

# **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.

# **Kansas Wildlife Federation**

## **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.