest supporters of heritage inventories in other states. In most cases, developers take environmental issues seriously and work cooperatively to protect natural resources when credible and timely information is available. Most conflicts arise when environmental issues surface after substantial investment in planning and development have already been made. Heritage inventory data reduces the chance of mistakes being made, thus allowing for efficient and uninterrupted development without damaging important natural resources.
2. Resource Management. Stewardship of Kansas' natural areas requires knowledge about the sensitive or exemplary biological features within them. Information kept on parks, wildlife areas and natural areas may be used to improve existing management policy and practices.
3. Land Protection. The inventory will identify significant natural areas in Kansas, define their importance from a national and state perspective, and set priorities for protection. The Kansas Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board and others, including The Nature Conservancy, can cooperatively use the information to build a viable set of natural areas in Kansas. The Heritage Inventory Staff will also serve as the staff for the Kansas Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board. The Nature Conservancy's mission is the protection of biological diversity. This goal is accomplished through the private acquisition of natural areas from voluntary sellers, the purchase of conservation easements, and voluntary landowner contact programs. Konza Prairie is an example of the type of project The Nature Conservancy undertakes. The Nature Conservancy bought and now owns most of Konza Prairie in order to protect an excellent example of tallgrass prairie. The Konza is leased to Kansas State University for use as a Research Natural Area. The Nature Conservancy uses Natural Heritage Inventory information to set its agenda and priorities for action. Although The Nature Conservancy is just another user of the Heritage database after the first two years, the information is very important to TNC because it ensures that our conservation activity is directed towards the most important natural sites in Kansas. In the past, The Nature Conservancy's activity in Kansas has been restricted to a few large projects. However, the Midwest Regional Office of The Nature Conservancy currently has plans to greatly intensify efforts in Kansas, including the the possibility of establishing an in-state office.

Natural heritage programs have proven to be an important part of state government in other states. The programs are generally highly popular with the public, and an invaluable resource for state agencies. The Nature Conservancy looks forward to working with the state of Kansas in developing a Kansas Natural Heritage Inventory.



Stephen J. Chaplin  
Director, Preserve Selection  
and Design  
Midwest Region  
The Nature Conservancy



## Cooperative Extension Service

State and Extension Forestry  
2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
913-532-5752

February 25, 1986

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Senator Merrill Werts, Chairperson

FROM: John K. Strickler, Associate State Extension Forester

RE: HCR No. 5030 (Establishment of Natural Heritage Inventory)

As the state forestry agency and an agency represented on the Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board, State and Extension Forestry wishes to support House Concurrent Resolution No. 5030. A Natural Heritage Inventory would be a positive step toward establishment of a system of natural and scientific preserves as called for in the Natural and Scientific Areas Preservation Act. The inventory would provide an invaluable tool to the Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board as it works with the Biological Survey to identify potential areas for inclusion in the system.

Our agency goal is to promote sound forest management on the private woodlands of Kansas, but effective management of forests is a long-term effort. Virtually all commercial forest land in Kansas has been cut over and disturbed to some degree. Identification of unique, relatively undisturbed woodland areas and subsequent monitoring of these areas would provide us a historic base against which to measure the effects of our forest management.

Our foresters assist Kansas landowners with all aspects of tree planting and forestry. The Natural Heritage Inventory would be valuable to the foresters as they make forest management recommendations to woodland owners. Identification of those rare and critical biological elements that are related to native woodlands would help us work with landowners in recognizing and protecting these elements as they implement their management plans.

Our foresters will be working at identification of forest areas meriting consideration for dedication as natural or scientific areas. The resulting data from the Natural Heritage Inventory would provide a good base for their evaluation of woodlands for possible dedication in the system.

State and Extension Forestry supports establishment of a Natural Heritage Inventory as a valuable tool for natural resource conservation in Kansas.

JKS/plp

KSU, County Extension Councils and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

All educational programs and materials available without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

2-25-86  
S. ENR

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# KANSAS NON GAME WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL

2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
February 25, 1986

TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
Senator Merrill Werts, Chairperson

FROM: Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council

RE: HCR No. 5030 (Natural Heritage Inventory for Kansas)

The Kansas Nongame Wildlife Advisory Council serves as a citizens advisory group to the Kansas Fish and Game Commission in carrying out its nongame program funded through the state income tax "Chickadee Checkoff" donations. The Council wishes to support passage of HCR No. 5030.

In March of 1985, the Council sponsored a Nongame Wildlife Conference at Emporia. The purpose of this Conference was to bring together various interests in nongame wildlife throughout the state and give them an opportunity in small working groups to discuss and identify the primary concerns or needs of nongame wildlife such as birds, fish, habitat, etc. From these group discussions, there came a consensus that one of the primary needs for nongame wildlife in Kansas is the inventory and identification of those elements and habitats most critical for preservation and management. The Natural Heritage Inventory is an effective way to address this common concern.

It is our hope that the 1986 Kansas Legislature will approve the establishment of a Natural Heritage Inventory within the Kansas Biological Survey.

Sincerely,



John K. Strickler  
Chairman, Kansas Nongame  
Wildlife Advisory Council

2-25-86  
S. ENR

Do something WILD!

(D)

Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Mr. Chairman. My name is William Hambleton, I am Director of the State Geological Survey and State Geologist.

I am here to speak in favor of House Concurrent Resolution 5030 "That the State Biological Survey, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, is directed to establish a Natural Heritage Inventory for Kansas." I have reviewed the materials and statement of purpose concerning the establishment of a Natural Heritage Inventory in Kansas. Effective utilization of this inventory will enhance the efforts of the Biological Survey and the Natural and Scientific Areas Advisory Board to protect critical and unique habitats. Perhaps more importantly, the information gathered toward this end will be available also to many other agencies that are involved in environmental planning and economic development, as well as to those concerned with utilization of Kansas natural resources. I include the State Geological Survey with these other agencies.

For a number of years, I have appeared before this Committee and other legislative committees to urge development of a Kansas Information System and Data Base on a decentralized basis. Such a decentralized system would be accessible to users through networking. At present, I am serving as chairman of a committee of the American Geological Institute to develop a similar geologic system on a national basis. We are focusing strongly in the Kansas Geological Survey to develop a similar concept having centralized program administration, and decentralized and diversified implementation. It seems to me that the National Heritage Inventory offers Kansas a major opportunity to take an important and significant step in the direction of establishing a decentralized Kansas Data Base. Appropriately developed, the Inventory can be networked to other State agencies for all kinds of uses, and can become a testing ground

2-25-86  
S. ENR

(EJ)

example for development of other data base networks. We truly should not miss this opportunity.

I am pleased to have this moment to endorse the Resolution, and pledge the support and cooperation of the Geological Survey in its implementation.