

Wildlife and parks has plan to protect resources

Wildlife and its habitats are an important component of quality of life for Kansans. KDWP is tasked with managing, enhancing and protecting these natural resources.

For many years, KDWP has utilized PR (Pitman-Robertson Act) and DJ (Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts) funds, derived from taxes on hunting ammunition and firearms, and fishing tackle, and boating and angling gear to manage those species that are hunted or fished, and to provide for recreation access and educational programs. Funds available through the Endangered Species Act have been used for federally listed species, such as the bald eagle and black-footed ferret.

Most of Kansas' wildlife fall between these categories, and were therefore not eligible for funding. Many of these species have declined dramatically over the past 50 years due to large scale changes in available habitat, and are in need of study and a concerted effort to keep them from becoming rare or endangered.

In 2001, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program (WCRP) was passed by Congress, in part because of the wide-spread

support that had been shown for the failed Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA), led by the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). (see www.teaming.com) In 2002, similar funds were made available through the State Wildlife Grants Program. Funds from this program can be used for all wildlife, and will enable KDWP to fund necessary studies and projects, to keep rare species from becoming endangered, and to keep common species common. WCRP and State Wildlife Grant appropriations have been made available for Federal Fiscal years 2001-2004. This year, Kansas' allotment is \$905,720.

As a requirement to be eligible for this program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing a Statewide Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP) by Oct. 1, 2005. These plans are to address 8 specific elements.

Public participation will play a large role in the formulation of this plan. KWDP invites any input, questions and comments that you have on Wildlife Conservation.



With nightcrawlers, Lynn Harper of Norton brought in this 24 3/4 inch, 5 pound, 6 ounce wiper on April 24.

Tips can help people to avoid lightning strikes

A few tips could help keep you safe from one of the most dangerous weather phenomena: lightning strikes. Lightning kills more people in the U.S. than any other weather hazard except flash floods.

The CPCU Society offers these valuable tips to help protect yourself and your family from the hazards of lightning.

Plan Ahead: Always check the weather forecast before heading to an outdoor activity. Know where you can quickly find safe cover should a storm approach.

Safe Cover: Take cover in a metal-topped vehicle if it's not possible to go inside a building. Don't touch any metal parts of the vehicle during a lightning storm.

Unsafe Cover: Avoid open sheds, tents, open boats, convertibles, temporary shelters; open areas like golf courses, athletic fields and tennis courts; lakes, swimming pools, seashores; isolated trees; high ground; open windows or rooftops; places near wire fences, clotheslines, overhead wires, or railroad tracks.

- Avoid using electrical appliances, telephones (except in emergencies), or plumbing fixtures such as showerheads or faucets during a storm.

- Stay under cover until the danger passes. Lightning can strike even if there's no rain. Remember, if you hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.

Lightning Alert

If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning is about to strike. Crouch on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your

knees and your head between them to make yourself the smallest target possible. DO NOT lie flat on the ground.

Information

The CPCU Society, the professional association for more than 26,000 CPCU-credentialed insurance industry professionals, offers information about lightning (including the above tips) on its Web site: www.cpcusociety.org.

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