

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:45 A.M. on March 4, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Tim Huelskamp- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes Office

Gina Poertner, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Candy Ruff

Chris Tymeson, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks

Frank Meyer, Wildlife and Parks Commission

Jerry Keller, Cottonwood Falls

Shawn Harding, Kansas Bowhunter's Association

Dan Rudman, Douglas County

Mike Nickels, Kansas Outfitters.

Jim Aller, Wolf River Outfitters

Jim Call, Call of the Wild Outfitters

Ron Nicholson, John Deer, Retired

Others attending:

See attached list.

After calling the meeting to order, Senator McGinn presented the minutes from February 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Senator Taddiken made a motion to approve the minutes with Senator Ostmeyer seconding the motion. The measure was approved by voice vote.

Raney Gilliland was asked to brief the Committee on HB 2115. Following the briefing, Chairman McGinn recognized Representative Candy Ruff who testified in support of the bill (Attachment 1). Rep. Ruff discussed changes from last year's proposal.

Chris Tymeson, Chief Legal Counsel for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks was then recognized (Attachment 2). Mr. Tymeson stated that so many layers of regulation complicates things. There are currently 13 statutes relating to deer.

Senator Taddiken asked if the hunter chooses the archery units. Mr. Tymeson confirmed this. He further asked if archery permits are statewide. Mr. Tymeson stated they are indeed.

Senator McGinn introduced Frank Meyer of the Wildlife and Parks Commission, who spoke in favor of the bill (Attachment 3).

Jerry Keller of Cottonwood Falls, Kansas was recognized by the Chairperson to give favorable testimony to the bill (Attachment 4).

Shawn Harding of the Kansas Bowhunter's Association was next to stand in support of the bill (Attachment 5). Mr. Harding stated that putting bowhunters in units decreases the success rate.

Dan Rudman of Douglas county presented testimony in support of the bill (Attachment 6). He stated that the passage of HB 2115 would restore the bowhunter's ability to be an effective means of managing the deer population in Kansas.

Mike Nickels of Old School Guide Service was recognized (Attachment 7). He presented testimony in opposition to the bill stating that the bill supports poor permit distribution.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:45 A.M. on March 4, 2005 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Senator McGinn recognized Jim Aller of Wolf River Outfitters (Attachment 8). He opposed the bill by saying that this legislation would harm business owners, landowners, and employees of resident outfitters.

The Chair then introduced Jim Call of Call of the Wild Outfitters for his statement in opposition (Attachment 9). He stated that passage of HB 2115 will send revenue out of state and hurt the business of resident outfitters.

Ron Nicholson, retired from John Deere, gave comments but no written testimony. He discussed the sale of buck tags, such as on E-bay, for exorbitant prices. He also discussed Iowa's system and how this model could benefit Kansas.

Written testimony was submitted by Wes Traul and Keith Houghton of the Kansas Sport Hunting Association (Attachment 10).

Senator Teichman asked when the new regulations will be presented to the Legislature. Mr. Tymeson said they would be presented when the 2006 Session convenes.

Senator Pyle asked about KDWP's position on last year's bill amendment. According to Mr. Tymeson, the KDWP opposed the amendment but supported the bill. SB 363 was a compromise.

Senator Taddiken asked how deer management is best accomplished, in units or statewide. Mr. Tymeson stated that the current management practice of allocation of permits is 43 years in the making.

Senator Pyle asked how many doe tags would sell. Lloyd Fox, KDWP Biologist, stated that a doe tag is typically purchased with a buck tag.

Senator Bruce asked if the herd can be managed regardless of the system used. Mr. Tymeson stated that is what is going to be done.

Senator Ostmeyer asked for the success ratio of bow hunting to rifle hunting, to which Mr. Tymeson replied that they are about the same, 50%.

Senator Bruce asked if there has ever been an Attorney General's opinion requested as to the disparity in treatment. Mr. Tymeson stated there has not and that the AG's office would come to KDWP for its research.

Seeing no further questions, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.