



**Testimony on HB 2295 relating to Deer Hunting
To
The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**By Christopher J. Tymeson
Chief Legal Counsel
Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks**

February 18, 2011

HB 2295 seeks to make significant changes to deer hunting, deer permitting and hunting licensure. **The Department opposes the provisions contained in the bill.**

Section 1 of the bill removes the requirements that immediate family be domiciled with a landowner or tenant to be unlicensed. The Department opposes this change because it further erodes the license base of a fee funded agency and would be largely unenforceable.

Section 2 of the bill removes requirements for a person to have a disability to use a crossbow for big game. While the Department currently has authority to allow the use of crossbows in any season and does allow them during firearms seasons, it is believed that the proposal is intended to allow the use of crossbows during the archery season, when mature bucks are most vulnerable. The Department is opposed to any provisions which could potentially alter the age structure of the herd. The age structure of the herd is the primary reason Kansas is a world class destination when it comes to hunting.

Section 3 of the bill does many things. First, the section removes domicile requirements for purchasing deer permits to hunt on immediate family members' land they own or operate. Again, this erodes the license base of a fee funded agency and would be largely unenforceable. Second, the provisions mandate an arbitrary ending date for firearms season not based on biological opinion. Further, to modify a statute book for a deer season when deer seasons are set through regulations annually because of the changing dates of the calendar discounts the public regulatory process, is arbitrary and is financially imprudent. Finally, the provisions in section (1)(2) are modified such to automatically increase nonresident deer permit numbers annually at least ten percent without regard to the biological or social impact.

Section 4 of the bill mandates "contributions" of \$2 or more by every hunter when purchasing a deer permit to Hunters Feeding the Hungry. While the Department supports HFH and encourages donations by individuals, the provisions in the bill will likely cause the Department to be in diversion and cause the loss of some or all of the Department's federal funds. Wildlife fee funds are protected by federal and state law and the loss of control of wildlife fee funds results in diversion and loss of federal funds. The Department received approximately twelve million dollars in federal funds last fiscal year.

Section 5 of the bill increases the caps on nonresident deer permits for fees set by the Wildlife and Parks Commission in regulation. Increasing the caps does nothing at this point because the Department has not proposed an increase in fees nor are the current fees up against the cap.

The current deer management system is a direct result of stakeholder participation, including landowners, tenants, hunters, guides and general members of the public. The current system and changes went into effect in 2008 and most of the primary stakeholders exhibited the strong desire to leave the system unchanged for a long period of time. Continued change confuses participants in the system and results in participants leaving deer hunting, which leads to reduced funding as well as fewer people to take deer.

Scientific management and fee funding are basic tenants of the North American Model of wildlife management. Deer hunting in Kansas alone generates approximately \$350,000,000 in direct and collateral economic benefit to the State of Kansas and its citizens. This influx of spending to the State is a direct result of the professional and scientific management by Kansas biologists. To enact the proposals before you would jeopardize the existence of the current system.

The Department appreciates the support of the Committee in opposition to the bill.



The 20010-2011 deer seasons were as follows:

Sept 11-19, 2010	Youth and disabled season	9 days
Sept 20-Oct 3, 2010	Muzzleloader season	14 days
Sept 20-Dec 31, 2010	Archery season	102 days
Oct 9-17, 2010	Unit 19 Firearms season	9 days
Dec 1-12, 2009	Statewide Firearms season	12 days
Jan 1-9, 2011	Extended Firearms season	9 days
Jan 10-16, 2010	Special Ext. Firearms season	7 days (Units 7, 8, and 15)
Jan 10-31, 2010	Unit 19 Archery season	22 days

This management scheme has resulted in the stabilization of the herd on a statewide basis as well as has provided the age class of deer that makes Kansas a world class destination for deer hunting. The primary consideration in season structure to maintain the age class of buck deer is to keep large numbers of hunters out of the breeding time, when mature bucks are most vulnerable, and therefore it has been placed post-rut and begins the first Wednesday after Thanksgiving.



In 2010-11 there were 91,994 residents and 23,936 non-residents with a permit that allowed them to take an antlered deer. Using the value of \$1,100 (pg 158 of the 2006 National Survey on Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation [<http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/fhw06-nat.pdf>]) you get **\$127.5 million in direct economic benefit** from spending on trip related items. The total economic effect (multiplier effect) is about 2.5 times that value (http://www.fishwildlife.org/pdfs/Hunting_Economic_Impact.pdf) or **\$318.8 million in collateral economic benefit from deer hunting.**

There were 2,802,134 people in Kansas in 2008. There are approximately 787,000 Kansans and a total of 816,000 residents and non-residents (Page 102 of the 2006 National Survey) that recreationally watch wildlife. Nationwide approximately 56% of the people participating in wildlife viewing observe large mammals. The average annual expenditure of people involved in wildlife watching is \$179/ person. Thus recreational watching of deer in Kansas may generate another \$23,628,000. Suffice it to say that watching deer in Kansas is enjoyed by many people (46% of the residents) and it generates positive economic value.

Hunting and viewing deer generate \$342.4 million per year in Kansas.

Office of the Secretary
1020 S Kansas Ave., Suite 200
Topeka, KS 66612-1327



phone: 785-296-2281
fax: 785-296-6953
www.kdwp.state.ks.us

Robin Jennison, Acting Secretary

Department of Wildlife and Parks

Sam Brownback, Governor

Here is the link to the sign-up on our website:

<http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us/news/Hunting/Hunting-Programs/Hunter-Referral-Program>

KDWP has pursued for years of trying to provide a system where hunters who wanted an opportunity to take antlerless deer could be united with landowners who wanted more deer removed from their property. The system produced thousands of hunters looking for opportunities. Landowners were given an opportunity to view lists of potential hunters and even lists limited to hunters using certain equipment, or living in certain areas. The problem is that while many landowners complained about too many deer, only a couple landowners in the state even requested a list of potential hunters. This agrees with the surveys of Kansas landowners conducted by the Docking Institute for KDWP. Those surveys show that 50-60 percent of the landowners have damage on their property that they consider to be caused by deer but that only ~5% of those landowners consider the damage severe. Furthermore when the landowners were asked what they did to address that damage, few contacted KDWP. That survey has been conducted since 1963 and one of the consistent findings is that about 25% of the landowners do not hunt deer or allow other people to hunt deer on their property.

Table 2. History of deer hunting season dates in Kansas.

YEAR	FIREARMS OPEN DATES	NO. DAYS	ARCHERY OPEN DATES	NO. DAYS	MUZZLELOADER OPEN DATES	NO. DAYS	YOUTH AND DISABILITY		EXTENDED OPEN DATES	NO. DAYS	YEAR
							OPEN DATES	NO. DAYS			
1965	Dec. 11 - 15	5	Oct. 1 - Nov. 15	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	1965
1966	Dec. 10 - 14	5	Oct. 1 - Dec. 9	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	1966
1967	Dec. 8 - 12	5	Oct. 1 - Nov. 26	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	1967
1968	Dec. 13 - 17	5	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	1968
1969	Dec. 6 - 10	5	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	1969
1970	Dec. 5 - 9	5	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	1970
1971	Dec. 4 - 8	5	Oct. 16 - Nov. 26, Dec. 11 - Dec. 31	62	0	0	0	0	0	0	1971
1972	Nov. 27 - Dec. 5	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1972
1973	Dec. 2 - 6	5	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	1973
1974	Dec. 2 - 10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1974
1975	Dec. 1 - 9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1975
1976	Dec. 7 - 15	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 25, Dec. 15 - Dec. 31	73	0	0	0	0	0	0	1976
1977	Dec. 6 - 14	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 21 - Dec. 31	72	0	0	0	0	0	0	1977
1978	Dec. 4 - 12	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 18 - Dec. 31	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	1978
1979	Dec. 3 - 11	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 17 - Dec. 31	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	1979
1980	Dec. 2 - 10	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	1980
1981	Dec. 1 - 9	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 12 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1981
1982	Dec. 6 - 14	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3, Dec. 17 - Dec. 31	78	0	0	0	0	0	0	1982
1983	Dec. 5 - 13	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 2, Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1983
1984	Dec. 4 - 12	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1, Dec. 15 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1984
1985	Dec. 3 - 11	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 12 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1985
1986	Dec. 1 - 9	9	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 10 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1986
1987	Dec. 7 - 15	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 6, Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	1987
1988	Dec. 6 - 14	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 5, Dec. 15 - Dec. 31	78	Dec. 6 - 14	9	0	0	0	0	1988
1989	Dec. 5 - 13	9	Oct. 1 - Dec. 4, Dec. 14 - Dec. 31	79	Dec. 6 - 13	9	0	0	0	0	1989
1990	Nov. 29 - Dec. 10	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 29, Dec. 12 - Dec. 31	79	Nov. 30 - Dec. 11	12	0	0	0	0	1990
1991	Nov. 28 - Dec. 9	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 11 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 22 - 30	9	0	0	0	0	1991
1992	Dec. 4 - 15	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3, Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 21 - 29	9	0	0	0	0	1992
1993	Dec. 2 - 13	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1, Dec. 14 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 19 - 27	9	0	0	0	0	1993
1994	Nov. 30 - Dec. 11	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 29, Dec. 12 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 18 - 26	9	0	0	0	0	1994
1995	Dec. 1 - 10	10	Oct. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 11 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 16 - 24	9	0	0	0	0	1995
1996	Dec. 4 - 15	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3, Dec. 16 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 21 - 29	9	0	0	0	0	1996
1997	Dec. 3 - 14	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 2, Dec. 15 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 20 - 28	9	0	0	0	0	1997
1998	Dec. 1 - 13	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 1, Dec. 14 - Dec. 31	79	Sept. 19 - 27	9	0	0	0	0	1998
1999	Dec. 1 - 12	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 13 - Dec. 30	78	Sept. 18 - 30	13	0	0	0	0	1999
2000	Nov. 28 - Dec. 10	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 28, Dec. 11 - 31	79	Sept. 16 - 29	14	0	0	0	0	2000
2001	Nov. 28 - Dec. 9	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 27, Dec. 10 - 31	79	Sept. 15 - 28	14	0	0	0	0	2001
2002	Dec. 4 - 15	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 3, Dec. 16 - 31	79	Sept. 14 - 27	14	0	0	0	0	2002
2003	Dec. 3 - 14	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 2, Dec. 15 - 31	79	Sept. 13 - 26	14	0	0	0	0	2003
DMU 19*	Oct. 18 - 26	9	Jan. 5 - 31	28	Sept. 11 - 24	14	0	0	0	0	2004
DMU 19*	Dec. 1 - 12	12	Oct. 1 - Nov. 30, Dec. 13 - 31	79	Sept. 25 - 26	2	0	0	0	0	2004
DMU 19*	Oct. 16 - 24	9	Jan. 3 - 31	28	Sept. 24 - 25	2	0	0	0	0	2005
DMU 19*	Nov. 30 - Dec. 11	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	23	Sept. 23 - 24	2	0	0	0	0	2006
DMU 19*	Oct. 15 - 23	9	Jan. 9 - 31	23	Sept. 22 - 23	2	0	0	0	0	2007
DMU 19*	Nov. 29 - Dec. 10	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	23	Sept. 21 - 22	2	0	0	0	0	2008
DMU 19*	Oct. 14 - 22	9	Jan. 8 - 31	23	Sept. 20 - 21	2	0	0	0	0	2009
DMU 19*	Nov. 28 - Dec. 9	12	Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	24	Sept. 19 - 20	2	0	0	0	0	2010
DMU 19	Oct. 13 - 21	9	Jan. 7 - 31	24	Sept. 18 - 19	2	0	0	0	0	2011
DMU 19	Dec. 3 - 14	12	Jan. 5 - 31	26	Sept. 17 - 18	2	0	0	0	0	2012
DMU 19	Oct. 11 - 19	9	Jan. 5 - 31	26	Sept. 16 - 17	2	0	0	0	0	2013
DMU 19	Dec. 2 - 13	12	Sept. 22 - Dec. 31	101	Sept. 15 - 28	14	0	0	0	0	2014
DMU 19	Oct. 10 - 18	9	Sept. 21 - Dec. 31	21	Sept. 14 - 27	14	0	0	0	0	2015
DMU 19	Dec. 1 - 12	12	Jan. 11 - 31	21	Sept. 13 - 26	14	0	0	0	0	2016
DMU 19	Oct. 9 - 17	9	Sept. 20 - Dec. 31	100	Sept. 12 - 20	9	0	0	0	0	2017
DMU 19			Jan. 10 - 31	22	Sept. 11 - 19	9	0	0	0	0	2018

* Additional days of hunting opportunity in DMU 19

Deer Management Units in Kansas.

