

Oct. 1 is application deadline for state wildlife habitat grants

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism is now accepting applications for State Wildlife Grants, which are awarded to qualified private landowners to enhance wildlife habitat on their land. Since its inception, the Private Landowner Program has funded more than \$1.4 million to complete 60 private land habitat projects.

Projects include removing invasive woody plants from native mixed-grass prairie, constructing alternate watering facilities to help with native short-grass prairie management, conversion of cool season grass to native grass and forbs, and construction of perimeter fencing on expiring Conservation Reserve Program fields to help maintain those fields in native grass. These projects will improve more than 20,346 acres of habitat that will benefit wildlife considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need in Kansas.

In the past, the department received \$586,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to aid in the protection and management of priority habitats in Kansas. In June 2012, the department received an additional \$205,000 to further continue this private landowner habitat conservation work.

To be eligible, applications must address issues and strategies identified in the Kansas Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. Applications will be scored based on established criteria to ensure all

applicants are considered fairly and that the highest-ranking projects are selected. Proposals with potential to score highest will specifically address restoration and enhancement activities that will contribute to 1) development or maintenance of large grassland blocks capable of supporting area-sensitive wildlife species 2) restoration or maintenance of areas supporting high densities of playa lakes surrounded by grasslands and 3) restoration or enhancement of streams and associated riparian buffers.

Applications are being accepted with a deadline of Oct. 1. Those landowners receiving funding will be required to match a minimum of 25 percent of total project costs. This match can either be a cash contribution from a non-federal source or contributions of labor, materials, or equipment use. Applications will be accepted until available funds have been committed.

Interested landowners should contact any regional office or a private lands biologist for application materials or to schedule a consultation concerning a proposed project. Questions regarding program administration can be addressed to Roger Wolfe, KD-WPT Region 2 Office, 300 SW Wanamaker Road, Topeka, Kansas 66606; phone 785-273-6740. Persons with special communication needs may use the Kansas Relay Center, 1-800-766-3777.

Commercial guides are required to have permits

At a June meeting of the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Commission, a new regulation regarding guide services on public lands was passed.

Beginning with this fall's hunting seasons, commercial guides must have a permit to guide on lands managed or owned by the department. The permit is free and available at ksoutdoors.com, to guide on public lands.

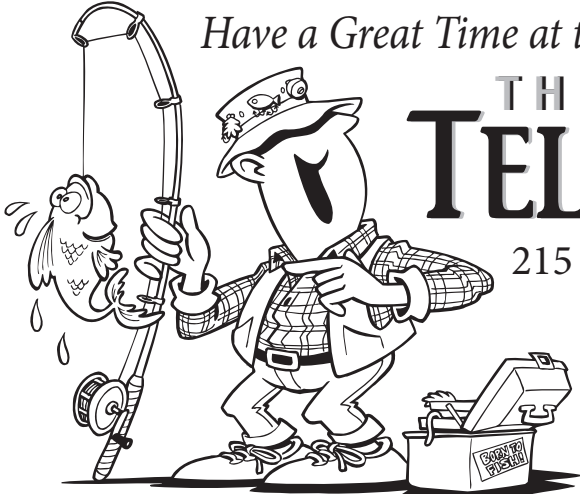
Click on "Hunting/Applications and Fees/Public Lands." The permit must be specific to the land where guiding takes place. This includes public wildlife areas as well as Walk-In Hunting Access lands.

"Commercial guide" services means any commercial

assistance to hunters, including providing any one or more of the following when used in conjunction with or for hunting activities: pack or riding livestock, transportation other than by commercial carrier, equipment or facilities.

"Commercial" means that the recipient of the commercial guide services agrees to provide valuable consideration as compensation for the services, which are provided as part of a business relationship. Evidence of a business relationship shall include advertisement of the commercial guide services, written agreement of the terms of payment, or services provided by an employee of a commercial guide service.

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