

FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT



Federal Aid Grant No. F16AP00151 (E-84-R-1)

Oklahoma's Threatened and Endangered Species Booklet

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017

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State: Oklahoma

Grant Number: F16AP00151 (E-84-R-1)

Grant Program: Endangered Species Act Traditional Section 6

Grant Name: Oklahoma's Threatened and Endangered Species Booklet

Grant Period: April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017

Reporting Period: April 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017

Principal Investigator: Matt Fullerton, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

A. ABSTRACT

Part of the mission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC)'s Wildlife Diversity Program is to provide outreach and educational materials to the public on Oklahoma's nongame wildlife species. A full-color, 42-page, staple-bound booklet was created for distribution by ODWC as a means of educating members of the public as well as agency and industry personnel on the 23 species of threatened and endangered species that occur in Oklahoma. A total of 5,000 copies were printed. Booklets will be distributed through various avenues, including (but not limited to) educational program events, ODWC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service field offices, and environmental compliance meetings with private energy-development companies.

B. BACKGROUND

Educating the public about biodiversity, especially species classified as rare, declining, threatened, or endangered is an important component of the mission of natural resource agencies that manage fish and wildlife resources. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's (ODWC) Wildlife Diversity Program is the program responsible for managing, monitoring, and promoting rare, declining, and endangered wildlife, as well as common wildlife not hunted or fished. Each year, agency staff from the program receive multiple requests on a periodic basis from members of the public desiring to learn about the 23 species occurring in Oklahoma that are state and federally-listed as threatened or endangered; in addition, confusion often exists as to what species are under the authority of the Endangered Species Act vs. those that are state-listed and/or designated as "species of special concern" under Title 800:25-19 of ODWC regulations.

As a cooperating state wildlife agency with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), ODWC would like to provide informational materials to the public through various venues and events that we attend. The last printing of an Oklahoma threatened and endangered species booklet occurred in 1992; as such, creation of an updated, free booklet highlighting both state- and federally-listed species within Oklahoma would assist in meeting this objective. This booklet will be provided by ODWC staff at annual events such as the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo and Oklahoma City Zoo's Endangered Species Day; the booklet could also be provided to educators, clubs, and conservation

organizations on an “as needed” basis. ODWC Wildlife Diversity program staff frequently attend workshops with environmental consultants and energy companies; the booklet could also be given to attendees of such meetings. Though the booklet is not intended to provide guidance for Section 7 or 10 compliance through the Endangered Species Act, it will serve as a way to educate industry and private developers in understanding the basic biological and habitat characteristics for threatened and endangered species. A simple county range map is included with each species description. Range maps are accompanied with a disclaimer stating that the most current range maps for federally-listed species should be acquired through the Service’s Information for Planning and Conservation (IPAC) website.

The proposed booklet highlights ODWC’s role in assisting with threatened and endangered species management and recovery, especially through ESA Section 6 cooperative funding. Lastly, Oklahoma’s state-listed species are within the contents of the booklet, explaining the state of Oklahoma’s endangered species regulations. After the first run of 5,000 copies is printed, the template for the booklet will be saved and updated as needed for potential future printings.

C. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project is to create an educational booklet for the purposes of outreach and education for any and all interested parties, including (but not limited to) school groups, scout groups, environmental consultants, and various organizations with a conservation or environmental focus. The booklet will highlight all of Oklahoma state- and federally-listed threatened and endangered species through high-quality photographs and species profiles. Information will also be contained that describes the role of ODWC in recovery efforts for threatened and endangered species.

D. PROCEDURES

During the months of December 2016 and January – February 2017, ODWC Wildlife Diversity staff drafted species profiles for all twenty federally-listed species and three Oklahoma state-listed species. Photographs for species profiles were obtained from either public-use permission photos provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or from private photographers that granted ODWC permission to use photos in the booklet. Various sources were used for the contents of species profiles, including USFWS Recovery Plans, previously published fact sheets, and ESA Section 6 reports from projects funded by ODWC.

Each species profile contains the following sections:

- Description: This provides a general physical description of the animal, including size, color, identifying features, etc.
- Life History: This section describes general life history traits, including life cycle. Some species may only occur in Oklahoma during a small portion of their life cycle (e.g. migration); therefore, information provided may only pertain specifically to the period of time at which the species occurs in the state.

- Range: A general description of the species' historical range within Oklahoma is provided, along with information of where it is currently known to occur at the time of booklet printing (2017). *Note: Each profile also contains a range map that is only defined at county level, according to information available in the USFWS's Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website.*
- Habitat Requirements: This section provides a description about the habitat occupied by the species.
- Reasons for Decline: Information contained in this section describes past and ongoing threats that have either reduced a species' occupied range or caused overall population declines.
- Conservation Efforts: This section describes any coordinated monitoring, management, or cooperative projects that have been focused on recovery efforts for the species. Any ESA Section 6 projects funded by ODWC are mentioned in this section.

Additional pages within the booklet are devoted to describing ODWC's role with both federal and state-listed species, and also how the agency partners with USFWS through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6) of the Endangered Species Act. Once the first internal ODWC draft was completed, the booklet was sent to USFWS staff at the Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office for edits and comments.

E. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The final electronic draft of the booklet was submitted to the Oklahoma Central Printing & Interagency Mail Department in April 2017 and 5,000 copies were received in May 2017.

F. SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS:

While the draft was completed before March 31st, 2017, ODWC requested a grant extension to allow for additional time for both internal and external reviewers to provide edits, comments, and revisions.

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H. DATE: 12 November 2017

I. APPROVED BY: _____
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