

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, June 6, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

In compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

The Commission may vote to approve, disapprove or take other action on any of the following items. The Commission may vote to authorize public comment on any agenda item requesting a rule change.

1. Call to Order – Chairwoman Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Micah Holmes
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Micah Holmes
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Recognition of Commissioner Bruce Mabrey for his service as District 2 Commissioner April 2002 – June 2022 – J.D. Strong, Director and Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis.

7. Recognition of the social medial team for being awarded “Best Twitter Presence” at the Government Social Media Conference – J.D. Strong, Director.
8. Presentation on the scope and strategies for the Outdoor Oklahoma magazine, TV show and Journal – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education Division and Don Brown, Communication and Education Specialist and Todd Craighead, Communication and Education Specialist.
9. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the April 4, 2022 regular Commission meeting.
10. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
 - a. Federal and Congressional Update
 - Oklahoma Legislative Update – Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison
 - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
 - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
11. Presentation of the March 31, 2022 and April 30, 2022 Financial Statements and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
12. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on the Department’s FY2023 Annual Budget – Amanda Storck.

13. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a Resolution to establish hunting dates, bag, possession limits, and special means of take for the 2022-23 Migratory Game Birds hunting seasons – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.
14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a Resolution establishing antlerless deer seasons and bag limits – Bill Dinkines.
15. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Harmon and Pittsburg counties, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines.
16. Discussion and action, if necessary, concerning the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, including a status update, approval of appointment/reappointment of members for the Foundations' Board of Directors, Board Committees, fundraising and other related matters involving the Foundation – Commissioner Barwick.
17. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on the nominations of 2022-2023 Commission Officers – Commissioner Zelbst.
18. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
19. Announce the July 5, 2022 Commission meeting has been cancelled.
20. Adjourn

People with disabilities may request accommodations by calling 405-522-6279 at least three days before the meeting.

MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on April 4, 2022 of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Coleman Theatre, Miami, Oklahoma, April 4, 2022. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The Agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on March 24, 2022 at 2:40 p.m. and posted on the front door of the Coleman Theatre.

Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: LEIGH A. GADDIS, Chairwoman
JAMES V. BARWICK, Vice-Chairman
BRUCE MABREY, Member
D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member
JESS M. KANE, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary
BILL K. BREWSTER, Member
JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF); Richard Hatcher, President, OWCF; Peter Churchbourne, NRA; Paige Rempe; Ricky Turpin, Fishing Trail Anniversary winner; Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell. Director Strong also introduced the new Assistant Chief of Fisheries, Richard Snow.

Director strong recognized Micah Holmes, Assistant Chief of Communication and Education for 20 years of service; Lance Meek, Senior Specialist for 20 years of service; John Rempe, Wildlife Biologist for 25 years of service and Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant for 30 years of service.

Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell, Secretary of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage addressed the Commission regarding the Oklahoma Fishing Trail. The Oklahoma Fishing Trail was launched three years ago and is recognized nationally as a premier fishing trail. Oklahoma was a top state in fishing license sales in 2020 generating over 8.2 million in projected tourism revenue. Lieutenant Governor Pinnell introduced Ricky Turpin of Mustang as the Oklahoma Fishing Trails Anniversary winner. Mr. Turpin said Oklahoma is a wonderful state and he is honored by this recognition.

Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2022 Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration presented the Financial Statement for February 28, 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Kane to accept the financial statements as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Ms. Stork gave a brief report on current license sales.

Recreational Licenses – Number of licenses sold down 25% for March compared to 2021 sales. (Down 15% YTD)

- Resident Fishing – Down 25% (Down 20% YTD)
- Resident Hunting – Up 7% (Up 7% YTD)
- Resident Combo – Down 28% (Down 24% YTD)
- Nonresident Hunting – Down 2% (Up 2% YTD)
- Nonresident Fishing – Down 23% (Down 17% YTD)
- Lifetime Licenses – Down 3% for March
- Lifetime Combo – Down 13% (Down 15% YTD)
- Lifetime Fishing – Down 33% (Down 32% YTD)
- Seniors – UP 8% (Up 6% YTD)
- Not a great month, but we will keep an eye on April for spring turkey sales and fishing licenses.

Director Strong gave a brief update and highlighted the Congressional report submitted by Brittnee Preston, the Department's part-time Federal and Congressional Liaison. This report was sent to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. He gave a legislative update. The latest and up to date movement of wildlife bills can be found on the Wildlife Tracker [2022 Wildlife-Related Legislation](#)

Mr. Strong gave a Director's Report on calendar items and agency updates. This report was given to the Commission and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. He mentioned that Total Archery Challenge (TAC) had their first event in Broken Bow, Oklahoma and it was the biggest first-time event ever. They had over 1800 participants. Director Strong reminded the Commissioners about the Legislative Fish Fry that will be on April 27, 2022 at the State Capitol. He also announced that the Outdoor Oklahoma YouTube channel has reached more than 5 million total views and has swelled to 20,000 subscribers.

Wade Free, Assistant Director, gave a brief overview of ODWC's Boating Access and Shooting Range Program and introduced Nicholas Shenold, Boating Access/Shooting Range Coordinator. Mr. Shenold presented a PowerPoint on the projects that have already been accomplished and many more in the queue. He outlines the process of reclaiming the land at WMA's before new shooting ranges are established. The WMA ranges are open daylight to dusk. The new ranges have had very little if any vandalism due to the new design and the law enforcement presence. Mr. Dillingham requested that a map of all the available ranges be put on the website for easy access to constituents. More shooting ranges are necessary due to the excise tax bump and record breaking firearms sales. There are many more shooters who need access to ranges. On the boating access side, eligible projects range from ramps and docks to restrooms and dam repair. Mr. Shenold presented slides of several completed projects and a list of upcoming projects.

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, introduced Mike Plunket, NE Region Wildlife Supervisor who updated the Commission on the activities in the NE Region. Mr. Plunket showed pictures of management work such as clearing, burning, road work and workshop construction. He also discussed the projects in the area such as youth hunts, bear research and a cooperative agreement ODWC has with the Corp of Engineers. The Corp has a fire ranger program and when they are ready to do hands-on training, ODWC utilizes the rangers to help with WMA controlled burns. Commissioner Kane stated that he is very proud of the work that the NE ODWC employees are accomplishing.

Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education, introduced Lance Meek, Senior Communication and Education Specialist. Mr. Meek has worked with the NRA for many years and developed the on-line hunter education course. Mr. Meek introduced Peter Churchbourne,

Director of the Hunter’s Leadership Forum for the National Rifle Association. Mr. Churchbourne said he loves what Oklahoma is doing with the advancement of shooting ranges. Shooting is a gateway to hunting. Mr. Churchbourne donated \$25,000 from the National Rifle Association in support of gun range construction on Packsaddle Wildlife Management Area. This donation was approved at the March 2022 Commission meeting, therefore no vote was necessary.

Mr. Meek explained that in 2018 ODWC began using the NRA on-line Hunter Education course. This course is free to all participants, but ODWC still receives federal aid match dollars for everyone who takes the course. Mr. Churchbourne represented the NRA’s contribution of \$122,702 to ODWC in the form of state matching funds towards the agency’s required share of Wildlife Restoration Program funds.

Mr. Rodefeld requested Commission approval on the proposed changes to the Department’s Controlled Hunts Program. Staff is recommending a hybrid application system that allows the same hunt choice options as are currently allowed (up to 14 hunt choices for \$5 application) while also allowing hunters extra choices at \$3 per choice). Half of all once-in-a-lifetime permits (elk and antelope) will be drawn from those with 20 preference points or more while everyone who applies will be eligible for the other 50 percent of permits. Commissioner Dillingham stated that the Policy Committee had met and reviewed the proposed changes. He said the Committee felt these changes were fair and rewarded the constituents. Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Kane to approve the proposed changes as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Mr. Rodefeld requested Commission approval on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation’s Logo Sharing Policy. Mr. Rodefeld said that ODWC is proud to share our logo with our valued partners. Our partnerships will be stronger when the visual representation of our brands is uniformly coordinated. This Policy outlines when and how the ODWC will share our logo. Mr. Barwick asked how many requests we receive. Mr. Rodefeld said it’s approximately 1 – 2 each month and the ODWC approval rate for logo use is about 50-50. Mr. Dillingham stated that the Policy Committee had met and reviewed the Logo Sharing Policy. Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Mabrey to approve the Policy as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Chairman Gaddis announced the May Commission has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
J.D. Strong, Director

Personnel Actions
April 2022

New Hires

Joshua Luft – Wildlife OLAP Technician, NW Region, 4/14/22

Promotions

Richard Snow – Fisheries Research Supervisor OFRL, promoted to Assistant Chief of Fisheries, 4/1/22

Transfers

Josey Branch – Game Warden, from Tulsa County to Payne County, 4/1/22

Resignations/Terminations

Jonathan Kelly – Fisheries Technician, Higgins Office, 4/1/22

David Clay – Game Warden, Nowata County, 4/1/22

Retirements

Rod Smith – Wildlife Regional Supervisor, Southwest Region, 4/11/22

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
J.D. Strong, Director

Personnel Actions
May 2022

New Hires

Jamie Green – HR Management Specialist, Headquarters, 5/1/22

Promotions

Richard Beagles – Wildlife Biologist to Senior Biologist, SE Region, 5/1/22

Transfers

Resignations/Terminations

Breton Sloan – Game Warden, Woods County, 5/11/22

Nicholas Shenold – Boating Access/Shooting Range Coord., 5/13/22

Retirements

Carol Davidson – Accounting Assistant, Headquarters, 5/1/22

June 2022 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

May 2-5 National R3 Symposium, Broken Arrow, OK
July 5 Wildlife Commission meeting cancelled.
July 11-15 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference – OKC

AGENCY UPDATE

LEGISLATURE:

- The Legislature has adjourned Sine Die. A handful of bills were ultimately passed and signed into law:
 - HB 3639: Re-creates the nonresident youth deer licenses with a \$30 doe tag, \$100 either sex tag and increases adult nonresident deer license to \$300. It goes into effect upon the Governor's signature.
 - HB 3640: Increases penalties for certain violations on WMAs to \$100 min. and \$1,000 max. Effective July 1.
 - HB 4281: Removes requirement that USDA-Wildlife Services post all corners of a property when deploying predator control devices. Effective November 1.
 - SB 1571: Allows for the use of airbows during any legal rifle season. Requires that airbow hunters purchase a one-time \$20 permit. Currently in effect.
 - SB 1696: Makes annual hunting, combo and fishing licenses valid for 365-days from purchase. Adjusts hunting and combo license prices to match existing fiscal year pricing. Effective November 1.
 - SB 1809: Allows agricultural landowners, ag lessees and designees to hunt nuisance hogs and coyotes at night without a permit. Increases penalties for night poaching. Effective November 1.
- The Game Warden Association sponsored a lunch for the House Wildlife Committee members on April 7th. Members had a chance to ask questions about ODWC and wildlife conservation, as well as hear from one of ODWC's game wardens and Oklahoma State Game Warden Association President, Russell Bradford.



- Candidate filing concluded with 55 House and Senate races already decided (9 in the Senate, including one brand-new person, and 46 in the House, including one brand-new person). One statewide office was also reelected at filing, (Insurance Commissioner Glen Mulready). Many more will be decided at the Primary or Runoff Primary.
- Multiple legislators participated in paddlefishing experiences in April: Reps. Stan May, Dean Davis, Rusty Cornwell, Lonnie Simms, Eric Roberts, and John Waldron. Thanks to Wade Free and Nels Rodefeld for providing a fun experience!



HUMAN DIMENSIONS:

- Attended the Pathways Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference in Bremerton, WA. Jason Schooley presented our Bowfishing Survey. This survey effort has also been accepted for publication in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management- a paper co-authored by Betsey York, Jason Schooley, and Dennis Scarnecchia.
- Betsey attended many sessions on human dimensions of CWD and joined a new multi-state working group to share information about efforts conducted around CWD management.
- As part of the AFWA Social Science Subcommittee Steering Committee, Betsey helped facilitate the annual meeting. Several other ODWC C&E employees attended the meeting where we brainstormed national issues that would benefit from human dimensions inquiries.
- Betsey guest lectured on the use of human dimensions at ODWC to two classes (one undergraduate and one graduate) at Oklahoma State University and University of Oklahoma.
- Began a survey to determine next steps for the online hunter education program. The results from this survey should be available in June.
- Results and recommendations from the Women and Hunting Survey are being circulated with staff and will be available for viewing in June.

ALL AGENCY:

- The agency launched a project entitled "Finding Pathways to Increasing Conservation Relevancy." We are working with four members of the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) to drive the future of ODWC's conservation relevancy efforts. A team of 15 agency employees have been selected and will represent each of ODWC's divisions in this process. The project will constitute three phases of work over 6 months:
 - Identify ODWC's relevancy aspirations and information needs. WMI will work with ODWC to understand where we are coming from and where we want to go. They will help us to identify what geographies or population segments we are interested in connecting with and what the best ways are to form those connections.

- WMI will conduct a survey of selected geographies or population segments to determine what ODWC needs to do to best connect with them.
- Based on ODWC's developed relevancy goals, WMI will aid in using survey results to determine specific management actions to engage with selected geographies or population segments.

ADMINISTRATION

- Accounting
 - Number of Claims Audited and Paid - 288
 - Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid - \$2,272,870.24
 - Total # Agency Cardholders - 191 (20 approving officials)
 - Total Agency Spending Limit - \$416,500
 - Number of P/Card Transactions Processed - 735
 - Number of In-depth Audited Transactions - 65
 - Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases - \$186,899.10
 - New and Refresher PCard-holder and Approver Training Completed 21 Sent 22
 - Number of Purchase Orders/CO issued - 50
 - IT Acquisitions Processed - 13
 - 5 new ODWC vehicle accident/incident reports: Hail, Fire, Equipment, Dent/Ding, etc.
 - 1 pending 3rd party vehicle claim: Law Enforcement Officer hit by 3rd Party
 - 6 pending property claims: DSFH Tornado, OKC HQ Sewer Back-up/Flood, Keystone WMA Gates/Fence, OKC HQ Freeze/Pipes, PRC Freeze/Pipes, Jenks Burglary
 - Adriana Bustamante - Arbuckle Springs - Prebid meeting for hardwood removal
 - Adriana Bustamante - Ponca City - Prebid meeting - Office remodel
- Human Resources
 - Open Full-time Positions, January - 17
 - Positions Interviewed, 3 Candidates interviewed, 14
 - Positions Announced, 8
 - See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
 - Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), 21
 - End of employment, 1
 - 3 - ODWC Biweekly Computer Trainings
 - 2 - MINRC Meeting
 - 1 - New Hire Orientation for 2 new hires
 - 240 hours - Workday Parallel Payroll Testing
 - 105 hours - Workday User Acceptance Testing
 - Supervise 4 Cristo Rey interns
- IT
 - IT has taken in 104 tickets this month and closed 99 so far. This number has been in decline the last few months which is a welcome trend. The declining numbers has allowed us to work on ongoing and upcoming projects.
 - A major new project is to bring us in compliance with SB584. SB584 requires all non consolidated agencies to go through a third party IT audit. This will help with getting our workflow and disaster recovery documented, make sure we are keeping up with NIST standards, and ensure we can stay in good standing for insurance purposes.

Upcoming and Ongoing Projects:

- Further work has gone into migrating the department from the Leave System to Work Day for payroll.

- Continued efforts in working on the in house Retirement Maintenance Program for HR.
- Working on the Personnel Update Program that will pull information out of Work Day.
- Meet with OMES in person to work on ongoing pain points.
- Worked with OMES on returning lapsed leased equipment.
- Created a tool to assist exporting the fleet report easier.
- License
 - Processed over 1,000 orders, including 932 licenses and 669 hard card orders (mail and walk-in orders) - \$56,912 in revenue
 - Shipped over 240 merchandise items (hats, books, etc), totaling almost \$4,000 in revenue.
 - Processed \$409,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
 - Received almost 2,000 online applications for various licenses and permits.
- Property
 - Sent registration & tag renewals for 265 boats & boat motors to tax commission for 2023 renewal stickers.
 - Seal on one of our chilled water pumps failed and flooded mechanical room, 1st floor copy room and hallway outside of the mechanical room. Cleaned up and set up fans to dry out carpet. Called Carrier and had the pump rebuilt.
 - We have 28 trucks built and being prepped for delivery to headquarters early May.
 - Bill Knight Ford delivered 27 new 2022 Ford F-150 Ex-Cabs, 20 Law trucks, 2 Wildlife trucks, 4 Fish trucks and 1 C&E truck.
 - Meetings with Reflective Edge, Silsby Media and S B Graphics, going over specs and quantities for the new door and window decals for our trucks. I received samples and bids from all three companies.
 - Meetings with JVH marketing on two occasions to go over new cap styles and colors. Samples of the new cap have been ordered.
 - Did inventory on all radio parts in stock, ordered antennas and the parts needed for the new 2022 vehicles ordered.
 - Ordered supplies needed for removal of old decals and lettering on fleet vehicles.

FISHERIES DIVISION

Statewide Fish Stockings, April 2022			
Species	Number Fish	Size	Number Locations
Brown Trout	8,771	3"	1
Channel catfish	31,168	8-10"	43
Channel catfish	2,984	14"	8
Florida largemouth bass	404	5"	2
Florida largemouth bass	896	8"-9.5"	2
Hybrid sunfish, Aquatic Ed	950	6"	4

Hybrid sunfish	1,386	5-6"	7
Rainbow trout, USFWS	9,316	10.71 – 11.13"	1
Rainbow trout, commercial	4,962	9"+	1
Rainbow trout, commercial	245	14"-24"	1
Saugeye	321,000	Fry	2
Walleye	6,228,074	Fry	3
White bass	250,000	Fry	1
White bass	155	Brooder	1
TOTAL	6,860,311		

Meetings Attended

- Attended a meeting with USACE to discuss water allocation in the lower Illinois River.
- Attended the Oklahoma Striped Bass Association meeting and presented information about the Striped Bass fisheries in Lake Texoma.
- Attended the McGee Creek Bass Club meeting to discuss new bass regulations and the new tournament exemption process.

Activities

- Manning staff monitored the construction of the Manning pump station project.
- Northern largemouth bass broodfish were stocked into spawning ponds at Durant.
- Electro-fished CFLMB broodstock overwintering ponds and harvested approximately 900 broodstock that were placed in 7 prepared spawning ponds. Furthermore, staff drained and harvested overwintering ponds and sorted remaining CFLMB brooders, age-1 FLMB, and leftover forage. Age-1 FLMB were stocked by staff into public waters.
- Electro-fished 300+ FLMB 10" future brooders from their overwintering pond and extracted DNA samples to send to Auburn for the certification process. Future broodstock were also PIT tagged during the process. Sent 600+ remaining FLMB future broodstock to Grand Lake for public stocking.
- Goldfish, koi carp, and Northern largemouth bass broodfish were stocked into spawning ponds.
- Staff assisted in the collection of Sauger broodfish from the Arkansas River and hauled sauger to Byron State Fish Hatchery.
- Striped bass females broodstock were collected below Keystone dam.
- The Paddlefish Research Center remained in full operation through April. Staff continued to collect biological data, processed fillets, and caviar. Caviar sales for 2022 were initiated.
- Staff at the Paddlefish Research Center are working on two special projects - polypodium incidence in gonads and a new sex differentiation technique for paddlefish.
- Staff are conducted creel surveys at Close-to-home-fishing-ponds, Holdenville Reservoir, and Hugo Reservoir.
- Finished collection of *Moronids* from Sooner Reservoir and Texoma Reservoir for upcoming gap comparison study.
- Continued monthly collection of water samples from the Arkansas River and tributaries for upcoming striper study.
- Obtained suckers from gigging tournaments and collected harvest data.

- Spring electrofishing surveys were conducted on 21 reservoirs statewide and OKC and Tulsa Close to home fishing ponds. Genetics samples and otoliths were collected from reservoirs sampled, and analysis is ongoing.
- Staff refurbished 10 fish attractor sites with a total of 32 cedar trees and 20 spider blocks at Shawnee Lake #1 and Shawnee Lake #2, created 4 fish attractor sites using 22 Georgia Cubes in Eufaula cove area of Eufaula Lake, installed 36 large cedar trees at 6 sites on Ft. Gibson Lake, fish attractor sites were added to Hall Lake, and shoreline maintenance was performed at Doc Hollis Lake.
- Staff preformed aquatic education events including Pawnee Conservation Day and Hooked on Fishing, Big-5 fishing clinics, Altus AFB aquatic Ed event, held public outreach event for Stilwell's advanced high school biology classes, and coordinated AREP events for Jones, Moore, Norman, Purcell, Guthrie, Newcastle, and Blanchard
- Certified new state record Gizzard Shad and Golden Shiner.
- Continued entering and analyzing Smallmouth Bass diet data from the UIR genetics project.
- Attended a virtual meeting with Dr. Mollenhauer regarding modeling large-scale growth patterns of Smallmouth Bass for an upcoming scientific publication.
- Began analyzing data and writing publication assessing changes in stream fish occurrences through time in Great Plains streams of Oklahoma.

C&E DIVISION

- Daniel Griffith and the Web Council launched ODWC's new website. The new site is optimized for useability, functionality and showcases the agency's new brand. Teamwork from all divisions leading up to the launch reduced errors, mishaps and unnecessary stress. Thank you to everyone on the website council who helped with this monumental task.
- Most of the Division staff attended the National R3 Conference in Broken Arrow where they were able to interact with peers from across the country and heard about different tactics being used by states and NGOs to Recruit, Retain and Reactivate hunters as well as anglers.
- C&E Division conducted a "Road Show" in McAlester with attendance from three other divisions as well as 3 Ok forestry service staff. This event provided an opportunity for agency personal to interact with the C&E staff and discuss how we can help them get the message out about their activities and what is happening within the agency.
- Smokey Solis is working with the regulations committee to produce the 2022-23 Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. New this year is the absence of ads, identified as a key move to simplify and make it easier for constituents to sift through and locate relevant regulations. Without ads, the regulation book has 28 fewer pages .
- Smokey has also been working with fisheries and wildlife divisions to develop templates for area signage. The new templates will reflect the agency's new brand while also streamlining the process for ordering signs. Biologists, hatchery managers and whoever else will be able to simply download the template they need (e.g. WMA entrance sign or boundary sign), type the text needed, and order with a sign vendor.
- Summer fishing clinics are in full swing with many in-person as well as virtual courses being conducted.
- The ANS program reported two additional lakes infected with zebra mussels. C&E assisted Fisheries by producing general communications about the findings. C&E also assisted the ANS program by promoting a new effort aimed at partnering with pet stores across the state. C&E also assisted the ANS program with a special mailing to paddlefish guides on Grand Lake. Guides are asked to report any bighead carp sightings and, if possible, catch and kill any bighead carp observed.
- Shawn and Kelly conducted their first of several summer teacher training courses. Two new schools had staff in attendance and an additional 12 others attended that will be working with or taking over existing programs for teachers who are retiring or who have moved.

- C&E worked with Taylor Maples of 107.7 FM's The Franchise radio show to provide content and contacts for a new hunting and fishing radio show. The show airs Wednesday nights 8 p.m- 9 p.m.
- Sarah Southerland worked with Wildlife Division to create ads for social media promoting the Bear Wise message.
- Kelly Adams has worked with Mike Chrisman to allow people outside of ODWC to add events to the Go Outdoors Oklahoma calendar. The option will be available when the app updates later this summer.
- In its second year the Vamos a Pescar program has taken off with more than 120 people attending the first two events and the participation has continued to climb. The program, in cooperation the OKC Latina organization and the RBFF, works to introduce Hispanic families to the joys of fishing. Jennifer Bengé is responsible for much of the growth in this program year over year.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Staff is wrapping up evaluating turkey season results, but as expected harvest is down. 87 samples from birds harvested in 36 different counties were collected for the turkey genetics research project recently started with Oklahoma State University.

WMA's

- Dormant season prescribed fire activity wrapped up with an additional 13,297 acres burned on WMA's. (Several thousand acres also were burned by wildfires, including 6,700 acres on Beaver River WMA, but we do not count those acres in the annual summary of prescribed fires on WMA's)
- 215 tons of gravel were placed on WMA roads
- 49 miles of WMA roads were maintained/renovated
- Grazing season is underway on WMA's and associated grazing monitoring and infrastructure maintenance activities are ongoing
- A 100 acre cedar mulching project (NRDA) completed on Cooper WMA
- A concrete low water crossing was constructed by staff at Washita Arm WMA to provide access in the Turkey Creek area.



- Greater Prairie Chicken surveys were completed in Craig, Kay, Nowata, Osage and Ottawa Counties
- All staff assigned nuisance bear coordinator responsibilities across the state received additional training at a full day meeting at the Arcadia Conservation Education Facility. New capture equipment recently purchased by the OWC Foundation was distributed.

- HPAI presence in a domestic poultry operation has prompted a temporary halt to the movement of nuisance Canada geese as well as migratory birds going to rehabilitators. This movement halt was implemented to reduce the risk of artificially spreading the virus by human intervention. The halt began May 18 and will continue until June 15, 2022 unless ODAFF releases their statewide poultry movement ban sooner.
- Three white-tailed deer collected during the 2022 herd health collections were found to be positive for Brucella antibodies. This was a preliminary finding based on antibody presence in the blood serum collected. The samples were from Carter, Pushmataha, and Pontotoc Counties. Further tests are being conducted to determine if the bacteria are the swine or bovine species. Swine brucellosis has been found in herd health evaluation sampled deer prior. Results of the confirmation testing will be provided when the tests are complete.
- Technical assistance continues to ramp up with DMAP cooperators, quail/migratory bird/furbearer hunters, and landowners around the state.
- Mountain lion sightings continue to come in. Each are evaluated and if warranted a site visit is done. All confirmed sightings are added to the ODWC mountain lion confirmation web page.
- Scott Parry (ODWC's Playa Lakes Joint Venture Management Board Representative) will attend the PLJV Management Board meeting in McCook, NE on June 28-29.
- The nomination period for Landowner of the Year closed June 1st. We will evaluate nominations and select a Landowner of the Year for recognition at either the August or September Commission meeting.
- Private Lands staff have begun reviewing WHIP applications in June. for the FY 23 funding cycle (68 applications submitted through late May).
- Staff are working with the Pontotoc Ridge PBA on a field day in September (at least planned to be in, we'll see if that finalizes).

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- It has been a busy time of the year with fishing activity very high, turkey season going on, Lt. Gov. Turkey hunts around the state, fishing clinics and also trying to get training done for the year before it gets too hot this summer.
- Game Warden Riley Willman (D1) saved an individual out of a low water crossing, performed CPR on the unresponsive subject, was able to resuscitate the subject and he was transported to hospital where he is recovering.
- D4 and D5 Wardens helped with the Big Five fishing clinics. They assist with these clinics every year and have exposed thousands of young students to fishing.
- D4 Wardens assisted with the Lt. Governor Turkey hunt in Okemah. They operated the STEP trailer and assisted with guiding some of the hunters.
- Lt. Chad Strang (D5), Dillon King (D5) and Kody Moore (D1) attended the Marine Water Survival Instructor school in New Jersey. This training will enable us to update our water survival training we do with every warden.
- Lt. Col. Farrar and Col. Erdman attended the SEAFWA Law Enforcement Chief's meeting at Big Cedar Lodge. Topics discussed were pay across the region, working on an accreditation process for the Law Enforcement Divisions of SEAFWA and maybe across the nation. Updates from all the states that were in attendance were also part of the meeting.
- D4 wardens along with Investigator Long met with Texas wardens and USFWS agents about ongoing problems located below the Denison dam on Texoma Lake.



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR

J. D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

Wildlife Conservation Commission

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James V. Barwick

Vice Chairman

Rick Holder

Secretary

Bill Brewster

D. Chad Dillingham

Jess Kane

Bruce Mabrey

John P. Zelbst

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 25, 2022

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report on April and May Federal and Congressional Issues for June Commission Meeting

State of Play:

President –

The President released his budget on March 28th. Below are highlights from his budget.

General points:

- \$5.8 trillion FY23 total budget. This is a 5.7% increase from the FY 22 omnibus bill that was signed into law just a few weeks before his budget released.
- The budget seeks to reduce deficits through an increase to the top individual tax rate from 37% to 39.6% and raising the corporate tax rate from 21% to 28%.
- The budget proposes \$30 billion in new mandatory funding for state and local law enforcement, crime prevention and community violence intervention programs and \$1.7 billion for a Justice Department gun trafficking strike force convened last year.
- Includes \$44.9 billion to tackle climate change.

USDA

- Total funding \$28.5 billion, a \$3.8 billion or 17% increase from the FY21 enacted level.
- Requests \$6.7 billion for the U.S. Forest Service
- Requests \$1.2 billion for the Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Zeros out the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program; note that this is authorized one time through the FARM bill.
- Requests \$228 million for the Conservation Reserve Program
- \$1.88 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- \$162 million for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

Army Corps of Engineers

- Requests \$6.6 billion for the Corps of Engineers
- Requests \$1.1 billion for Flood Risk Management
- Requests \$285 million for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

EPA

- Requests \$11.9 billion for EPA
- \$3.8 billion for environmental programs and management

Interior

- Requests \$17.9 billion for DOI; a 20.5% increase from the FY21 enacted level.
- Requests \$2.8 billion for Bureau of Reclamation
- Requests \$1.8 billion for USGS.
- Requests \$2 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Requests \$815 million Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
 - \$82 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program
 - \$938 million for the Sport Fish Restoration Account, which includes the Pittman-Robertson Restoration Act, Multistate Conservation Grant Program, Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program and the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act
- Requests \$1.6 billion for the Bureau of Land Management
- \$8 million for National Wildlife Refuge Fund
- \$3.1 billion for the National Parks Service

Recovering America's Wildlife –

- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a markup on several nominations, resolutions and bills including S. 2372, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. While seven amendments total were offered on the bill, only one advanced to amend the bill. Below is a brief summary of the 6 amendments that failed:
 1. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) - would have reverted the bill back to the originally filed text.
 2. Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) - would have required the Service to allow access to data and decisional transparency with affected states under the ESA.
 3. Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) - would have included coastal programs under the bill.
 4. Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) - Would have made additional land allotments available under the Native Alaskan Vietnam Era Land Allotment program
 5. Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) - Would have made a clarification for Native Alaskan handicrafts that included Migratory Bird parts.
 6. Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-AK) - Would have made the bill be subject to annual appropriations instead of permanent funding.
 7. The successful amendment was a negotiated agreement between the Chairman and the Ranking member of the Committee. The Chairman's amendment included a 4 year ramp up in funding, the creation of the "Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund" ("Legacy Fund") that breaks the funding down into priority areas of funding and requires the USFWS to work with AFWA on state reporting. Below is a more detailed summary of the final text of the bill that passed committee.

S. 2372 Carper Amendment Summary (prepared by AFWA):

Ramp Up:

This agreed upon ramp up, while conceptually consistent with scenarios discussed previously, differs in the amount and the timing of when the funds are allocated to the states. States see more funding in years 1, 2 and 3 - **FY22 \$850 million, FY 23 \$1.1 billion, FY 24 \$1.2 billion, and FY 25+ \$1.3 billion** (65.4%, 84.6%, 92.3%, 100%), than in previous versions that were based on percentages of the total (25%, 50%, 75% and 100%). The tribal title remains at \$97.5 million annually. This means that states will really need to be "RAWA-ready" in year one to maximize funding opportunities. It also addresses concerns from states that would have received smaller than anticipated apportionments under the previous scenario.

"Pay For":

Consistent with original bill, the final agreement retains the use of forfeitures associated with natural resources or environmental penalties and fines that currently go to the general treasury.

Funding for Federal Recovery Efforts:

Chairman Carper's substitute amendment establishes the "Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund" ("Legacy Fund"). The idea is to build on collaborative partnerships with states, Tribes, and private landowners to help move additional species off the federal Endangered Species Act list. Coupled with the \$1.3 billion in dedicated annual funding for states, territories, and tribes to implement conservation plans targeted at recovering at-risk species and keeping them off of federal, state, and tribal lists of endangered species, this Legacy Fund provides funding to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to work with states, tribes, and other partners to recover federally endangered and threatened species and return them to state management.

The bill would provide **\$750 million** to the Legacy Fund, and the \$750 million would be distributed evenly over 4 years (\$187.5 million per year). Coupled with the adjustments to the states' allotment this results in no net change to the currently overall "score" or fiscal impact of the bill. This fund has no fiscal year limitation.

New Funding to Recover Endangered & Threatened Species:

Specifically, the Legacy Fund provides funding for the following four priority areas:

1. **\$300 million (4 years funded at \$75 million / year through FY25) to address the backlog in the development and implementation of recovery plans for species listed as a threatened or endangered species under section 4 of the Endangered Species Act**

Under the agreement, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) would administer these funds through a competitive grant program. NFWF builds partnerships between leading U.S. corporations and the federal agencies, nonprofits and individuals who drive conservation efforts across the United States. Since its founding by Congress in 1984, NFWF has supported more than 20,400 projects and enhanced wildlife populations and natural habitats in all 50 states and U.S. territories. NFWF is a non-regulatory and non-profit entity and was represented on the Blue Ribbon Panel that AFWA assembled to make recommendations for the future of fish and wildlife funding that has become the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

The additional funding under the Trust Fund will allow the Service to work with the states and other partners to write, update, implement and revise plans, using data and science to drive plans and delisting decisions. Additional resources will allow the FWS, states, tribes and conservation organizations to provide additional data to inform listing decisions and ultimately recover and delist species.

1. **\$300 million (4 years funded at \$75 million / year through FY25) to address interagency consultation responsibilities under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.**

Section 7 of the ESA directs all federal agencies to participate in conserving endangered and threatened (E/T) species. Specifically, section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) charges federal agencies to aid in the conservation of listed species, and section 7(a)(2) requires the agencies to ensure their activities are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of federally listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat.

1. **\$112.5 million (4 years funded at \$28.125 million / year through FY25) to work with non-Federal entities, including through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, the Coastal Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and other eligible programs like Joint Ventures**

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program of the FWS employs biologists, located in all 50 states and territories, who consult with landowners to help them conserve and improve wildlife habitat. Landowner conservation is important because nearly 70 percent of land in the United States is privately owned. Public and private landowners are critical partners in ensuring the health and sustainability of America's fish, wildlife, and plant species. Projects are voluntary and customized to meet landowners' needs and are often done in collaboration with state fish and wildlife agencies. Participating landowners continue to own and manage their land while meeting conservation and economic goals.

1. **\$37.5 million (4 years funded at \$9.375 million / year through FY25 to address the development and permitting of voluntary conservation agreements under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act**

The Fish and Wildlife Services implements a number of popular voluntary programs to help private landowners and others to implement and comply with the ESA. Including [Habitat Conservation Plans](#), [Safe Harbor Agreements](#), and [Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances](#)

Ineligible Uses of the Legacy Fund:

The Legacy Fund is clear about what the funds can—and cannot—be used for. The Legacy Fund specifically prohibits the use of funds to make any listing or critical habitat determination relating to the endangered or threatened status of any species, or to acquire any Federal land. Additionally, the negotiated agreement establishes that Legacy Funds cannot be used on the establishment or recovery of a non-essential experimental populations, and also cannot be used on the recovery of species outside the United States or its territories.

Unobligated Funds:

Rather than reversionary amounts going to the Legacy Fund Established in the Act known as, Legacy Fund, the reverted funds would once again go to the migratory bird fund as envisioned in the original version of the bill as is consistent with current reversion of Pittman-Robertson Funds.

Plant Supplement:

There was a modification to the allocation for SWAPS that include plants. Rather than \$55M it is now a percentage, 5%. Which equates to additional funding in this category.

Changes to Address Accountability:

1. The addition of "...as determined by utilizing the best available science" was removed from the final draft.
2. Creates a "Statement of Purpose" to identify the intent of the bill, which reflects all of our talking points, "... for the purpose of avoiding the need to list species, or recovering species currently listed as a threatened species or an endangered species, under the Endangered Species Act." Added to the end of the purpose statement is, "...or under state law."
3. FWS representative would participate to provided technical assistance only. This is in addition to:
 - State Director from each regional association of State fish and wildlife departments.
 - The head of a department responsible for fish and wildlife management in a Territory.
 - Four individuals representing four different nonprofit organizations each of which is actively participating in carrying out wildlife conservation.
4. Establishes a 3% cap for administrative fees for the implementation of the "Innovation grants" vs. 1.85%, in the original legislation. The 3% is consistent with the amendment offered in HNR during mark up.
5. They establish a GAO study, that not later than 7 years after the date of enactment the Comptroller General shall conduct a study to examine the progress of States, territories, and the District of Columbia towards achieving the purpose of the Act. Our understanding is that Tribes are also included in this review, per our recommendation.

Reporting:

Rather than 56 individual state reports going to Congress, the amendments suggest that the reports would go to the USFWS so they can summarize the reports and consolidate them into one report to the Congressional Committees identified in the Act. The Service would determine the content and format, and then consult with AWFA. While more efficient, we will want to make sure AFWA works collaboratively with the Service to make sure the report scope and content is defined appropriately.

Congress:

General Congressional actions:

- **Ukraine Aid**
 - The President requested over \$30 B in Ukraine assistance from Congress.
 - The House and Senate leadership crafted a \$40 billion package and considered combining the Ukraine aid with the COVID-aid package that was stalled in March.
 - Ultimately, the House passed \$40 billion in Ukraine aid by a wide margin vote only after stripping out the \$10 billion COVID aid portion of the bill on the House floor. COVID aid is now back up for negotiations.
 - The Senate passed the Ukraine aid package by a vote of 86-11.
- **COVID Aid**
 - Congressional leaders have reached an agreement on a \$10 billion COVID-19 aid package however, they were unsuccessful in passing it along with the Ukraine aid. They reportedly had a full offset for the cost and it still stalled.
 - The Senate considered a small business and restaurant relief bill but the bill failed on the floor. It is unclear where they will go from here on the next COVID relief package.
- **FY23 Appropriations**
 - Work on the FY 23 appropriations bills is in full swing with agency heads testifying on their budge requests and Subcommittees working on their bill drafts ahead of summer. I submitted our funding requests to the Oklahoma delegation in March. We have been successful in protecting and boosting funding on important programs in the past and I'm hopeful we will have the same success this fiscal year.
 - Sec. of Interior, Debbie Haaland, testified before the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Interior. She focused much of her discussion on climate change, tribal issues, and wildfire suppression efforts, which covered the largest funding requests in the DOI's budget.

- The Senate Appropriations Committee held a hearing on the USDA’s budget request. Sec. Vilsack testified that the USDA plans to prioritize conservation programs through voluntary and farmer friendly incentive-based climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices, enhance the Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements by boosting funding by \$50 million and increased funding for NRCS voluntary conservation practices.
- The Senate EPW Committee held a hearing on the USFWS budget. Martha Williams, Director of the USFWS testified before the committee. Sen. Inhofe focused his questions on the Lesser Prairie Chicken and the impending potential listing by USFWS. During his questioning, he pushed Ms. Williams to work with the states and to utilize WAFWA’s most recent population data. Ms. Williams assured him the numbers will be taken into consideration.
- Senate Energy and Natural Resources hearing on the Department of Interior Budget. Secretary Debbie Haaland testified on the agency’s budget request. The hearing largely focused on climate change, energy leases, gas prices and some specific projects in member states. Sen. Hoeven from Kansas did question the Secretary on the potential listing of the lesser prairie chicken.

House –

- WRDA and the next FARM bill are ramping a key focus in the House.
- The House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on several bills including [HR 263](#), the Big Cat Public Safety Act. This bill revises the Lacey Act Amendments requirements on big cats. The bill restricts possession of big cats and direct contact between the public and big cats. A markup on the bill is pending.
- The House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee advanced the House 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill. The only OK specific provision in the bill is a land conveyance at the Port Authority in Rogers County.

Senate –

- The Senate confirmed the President’s Supreme Court nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson by a vote of 53-47.
- The Senate EPW Committee passed their version of the 2022 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). There were several Oklahoma specific provisions in the bill related to the MKARNS system, including dredging, the Tulsa Levee project, and enhancing development on rural Oklahoma lakes.

Agencies:

> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)

- The USFWS [announced](#) a grant opportunity under the FY22 White-nose Syndrome Research for Conservation Grants program. Applications are due by June 4, 2022.
- USFWS [announced](#) the FY22 National Fish Passage Program funding availability. Applications are due by December 30, 2022.
- The USFWS [announced](#) a funding opportunity through a Zoonotic Disease Initiative for States and Territories. The funding is available through the American Rescue Plan. “Funding will be used to establish and enhance Tribal, State, and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies’ capabilities to effectively address health issues involving free-ranging terrestrial, avian, and aquatic wildlife and minimize the negative impacts of health issues affecting free-ranging wildlife through surveillance, management, and research to protect the public against zoonotic disease outbreaks.” Applications are due June 13, 2022.
- The USFWS [announced](#) the FY22 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund: Conservation Planning Assistance Grants. Applications are due by July 13, 2022.
- The USFWS [announced](#) a funding opportunity using appropriations to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law), in collaboration with other DOI bureaus, anticipates providing grants to support implementation of measures to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species. Applications are due by July 16, 2022.

> U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- The USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) [announced](#) they are making available nearly \$10 million for states and Tribal governments to control and prevent chronic wasting disease (CWD) in wild and farmed cervids (e.g., deer, elk). Applications for this funding are due in June.
- USDA [announced](#) they are accepting 2 million acres through the first FY 22 CRP general signup that ran through March 11th.

Coming up...

- > FY 23 appropriations consideration.
- > Floor time for the WRDA bill
- > Potential floor time for Recovering America's Wildlife Act.
- > The Farm Bill expires in 2023 and preliminary discussions on the next bill have begun.

***Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Financial Statement***

For the period July 1, 2021 Through March 31, 2022

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
March 31, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	03/31/2022	03/31/2021
			Trust			Totals	Totals
Assets and Other Debits:							
Cash	14,723,852		4,014,221			18,738,073	19,219,177
Investments	0		275,684,159			275,684,159	268,586,093
Accounts Receivable	3,583,456					3,583,456	3,447,639
Monthly Lifetime License			275,525			275,525	339,950
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	3,984,585		7,000			3,991,585.00	4,835,967.00
Fixed Assets				75,691,717		75,691,717	69,907,406
Land				103,565,869		103,565,869	96,610,614
Other Debits:							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,505,071	3,505,071	3,394,103
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
	22,291,893	0	279,980,905	179,257,586	(419,819)	481,110,565	478,067,525
Liabilities and Fund Balance:							
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	497,559					497,559	385,393
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	275,525					275,525	339,950
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,505,071	3,505,071	3,394,103
Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
Total Liabilities	773,084	0	0	0	(419,819)	353,265	20,674,989
Fund Balance:							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			135,254,551			135,254,551	136,200,688
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			6,289,840			6,289,840	5,237,652
Investment in General Fixed Assets				179,257,586		179,257,586	166,518,020
Fund Balance	21,518,809		138,436,514			159,955,323	149,436,176
Total Fund Balance	21,518,809	0	279,980,905	179,257,586	0	480,757,300	457,392,536
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	22,291,893	0	279,980,905	179,257,586	(419,819)	481,110,565	478,067,525

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
March 31, 2022

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	03/31/2022 Totals	03/31/2021 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	410,913	3,603,308			4,014,221	3,758,982
Investments	38,856,603	95,283,165	135,254,551	6,289,840	275,684,159	273,823,745
Due From Other Funds		275,525			275,525	339,950
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	39,267,516	99,168,998	135,254,551	6,289,840	279,980,905	277,929,677
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			135,254,551	6,289,840	141,544,391	141,438,340
Fund Balance	39,267,516	99,168,998			138,436,514	136,491,337
Total Fund Balance	39,267,516	99,168,998	135,254,551	6,289,840	279,980,905	277,929,677

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Fund
For the Period July 1, 2021 Through March 31, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	03/31/2022	03/31/2021	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	16,427,016			16,427,016	17,244,702	-4.74%
Other Wildlife Sales	2,294,563			2,294,563	2,400,677	-4.42%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,028,878			1,028,878	483,565	112.77%
Grant Revenue	21,491,407			21,491,407	18,099,389	18.74%
Investment Income	136,342		30,597	166,939	262,054	-36.30%
Miscellaneous	1,086,664			1,086,664	2,969,524	-63.41%
Total Revenues	42,464,870	0	30,597	42,495,467	41,459,911	2.50%
Expenditures:						
Administration	5,299,803			5,299,803	4,949,580	7.08%
Wildlife	10,649,924			10,649,924	9,965,204	6.87%
Fish	7,881,669			7,881,669	7,333,155	7.48%
Law Enforcement	8,825,470			8,825,470	8,317,768	6.10%
Information and Education	2,261,297			2,261,297	2,137,236	5.80%
Capital Improvements	4,842,907			4,842,907	5,818,032	-16.76%
Land Acquisitions		6,955,255		6,955,255	1,201,917	478.68%
Total Expenditures	39,761,070	6,955,255		46,716,325	39,722,892	17.61%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,703,800	(6,955,255)	30,597	(4,220,858)	1,737,019	342.99%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	874,655			874,655	2,178,565	-59.85%
Operating Transfers In	1,666,398	6,955,255	(1,367,288)	7,254,365	20,599,321	-64.78%
Operating Transfers Out	(6,955,255)		(1,666,398)	(8,621,653)	(1,348,837)	539.19%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	(4,414,202)	6,955,255	(3,033,686)	(492,633)	21,429,049	-102.30%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	(1,710,402)	0	(3,003,089)	(4,713,491)	23,166,068	-120.35%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	23,229,211	0	42,270,605	65,499,816	35,306,282	85.52%
Fund Balances March 31, 2022:	21,518,809	0	39,267,516	60,786,325	58,472,350	3.96%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2021 Through March 31, 2022

	Fiduciary Fund Types			03/31/2022 Totals	03/31/2021 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,486,400			2,486,400	2,696,250
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	140,915			140,915	145,770
Interest and Investment Income	0	(1,542,639)	(187,021)	-1,729,660	21,303,532
Employer Contributions		1,250,000	432,195	1,682,195	3,813,323
Employee Contributions		420,803	312,417	733,220	677,258
Total Operating Revenues	2,627,315	128,164	557,591	3,313,070	28,636,133
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		226,553	3,900	230,453	208,508
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	6,387,539	57,123	6,444,662	6,322,056
Total Operating Expenses	0	6,614,092	61,023	6,675,115	6,530,564
Operating Income	2,627,315	(6,485,928)	496,568	(3,362,045)	22,105,569
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	2,627,315	(6,485,928)	496,568	(3,362,045)	22,105,569
Fund Balances, Beginning	96,541,683	141,740,479	5,793,272	244,075,434	215,125,564
Fund Balances, March 31, 2022	99,168,998	135,254,551	6,289,840	240,713,389	237,231,133



Wildlife Contributions Report

Mar-22

Order ID	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
21076892	\$6,000.00	Quail Forever/Oklahoma 89er Chapter	Wildlife Division/Sandhills WMA - \$1,000/Packsaddle & Black Kettle WMA - \$5,000
21066671	\$2,500.00	Fidelity Charitable/Dittner Family Fund	Fish Division/Blue River Trout Stocking
21057416	\$50.00	Eddie Gamble	Donation of 50\$ to ODWC for Wildlife Conservation
Total	\$8,550.00		

***Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Financial Statement***

For the period July 1, 2021 Through April 30, 2022

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
April 30, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	04/30/2022	04/30/2021
			Trust			Totals	Totals
Assets and Other Debits:							
Cash	14,323,224		4,042,036			18,365,260	19,193,867
Investments	0		258,903,399			258,903,399	276,852,781
Accounts Receivable	2,902,243					2,902,243	2,316,938
Monthly Lifetime License			218,275			218,275	317,425
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	4,154,918		7,000			4,161,918.00	5,033,346.00
Fixed Assets				75,467,046		75,467,046	69,966,123
Land				103,565,869		103,565,869	96,610,614
Other Debits:							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,531,940	3,531,940	3,407,288
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
	21,380,385	0	263,170,710	179,032,915	(392,950)	463,191,060	485,227,579
Liabilities and Fund Balance:							
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	1,363,725					1,363,725	681,840
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	218,275					218,275	317,425
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,531,940	3,531,940	3,407,288
Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
Total Liabilities	1,582,000	0	0	0	(392,950)	1,189,050	20,962,096
Fund Balance:							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			126,695,561			126,695,561	140,234,953
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			5,907,598			5,907,598	5,513,635
Investment in General Fixed Assets				179,032,915		179,032,915	166,576,737
Fund Balance	19,798,385		130,567,551			150,365,936	151,940,158
Total Fund Balance	19,798,385	0	263,170,710	179,032,915	0	462,002,010	464,265,483
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	21,380,385	0	263,170,710	179,032,915	(392,950)	463,191,060	485,227,579

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
April 30, 2022

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	04/30/2022 Totals	04/30/2021 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	414,328	3,627,708			4,042,036	3,791,759
Investments	30,741,550	95,558,690	126,695,561	5,907,598	258,903,399	282,366,416
Due From Other Funds		218,275			218,275	317,425
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	31,155,878	99,411,673	126,695,561	5,907,598	263,170,710	286,482,600
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			126,695,561	5,907,598	132,603,159	145,748,588
Fund Balance	31,155,878	99,411,673			130,567,551	140,734,012
Total Fund Balance	31,155,878	99,411,673	126,695,561	5,907,598	263,170,710	286,482,600

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Fund
For the Period July 1, 2021 Through April 30, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	04/30/2022	04/30/2021	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	17,374,215			17,374,215	18,338,222	-5.26%
Other Wildlife Sales	2,681,401			2,681,401	2,863,467	-6.36%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,404,694			1,404,694	507,871	176.58%
Grant Revenue	23,364,451			23,364,451	19,635,687	18.99%
Investment Income	150,474		34,012	184,486	286,501	-35.61%
Miscellaneous	1,209,253			1,209,253	3,130,101	-61.37%
Total Revenues	46,184,488	0	34,012	46,218,500	44,761,849	3.25%
Expenditures:						
Administration	5,884,042			5,884,042	5,672,001	3.74%
Wildlife	12,033,644			12,033,644	11,063,226	8.77%
Fish	9,153,168			9,153,168	8,338,454	9.77%
Law Enforcement	10,370,075			10,370,075	9,412,954	10.17%
Information and Education	2,605,023			2,605,023	2,571,660	1.30%
Capital Improvements	5,207,649			5,207,649	6,082,022	-14.38%
Land Acquisitions		6,955,255		6,955,255	1,201,917	478.68%
Total Expenditures	45,253,601	6,955,255		52,208,856	44,342,234	17.74%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	930,887	(6,955,255)	34,012	(5,990,356)	419,615	1,527.58%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	874,655			874,655	2,178,565	-59.85%
Operating Transfers In	1,718,887	6,955,255	(9,429,852)	(755,710)	24,328,501	-103.11%
Operating Transfers Out	(6,955,255)		(1,718,887)	(8,674,142)	(1,405,182)	517.30%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	(4,361,713)	6,955,255	(11,148,739)	(8,555,197)	25,101,884	-134.08%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	(3,430,826)	0	(11,114,727)	(14,545,553)	25,521,499	-156.99%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	23,229,211	0	42,270,605	65,499,816	35,306,282	85.52%
Fund Balances April 30, 2022:	19,798,385	0	31,155,878	50,954,263	60,827,781	-16.23%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2021 Through April 30, 2022

	Fiduciary Fund Types			04/30/2022 Totals	04/30/2021 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,704,675			2,704,675	3,013,675
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	165,315			165,315	174,275
Interest and Investment Income	0	(9,996,932)	(653,138)	-10,650,070	25,403,436
Employer Contributions		1,875,000	482,003	2,357,003	4,710,079
Employee Contributions		465,482	347,734	813,216	753,825
Total Operating Revenues	2,869,990	(7,656,450)	176,599	(4,609,861)	34,055,290
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		283,668	5,150	288,818	273,394
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	7,104,800	57,123	7,161,923	7,020,149
Total Operating Expenses	0	7,388,468	62,273	7,450,741	7,293,543
Operating Income	2,869,990	(15,044,918)	114,326	(12,060,602)	26,761,747
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	2,869,990	(15,044,918)	114,326	(12,060,602)	26,761,747
Fund Balances, Beginning	96,541,683	141,740,479	5,793,272	244,075,434	215,125,564
Fund Balances, April 30, 2022	99,411,673	126,695,561	5,907,598	232,014,832	241,887,311



Wildlife Contributions Report

April 2022

Order ID	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
21180569	\$5.00	Gregory Anson	General Contribution
21161803	\$200.00	Calvin Montgomery	In Memory of Leon Burns
21142243	\$2,500.00	BancFirst	Fish Division/Veterans Park Pond trout stocking
21119864	\$5,000.00	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	NGO
Total	\$7,705.00		

**BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

IN THE MATTER OF)
)
Antlerless Deer Hunting)
Seasons and Bag Limits)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the population of antlerless deer in Oklahoma continues to thrive across the state and unbalanced sex ratios due to excessive numbers of antlerless deer can result in poor herd health and imbalanced herd demographics. Adequate antlerless harvest is crucial to managing deer populations. High deer populations across parts of the state have resulted in an increased incidence of crop damage complaints on privately-owned property.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation staff recommends that population concerns should be addressed by adjusting white-tailed deer antlerless bag limits and season dates in specific deer management zones. The Staff aims to provide private landowners opportunity to accomplish their deer management goals along with removing certain barriers preventing antlerless harvest and promoting maximized recreational hunting opportunity. The staff further recommends that recreational hunting in each of the ten deer harvest management zones should be utilized as the primary means to address biological and social concerns.

WHEREAS, Title 29, Section 2-149 of the Oklahoma Statutes, defines the term wildlife as "all wild birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and other wild aquatic forms, and all other animals which normally can be found in the wild state, regardless of classification." Pursuant to that section, antlerless deer are a wildlife species governed by the Wildlife Conservation Code and therefore, the season can be established by resolution under Title 29, section 5-401(A) of the Oklahoma Statutes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT, White-tailed Antlerless Deer Seasons and Bag Limits are hereby modified and substituted as follows for 2022, and shall remain in effect for future years until further modified or revoked:

ANTLERLESS DEER ZONES

Zone 1:

Season Dates- Open to antlerless deer hunting concurrent with the deer gun season as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide. Muzzleloader season and holiday antlerless season remains closed.

Bag Limit- One antlerless white-tailed deer during regular deer gun. **Antlerless mule deer harvest is prohibited. All deer taken count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six deer**

Zone 2, 7, and 8:

Season Dates- Open to antlerless deer hunting during deer muzzleloader and deer gun seasons as currently established with specific calendar dates as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide.

Bag Limit- Four antlerless deer during muzzleloader season. Four antlerless deer during gun season. **All deer taken count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six deer.**

Zone 3, 4, 5, 6, and 9:

Season Dates- Open to antlerless deer hunting during deer muzzleloader and deer gun seasons as currently established with specific calendar dates as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide.

Bag Limit- Two antlerless deer during muzzleloader season. Two antlerless deer during gun season. **All deer taken count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six deer.**

Zone 10:

Season Dates- Open to antlerless deer hunting during deer muzzleloader and deer gun seasons as currently established with specific calendar dates as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide.

Bag Limit- One antlerless deer during muzzleloader season; One antlerless deer during gun season. **All deer taken count toward the hunter's combined season limit of six deer.**

HOLIDAY ANTLERLESS

Season Dates- Open to antlerless deer hunting during dates published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide.

Zones 1: CLOSED

Zones 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10: Bag Limit- Two Antlerless deer

DONE the _____ day of June, 2022 in the regular and open meeting of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Leigh A. Gaddis, Chairwoman

ATTEST:

C. Rick Holder, Secretary

2022 antlerless season dates and bag limits

ZONE 1 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zone 1 is closed to antlerless muzzleloader harvest and has a one antlerless white-tailed deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1 - Jan. 15, 2023
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 16-18
- Muzzleloader SeasonNo antlerless days
- Deer Gun Season.....Nov. 21 - Dec. 6

The harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited.

- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season Closed

ZONES 2, 7 & 8 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zones 2, 7 and 8 have a four antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a four antlerless deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1 - Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 16-18
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 24 - Nov. 1
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 21 - Dec. 6
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.....Dec. 18-31

- The bag limit for **the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season** is 2 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested during the holiday antlerless deer gun season are bonus deer and do **not** count against the season bag limit.

ZONES 3, 4, 5, 6, & 9 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zones 3, 4, 5, 6 & 9 have a two antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a two antlerless deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1, 2022 - Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 16-18
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 24 - Nov. 1
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 21 - Dec. 6
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.....Dec. 18 - 31

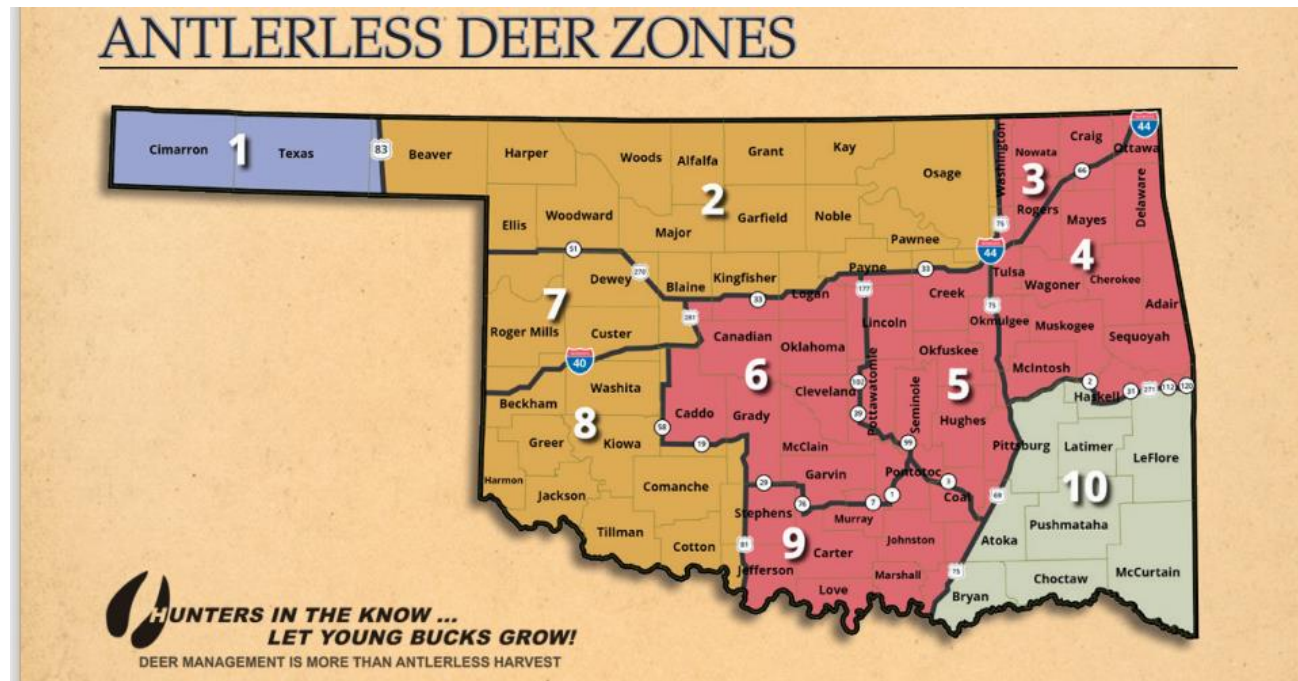
- The bag limit for **the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season** is 2 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested during the holiday antlerless deer gun season are bonus deer and do **not** count against the season bag limit.

ZONE 10 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zone 10 has a one antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a one antlerless deer limit for deer gun season and a 2 antlerless deer limit for the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1-Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 16-18
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 24 - Nov. 1
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 21 - Dec. 6
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun SeasonDec. 18 – 31
 - The bag limit for **the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season** is 2 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested during the holiday antlerless deer gun season are bonus deer and do **not** count against the season bag limit.



**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES
SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS**

PART 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

800:25-7-3. General provisions

- (a) Any person hunting any wildlife in open areas during the youth deer gun, bear muzzleloader, deer muzzleloader, deer gun, holiday antlerless deer gun (in open zones), elk gun (in open counties) or September antelope gun (in open areas) seasons with a shotgun and rifled slug, or any rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber long rifle, must possess a valid bear, deer, elk, or antelope license, unless otherwise exempt. Any person hunting feral hogs in open areas during the deer gun, deer primitive, elk, bear or antelope season with a shotgun and rifled slug, or any rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber rimfire, must possess a filled or unfilled deer, elk, bear or antelope license appropriate for that season unless otherwise exempt. Any person hunting any wildlife with an airbow during any open season when rifles are a legal means of take must possess a valid airbow permit.
- (b) No person while in the field may possess or attempt to harvest any wildlife, except waterfowl and crane, with shotgun utilizing shot larger than #4 buckshot.
- (c) Any person participating in primitive firearms season, deer gun seasons, elk season, antelope season and bear gun season must conspicuously wear both a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline, both totaling 500 square inches or more of clothing, both consisting of daylight fluorescent orange color totaling not less than 400 square inches [Title 29 O.S., Section 5-205, Part A]. All other hunters, except those hunting waterfowl, dove, crow or crane, or while hunting furbearing animals at night must wear either a head covering or upper garment of fluorescent orange clothing during the deer primitive firearms season, deer gun seasons, elk season, antelope season and bear primitive firearms season, or bear gun season in zones where these seasons are open.
- (d) For purposes of pheasant, turkey, deer, elk, bear and antelope regulations, 'final destination' shall be the hunter's residence or place of consumption.
- (e) No person may possess any game bird, animal or other wildlife, or portions thereof that have been taken by another person unless such game bird, animal or other wildlife, contain information giving the taker's name, customer identification number, date taken and the number and kind of game bird, animal or wildlife. In addition, information on deer, elk, antelope, bear and turkey must include the confirmation number as proof that the animal's harvest has been properly reported. The person's name and address receiving said wildlife must also appear on the written information.
- (f) No person shall concentrate, drive, molest, hunt, take, capture or kill; or attempt to take any wildlife by the aid of any fire or smoke whether man-made or natural.
- (g) No person may hunt, chase, capture, shoot at, wound or kill any moose or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, except as otherwise provided by statute or Commission rule.
- (h) Private landowner regulations regarding any items covered by these rules may be more restrictive, but not less restrictive than these rules.
- (i) Dogs may be used in taking all game species in these rules except bear, deer, elk, antelope and turkey. Exceptions to this rule would be the use of a leashed dog to track downed game after notification to the game warden of location and having no means of take on person while tracking.
- (j) Except as otherwise provided for by law or Commission rule, nothing shall prohibit the year round pursuit of game, which may be lawfully hunted with the use of hunting dogs, for dog training or sport only. However unless otherwise provided, no person in pursuit of game with hunting dogs outside of the regular harvest season shall have in their possession the means to harvest such game.
- (k) Harvest tagging of game – All persons taking a deer, elk, antelope, bear, or turkey must immediately secure their name, customer identification number, date and time of harvest to the carcass.
- (l) Harvest reporting of game – All deer, elk, antelope, bear, or turkey taken must be reported by the hunter to the Department within 24 hours of leaving the hunt area. Instructions for reporting of harvest will be provided in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations and on the Department's website. Once reported, a carcass tag or online confirmation number will be issued. This tag or confirmation number must remain with the carcass to its final destination or through processing and/or storage at a commercial processing or storage facility. Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the harvest has been properly reported.

PART 13. DEER

800:25-7-53. Deer - gun

The following hunting dates, bag limits and legal means of taking apply to hunting deer with gun:

(1) Dates. The dates for the deer gun season shall be the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving and run for sixteen (16) consecutive days in management zones as designated by Commission resolution.

(2) Bag limit. Up to six (6) deer including no more than one (1) antlered deer. A separate license is required for each deer to be hunted or harvested. All deer taken are included in the combined season statewide bag limit. Individual Management Zone antlerless bag limits and antlerless days will be determined by resolution and published in the Hunting Guide. An unfilled deer gun antlered license may be used to harvest an antlerless deer in designated areas on the last day of the deer gun season.

(3) Legal means of taking. The legal means of taking deer with gun shall be as follows:

(A) Rifles (conventional or muzzleloading), handguns, shotguns or bow and arrows, see 800:25-7-54. All public lands within the state are open to rifles, handguns, shotguns or bows unless otherwise specified.

(B) Muzzleloading firearms that are legal for the primitive (muzzleloading) season shall also be legal in all areas open to rifles, except black powder firearms loaded from the breech are also legal. Metallic and/or optical sights may also be used on muzzleloading firearms during the deer gun season. Muzzleloading pistols (single shot or revolver) with characteristics that are described for rifles are permissible.

(C) Hunters choosing to hunt with primitive (muzzleloading) firearms must possess appropriate deer gun license and comply with fluorescent clothing and bag limit requirements as set for the Deer Gun Season.

(D) Laser sights are illegal.

(E) Airbows shall be legal during any open gun season. No airbow may be transported in a motorized vehicle unless projectile has been removed from the barrel assembly and airbow has been decocked.

(4) Zone Management Hunts

(A) Dates and open areas: The Commission may, by resolution, establish an antlerless deer gun season at any time in designated management zones or on designated Wildlife Management Areas, as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide and Regulations, during any dates as established by the Commission.

(B) Bag Limit: Zone Management Hunt bag limits will be established by resolution. Antlerless deer taken during a Zone Management Hunt are considered bonus deer and do not count against the statewide deer bag limit. Unfilled deer gun licenses for the deer gun season or controlled hunts are not valid for Zone Management Hunts.

(C) Legal means of taking: Same as deer gun season.

(5) The harvest of antlerless mule deer shall be prohibited during the deer gun seasons.

800:25-7-54. Legal firearms and archery specifications

The following are the legal firearms specifications for rifles, muzzleloading firearms, shotguns, handguns and bows:

(1) Rifles. Centerfire rifles only and firing ammunition with a soft-nosed bullet are legal if firing at least a 55 grain weight bullet. Hollow point bullets are legal. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(2) Muzzleloading firearms. Muzzleloading rifles and shotguns that are legal for the muzzleloading season shall also be legal in all areas open to rifles, except black powder firearms loaded from the breech are also legal. Muzzleloading pistols (single shot or revolver) with characteristics that are described for 40 caliber rifles are permissible as a secondary firearms, but may be used only for killing a downed animal.

(3) Shotguns. Any centerfire shotgun firing a single rifled slug.

(4) Handguns. Any centerfire handgun firing a single bullet with at least a 55 grain weight. Minimum barrel length is four inches. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(5) Bows, arrows, and bolts. A legal bow is defined as any bow of thirty (30) pounds or more draw weight, any recurve, longbow, or self-bow of forty (40) pounds or more draw weight or any crossbow having a draw weight of 100 pounds or more and being equipped with safety devices. Crossbow bolts must be a minimum of 14 inches in length. Legal arrows and bolts for deer shall be fitted with broadhead hunting type points not less than 7/8 inches wide, including mechanical broadheads meeting these dimensions when fully open. Devices that permit a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are permitted. Laser sights are prohibited. Hand-held releases are permitted.

(6) Airbows. A device that fires an arrow or bolt solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant. Legal arrows and bolts for deer shall be fitted with a broadhead hunting type point not less than 7/8 inches wide, including mechanical broadheads meeting these dimensions when fully open.

**BEFORE THE OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

IN THE MATTER of hunting)
dates, bag, possession limits,)
and special means of take)
for Migratory Game Birds)
for the 2022-23 hunting seasons)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, all species of migratory birds are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Title 16, section 708-711 of the United States Code and the regulations governing the hunting, taking, possession, and transportation of migratory birds in Title 50, subchapters A-J of the Code of Federal Regulations;

WHEREAS, the Secretary of the Interior promulgates regulations annually governing seasons, limits and shooting hour schedules for migratory birds based on data gathered each year regarding breeding population indices and reproductive success;

WHEREAS, the Commission is required to select hunting season dates, bag and possession limits within the general framework created by the federal regulations and Oklahoma's seasons are published annually in the Code of Federal Regulations in conformance with the federal Administrative Procedures Act, Title 5, section 551 et seq. Of the United States Code; and

WHEREAS, the Department staff recommends that the Commission set season dates, bag and possession limits as follows in order to provide optimal opportunity to the sporting public as a whole based on migration chronology, environmental factors, and population surveys.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT, pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Title 29, section 3-103 (D)(15), 5-401 and 5-406 of the Oklahoma Statutes, the migratory game bird season dates, bag and possession limits and special means of take for the State of Oklahoma are hereby established as follows for the migratory game bird hunting seasons of 2022-23; and thereafter on approximately the same dates each year, but with possible variation in any particular year to help accommodate and maximize hunter's weekend time in the field and to comply with the current federal regulation framework, thereby increasing hunter opportunity using the most liberal bag and possession limits for the seasons selected within such framework; until further modified or revoked:

WEBLESS MIGRATORY GAME BIRD AND WATERFOWL SEASONS

DOVE

(Mourning, White-winged and Eurasian Collared)

Season Dates and Open Areas

Statewide

September 1 -October 31, 2022 and
December 1 -December 29, 2022

Bag and Possession Limit

15 daily, 30 in possession after first day combined, 45 in possession after the second day combined. The limit may consist of any combination (aggregate) of mourning doves, white-winged, and fully dressed (those without a head or fully feathered wing naturally attached to the carcass) Eurasian collared doves. However, there is no bag limit on Eurasian collared doves if the head or one fully feathered wing remains naturally attached to the carcass of all such birds while being transported to their final destination.

SORA AND VIRGINIA RAIL

Season Dates and Open Areas

September 1 -November 9, 2022; statewide

Bag and Possession Limit

25 daily, 50 in possession after first day, 75 in possession after the second day

GALLINULE

(Purple Gallinule and Common Moorhen)

Season Dates and Open Areas

September 1 -November 9, 2022; statewide

Bag and Possession Limit

15 daily, 30 in possession after first day, 45 in possession after the second day

WOODCOCK

Season Dates and Open Areas

October 30 -December 13, 2022; statewide

Bag and Possession Limit

3 daily, 6 in possession after the first day, 9 in possession after the second day

WILSON'S (COMMON) SNIPE

Season Dates and Open Areas

October 1, 2022 - January 15, 2023; statewide

Bag and Possession Limit

8 daily, 16 in possession after the first day, 24 in possession after the second day

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

Season Dates and Open Areas:

September 10 - 25, 2022; statewide.

Bag and Possession Limit:

6 teal daily, 12 in possession after the first day, 18 in possession after the second day

SPECIAL SEPTEMBER RESIDENT CANADA GOOSE SEASON

Season Dates and Open Areas:

September 10 - 19, 2022; statewide

Bag and Possession Limit:

8 daily, 16 in possession after the first day, 24 in possession after the second day

No special provisions.

SHOOTING HOURS:

Shooting hours for all migratory game birds listed shall be one-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset.

WATERFOWL, COOT, AND SANDHILL CRANE SEASONS

DUCKS, MERGANSERS AND COOTS

SEASON DATES:

Panhandle Counties (High Plains Mallard Management Unit)

October 8, 2022 - January 4, 2023

*Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

October 1, 2022 & February 4, 2023

*Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Days

October 1, 2022 & February 4, 2023

Zone 1 AND Zone 2

November 12 - November 27, 2022

December 3, 2022 - January 29, 2023

*Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days

November 5, 2022 & February 4, 2023

*Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Days

November 5, 2022 & February 4, 2023

Waterfowl Zones 1 and 2 will share
THE SAME dates and bag limits.

BAG LIMITS:

Duck Limits - The daily bag limit for ducks and mergansers is six. The daily bag limit may include no more than: Five mallards (only two may be hens), three wood ducks, two redheads, two canvasbacks, one scaup and one northern pintail.

Merganser Limits - There is no separate bag limit for mergansers. They are now included in the duck limit.

Coot Limits - The daily bag limit for coots is fifteen.

POSSESSION LIMITS:

The possession limit after the first day of hunting is two times the daily bag limit, and after the second day of hunting is three times the daily bag limit for ducks, mergansers and coots.

SHOOTING HOURS:

One-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset

*** SPECIAL YOUTH, VETERAN, AND ACTIVE MILITARY PERSONNEL WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS**

The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service is allowing **two days** outside of the regular waterfowl season to provide special hunting opportunities. The daily bag limit may include ducks, mergansers, coots and geese. Bag limits will be the same as allowed during the regular season. All species and sex specific duck bag limit restrictions remain in effect.

Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. An adult, at least 18 years of age, must accompany the youth hunter into the field. This adult **cannot hunt waterfowl**, but may participate in other open seasons.

Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate.

GEESE AND SANDHILL CRANE

SEASON DATES:

Dark Geese (includes Canada geese, brant, and all other geese except white-fronted geese and light geese)

November 5 - November 27, 2022
December 3, 2022 - February 12, 2023

White-fronted Geese

November 5 - November 27, 2022
December 3, 2022 - February 5, 2023

Light Geese (Snow, Blue & Ross')

November 5 - November 27, 2022
December 3, 2022 - February 12, 2023

****Conservation Order Light Goose Season (COLGS)**

February 13 - March 30, 2023

Sandhill Crane

October 22, 2022 - January 22, 2023; west of I-35 only

BAG LIMITS:

Dark Geese - The daily bag limit is eight.

White-fronted Geese - The daily bag limit is two.

Light Geese - The daily bag limit is fifty. (**no daily bag during COLGS)

Sandhill Crane - The daily bag limit is three.

POSSESSION LIMITS:

The possession limit for dark geese, white-fronted geese and sandhill crane is three times the daily bag limit. There is no possession limit for light geese (snow, blue & Ross’).

SHOOTING HOURS:

One-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset

**** CONSERVATION ORDER LIGHT GOOSE SEASON (COLGS)**

During the COLGS, special means of take will be allowed, including: electronic calls, unplugged shotguns, one-half hour after sunset shooting hours and no daily bag or possession limits. The Conservation Order and special means of take provisions are designed to increase harvest and allow hunters to help reduce the population of mid-continent light geese (snow, blue & Ross’). All other waterfowl regulations will apply; including use of federally approved nontoxic shot. All participants will be required to have in their possession while hunting, all necessary licenses, waterfowl stamps and a Harvest Information Program permit (HIP). **The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is required by federal regulation to estimate the harvest of light geese during the COLGS. Therefore, to participate in the COLGS hunters should provide the ODWC with their name, full mailing address and telephone number so that they may be contacted after the season with a harvest survey.**

HUNTERS CAN REGISTER FOR THE COLGS BY PROVIDING THEIR NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER BY:

Internet at: www.wildlifedepartment.com and clicking on the Conservation Order Light Goose link.

Or by sending a postcard or letter to:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Attn: COLGS
PO Box 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

****SPECIAL EXTENDED FALCONRY SEASONS****

DUCKS, MERGANSERS, and COOTS

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

Zone 1 & Zone 2

February 13-27, 2023

SANDHILL CRANE

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

West of Interstate 35 only

January 23 - February 5, 2023

GALLINULE

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

Statewide

February 1-March 9, 2023

RAIL

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

Statewide

February 1 – March 9, 2023

WOODCOCK

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

Statewide

December 14, 2022 – February 13, 2023

DOVE

SEASON DATES AND AREAS:

Statewide

February 18– March 6, 2023

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS:

Daily bag and possession limits may not exceed three and nine migratory game birds respectively, singly or in the aggregate for which an open hunting season or special extended falconry season is established. Regular season bag limits do not apply to falconry.

HAWKING HOURS:

One-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset.

DONE the __ day of June, 2022 in regular and open meeting of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Leigh A. Gaddis, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Rick Holder, Secretary