

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE WILDLIFE, PARKS, & TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Judy Morrison at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Don Myers- excused
Margaret Long- excused
Shari Weber- excused

Committee staff present: Hank Avila, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office
Betty Caruthers, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Secretary Mike Hayden, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Briefing by Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks

Secretary Mike Hayden presented an overview of the Kansas Parks system as well as the economics of outdoor recreation in our state. He introduced four people to the committee:

Dick Koerth, Assistant Secretary of Administration
Keith Sexton, Assistant Secretary of Operations
Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel
Jerry Hover, Director of State Parks

Secretary Hayden handed out a Wildlife & Parks presentation which emphasized three main issues:

1. Walk - In Hunting & Fishing Areas (Attachment 1)
2. Funding Our State Parks (Attachment 2)

(A proposal will be coming to the Legislature for a \$5 fee attached to the motor vehicle registration fee which would be \$4 to fund state parks and \$1 to fund local Government).

3. Circle K Ranch Acquisition (Attachment 3)

(A proposal to acquire a 6,700 acre ranch in Edwards County to restore and open it to the public).

Chairperson Morrison asked for Committee questions. Secretary Hayden answered questions on the bow hunting management units. The Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks is working on developing a program for ten archery units across the state which would allow bow hunters to hunt in two units of their choice. These deer archery regulations must be in place by the end of April.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Grange, minutes of the House Committee on Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism held on January 12, 2005 be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morrison asked for bill introductions.

Representative Ruff moved for the introduction of a bow hunters bill that she requested to have accepted as a committee bill, seconded by Representative Flaharty. Motion carried.

Representative Ruff informed the committee of a briefing next Wednesday, January 27 by Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Council of Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks regarding the bow hunters and outfitters.

Chairperson Morrison announced last day for members to request that bills be drafted – Monday, Jan. 24 and last day for committees to request that bills be drafted - Wednesday, Feb. 2.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 19, 2005 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Chris Tymeson requested introduction of a bill regarding boating laws. Moved by Representative Flaharty, seconded by Representative Treaster. Motion carried. Chris Tymeson also requested introduction of a bill dealing with fee funds for the purpose of tracking federal funds. Moved by Representative Mah, seconded by Representative Shultz. Motion carried.

Chairperson Morrison adjourned the Committee at 4:40.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 24.

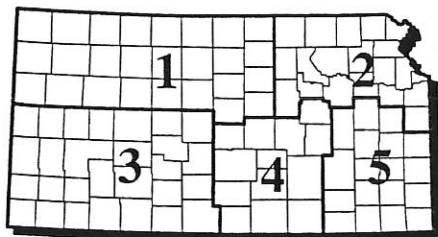
WHO TO CONTACT

If you are interested in learning more about KDWP access programs, fill out the application included in this brochure and return to the KDWP Regional Office where your land is located. More information is available from your local conservation officer, wildlife biologist, or Wildlife & Parks Regional offices listed below. Your interest in the program helps maintain Kansas outdoor traditions and is greatly appreciated.

Regional Offices

REGION 1
1426 Highway 183 Alt.
P. O. Box 338
Hays, KS 67601
(785)628-8614

REGION 2
3300 SW 29th
Topeka, KS 66614
(785)273-6740



REGION 3
1001 MacArtor Road
Dodge City, KS 67801
(620)227-8609

REGION 4
6232 E. 29th St. N.
Wichita, KS 67220
(316)683-8069

REGION 5
1500 W. 7th,
P O Box 777
Chanute, KS 66270
(620)431-0380



Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs described herein is available to all individuals without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or handicap. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, 1020 S Kansas Ave. Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612-1327 03/04

WIHA APPLICATION

I am interested in enrolling my property in the WIHA program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: ~~July 20~~

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

It would be best to contact me during the:
Day _____ Evening _____

Do you wish to be contacted before we inspect your land? Yes__ No__

Complete legal description for each parcel of land. (Example: S 1/2 of NE 1/4, Sec. 26, T18, R16, Ellis Co.) Please include an aerial photo for each parcel marked.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

I am the landowner _____
I am the tenant _____

FISH APPLICATION

I am interested in enrolling my property in the FISH program.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Day Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

It would be best to contact me during the:
Day _____ Evening _____

Do you wish to be contacted before we inspect your land? Yes__ No__

Complete legal description for each parcel of land.
Example:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Pond Acres <u>2</u> | Stream Miles _____ |
| Sec <u>26</u> T <u>18</u> R <u>16</u> Co. <u>EL</u> | |
| Pond Acres _____ | Stream Miles _____ |
| Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____ | |
| Pond Acres _____ | Stream Miles _____ |
| Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____ | |
| Pond Acres _____ | Stream Miles _____ |
| Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____ | |
| Pond Acres _____ | Stream Miles _____ |
| Sec _____ T _____ R _____ Co. _____ | |

I am the landowner _____
I am the tenant _____

**WALK-
HUNTING & FISHING
AREAS**



Components of the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks' Walk-In Hunting and FISH Access Programs



House Committee on Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism
1/19/05
Attachment 1

WALK-IN HUNTING AREAS AND FISHING IMPOUNDMENTS & STREAM HABITATS

Hunting and Fishing Access and Your Land

WHAT IS IT

The Walk-In Hunting Area and Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats programs make private land and waters available for public hunting and fishing through a lease agreement between the KDWP and landowners. Participating landowners receive payments, which vary with the number of acres, length of stream, and length of lease. The department posts signs on the land, produces maps for hunters and patrols the areas. The WIHA program has been very successful, growing each year since its start in 1995. The FISH program was started in 1998 following the success of the WIHA program.

WHO CAN QUALIFY

Almost anyone who owns or leases at least 80 contiguous acres of land or has streams, ponds, or lakes can qualify, including resident landowners, absentee landowners, tenant farmers, estate managers, trust managers, and others who manage privately owned land or waters.

LAND QUALIFICATIONS

Much of the land enrolled in WIHA has been Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres. CRP is ideal for WIHA although land with similar qualities and hunting opportunities, such as native rangeland, weedy wheat stubble, milo stubble, and riparian and wetland areas will also be considered.

Applications will be accepted year around, however applications received after July 20 each year will not receive consideration for enrollment until the following year. This deadline is to facilitate posting of property and production of the WIHA. The FISH and Spring Turkey WIHA deadline is December 31.

Upon receipt of application department biologists

will review your land and assess it based on potential hunting and/or fishing opportunity provided, the size and location of the tract, and the likelihood that hunting and/or fishing will occur. Although lease agreements are renewable each year, options are available to make multi-year agreements.

BENEFITS

There are several reasons to participate in addition to the lease payment. Many landowners own land far from their home or do not have time to worry about who is hunting or fishing on their land. It may be more convenient for them to enroll in one of KDWP's access programs. The department publishes a detailed county map outlining each tract of land enrolled in the program, and hunters are asked not to contact landowners.

Conservation officers will periodically patrol WIHA and FISH areas much like other public hunting areas. Violators will be ticketed or arrested for offenses such as vandalism, littering, or failing to comply with wildlife regulations.

The WIHA and FISH programs provide hunters and anglers with a place to hunt and fish while leaving the land in private ownership. In recent times, hunters and anglers have lost contact with landowners. Many have quit these activities because it is difficult to find a place to hunt and fish. Through the WIHA program, the tradition of hunting can be preserved, and rural-urban ties can be strengthened.

Landowners have the option to withdraw from the program at any time. They will be paid a prorated portion of the arranged payment and provided with signs denoting that the land has been removed from the program.

Annual Payment Rate

WIHA Acreage	Sept. 1- Sept. 30	Nov.- Jan.	Sept.- Jan.	April- May
10 - 80	\$100	-	-	-
81 - 120	\$150	\$150	\$200	\$100
151 - 250	\$200	\$250	\$350	\$175
251 - 500	\$250	\$500	\$600	\$300
501 - 750	\$375	\$750	\$900	\$450
751 - 1000	\$500	\$1000	\$1200	\$600
1000+	N e g o t i a b l e			

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Once land qualifies and is enrolled in one of these programs, the cooperater will receive a payment based on the size of the enrolled acreage. Cooperators will receive payment for fall contracts around December 1, and around May 1 for April-May leases.

An additional bonus of 50 percent will apply for WIHA in the following urban counties: Butler, Coffey, Cowley, Douglas, Franklin, Harvey, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Miami, Osage, Ottawa, Saline, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Sumner, Johnson, Wyandotte, & Wabaunsee.

YOUTH DOVE AREAS

Additional properties in the listed urban counties will be sought for use by youth hunters. Areas will only be accessible for youth under 16 years of age and an accompanying adult. Only one adult will be allowed to hunt with each hunting youth. Payment will be at the regular lease rate without the 50 percent urban bonus. A minimum of 10 acres may be enrolled in this program. These leases will run from September 1 through September 30.

SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

Land in areas of the state with appropriate habitat and populations of wild turkey will be considered for enrollment for spring turkey hunting. Payment rates are reflected in the April-May column of the rate table.

FISHING IMPOUNDMENTS & STREAM HABITATS

Land in areas of the state with appropriate habitat will be considered for enrollment in the FISH program. These leases will run from March 1 through October 31.

Annual Payment Rate FISH Acreage

Impoundments	\$40/acre
Stream	\$500 - \$1000/Mile

RESTRICTIONS

Access to enrolled land will be allowed only by hunters and anglers on foot. Travel is limited to foot traffic except on trails designated by the landowner in the case of very large tracts of land. Safety zone signs are available to provide landowners additional control over where hunting and fishing will occur. Rifle hunting may be restricted if there are safety concerns.

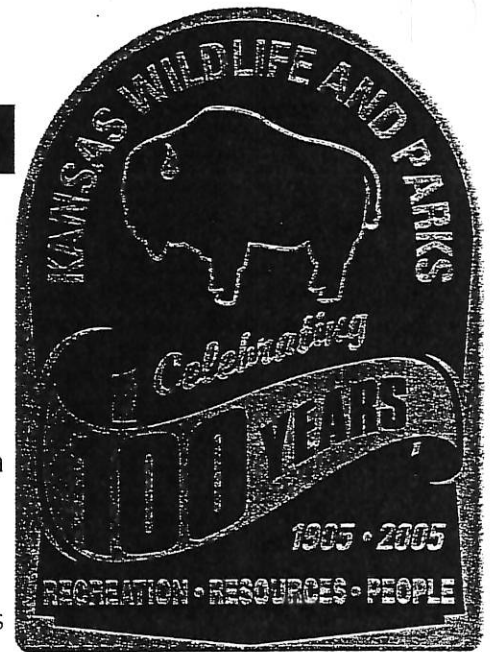
LIABILITY

Liability is a valid concern. However, state law provides that private individuals who lease their land to the state for recreational purposes are immune from damages or injuries resulting from ordinary negligence.

Funding Our State Parks

- Proposal:** \$5 fee attached to motor vehicle Registration fee
- \$4 to fund state parks
 - \$1 to fund the Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
 - Refund option will be available to anyone wanting a refund

- Impact:**
- FREE state park entrance for Kansas residents
 - \$3 million in SGF support within the KDWP for operation of the parks would no longer be needed.



State parks and the state's economy:

The KDWP currently operates 23 state parks and Prairie Spirit Rail Trail. A 24th state park, located in Topeka, was designated by the 2004 state legislature. Most of the parks are on land surrounding Army Corps of Engineer or Bureau of Reclamation lakes, with the state park land actually leased from one of those federal agencies.

- 7.5 million annual visits
- Estimated annual economic impact is \$685 million
- More than 2/3 of Kansas residents visit one or more state parks annually and spend about \$20 per day
- Non-residents which comprise more than a quarter of all park visitors spend about \$35 per day
- More than \$13 million in sales taxes
- More than 1,850 jobs
- 7 of the top 19 Kansas tourist attractions are state parks
- Increases the general quality of life of Kansas residents by providing public access to many outdoor recreation opportunities.

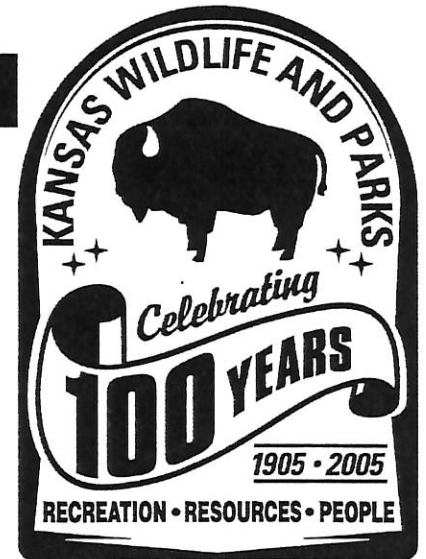
Estimated Revenue from Motor Vehicle Registration fee

- \$11 million total
- \$2.2 million to the Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program
- \$8.8 million to state parks operating budget (current parks operating budget is about \$8.2 million)

For more information, please contact Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, or LeAnn Schmitt, Special Assistant to the Secretary, at KDWP's Topeka office at 785.296.2281.

House Committee on Wildlife, Parks,
and Tourism
1/19/05
Attachment 2

Circle K Ranch Acquisition



Proposal:

- Acquire a 6,700 ranch in Edwards County Kansas, currently owned by the cities of Hays and Russell, which is now mostly irrigated cropland.
- Retire the Ranch's water rights, restore native sandy land prairie habitat to the property, and open it to the public for hunting, wildlife watching and other outdoor recreation.
- Currently, the plan is to use a loan from the Pooled Money Investment Board to initially pay for the ranch. However, 75% of the cost is reimbursable from the federal government if the KDWP opens the property to public hunting.

Impact:

- Provides the increasingly urban population of hunters and other outdoor recreationists with 6,700 new publicly accessible acres, including 6 miles of access to the Arkansas River.
- Reduces water usage in the over-appropriated Middle Arkansas Basin, and will help restore surface flow in the Arkansas River. Currently the Mid-Ark Basin is over-appropriated by 41,000 acre-feet, and the water rights of the Circle K constitute about 16% of that.
- Serves as a template for how the water resources of western Kansas can be managed to sustain the economy in that region. Long-term, it is in the best interest of the state for irrigation to be sustainable, which means irrigation could continue indefinitely benefiting local communities, regional economies, and the state as a whole.
- Diversifies the local economy, which is now based almost entirely on irrigated crop farming. More public land also benefits the entire state economy by increasing the travel and tourism opportunities in the state.

Additional Notes:

- Dryland (no irrigation) farming is not an option on this land. The land of the Circle K is what is called sandy land prairie. The soil is very fragile, retains little moisture, and blows if not cultivated using irrigation.
- The Circle K is already public land, owned by the cities of Hays and Russell. Hays purchased it in the mid-1990s as a municipal water supply. The cost of pumping the water and local opposition to Hays use of the water has made it unusable to either city. By selling this property the cities can pursue other more viable water supply options.
- KDWP would continue to pay property taxes to Edwards County. Current tax appraisal on the Circle K is about \$15,000.

For more information, please contact Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel, Special Assistant to the Secretary, at KDWP's Topeka office at 785.2

House Committee on Wildlife, Parks,
and Tourism
1/19/05
Attachment 3