

USERS FUND OUTDOOR, TOURISM PROGRAMS



State General Fund does not support outdoor or tourism programs, staff

Fish and Wildlife

Funding for KDWPT's fish and wildlife programs comes from two sources 1) the sale of hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses and permits which supply the **Wildlife Fee Fund** and 2) federal dollars returned to Kansas from the federal excise taxes hunters and anglers pay on equipment they purchase.

The federal dollars stem from the **Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration (WSFR) Programs** which are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They were enacted under the **Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Acts**. This approach to funding wildlife conservation is used by all the states and was endorsed by hunters and anglers themselves.

The amount of money returned to Kansas is based primarily on the numbers of licenses and permits the agency sells. The federal funds require a 25 percent state match which comes from sales of hunting, fishing and furharvesting licenses and permits, not the State General Fund. **By law, fee funds and federal funding cannot be diverted for other uses.**

Sport Fish Restoration funds are used for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. **Wildlife Restoration** funds are used to restore, conserve, manage and enhance wildlife and habitats; provide public use and access to wildlife resources; hunter education; and developing and managing shooting ranges.

KDWPT leverages license and permit revenues and WSFR funding to benefit wildlife, anglers, hunters and boaters. WSFR funds are usually specific to game animals and sport fish, but habitat enhancement efforts benefit all fish and wildlife. Popular programs such as Walk-In Hunting Access (WIHA), Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitat (FISH), and Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) are possible because of the WSFR program.

Other programs funded with a combination of federal funds and license revenues include aquatic nuisance species monitoring and education.

Boating and Boating Safety

KDWPT's boating programs serve the needs of recreational boaters for access, education, boat registration and boating safety. Programs are funded by a mix of 1) state boat registration revenues which go into the **Boating Fee Fund** and 2) Recreational Boating Safety Program funds administered by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

As the USCG describes it, "user pays/user benefits," since the federal mon-

ies are paid by boaters and anglers from federal excise taxes attributable to motorboat and small engine fuel use and on sport fishing equipment such as rods and reels.

KDWPT uses boat registration revenues along with matching federal funds – the amount of which is determined by the number of registered watercraft – to support boating-related programs such as:

- Developing, improving, and maintaining docks, boat ramps, toilet facilities; and inspecting marinas
- Enforcing vessel operation, sanitation, sound muffling and boating under the influence laws
- Investigating boating accidents and thefts, officer training, and search and rescue operations
- Administering boating education and water safety programs, publishing boating information, and appearing at fairs and boat shows

State Parks

As of FY2013, the state's 26 state parks no longer receive State General Fund revenues and rely almost entirely on user fees. Park operations, programs and staff are funded primarily through the sale of park entrance permits and campsite fees which go into the **Park Fee Fund** and cabin rental fees which supply the **Cabin Fee Fund**. The state parks also receive monies from the Economic Development Incentive Fund (EDIF). Funds are used to operate and maintain the state parks, fund state park law enforcement and provide safe, enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences and activities for **more than 6 million visitors**.

Some federal funding has been used to enhance state park trails and facilities, although the funds cannot be used for park operation and maintenance activities.

Grants from the National Park Service's **Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF)** have been used for planning, acquisition, and development of state and local outdoor recreation facilities. The grant program provides 80 percent matching funds, on a reimbursement basis, for eligible recreational trail and trail-related projects. KDWPT is authorized to administer the L&WCF program in Kansas and may transfer some of the funds to local jurisdictions to acquire land or develop outdoor recreation facilities. Traditionally, about 75 percent has

been awarded to local sponsors and 25 percent has been invested in state projects, although that may vary. The ratio of money reserved for state and local projects is determined by KDWPT.

Funding for some trail development and improvements may come from the federal **Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** administered by KDWPT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Funds for this program are appropriated by the FHWA to KDWPT for recreational trail development. Projects must fall into one or more of three categories: motorized, non-motorized, or diversified recreational trail or trail-related projects. Projects that provide for improved ADA and environmental impacts are a high priority.

Kansas Tourism

Expenditures for the Tourism Division are funded by revenues from the EDIF fund along with income from sales of products and services such as Kansas! magazine, advertising and display space in publications and shows and the Blue Sign Logo program which KDWPT manages (the revenues are transferred from KDOT). The non-EDIF revenues go into the **Tourism Publication and Sales Fee Fund**.

The Tourism Division publishes Kansas! magazine; promotes Kansas attractions and destinations in-state, nationally and internationally; markets the Kansas Byways; administers the Kansas Agritourism program; provides the tourism industry with news, research, marketing tools and education; and hosts the state's official

travel and tourism website (TravelKS.com) where industry partners can promote local and regional attractions, activities and events. Division employees – assisted by other department employees as needed – staff displays at outdoor recreation and tourism industry trade shows.

The division also administers two local grant programs that are funded with EDIF funds:

- Attraction Development Grants designed to help develop new tourism attractions or the enhance existing attractions.
- Tourism Marketing Grants that assist organizations with innovative, dedicated advertising and marketing.

