

Kansas Wildlife Federation

2005 Resolution

KANSAS STATE PARK FUNDING

Whereas, the 23 Kansas State Parks and the Prairie Spirit Trail maintained by the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks currently supports 7.5 million annual visits; and

Whereas, more than 2/3 of Kansas residents visit one or more state parks annually; and

Whereas, seven of the top ten Kansas tourist attractions are State Parks; and

Whereas, Kansas State Parks are currently funded by user fees (Park Fee Fund) and State General Funds; and

Whereas, the Kansas Legislature has steadily reduced the amount of State General Funds available to the for the maintenance of our State Parks; and

Whereas, the Park Fee Fund is running into a cash-flow problem that will leave many park maintenance activities unfunded by mid-2005; and

Whereas, increased park use fees have been shown to decrease park utilization by Kansans; and

Whereas, Montana has successfully implemented a motor vehicle registration fee designated for State Park maintenance; and

Whereas, Senate Bill 87 calls for a \$5 motor vehicle registration fee; and

Whereas, SB 87 will designate \$4 for Kansas State Park maintenance and \$1 for Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program, a program that has been unfounded for the last several years; and

Whereas, SB 87 sets up a refund option to those Kansans who want one; and

Whereas, SB 87 will result in free park entrance to all Kansans and a savings of \$3 million to the State General Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 12, 2005 in Manhattan, Kansas, supports the \$5 motor vehicle registration fee to fund Kansas State Park maintenance and fund a Local Government Outdoor Recreation Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Appropriations Committee, the Chairperson of the House Environment Committee, the Chairperson of the House Wildlife, Tourism and Parks Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the Chairman of the Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

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2005 Resolution

WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEASONS

Whereas, the wild turkey flock in Kansas has shown significant population increases in much of the state in the last 15 years; and

Whereas, local populations of wild turkeys in some areas may have exceeded landowner tolerance; and

Whereas, the spring wild turkey season is for bearded birds only and has little effect on turkey population growth; and

Whereas, increasing the harvest of wild turkeys in the fall when hens and poults may be taken will be of value in reducing wild turkey numbers and improve relations with landowners; and

Whereas, increasing the fall harvest can be done via several mechanisms such as reduction of permit costs, increasing the allowable number of permits per person and increasing the number of days to hunt; and

Whereas, extending the turkey season into the firearms deer season would create a dangerous situation by co-mingling of rifle deer hunters and camouflaged turkey hunters in the same habitats at the same time; and

Whereas, overlapping seasons would reduce the quality of deer and turkey hunting on many lands.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 12, 2005 in Manhattan, Kansas, supports the extension of the fall turkey season into January as long as there is scientific support for additional days of hunting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation is opposed to any overlap of rifle deer season and fall turkey seasons for safety and other reasons; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environment Committee, the Chairperson of the House Wildlife, Tourism and Parks Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the Chairman of the Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

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2005 Resolution

KANSAS SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING SEASON

Whereas, the Sandhill Crane is hunted in every state in the Central Management Unit (CMU), with the exception of Nebraska; and

Whereas, Sandhill Crane populations are above management levels called for in the CMU Management Plan; and

Whereas, Whooping Crane migration overlaps Sandhill Crane hunting seasons throughout the CMU; and

Whereas, Whooping Crane migration chronology is generally two weeks earlier than Sandhill Crane migration chronology; and

Whereas, Whooping Crane migration is generally complete by the first week in November in Kansas; and

Whereas, Sandhill Crane migration is generally complete by the third week in November in Kansas; and

Whereas, no Whooping Crane has been reportedly shot by Kansas hunters since the first Sandhill Crane season opened in 1993 until this season; and

Whereas, over 11,000 hunter days have been incident free during the Sandhill Crane season in Kansas; and

Whereas, delaying the opening date of the Sandhill Crane season in Kansas to mid-November could miss the entire Sandhill Crane migration and thus result in lost hunting opportunities; and

Whereas, current shooting hours for Sandhill Crane season in Kansas are delayed until sunrise to offer better light conditions for species identification; and

Whereas, delaying the shooting hours does not guarantee good weather conditions regardless of starting time; and

Whereas, hunters are ultimately responsible for target identification and responsible hunters abhor the taking of any endangered species; and

Whereas, improved identification materials would help crane hunters be better informed of other bird identification; and

Whereas, closing private land around Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area and Quivira National Wildlife Refuge will result in lost hunting opportunities for waterfowl and upland game.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation assembled during its annual meeting February 12, 2005 in Manhattan, Kansas, supports the Sandhill Crane season in Kansas as formulated for the 2004 season; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation opposes any changes in the season that will result in lost hunting opportunities to hunters in Kansas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation recommends the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks provide hunters with improved identification of Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes with their Sandhill Crane hunting permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kansas Wildlife Federation provide this resolution to the Governor of the State of Kansas, the Chairperson of the House Environment Committee, the Chairperson of the House Wildlife, Tourism and Parks Committee, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources, the Chairman of the Wildlife and Parks Commission and the Secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.