

Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing will be conducted by the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, March 24, 2016 at the Kansas Historical Museum, 6425 SW 6th, Topeka, Kansas, to consider the approval and adoption of proposed regulations of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism.

A general discussion and workshop meeting on business of the Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Commission will begin at 1:00 p.m., March 24 at the location listed above. The meeting will recess at approximately 5:00 p.m. then resume at 6:30 p.m. at the same location for the regulatory hearing and more business. There will be public comment periods at the beginning of the afternoon and evening meeting for any issues not on the agenda and additional comment periods will be available during the meeting on agenda items. Old and new business may also be discussed at this time. If necessary to complete business matters, the Commission will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. March 25 at the location listed above.

Any individual with a disability may request accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting and may request the meeting materials in an accessible format. Requests for accommodation to participate in the meeting should be made at least five working days in advance of the meeting by contacting Sheila Kemmis, Commission Secretary, at (620) 672-5911. Persons with a hearing impairment may call the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing at 1-800-432-0698 to request special accommodations.

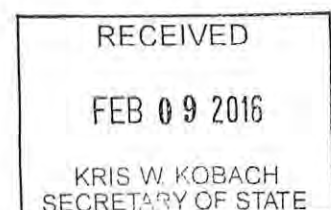
This 30-day notice period prior to the hearing constitutes a public comment period for the purpose of receiving written public comments on the proposed administrative regulation.

All interested parties may submit written comments prior to the hearing to the Chairman of the Commission, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism, 1020 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 200, Topeka, KS 66612 or to sheila.kemmis@ksoutdoors.com if electronically. All interested parties will be given a reasonable opportunity at the hearing to express their views orally in regard to the adoption of the proposed regulation. During the hearing, all written and oral comments submitted by interested parties will be considered by the commission as a basis for approving, amending and approving, or rejecting the proposed regulation.

The regulation, in addition to the previously published notice, that will be heard during the regulatory hearing portion of the meeting is as follows:

K.A.R. 115-25-7. This exempt regulation establishes the open season, bag limits and permits for antelope season. The proposed version of the regulation increases permits in some units by type and updates the season dates for the 2016-2017 season.

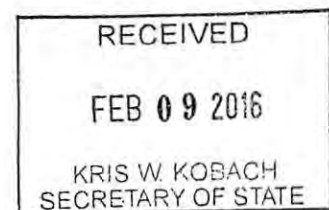
Economic Impact Summary: The proposed version of the regulation is not anticipated to have any appreciable negative economic impact on the department, other agencies, small businesses or the public.



Proposed

Copies of the complete text of the regulation and its respective economic impact statements may be obtained by writing the chairman of the Commission at the address above, electronically on the department's website at www.kdwpt.state.ks.us, or by calling (785) 296-2281.

Gerald Lauber, Chairman



115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits. (a) The open season for the taking of antelope shall be as specified in this subsection. The unit designations in this subsection shall have the meanings specified in K.A.R. 115-4-6.

(1) Archery season.

(A) The archery season dates shall be September 24, 2016 through October 2, 2016 and October 15, 2016 through October 31, 2016.

(B) The taking of antelope during the established archery season shall be authorized for Smoky Hill, unit 2; West Arkansas, unit 17; and Cimarron, unit 18. Unlimited archery permits for residents and nonresidents shall be authorized for the area.

(2) Firearm season.

(A) The firearm season dates shall be October 7, 2016 through October 10, 2016.

(B) The open units for the taking of antelope during the established firearm season and the number of permits authorized shall be as follows:

(i) Smoky Hill, unit 2: One hundred and twenty-six resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(ii) West Arkansas, unit 17: Forty-eight resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(iii) Cimarron, unit 18: Sixteen resident firearm permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(3) Muzzleloader-only season.

(A) The muzzleloader-only season dates shall be October 3, 2016 through October 6,

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2016. Muzzleloader permits also shall be valid in the unit for which the permit is authorized during the established firearm season dates.

(B) The open units for the taking of antelope during the established muzzleloader-only season and the number of permits authorized shall be as follows:

(i) Smoky Hill, unit 2: Thirty-six resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(ii) West Arkansas, unit 17: Ten resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(iii) Cimarron, unit 18: Eight resident muzzleloader permits shall be authorized for the unit.

(b) The bag limit for each archery, firearm, and muzzleloader permit shall be one antelope of either sex.

(c) This regulation shall be effective on and after May 1, 2016, and shall have no force and effect on and after March 1, 2017. (Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 32-807 and K.S.A. 2015 Supp. 32-937.)

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ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

K.A.R. 115-25-7. Antelope; open season, bag limit, and permits.

DESCRIPTION: This proposed exempt regulation establishes hunting unit boundaries, bag limit, application periods and season dates for the 2016 firearm, muzzleloader, and archery antelope seasons. The hunting units include all of the area included during the 2016 season. An unlimited number of archery permits are authorized, however, recent trends indicate that about 325 people may apply for these permits for residents. 15 nonresident archery permits were issued in 2015 and it is anticipated that a like number will be issued in 2016.

The proposed unit boundaries for the 2016 firearm hunting season are the same as the 2016 unit boundaries. A total of 190 firearms permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-126 permits, Unit 17-48 permits, and Unit 18-16 permits, an increase of 36 permits from the previous season. In addition, 54 muzzleloader permits are proposed in three management units as follows: Unit 2-36 permits, Unit 17-10 permits, and Unit 18-8 permits, an increase of 10 permits from the previous season.

FEDERAL MANDATE: None.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: It is anticipated that 530 antelope hunting permits will be authorized. Estimated revenue if all permits are issued would be approximately \$27,875. That amount represents equal participation in the antelope season by landowner/tenants and general residents, as well as nonresident participation. Approximately 1150 people will apply for an antelope permit or preference point. A \$5 nonrefundable application fee from all applicants will generate an additional \$5,575. Other administrative costs associated with the season are borne by the Department.

Approximately 2650 days of hunting activity will occur. The national survey of fishing, hunting, and wildlife associated recreation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that an average big game hunter spent more than \$1100 per season, thus the antelope season may generate \$583,000 in direct economic benefits to businesses providing goods and services. There will be no other economic impact on the general public, small businesses or on other state agencies.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: None.

