

MEMBERS OF KANSAS DELEGATION INTRODUCE GREAT PLAINS PARKWAY BILL

FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 1 - All Members of the Kansas Congressional delegation Wednesday joined in the introduction of legislation to provide for the establishment and administration of the Great Plains Parkway, a right-of-way to traverse Kansas and other midwestern states having vestiges of the nation's "great prairie."

Both Kansas Senators - Frank Carlson and James Pearson - co-sponsored the bill in the Senate and identical bills were introduced in the House by Representatives Bob Dole, 1st District; Chester Mize, 2nd District; Larry Winn, 3rd District; Garner Harner, 4th District, and Joe Skubitz, 5th District.

As envisioned by the Kansas legislators, the Great Plains Parkway would eventually be a scenic and historic route 1700 miles in length from Tulsa, Oklahoma to Bainville, Montana. It would cross Kansas in a north-south route from Sedan, near the Oklahoma border, through the heart of the Flint Hills to Council Grove, up the Blue Valley by Tuttle Creek and ending at the Hollenberg Pony Express station near Kanover.

The Parkway would be designed "to present and interpret for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people of the United States the remaining vestiges of the great prairie of the midwest and associated wildlife, and the frontier experience in the settling of the west, and to portray contemporary ranching, agriculture, and historical landmarks in the great prairie region."

The Secretary of the Interior would be empowered by the bill to acquire the necessary right-of-way and work out the route on the basis of connecting the most scenic, historic and great prairie features.

In introducing the legislation, the Kansas delegation indicated that they hoped other states would join in promoting the project. They did not expect to press for hearings until feasibility studies and other research could be made by the appropriate federal agencies.