

LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism:
Evaluating the Cost of the Department's Cabin Rental Program

SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Representative Ken Corbet.

BACKGROUND

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's (KDWPT) mission is to conserve and enhance Kansas' natural heritage, wildlife, and habitats. In 2002, KDWPT entered into an agreement with the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Kansas Wildscape Foundation to build publicly available cabins in the state's parks and wildlife areas. Utilizing inmate labor through the Department of Corrections, the project provides the inmates vocational experience while also providing KDWPT additional revenue through cabin rental fees.

As of 2017, the project had built 120 new cabins across the state's 26 parks and wildlife areas. In calendar year 2015, KDWPT reported total revenue of about \$1.3 million from cabin rentals. KDWPT is responsible for paying maintenance and other ongoing costs associated with the cabins. Revenue from the cabin rentals are divided between KDWPT and the Kansas Wildscape Foundation. KDWPT's share of the revenue is deposited into their maintenance fee fund and is used to pay for maintenance and ongoing costs of the cabins. Legislators are interested in knowing whether KDWPT has collected enough revenue from cabin rentals to offset the cost of the program.

AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

The audit objective listed below represents the question that we would answer through our audit work. The proposed steps for the objective are intended to convey the type of work we would do, but are subject to change as we learn more about the audit issues and are able to refine our methodology.

Objective 1: Has the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism collected enough revenue from rental fees to offset the cost of its cabin rental program? Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Work with KDWPT staff to identify the department's costs associated with building and maintaining the state's cabins for the last several years.
- Collect and review KDWPT financial information to identify the department's revenue from cabin rentals for the last several years. As part of this work, we would also identify rental fees and utilization rates on a per-cabin basis for the last several years.
- Compare the annual revenue KDWPT received from cabin rentals to its annual costs for the last several years to determine whether KDWPT has collected enough revenue to offset the cost of the cabin rental program.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.