Public Lands in Kansas

Private land in Kansas = 98.1%
Public land in Kansas = 1.9%
Rank 49th in USA for amount of public land
PL Division Demographics

• Division Director
• Assistant Director
• 4 Regional Supervisors
• 48 Field employees (Manager Supv., Managers, Ass’t Managers, EOS, GMRT)
• 54 total FTE’s
  - 34 LEO’s
  - 21 non-LEO’s
• 176 properties statewide under control of Public Lands Division
  - directly manage 153 of those (23 public domains, BLM/Louisiana Purchase - 1803)
  - 318,000 terrestrial acres (0.6% of total land area in KS)
  - 0.38 to 19,857 acres
  - @ 65,000 acres KDWPT holds title to
    * Most owned by Bureau of Reclamation and US Army Corps of Engineers
    * “Which side of the fence?”
    * payments in lieu of taxes
KDWPT PL Division Funding

• $0.00 from SGF
• Directly from hunting & fishing licenses, permits, tags, stamps, etc.
  - Wildlife Fee Fund
• Rely heavily on WSFR Federal Grants
  - Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Act
  - excise tax on hunting related equipment 10%-11% (PR Act)
  - excise tax on fishing related equipment 10% (DJ Act)
KDWPT State Parks

Outdoor Recreation
Parks General Info

• Maintain @ 32,200 acres within 26 Parks (.06% of total land area in Kansas)
• Located on federal property owned by US COE or BOR under lease agreement
• Very few are located on property owned by the State of Kansas
• Includes campgrounds, paved roadways, and a wide range of public recreational facilities
  • Intensive mowing; results in a prominent treatment method for noxious weeds
• Lower density public use areas include areas such as public trails and less intensively managed areas.
  • utilize chemical & mechanical treatment and prescribed fire
• Funding = no SGF; Fee funded from camping/vehicle related permits, some grants
Routine activities – SFL’s, WA’s, & Parks

• Manage budget allotments

• **Office duties** (pay bills, spec/bid/purchase equipment & supplies, contracts for goods/services, sell licenses/permits)

• **Manage habitat** (Rx fire, grazing, haying, spraying, invasives & noxious weeds, agricultural production)

• Conduct law enforcement

• Maintain and manage campgrounds

• **Maintain all infrastructure** (buildings, docks, jetties, roads, fences, parking lots, playgrounds, day-use areas, boat ramps, toilets/showerhouses, etc.)

• Manage wetlands

• Public relations and education
Sericea treatment

- WA, SFL, PD, other
- FTE present
- Managed Wetland
Treatment Methods (S. iespedeza)

• Chemical (label recommended rates/months)
  - Remedy
  - Escort
  - PastureGard
  - Cimarron & Chaparral (minimal use)

• Mechanical
  - Mowing = after mid-July (reduced/delayed seed production); seed transfer
  - Farming = clean/wash equipment; seed transfer
  - Late summer burns; August mainly = reduced seed production

* follow-up with grazing
* extensive research at Woodson WA (Woodson Co.)
* Research project with KSU / Dr. KC Olson
Challenges

• Manpower
  - most managers responsible for an avg. of 3 - 4 prop./ea.
  - some are managing 9 – 11 properties (w/ 1-2 FTE’s)

• Funding
  - many have minimal budget allotments
    * Manager in BU, CS, MO counties = $7,000 annually on treatment (13% of budget)
    * Manager in NO & BB counties = $22K annually on control (33% of budget)
    * Manager w/areas in MG county = $25K annually on control (49% of budget)

• Time management
  - previously mentioned responsibilities

• Floods (catch-all for everything)
Things to Note

• 5-year internal review of approved chemicals
• BOR & COE requires herbicide & pesticide lists in AMP’s
  *prior-approval to treat noxious weeds & invasives
  *approval process sometimes delayed
• Noxious weed evaluation for land acquisitions
• New internal tracking & reporting methods
  *specific time/activity/expense coding for NW
  *specific fiscal year annual reports for NW
STATEWIDE NOXIOUS WEED GUIDELINES

Statement
The Public Lands Division of the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism manages over 300,000 acres of terrestrial wildlife habitat across the state. It is our responsibility to promote wise land-use and stewardship. Noxious weed control is a priority as part of our habitat management practices and to comply with legal statutes. Methods to reduce, control, and eradicate noxious weeds are carried out annually as weather, budgets, and man-power allows. The Public Lands Division follows noxious weed law established under K.S.A. 2-1314 and K.S.A. 2-1314b.

Methods
On average, over 20,000 acres of noxious weeds are targeted for treatment annually. Common control includes crop rotation in agriculture fields, chemical and mechanical methods but the primary treatment is with herbicides. All chemical application and use of herbicides will follow State of Kansas laws and regulations and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Ag Chemical Use Policy. Restricted use chemicals are applied by licensed contractor or qualified employees who have successfully obtained an applicator’s license. All chemicals are State of Kansas and Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism approved and will be applied in accordance with the manufacturer’s label. Staff routinely monitors treatment areas and conducts plant inventory to evaluate success of treatment methods. Communication, coordination, and cooperation with local county weed departments is expected.
The following plants are declared noxious weeds in Kansas:

1) Field Bindweed - *Convolvulus arvensis* L.
2) Russian Knapweed - *Centaurea repens* L.
3) Hoary Cress - *Cardaria draba* (L.)
4) Canada Thistle - *Cirsium arvense* (L.)
5) Quackgrass - *Agropyron repens* (L.)
6) Leafy Spurge - *Euphorbia esula* L.
7) Bur Ragweed - *Ambrosia grayii*
8) Pignut/Hog Potato - *Hoffmannseggia densiflora* .
9) Kudzu – *Pueraria lobate*
10) Johnsongrass - *Sorghum halepense* (L.)
11) Musk Thistle/Nodding Thistle - *Carduus nutans* L.
12) Sericea Lespedeza – *Lespedeza cuneata*

**County optional = Multifloral Rose – *Rosa multiflora* and Bull Thistle – *Cirsium vulgare***
Land Acquisitions

When a KDWPT Land Availability Report is completed for the potential acquisition of new land under the control of the Public Lands Division, the provisions as outlined under K.S.A. 32-833(A) shall be adhered to.

*KSA 32-833 = Authority to purchase land; conditions and limitations

Reporting

Number of acres treated and associated costs for chemical, equipment, and man-hours will be reported annually in the KDWPT Public Lands Statewide Accomplishments and Performance Reports. Individual properties maintain their own records on-site.
Statistical Data

• FY16:
  - Musk Thistle = 3,204.5 acres treated; $24,043.48
  - Canada Thistle = 607 acres treated; $10,436.00
  - Sericea lespedeza = 11,219.8 acres treated; $90,530.38
  - Bindweed = 9 acres; $935.00 (under-reported)
  - M.F. Rose = un-reported
  - Johnson grass = 7,261.1 acres treated; $105,443.23

Total acres treated = 22,301.4
Cost = $231,388.09
Noxious/Invasive’s labor cost = $152,337.77
Stats. Continued.............

• FY17
  - Musk Thistle = 4,538 acres treated; $28,180.25
  - Canada Thistle = 589.4 acres treated; $13,563.00
  - Sericea lespedeza = 10,557 acres treated; $96,192.84
  - Bindweed = 9.0 acres; $400.00 (under-reported)
  - M.F. Rose = unreported
  - Johnson grass = 7,584.4 acres treated; $128,788.04

Total acres treated = 23,277.8
Cost = $267,124.13
Noxious/Invasive’s labor cost = $144,315.31
Current Stats..........................

• FY18 (1st qtr)
  - Musk Thistle = 2,402 acres treated; $15,996.25
  - Canada Thistle = 519 acres treated; $11,972.00
  - Sericea lespedeza = 12,134 acres treated; $113,939.41
  - Bindweed = 30 acres treated; $594.88 (under-reported)
  - M.F. Rose = unreported
  - Johnson grass = 3,647.6 acres treated; $48,751.07

Total acres (1st qtr.) = 18,733.1
Cost (1st qtr.) = $191,253.61
Noxious/Invasive’s labor cost = $76,026.73
Other stats

• FY17 State Parks
  6 regions STWD
  3,015 acres chemically treated; @ $80,000

• FY17 Department Statewide
  26,292.8 acres treated
  $491,439.44 spent on treatment (mostly chemical)