

FINAL REPORT

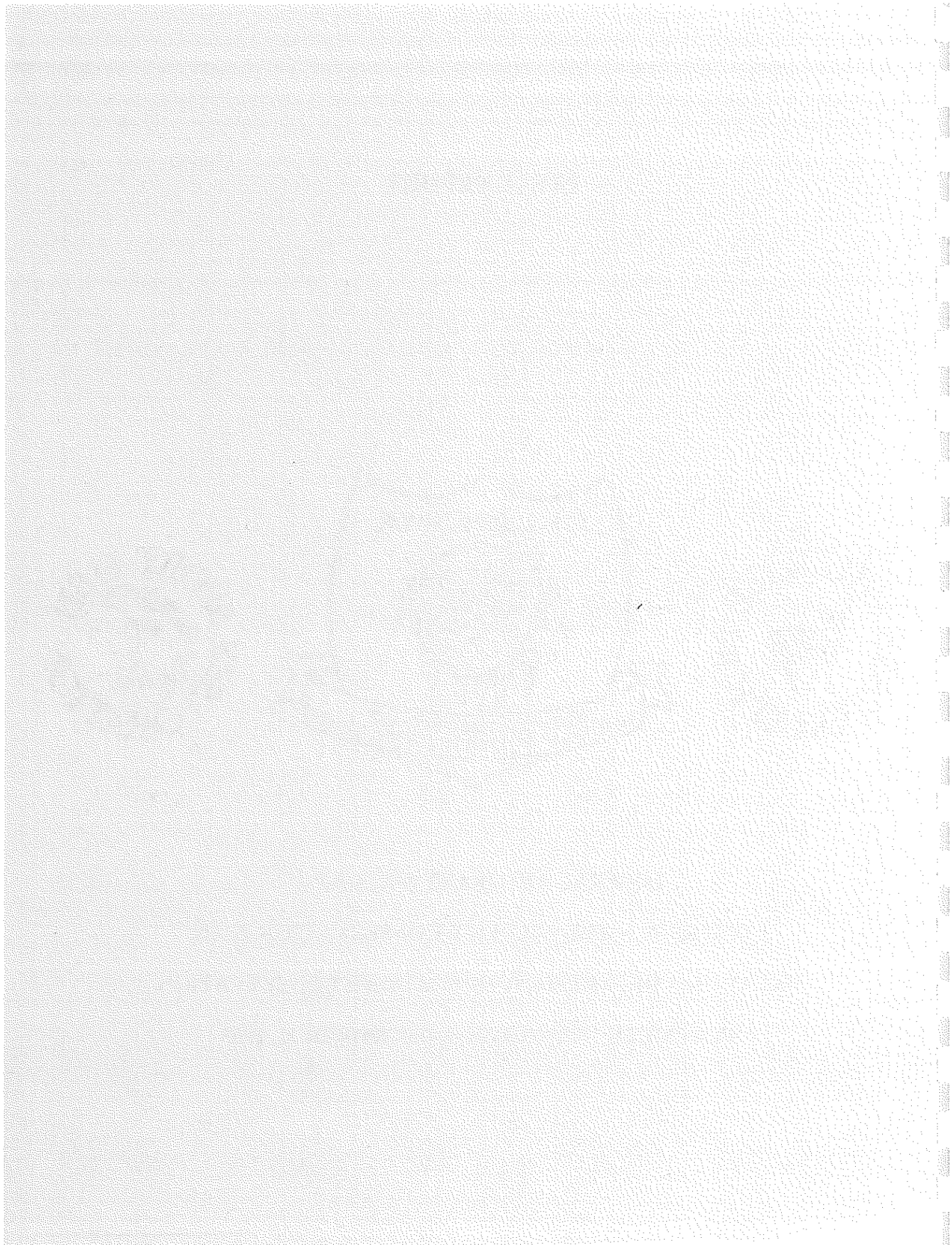


FEDERAL AID GRANT NO. T-2-P-1

COMPREHENSIVE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PLAN

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

NOVEMBER 15, 2002 through DECEMBER 31, 2005



PERFORMANCE REPORT

Third & Final Interim Report: November 1, 2004 - December 31, 2005

State: Oklahoma

Grant Number: T-2-P-1

Grant Program: State Wildlife Grants

Grant Name: Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan

Grant Period: November 15, 2002 – December 31, 2005

A. Objective:

To develop Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (CWCP) under federal guidelines and to plan and administer Federal Aid grants pertaining to species of greatest conservation need (e.g., other State Wildlife Grants, Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program grants, Endangered Species grants, Landowner Incentives Program grants, etc.) needed for CWCP development.

B. Summary of Progress:

The first official draft of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) was released for public review on December 9, 2004. Comments were accepted through January 30, 2005. The release was publicized a variety of ways:

- Several emails to the CWCS Advisory Group and list of technical experts
- Article for Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) employees and Commissioners in the employee newsletter, the "Wildlife-O-Gram" (December 2004, Appendix A)
- Statewide news release issued to media outlets and individual subscribers (December 16, 2004, Appendix B)
- Link to the CWCS from the ODWC website
- Email nationwide to CWCS coordinators in other states
- Article in the Oklahoma Wildlife & Prairie Heritage Alliance newsletter, the "OWHPA Journal" (Fall 2004, Appendix C)
- Discussed at the Oklahoma Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee annual meeting
- Article in The Wild Side, an ODWC newsletter for constituents interested in non-game wildlife (Winter 2005, Appendix D)

Following the close of the comment period, suggestions and edits were incorporated for the next draft as appropriate. A second official draft of the Oklahoma CWCS was released for public review on March 1, 2005. Comments were accepted through April 15, 2005. The availability of the draft and upcoming meetings to discuss the CWCS were publicized using multiple venues:

- Several emails to the CWCS Advisory Group and list of technical experts

- Three statewide news release issued to media outlets and individual subscribers, announcing draft and public meetings (March 3, 2005, Appendix E; March 17, 2005, Appendix F; April 1, 2005, Appendix G)
- Link to the CWCS from the ODWC website
- Public meetings announced on both the ODWC and planning contractor's website
- Copy of the draft mailed to ODWC field offices with accompanying letter announcing public and employee meetings
- Letter to ODWC employees announcing availability of draft at regional offices and upcoming public and employee meetings
- Memo to ODWC Commissioners announcing the draft and the upcoming public and employee meetings
- Discussed at the Annual Scorecard meeting of ODWC, the USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, and the Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory
- Announced as a news item on Buckmasters website (April 2005, Appendix H)
- Announced as a news item in the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies electronic newsletter "Inside IAFWA" (April 2005, Appendix I)
- Announced as a news item in the Playa Lakes Joint Venture electronic newsletter "Playa Post" (April 2005, Appendix J)
- Announced as a news item on The Nature Conservancy website (April 2005, Appendix K)

Toward the end of the second public draft comment period, a series of meetings were held around the state to gather feedback on the drafts CWCS. In the afternoons, three members of the CWCS Planning Team were available to meet with ODWC field staff. In the evenings, three members of the CWCS Planning Team were available to meet with the public. The meetings were not well attended but were held as follows:

- April 4, 2005, afternoon: ODWC employee meeting at ODWC headquarters in Oklahoma City
- April 4, 2005, evening: Public meeting at Metro Tech Spring Lake Campus, Oklahoma City
- April 5, 2005, afternoon: ODWC employee meeting at Northwestern Electric Co-op in Woodward
- April 5, 2005, evening: Public meeting at the City of Woodward Pioneer Room in Woodward
- April 6, 2005, afternoon: ODWC employee meeting at Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton
- April 6, 2005, evening: Public meeting at Cameron University in Lawton
- April 7, 2005, afternoon: ODWC employee meeting at the ODWC office in Higgins
- April 7, 2005, evening: Public meeting at Kiamichi Vocational Technical Center in McAlester
- April 8, 2005, afternoon: ODWC employee meeting at the ODWC office in Jenks
- April 8, 2005, evening: Public meeting at Oklahoma State University - Tulsa Campus

After the close of the second public review period, suggestions and comments were incorporated as appropriate. The updated CWCS was given to ODWC for internal review on May 19, 2005. After a brief comment period, the draft and requested changes were submitted to an independent editor on May 28, 2005. The document was reviewed and edited during June and received by ODWC from the planning contractor on July 18, 2005. The final CWCS was reviewed and accepted by ODWC, and submitted to the USFWS on July 27, 2005. The National Advisory Acceptance Team (NAAT) reviewed Oklahoma's CWCS during their September meeting and official notification of USFWS acceptance of the Strategy was received October 12, 2005. The NAAT suggested clarification in three areas and these edits were incorporated before releasing the final, approved document to the public. The final document was announced in a variety of ways:

- News of approval shared with the Commission at the November 2005 meeting
- Posted on the ODWC website (<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/CWCS.htm>), CD enclosed
- Article in the Tulsa World (November 2005, Appendix L)
- News item in the ODWC employee newsletter, the "Wildlife-O-Gram" (November 2005, Appendix M)
- Announced in an email to the Advisory Group and the list of technical experts (November 2005)
- News release (December 2005, Appendix N)
- Article in "The Wild Side" newsletter (Winter 2005, Appendix O)

Other CWCS outreach and coordination efforts that occurred during this grant period included:

- Participation in three conference calls to coordinate CWCS efforts among southwest region states (January 21, January 27, and February 4, 2005)
- Presentation on status of CWCS to Region II USFWS and State Federal Aid Coordinators (March 29, 2005)
- Two-hour radio interview to discuss the CWCS (April 16, 2005)
- Presentation on CWCS status to Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Commission at the July 2005 meeting
- Cooperation and information sharing (e.g., success stories associated with State Wildlife Grants, major themes of the CWCS, etc.) with a variety of national and regional organizations as they prepare materials for a national summary of all 56 CWCS, strive to coordinate implementation among states with similar needs, and generally spread the word about the unmet needs of wildlife conservation.

The Federal Aid Coordinator, Federal Aid Grants Specialist and other Department personnel administered a variety of grants pertaining to species of greatest conservation need (e.g., other State Wildlife Grants, Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program grants, Endangered Species grants, Landowner Incentives Program grants, etc.) needed for CWCS/P development.

C. Significant Deviations: None.

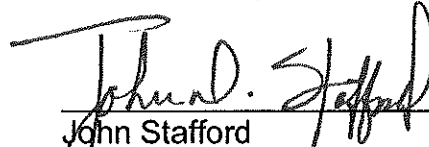
D. Prepared by:


Andrea K. Crews

E. Date:

December 29, 2005

F. Approved by:


John Stafford
Federal Aid Coordinator

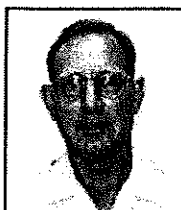
Appendix A

Article in the *Wildlife-O-Gram* (ODWC Employee Newsletter), December 2004

WATERING HOLE



Let me know how I can improve your WOG next month! Todd Craighead, editor, todd@craighead.state-ok.us or 405/521-3500.



Matlock Retiring

Retiring State Game Warden Lloyd Matlock's farewell party will be at The Ole Bait Shop by the Wal-Mart Supercenter in McAlester on Dec 18th at 1:00 p.m. If you're able to come help celebrate Lloyd's 23-year career with the Department, please RSVP Shane Bialke at (405) 470-5097. The cost will be \$10.95 for all you can eat steak & seafood.



Erik Henry (center), stationed in Rogers County, was awarded two separate honors. First, Henry was named the Game Warden of the Year, presented by John Strach (LE, left). Second, Bill Crawford (right) with the Shikar Safari, presented Henry with the Shikar Safari Of Honor of the Year award.

"Ever since I was a freshman in high school I wanted to be a game warden and now I can't imagine doing anything different. It's easy to get up every morning to work at a job you really love," Henry said.

Two Retirees Recently Pass

Our sympathy and prayers are extended to the families of retired game wardens Ethan Pottar (Delaware County) and Bob Whitworth (District 4 Chief). Both men recently passed away.

GRIDDLE VITTLES



Mexican Pheasant

2 cups cooked pheasant, cut in 1 inch bites
1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 can Cream of Chicken soup
1/2 jar Medium Salsa
1 cup sour cream
2 cups Monterey Jack/Cheddar Cheese
1/2 cup onion, chopped
1 package corn tortillas cut in strips

Combine pheasant, soups, onion, salsa, sour cream and 3/4 cheese. Layer mixture with tortilla strips. Top with remaining cheese. Bake for 30 minutes at 350.

CWCS Update

The Department is pleased to present a draft of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). Draft CWCS chapters can be downloaded in PDF format from our contractor's Web site at www.dynamicsolutionsgroup.com/OK/.

This draft represents a compilation of information provided by the Advisory Group meeting in January, the public meetings in March, email correspondence with technical experts and workshop participants at the July conference.

Appendix B
ODWC News Release, December 16, 2004

Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Draft Plan Available

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has released the first draft of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

The Strategy, which is being created by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in collaboration with wildlife stakeholders, will address the needs of fish and wildlife species in the state that are rare or declining. It will use a habitat approach rather than a species-by-species management approach. All 50 states are creating similar Strategies such that when fit together like a puzzle, they will show the current state of America's wildlife and identify actions needed to keep fish and wildlife populations healthy.

A wide variety of stakeholders have provided information for Oklahoma's Strategy, including technical experts from Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, landowner interests, sportsmen and other stakeholders interested in wildlife conservation. This draft is the next step in the development of the Strategy.

Hunters, anglers and boaters, and participants in outdoor recreation have traditionally funded the majority of fish and wildlife conservation. This funding has not been enough to address the needs of all 800 plus wildlife species in Oklahoma. That is the case nationwide, and state fish and wildlife agencies have been working for 20 years to fill this funding gap. This Strategy is a component of the new federal State Wildlife Grants Program - the nation's core program for keeping America's wildlife populations healthy.

This draft review period is one vitally important step - and opportunity - in the process of preparing Oklahoma's Strategy. Anyone with an interest in wildlife in Oklahoma is encouraged to review the draft and provide their comments by January 31, 2005. Draft Strategy chapters can be downloaded from the planning contractor's Web site in PDF format: <http://www.dynamicsolutionsgroup.com/OK/>.

Those with comments should use the form provided and send email to bruce.h@dynamicsolutionsgroup.com.

Appendix C

Article in the Oklahoma Wildlife and Prairie Heritage Alliance Newsletter,
OWPHA Journal, Fall 2004



From the Desk of: Trapper Heglin - OWPHA Coordinator

Hello everyone,

Every time the new year rolls around I look back and reminisce about the past year and make plans for the up and coming year. Too many times do I find that where I thought and planned to be never meets up with the projected plan at the beginning.

Have you ever made a new year resolution and resolved to try again next year before you even reached the end of January. Well I have 3 ways to help keep that resolution until you can make amendments in the next *new* year!

1. Set goals that are obtainable. If it has to be extensive, set smaller goals that add up to the "Big One". Don't forget to pat yourself on the back and celebrate each small success. Soon enough you'll have partied yourself to where you want to be and the big goals won't feel so daunting.
2. Reminders... Place reminders of your goal in areas you frequent, such as computer screen, mirror, refridge, remote...ect. Sometimes all we need is a little road sign to keep us on track.

There's a reason our toothbrushes are near the sink!... A reminder to brush.

3. Don't talk yourself out of your goal. Although it is pretty easy to "try again next year", then what will you have accomplished "this year"? And this is the tuff part... Only you can help yourself.

With these three helpful tips I encourage you to set your goals high. Its up to you.

I would also like to personally invite you to our Annual Board Meeting on Feb. 1st. At the meeting we will be reviewing the goals for the OWPHA. In reviewing

these goals it is important to have public input on the future plans of action to be taken by the OWPHA. Also we will be electing officers to lead the OWPHA. Again it's up to you to make a difference.

Make it a year to remember!
Trapper

CWCS

Important input was received at the statewide public meetings for the development of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS). The strategy will ultimately lay a framework for the most effective use of State Wildlife Grant funding.

Focusing on future conservation needs of Oklahoma's fish and wildlife resources, public meeting attendees' top issues were habitat, wildlife management, problem species, land access, Department staffing and funding, research into habitat needs and population status, and user conflicts.

You are also invited to comment on the 1st draft of Oklahoma's CWCS. The draft can be found at the following website:

www.dynamicsolutionsgroup.com/
OK. Also keep in mind that the purpose of the strategy is to provide guidance for the development of projects to address species of greatest conservation need.

Appendix D
Article in *The Wild Side*, Nongame Newsletter, Winter 2005

THIS ARTICLE EXCERPTED FROM "THE WILD SIDE" WINTER 2005

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

Why it's being developed and what it will accomplish

By Mark Howary

The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy lays a framework for conserving Oklahoma's diversity of wildlife species and their habitats. Each state wildlife conservation agency in America is developing a similar document, and the finished products will demonstrate a strong need for a stable source of wildlife conservation funding for rare and uncommon species not eligible for funding under existing programs for endangered species, game species and sport fish.

The U.S. Congress has required this Strategy's development as part of the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program, which emerged in 2001 as a result of the untiring, seven-year effort of the Teaming With Wildlife coalition. Although not a permanent program, Congress will decide whether or not to reauthorize SWG in 2006, it represents the beginning steps necessary to address conservation needs for 86% of the nation's wildlife.

Over the past four years, the Wildlife Department has received approximately \$2.9 million in State Wildlife Grants funding. The Federal 2005 budget includes nearly \$800,000 in SWG funding for Oklahoma. The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy will help guide how the state spends SWG funding.

The Strategy presents the Wildlife Department with an opportunity to integrate the perspectives of public and technical experts on wildlife conservation needs and priorities. A wide range of conservation partners, including state and federal conservation agencies, nonprofit organizations and individual landowners, will benefit.

The Strategy identifies a list of wildlife species considered to be in greatest need of conservation. It also includes informa-

tion on the distribution and abundance of these species, as well as the extent and condition of their habitats. Through this information-seeking process, biological information gaps were identified that need to be addressed in order to successfully integrate the habitat needs of the diverse array of birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates in Oklahoma.

Because the quantity and quality of habitat are the primary factors that limit most wildlife populations, the Strategy identifies groups of wildlife species that depend on similar habitat conditions. It also includes actions necessary to conserve and to restore those habitats. To measure the effectiveness of the conservation actions after they are implemented, the Strategy incorporates monitoring activities, which will help modify and improve future revisions to the Strategy.

With the overwhelming majority of Oklahoma's land and water resources privately owned, wildlife conservation is a joint effort of private land managers and public agencies. Because everyone has limited resources, it is important to work together in partnerships where overlapping interests and efforts are mutually beneficial.

Wildlife management area biologists, ranchers, farmers, timber companies, utility companies, sportsmen's club and individual landowners are just some of the many land stewards who are taking steps to ensure that today's wildlife resources will be around for future generations. The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy serves as a forum to bring together diverse landowners in a multi-species approach to wildlife and habitat conservation.

What Has Happened With The Strategy?

- Established an Advisory Group in January 2004.
- Held five regional public meetings in March 2004 to collect conservation issues, actions and priorities.
- Contacted technical experts in wildlife conservation and land management in April and May 2004 for their input.
- Held a wildlife conservation workshop in July 2004 to integrate the conservation needs of species with habitats.
- Released first draft version of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy in December 2004 for public comment and review through January 31, 2005.

What Will Happen Next?

- Comments received by January 31, 2005 will be incorporated into the second draft of the Strategy to be released in March 2005.
- A series of public meetings to obtain feedback on the second draft of the Strategy is tentatively scheduled for April 2005.
- A third draft of the Strategy is anticipated during early summer 2005 and will be available for public review.
- Submit finalized Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for evaluation in summer 2005.

How Can I Be Involved?

- View the first draft of the Strategy at www.dynamicsolutionsgroup.com/OK and provide comments to bruce.h@dynamicsolutionsgroup.com.
- Attend a public meeting in April (watch the newspaper for details or sign up to receive electronically the state's weekly Wildlife News at www.wildlifedepartment.com/outdooroklahoma2.htm).

"THE WILD SIDE" IS A PUBLICATION OF THE WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROGRAM

Appendix E
ODWC News Release, March 3, 2005

Public Input Sought for Wildlife Plan

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has released the latest draft of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Planners are now looking forward to input from the public at a series of statewide meetings to be held April 4-8.

The Strategy, which is being created by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in collaboration with wildlife stakeholders, addresses the needs of fish and wildlife species in the state that are rare or declining. It will use a habitat approach rather than a species-by-species management approach. All 50 states are creating similar Strategies such that, when fit together like a puzzle, will show the current state of America's wildlife and identify the actions needed to keep fish and wildlife populations healthy.

A wide variety of stakeholders have provided information for Oklahoma's Strategy, including technical experts from federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, landowners, sportsmen and others interested in wildlife conservation. This draft is the next step in the development of the Strategy.

Hunters, anglers and boaters have traditionally funded the majority of fish and wildlife conservation. This funding has not been enough to address the needs of all 800 plus wildlife species in Oklahoma. The same case exists nationwide, and state fish and wildlife agencies have been working for 20 years to fill this funding gap. This Strategy is a component of the new federal State Wildlife Grants Program - the nation's core program for keeping America's wildlife populations healthy.

This second draft review period is a vitally important step - and opportunity - in the process of preparing Oklahoma's Strategy. Anyone with an interest in wildlife in Oklahoma is encouraged to review the draft and provide their comments either in person or through e-mail by April 15. Draft Strategy chapters can be downloaded from the planning contractor's Web site in PDF format: <http://www.dynamicsolutionsgroup.com/OK/>. Those with comments should use the form provided and send e-mail to bruce.h@dynamicsolutionsgroup.com.

Individuals can also make their comments in person at the following meetings. All meetings will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 4: Oklahoma City, Metro Tech Spring Lake Campus -1900 Springlake Drive

April 5: Woodward, City of Woodward building, Pioneer Room, 1219 8th Street

April 6: Lawton, Cameron University, Band Room, 2800 West Gore Boulevard

April 7: McAlester, Kiamichi Vocational Technical Center-South Conference Room, 301 Kiamichi Drive

April 8: Tulsa, OSU -Tulsa Campus – North Hall Room 151, 700 N. Greenwood Ave

Appendix F
ODWC News Release, March 17, 2005

Public Meetings to Discuss State Wildlife Plan

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has released the latest draft of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Planners are now looking forward to input from the public at a series of statewide meetings to be held April 4-8. The meetings will be co-hosted by a diverse group of partners including OG&E, Weyerhaeuser Inc., The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club and Cameron University.

The Strategy, which is being created by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in collaboration with wildlife stakeholders, addresses the needs of fish and wildlife species in the state that are rare or declining. It will use a habitat approach rather than a species-by-species management approach. All 50 states are creating similar Strategies such that, when fit together like a puzzle, will show the current state of America's wildlife and identify the actions needed to keep fish and wildlife populations healthy.

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- April 4:** Oklahoma City, Metro Tech Spring Lake Campus -1900 Springlake Drive
Co-hosts: OG&E, The Noble Foundation, Sierra Club
- April 5:** Woodward, City of Woodward building, Pioneer Room, 1219 8th Street
Co-host: The Nature Conservancy
- April 6:** Lawton, Cameron University, Band Room, 2800 West Gore Boulevard
Co-host: Cameron University
- April 7:** McAlester, Kiamichi Vocational Technical Center, South Conference Room, 301 Kiamichi Drive; Co-host: Weyerhaeuser
- April 8:** Tulsa, OSU -Tulsa Campus, North Hall Room 151, 700 N. Greenwood Ave
Co-host: The Nature Conservancy

Appendix G
ODWC News Release, April 1, 2005

Wildlife Department and Partners to Co-host Public Meetings

The Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy will be the focus of a series of statewide public meetings to be held April 4-8. The meetings will be co-hosted by a diverse group of partners including the Noble Foundation, OG&E, Weyerhaeuser Inc., The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club and Cameron University.

"We are certainly looking forward to hearing everyone's thoughts on this important strategy," said Andrea Crews, responsive management specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. "This is a historic effort, because this type of comprehensive plan has never been done before in our state."

The Strategy, which is being created by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in collaboration with wildlife stakeholders, addresses the needs of fish and wildlife species in the state that are rare or declining.

"This strategy is designed to answer three questions. What are the species and habitats in trouble? Why are they in trouble? Most importantly, what are we going to do about it," Crews said.

It will use a habitat approach rather than a species-by-species management approach. All 50 states are creating similar Strategies such that, when fit together like a puzzle, will show the current state of America's wildlife and identify the actions needed to keep fish and wildlife populations healthy.

"We want to keep common wildlife species common and work to prevent populations from being added to the endangered species list," Crews said.

A wide variety of stakeholders have provided information for Oklahoma's Strategy, including technical experts from federal and state agencies, conservation organizations, landowner, sportsmen and others interested in wildlife conservation. This draft is the next step in the development of the Strategy.

"We are hoping individuals will read the parts of the strategy that most interest them and offer their thoughts via e-mail or at the public meetings to be held across the state. The more input we have from a wide audience, the better plan we will be able to produce," Crews said.

Hunters, anglers and boaters have traditionally funded the majority of fish and wildlife conservation. This funding has not been enough to address the needs of all 800 plus wildlife species in Oklahoma. The same case exists nationwide, and state fish and wildlife agencies have been working for 20 years to fill this funding gap. This Strategy is a component of the new federal State Wildlife Grants Program - the nation's core program for keeping America's wildlife populations healthy.

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Co-host: The Nature Conservancy

Appendix H

News Item on Buckmasters Website, April 2005



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STATE NEWS

Oklahoma Public Meetings Focus On Wildlife Plan

From the Oklahoma Dept. of Wildlife Conservation

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has released the latest draft of Oklahoma's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. Planners are now looking forward to input from the public at a series of statewide meetings to be held April 4-8. The meetings will be co-hosted by a diverse group of partners including OQ&E, Weyerhaeuser Inc., The Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club and Cameron University.

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Co-host: The Nature Conservancy

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Cameron University, Band Room, 2800 West Gore Boulevard
Co-host: Cameron University

April 7 - McAlester
Kiamichi Vocational Technical Center-South Conference Room, 301 Kiamichi Drive

April 8 - Tulsa
OSU-Tulsa Campus - North Hall Room 151, 700 N. Greenwood Ave.
Co-host: The Nature Conservancy



What Is The BADF?

The Buckmasters American Deer Foundation (BADF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that seeks to carry out the mission of making a real difference for real people.

Local Buckmasters chapters hold events and raise funds for the BADF to conduct such projects as Disabled Services, Project Venison, Hunting in Education, Conservation, or just about anything local hunters feel is worthy.

The Buckmasters American Deer Foundation helps administer those funds, and helps the local Buckmasters chapters set up and run their events.

For the hunters involved, nothing can describe the feeling of accomplishment and thankfulness of sending a sick child on his or her dream hunt, or when they help provide meals for their town's hungry and poor. But Buckmasters chapters aren't limited to just hunting-related projects — one local Buckmasters chapter recently purchased new computers for their local nursing home!

No matter what the project the BADF helps carry out the Buckmasters mission of making a difference. An important intrinsic benefit is that those men and women can stand tall in their communities and show that hunters are good, caring people who attempt to put more into this world than they take.

Click Here to find a Buckmasters banquet near you, and be sure to attend! Or if you really want to experience what it means to make a difference, become involved in your local Buckmasters chapter. For more information, including how to start a chapter if there isn't one near you, visit <http://www.badf.org>

Tree Lounge

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- Join Buckmasters
- Forums
- Story Search
- Online Game
- Buckmasters.net
- Free Wallpaper
- Trophy Gallery
- Classic Buckmasters
- TV Shows & News

Appendix I
News Item on *Inside IAFWA Special Edition*, April 2005



Inside IAFWA

Contact Us Visit us on the Web Special Edition

Fish and Wildlife Agency News

Washington: Abnormal Flame Retardant Levels in Sound Fish
Oklahoma: Oklahoma Public Meetings Focus On Wildlife Plan
North Dakota: Wildlife Officials Hope Pelicans Return to Chase Lake
Florida: Bizarre Species Sightings Leave Floridians Perplexed
Colorado: Colorado Pushes Lynx Habitat Rule Changes
Vermont: Deer Harvest Down in 2004

Appendix J
News Item in *The Playa Post*, April 2005



PLAYA POST

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VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2005

Happenings Around the PLJV:
> **April 4 - 8:** Oklahoma Department of
Wildlife Conservation Comprehensive
Wildlife Conservation Strategy Open House
Meetings, various locations; Contact
[Andrea Crews](#).

Appendix K

News Item on *The Nature Conservancy* Website, April 2005



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive

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Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is spearheading the ambitious effort, called a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. A variety of wildlife stakeholders including state and federal agencies, farm and ranch groups, conservation and sportsmen's groups, academic professionals and other Oklahomans interested in wildlife conservation are collaborating to design the comprehensive strategy. In 2004, input was received through several forums from experts and the public that will allow those needs in the state to be heard.



The Nature Conservancy's Four Canyon Preserve

The result will address the needs of all fish and wildlife by using a habitat approach, rather than a species-by-species management approach. Collecting public input is an important part of the planning process. The actual CWCS is now being developed and when finished, it will serve as a guide to the distribution of federal funding for wildlife conservation in the state. The Nature Conservancy has been a very active participant in the entire process and has provided the results of its science-driven conservation planning to the ODWC.

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Press Release

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Appendix L

Article in the *Tulsa World* newspaper, November 3, 2005

Protection plan aims high

By MICHAEL OVERALL World Staff Writer

11/3/2005

State officials produce strategy to preserve every native species

More than 400 pages long, divided into eight sections with charts and appendixes, the report challenges even a high-speed Internet connection as it downloads from the state's official Web site.

Counting himself, maybe 10 people in the world have read the entire document, and most of them had something to do with writing it, said Mark Howery, a biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

That's OK. A government report is judged not by its number of readers, but by its long-term results. And by that standard, if Howery is right, this report might rank as a benchmark success for generations to come.

Called the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, it is the first time the state government has devised a plan to save every last species that is native to Oklahoma.

Not just the ones that are hunted or fished. Not just the ones that are endangered. All of them -- from the caecidotea macropoda to the marsh rice rat.

"Until recently, the mind-set has been to wait until a species becomes endangered and then spring into action," Howery said. "This is the first time that we've done a strategy for the whole state and for all the wildlife."

Oklahoma and the other 49 states had to come up with a comprehensive wildlife strategy to qualify for new federal funding. The State Wildlife Grants will provide money to protect species that are in decline before they become endangered.

With \$68 million budgeted this year by Congress, the grant program ultimately will save taxpayer money because it's more expensive to bring a species back from the brink than to keep it from becoming endangered, officials said.

"For the first time, we're getting ahead of the curve," U.S. Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton said in a teleconference. "It's better to prevent a fire than to put a fire out."

Even the vast resources of the federal government, however, cannot compete with suburban sprawl and industrialized farming, she said.

Most of the country's natural habitat is on private property, so landowners and developers need to work with the government to protect the environment, Norton said.

"We need the people who live on the land and who work on the land and who love the land to help us protect and preserve the land," she said.

When Congress demanded the strategy reports four years ago in exchange for the grant money, some states complained, deriding the reports as "just more paperwork from the federal government," Norton said.

But in Oklahoma, officials had been waiting for an excuse to write such a plan.

"For us," Howery said, "it was a positive twist."

The state had various plans to protect endangered species and to manage the population of game animals. But that left a lot of species "to fall between the cracks," Howery said.

"Most species are not hunted or fished and have no commercial value," he said. "But they are all an important part of the state's environmental heritage."

Despite its length, the plan often concludes that more studies are needed before officials can say precisely how to protect a given species.

That's because many species are so obscure that researchers have paid little attention to them, Howery said. The state, however, doesn't need a separate plan for each species, he said.

In general, the plan calls for private property owners to help protect the environment.

"It doesn't focus species-by-species on conservation," Howery said. "If a species is declining, it's usually because the amount and the quality of its habitat is declining. If you want to protect the species, protect the habitat."

In Oklahoma, more than 200 species are considered "in decline," including roughly 30 mammals, 75 birds, 20 reptiles, 45 fish, 20 freshwater mussels and several cave invertebrates.

Oklahoma's report is available online at **www.wildlifedepartment.com**.

Appendix M

Article in the *Wildlife-O-Gram* (ODWC Employee Newsletter), November 2005

Oklahoma's Wildlife Action Plan Complete

This summer, the Department completed work on the Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. In October, we were pleased to learn that Oklahoma's Strategy was approved. The Strategy was developed to meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements under the new State Wildlife Grants program of Federal Aid, which has provided the Department approximately \$4 million in additional funding to date. All 56 U.S. states and territories completed similar Strategies, identifying conservation actions for species in greatest need.

Over the next few months, you may see both local and national publicity regarding the Strategies. The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will be working with Congress to secure increased, permanent funding for this Federal Aid program. Media efforts will likely refer to the Strategies as "Wildlife Action Plans," rather than the former cumbersome name.

Oklahoma's Wildlife Action Plan is available on our website at www.wildlifedepartment.com/CWCS.html.

RIGHT: John Hendricks (W, left), presented Dale Rich as the 2005 Landowner of the Year.

For 15 years, Dale Rich along with his family and friends have worked to improve wildlife habitat on his 3,000-acre property in Okfuskee County.

"I truly appreciate the honor, but the real thanks should go to the Wildlife Department and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Their knowledge and technical assistance was just invaluable," Rich said.

In addition to his commitment to improving wildlife habitat, Rich has also made a commitment to sharing the hunting heritage with the next generation. More than 40 kids have harvested their first deer on the property.



Left: Sam Daniel, center, president of NatureWorks, presented Alan Peoples (W, left) and Alan Stacey (W, right) with a \$54,000 donation to be used on the Deep Fork/Eufaula Wetland Development Unit on the Eufaula Wildlife Management Area.

The funds will be used to enhance a 700-acre green tree wetland complex by repairing the dikes and building a permanent pumping station on the area. The pumping station will use water from the Deep Fork River to flood different units on the area with a 30-inch underground pipeline.

"NatureWorks is a loose-knit group of people from all walks of life in the Tulsa area. The one thing we all have in common is that we all love wildlife," Daniel said.

Since 1991, NatureWorks has brought some of the country's most talented wildlife artists to Tulsa through

their annual Wildlife Art Show and Sale held each March. Each year in conjunction with the wildlife art show, NatureWorks presents the Wildlife Stewardship Award to recognize and honor persons in the community who have promoted conservation. Each award is then memorialized with a bronze wildlife sculpture that is put on permanent display along Tulsa's scenic Riverside Drive, next to the Arkansas River. To date, NatureWorks patrons have funded 12 monuments.

Appendix N
ODWC News Release, December 1, 2005

Pro-Active Plan to Conserve All Wildlife

Oklahoma completes plan to conserve wildlife, natural places

Oklahoma's plan to conserve all native wildlife in the state is complete. The Wildlife Action Plan is the result of sixteen months of work by scientists, sportsmen, conservationists, and other members of the community.

"This pro-active conservation plan will benefit wildlife and people by conserving wildlife before they become more rare and more costly to protect," said Mark Howery, a biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect people, as well.

"We conserve wildlife by protecting natural places, which contribute to clean air and clean water – making both wildlife and people healthier," Howery said. "Not only do these places contribute to the quality of life we've come to expect here in Oklahoma, they're also important to many of our family traditions."

Oklahoma's Wildlife Action Plan is a massive document and not exactly afternoon reading material. It's a comprehensive roadmap for conservation with an emphasis on rare and declining wildlife.

In addition to Oklahoma, the other 49 states and six U.S. territories developed action plans. Each one addresses wildlife issues unique to that area of the country. The plans collectively illustrate the current state of America's wildlife.

Nationwide, these action plans show a need to conserve a wider range of wildlife than traditionally managed. To accomplish this, they focus on entire habitats rather than individual species. That's a big strength as explained by Howery.

"Oklahoma has about 250 species that need conservation work today to keep their populations at healthy levels," he said. "If you want to protect a species, protect the habitat."

For every common species in the state, there is also a declining one. Of Oklahoma's 800 vertebrate wildlife species, about 120 are currently actively managed.

"We'll only be able to do the work in our plan if federal funding continues. These plans make a strong case for State Wildlife Grants funding," Howery said.

State Wildlife Grants is a federal program that funds conservation for rare and declining wildlife at the state level. A bipartisan, majority vote by Congress created the program in 2001. The program is re-evaluated each year before new funding is approved.

"It's cost-effective to focus efforts on declining species before their populations fall too low," Howery said. "This Action Plan helps us identify and treat wildlife issues before they threaten wildlife and affect humans. We need to invest now."

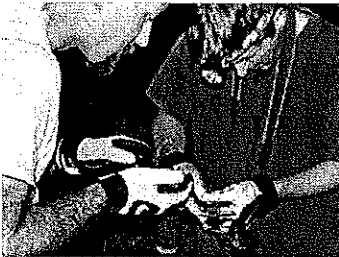
As required by federal statute, the action plan was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted. The document, also known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, may be viewed at wildlifedepartment.com/CWCS.htm.

Appendix O

The Wild Side, ODWC Newsletter, December 2005



Wildlife biologists measure a cave myotis bat at Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Area. Improving knowledge about wildlife on public lands is a need identified in Oklahoma's Wildlife Action Plan. The work shown here is part of a State Wildlife Grants project to inventory all types of species living on department lands, which had not been done before. This information helps biologists identify conservation issues and set actions before those issues threaten wildlife and affect humans.



Watch for Bald Eagles in the Winter Sky

Oklahoma has more miles of shoreline than the east and west coasts combined. All that water makes Oklahoma one of the top ten states in the nation for bald eagle viewing. As northern lakes freeze over, 750-1,000 eagles migrate here in search of food.

Watch the winter sky for a soaring 7-foot wingspan and telltale white head. The word "bald" originally meant "white-headed." If the head isn't white, you may be seeing a young eagle. The feathers on the head remain brown until an eagle reaches the age of four or five. Look up to spot the nation's emblem and one of the largest birds of prey in the world.

All-Wildlife Plan Will Help Rare and Declining Wildlife

Oklahoma completes plan to conserve wildlife and natural areas for future generations

Oklahoma's plan to conserve all native wildlife in the state is complete. The Wildlife Action Plan is the result of sixteen months of work by scientists, sportsmen, conservationists, and other members of the community.

"This pro-active conservation plan will benefit wildlife and people by conserving wildlife before they become more rare and more costly to protect," said Mark Howery, a biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The health of wildlife is often an early indicator of disease and pollution that affect people, as well.

"We conserve wildlife by protecting natural places, which contribute to clean air and clean water - making both wildlife and people healthier," he said. "Not only do these places contribute to the quality of life we've come to expect here in Oklahoma, they're also important to many of our family traditions."

Oklahoma's Wildlife Action Plan is a massive document and not exactly afternoon

reading material. It's a comprehensive roadmap for conservation with an emphasis on rare and declining wildlife. The plan's strength, according to Howery, is its focus on entire habitats over individual species.

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For every common species in the state, there is also a rare one. Of Oklahoma's 800 vertebrate wildlife species, about 120 are currently actively managed.

"It's cost-effective to focus efforts on declining species before their populations fall too low," Howery said. "This Action Plan helps us identify and treat wildlife issues before they threaten wildlife and affect humans. We need to invest now."

The action plan, also known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, may be viewed at wildlifedepartment.com/CWCS.htm.

There's a large bird soaring in the winter sky - is it an eagle?



Bald Eagles - wings straight across and splayed wingtips.



Turkey Vultures - wings in a "V" shape.



Red-tailed Hawks - wings straight across and splayed wingtips turned upwards.

Discover the best places to spot eagles in Oklahoma:

View 18 eagle-viewing locations and events at wildlifedepartment.com or call for a free brochure (405) 521-4616. Events are statewide. Most are free and take place the first few weekends of January. These locations are good places to spot eagles all winter, not just during an event.

