

**AGENDA**  
**Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, August 21, 2023, 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](http://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 – Wade Farrar
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Wade Farrar
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Phillip Cottrill, Jr., Game Warden - 20 years of service; Marni Loftis, Operations Manager – 20 years of service.

7. Presentation of the Shikar-Safari Club International Game Warden of the Year Award to Riley Willman – Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement and Raegen Siegfried, Shikar-Safari Club International.
8. Recognition of the 2023 Oklahoma Landowner of the Year, Susan and Floyd Bergen – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, Josh Richardson, Private Lands Supervisor, and Mark Howery, Senior Biologist.
9. Presentation, consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a \$13,008 donation from the Blue River Fly Fishers, to be used for management of the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area – Richard Snow, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Division, Ethan Lovelace, Fisheries Biologist, and Barry Schrader, Blue River Fly Fishers.
10. Recognition of Anthony Rodger as recipient of the 2022 Fisheries Division Professional of the Year award – Richard Snow, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Division.
11. Presentation of The Spirit of ODWC Award – J.D. Strong, Director
12. Recognition of Communication and Education employees Blake Podhajsky, Sarah Southerland, Smokey Solis, Darrin Hill, and Todd Craighead for winning 10 national communication awards at the recent Association for Conservation Information conference – J.D. Strong.

13. Recognition of the 2022 Wildlife Division Technician of the Year, Nathaniel "Jr" Kester, and the Biologist of the Year, Brett Cooper – Bill Dinkines.
14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes of the June 5, 2023, regular Commission meeting.
15. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
  - a. Federal and Congressional Update
    - Oklahoma Legislative Update – Catherine Appling-Pooler
  - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
  - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
16. Presentation of the May 31, 2023 and June 30, 2023, Financial Statements and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
17. Presentation on the shooting range construction and renovation projects being conducted by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation – Nels Rodefled, Communication and Education Chief and Amanda Thomas, Shooting Range Coordinator.
18. Update on Geographic Information System based Wildlife Management Area Planning and Modernization – Bill Dinkines, Russ Horton, Assistant Chief of Wildlife Division, Scott Parry, Northwest Region Supervisor and David Murray, G.I.S. Analyst.
19. Presentation and update relating to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance areas and response strategy in Texas and Woodward Counties – Bill Dinkines and Jerry Shaw, Programs Supervisor.
20. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
21. Announce the September 5, 2023 Commission meeting has been cancelled.
22. 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 June 5, 2023, of the

## OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on June 5, 2023. 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 May 25, 2023, at 3:38 p.m.

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  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 MARK H. MABREY, Member  
                                 JESS M. KANE, Member  
                                 TIM DIEHL, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:      JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guest: Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation; Laura McIver and James Dietch, Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever; Clifton McKinezie, Red Bud Quail Chapter of Quail Forever; Kelly Bostian, Tulsa Reporter; Juliana Lopez, Founder, OKC Latina.

Director Strong recognized Wade Farrar, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement for 20 years of service; David Banta, Wildlife Technician for 25 years of service, and Colin Berg, Communication & Education Supervisor for 30 years of service.

Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement, introduced Laura McIver with Quail Forever. Ms. McIver said they deeply appreciate the work that wardens do on the front line. She is happy to join with Clifton McKinezie from the Red Bud Quail Chapter of Quail Forever in presenting two Pulsar Thermal/IR Binoculars to be used in Lincoln and Pottawatomie Counties valued at \$5,000. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Kane to approve the donation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Nels Rodefelf, Chief of Communication and Education Division, introduced Jennifer Benge, Communication and Education Technician, who gave an overview of the partnership between ODWC and OKC Latina. Ms. Benge said in 2021 the ODWC partnered with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation's George H.W. Bush Vamos a Pescar Education Fund to award a grant to a OKC metro organization, OKC Latina, to help engage Hispanic/Latino families in fishing and conservation. By attending events families are leaving with a new understanding and knowledge of the outdoors, conservation, and fishing that they might not have had the opportunity to be exposed to. Since the first year in 2021, the fund has also been awarded to the Scissortail Park Foundation along with OKC Latina. Juliana Lopez, Founder, OKC Latina, said that these events make so much sense for the OKC Hispanic

community. There has been a lot of interest and plenty of room to grow. She thanked ODWC and Director Strong for bringing this program to her attention and providing support for the fishing events.

Motion was made by Mr. Holder and seconded by Mr. Mabrey to approve the minutes from the April 3, 2023 Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Catherine Appling-Pooler, Legislative Liaison, gave a brief update on the wildlife legislation that passed before the legislature ended Sine Die. The three wildlife-related bills that passed during session:

SB 648- regarding night hunting, specifically of feral swine. Effective date is November 1, 2023.

HB 2868- creates a new non-resident hunting license for winged upland game, excluding turkey, for Commercial Hunt Areas. Effective date is November 1, 2023.

HB 2239- creates the Terry Peach North Canadian Watershed Act, which initiates a pilot program for removing harmful woody species (funding companion bill to follow). There was an emergency clause to this bill, therefore, its effective date was the day the Governor signed it.

Commissioner Barwick asked Ms. Appling-Pooler what the Department's position is on the velvet buck bill. His question was in reference to SB 910, which would have required the Commission to establish an early velvet buck season for archery only. Commissioner Barwick said the reason he asked this question was because the author of the Bill, State Senator Blake Stephens asked him the same question. This bill passed the Senate Tourism and Wildlife committee, the Senate floor, and then made its way over to the House Wildlife committee. In the House committee meeting, the bill received a Do Not Pass (DNP) motion and was voted down. Therefore, the bill died in committee and cannot be brought up in the same legislature, meaning a bill regarding a velvet buck season cannot come back next session. Ms. Appling-Pooler looked to Director Strong for the answer. He said the bill had died in committee, so the department didn't need to take a firm position. Director Strong explained that we don't stake out a strong position early in the process as many of the bills die or change before it is necessary, although we were watching the velvet buck bill closely. Sometimes navigating the legislature and the bills they propose requires a more finessed approach from the Department rather than a hard stance at the beginning of the process. Commissioner Barwick stated that perhaps it would be helpful if a presentation could be made to the Commission describing how the legislative process works, especially how bills are initiated and flow through committees.

You can follow the progression of legislative proposals on the Department website under Legislative Tracker. Director Strong also 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. 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. Commissioner Barwick asked Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, about the turkey harvest and research. Mr. Dinkines stated that we are in year two of a five-year, \$3 million research project. The harvest data for this year is not complete, but he can send the most current report out to the Commission. Mr. Dinkines was asked about a possible update on turkey research at a future Commission meeting.

Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, thanked the department and Commissioners for their assistance at the sporting clays fundraiser at Cedar Gate held on May 12. The Foundation submitted \$75,000 to the department to support the engineering and planning study for the Hackberry Flat pipeline project and has launched a capital campaign to raise money for the pipeline replacement. Mr. Grundman announced the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Call of the Wild Gala that will be held on September 29, 2023 at the OMNI hotel in Oklahoma City, and he thanked the Game Warden Association for donating a firearm for the Gala auction.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration presented the Financial Statements for March 31, 2023 and April 30, 2023. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Diehl to accept the financial statements as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”. Ms. Storck gave a license update:

Recreational Licenses - Number of licenses sold was up 7% from May 2022

- Resident Fishing - Up 11%
- Resident Hunting - Down 17%
- Resident Combo - Down 30%
- Nonresident Hunting - Up 29%
- Nonresident Fishing - Up 12%
- Nonresident 1-Day Fishing - Up 9%
- Lake Texoma Permits - Up 7%
- Lifetimes
  - Regular Lifetimes - Up 4%
  - Senior Lifetimes - Up 13%

Amanda Storck presented and requested Commission approval for the Department’s FY2024 Annual Budget. Ms. Storck explained the following:

The Retirement/Finance Committee met to review the proposed budget.

**Budget Summary:**

The overall budget for FY24 is \$57,244,099 excluding capital expenditures increased 4.6% which includes the personnel and operating budgets.

The overall budget including capital expenditures is \$75,201,155

Personnel cost for FY24 are \$32,597,115 increased 3.6%.

**Employee Compensation:**

In an effort to keep employee pay competitive relative to increasing market conditions, the Finance Committee recommended a 3% increase for all employees.

**Retirement:** COLA of 1% with an effective date of January 1, 2024. The department will fund \$500,000 in FY2024 and the remaining \$500,000 in FY2025.

Ms. Storck explained that the significant decrease in the FY23 to FY24 budget was the Cimarron Valley land purchase that was budgeted in 2023 but ultimately fell through, so it was not included in the 2024 budget. She said that money is not in the bank, it was a budget item only. Commissioner Barwick asked why the shooting range budget for the Atoka WMA shooting range was substantially higher at \$1,800,000, when the other range budgets were so much lower, with the next highest WMA range budget being \$450,000. Mr. Rodefeld explained that although we do have a blueprint template to follow for all ranges, each WMA is different and each site has different needs, as well as continued inflation increases that are driving the price up. Ms. Storck explained why the Department must incur the expense of migrating to a different operating system. The old BTG system is antiquated and unsupported and requires the department to enter information in multiple programs. Moving to an updated, solitary program will allow the Department better efficiency. Commissioner Barwick requested information about the high budget item of \$975,000 for improvements at the Bixhoma Reservoir. Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division said the existing boating access amenities at Bixhoma Reservoir are aged and are in need of upgrades due to the popularity of the reservoir and proximity to Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bixhoma Reservoir is more expensive than the other boating access projects because it consists of more than a dock replacement. The City of Bixhoma would like to replace both the north and south boating access sites while adding two additional access areas, trails around the reservoir and replacing the north road entry. Kelly Bostian, a reporter from Tulsa who uses the lake weekly, interjected from the audience that the lake is extremely popular but is in dire need of repair.

Commissioner Holder, chairman of the Retirement/Finance committee, stated that the Committee had met and reviewed the budget proposal. What is clear from this process is our expenses continue to outpace our revenue, which leaves us on an unsustainable path forward. This shortfall each year has to be taken from our expendable portion of our Lifetime license trust fund just to meet the basic expenses of the Department. The portion of expenses covered by the trust fund is increasing each year. When this "rainy day" fund dries up, we will have no choice but to start cutting services to our sportsmen. We would like to commend each of the Departments for finding ways to maintain or even cut expenses in the face of runaway inflation. They have done so without sacrificing the experience of our fishermen and hunters. But it does come at the expense of many capital improvements and repairs needed desperately on our properties and equipment. Our biggest regret is that we can't pay our employees what they deserve. We want to make it imminently clear this proposed 3% raise was not a reflection of how employees are valued, but one made based on budget constraints. It remains a goal and priority of ours to pay market competitive salaries to all employees of the Department. We have asked the staff to provide us with the funding needs for the short-term and long-term capital improvements as well as what funding we would need to get our staff salaries at a competitive level. The committee plans to meet with the Department quarterly to assess these needs. Once we have a good handle on just how short we really are we will launch an initiative to finding new sources of revenue. Motion was made by Commissioner Holder and seconded by Commissioner Dillingham to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Commissioner Dillingham said, as a member of the Retirement/Finance Committee, he has witnessed a large amount of work dedicated to preparing the budget and he appreciates all employees involved. He realizes that we have a revenue problem, not a spending problem, and is focused on helping find new creative revenue sources. Regarding the retiree COLA, he emphasized that it is not intended to be representative of a true cost of living. He recognizes that it is not enough but feels it's what we can afford at this time. Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham and seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to approve the retiree COLA as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, introduced Paxton Smith, Migratory Bird/Wetlands Biologist to give an update on the process for establishing hunting dates, bag, possession limits, and special means of take for migratory bird hunting seasons. Mr. Smith said we must use the USFWS federal framework and guidelines for setting seasons and bag limits, but that the USFWS did allow for a liberal package this year. Mr. Dinkines requested Commission approval on a Resolution setting the dates, bag, possession limits and special means of take for the 2023-24 migratory bird hunting season. Commissioner Barwick suggested the wording on the Resolution be amended to strike the word 'ordered' and replace with the following: 'Now Therefore Be it Resolved, Authorized and Approved That,.'. Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham and seconded by Commissioner Diehl to approve the Resolution as presented with the amendment by Commissioner Barwick. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Bill Dinkines introduced Dallas Barber, Big Game Biologist, who stated that the 2022-2023 deer season delivered a record harvest! The exact numbers are not in yet, but so far, the numbers are exceeding the 2020 covid year numbers and will top 131,000. Also, the antlerless harvest is 45% of the total harvest. Mr. Dinkines requested Commission approval of a Resolution establishing antlerless deer seasons and bag limits for the 2023-24 hunting season. Commissioner Barwick suggested the wording on the Resolution be amended to add the following language: 'Now Therefore Be it Resolved, Authorized and Approved That,.'. Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham and seconded by Commissioner Barwick to approve the

Resolution as presented with the amendment by Commissioner Barwick. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Barwick to enter into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Holder to return to Open Session. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Dillingham to authorize the Director to negotiate a settlement for the said litigation within the perimeters set forth by the Commission. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Commissioner Barwick informed the Commission that Raegen Siegfried as President, Ethan House as Vice President, and Richard Hatcher as Secretary were recently re-elected as officers of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation. Commissioner Barwick requested Commission approval for the re-appointment of Will Reagan, James Barwick, Ethan House and Tess Maune to the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation. The Foundation bylaws require approval from the Wildlife Commission for all appointments and reappointments to the Foundation's Board. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Diehl to approve the reappointments as presented. Motion carried with Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes". Commissioner Barwick reminded Commissioners to please submit their annual contribution to the Foundation. as a demonstration of unified support.

Chairman Gaddis, in the absence of Commissioner Zelbst who chairs the nominating committee, tabled Agenda item #18 until the August meeting.

Chairman Gaddis announced the July 3, 2023, Wildlife Commission meeting has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

#### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR

J. D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

Wildlife Conservation Commission

Leigh Gaddis

Chairman

James V. Barwick

Vice Chairman

Rick Holder

Secretary

Tim Diehl

D. Chad Dillingham

Jess Kane

Mark H. Mabrey

John P. Zelbst

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 9, 2023

**TO:** OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

**FROM:** Brittnee Preston

**RE:** Report on June and July Federal and Congressional Issues for August Commission Meeting

### **Congress:**

This summer, Congress faced several big-ticket items leading them to fall deadlines: the debt ceiling, regular appropriations, Farm bill expiration, Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization and the National Defense Reauthorization Act. While they attempted to take on a few of these, most of them were left hanging as they headed into their regular August recess. With only a few of weeks left in the fiscal year, Congress will return in September with their to-do list packed and will likely punt many of these issues into December and possibly into 2024.

### **Debt Ceiling –**

- > In the last few days of May, Congress came to an agreement on a debt ceiling deal. The deal lifted the \$31.4 trillion debt limit through 2025 and placed new limits on federal spending. This allowed federal borrowing to resume.
- > In reference to the spending provisions, the agreement sets caps on defense and nondefense discretionary spending for FY 2024 and FY 2025, providing increases for defense and for veteran's programs but reducing funding for other programs and activities government wide. Additionally, roughly \$29 billion in COVID spending was rescinded.
- > H.R. 3746, the Bipartisan Budget Agreement, passed the House by a vote of 314-117 and passed the Senate by a vote of 63-36. The Oklahoma delegation was split on their votes on the agreement's final passage. Four voted in favor of the measure and three voted against.

### **Appropriations –**

- > Appropriations season hit a stride in July. The House moved several of their bills and the Senate moved all 12 of their bills through committee for the first time in five years. However, Congress is still up against a tight deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup> to find agreement between the chambers on government spending. A possible shutdown is looming, and it is no surprise that a Continuing Resolution will be needed to patch funding until they are able to work out final appropriations numbers.
- > Below are highlights from the relevant appropriations bills in each chamber:

## **HOUSE FY24 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS SUMMARY**

### **AGRICULTURE BILL**

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.



- The bill provides funding of \$25.3 billion— a decrease of 532 million or 2.1% from the FY23 enacted levels.
- \$1.169 billion for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a decrease of \$2.1 million. This includes increases of \$10 million for animal disease traceability, \$2.5 million for avian health, and \$8.5 million for specialty crop pests.
- \$911.399 million for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a decrease of \$29.7 million. It also, eliminates funding for equity initiatives and climate change.
- The bill also zeros out the Watershed Reserve Program funding and the Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

## ENERGY AND WATER BILL

- Provides \$57.958 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$1.963 billion below the FY24 President’s Budget Request.
- Provides \$9.57 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, which is \$910 million above the FY23 enacted program level.
- Provides \$1.863 billion for the Department of Interior, which is \$91 million below the FY23 enacted level.
- \$1.693 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation’s Water and Related Resources Account, which is \$392.4 million above the President’s Budget Request. It prioritizes projects that increase water supply and support drought response instead of climate change activities and duplicative programs.

## INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

- Provides \$25.417 billion in discretionary spending, which is \$13.433 billion (35%) below the FY 23 enacted level.
- The bill provides a total of \$6.173 billion for EPA, \$3.96 billion or 39% below the FY 23 enacted level.
- Provides a total of \$14.3 billion in discretionary appropriations for DOI, \$677 million below the FY23 enacted level.
- \$1.2 billion for the Bureau of Land Management (MLR/O&C), \$255.4 million below the FY 2023 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$73 million for sage-grouse conservation,
- \$1.536 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \$236.9 million below the FY 2023 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$270 million for Ecological Services
  - \$13.28 million for National Wildlife Refuge System.
  - \$20 million for Multinational Species Conservation Fund.
  - \$22 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
  - \$72.6 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, a \$1.2 million reduction from FY 23
  - \$17 million for migratory bird management
  - \$50.14 million for Aquatic Invasive Species, of which \$500,000 to be used for a new university collaboration to establish a Conservation Research Unit at a Wildlife CRU.
- \$3.039 billion for the National Park Service, \$555.9 million below the FY 2023 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - Provides \$38.564 million for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area to address critical; repairs in the Platt and Buckhorn Developed Areas.
  - \$2.7 billion for the Operation of the National Park System
  - \$80 million for National Recreation and Preservation.
  - \$175.4 million for the Historic Preservation Fund.
- \$1.347 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey, \$436.25 million below the FY 2023 enacted level.
  - Provides \$28.2 million for Cooperative Research Units
- The bill includes the following provisions related to the Endangered Species Act:
  - Strengthens the limitation on listing sage grouse to include bi-state population.
  - Prohibits the introduction of bison in the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge.
  - Prohibits the listing of the lesser prairie-chicken.
  - Requires the Department of the Interior to reissue the 2020 rule delisting the gray wolf.

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- Prohibits the up-listing of the northern long-eared bat.
- Prohibits introduction of the grizzly bear in the North Cascades Ecosystem.
- The bill includes the following provisions related to Hunting, Fishing, and Recreational Access:
  - Prohibits the regulation of lead content in ammunition and fishing tackle.
  - Blocks restrictions on hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal lands.
  - Improves the Department of the Interior cost recovery processes for special recreation permits on federal lands.

## **SENATE FY24 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS SUMMARY**

### **AGRICULTURE BILL**

- Provides \$25.9 billion for the USDA, a slightly smaller decrease as the House bill.
- The bill provides \$941.1 million for NRCS, a decrease from the FY23 enacted level.
- Provides \$1.2 billion for Plant and Animal Health.
- Provides level funding for the Watershed Reserve Program at \$2 million
- Like the House bill, the Senate bill zeros out the Healthy Forest Reserve Program.

### **ENERGY AND WATER BILL**

- The bill provides \$58 billion in new discretionary budget authority.
- Provides \$8.9 billion, to the Army Corps of Engineers
- Provides \$1.92 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation

### **INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL**

- The bill provides a total discretionary funding level of \$42.695 billion, which is \$200 million more than the fiscal year 2023 enacted level.
- In accordance with the Great American Outdoors Act, the bill allocates \$1.9 billion for projects within National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund and \$900 million for projects within the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- The bill provides \$9.9 billion for EPA.
- Provides a total of \$15.639 billion in discretionary appropriations for DOI.
- \$1.5 billion for the Bureau of Land Management. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$209 million for Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Management
  - \$34.7 million for threatened and endangered species.
- Provides \$1.8 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service, a steady funding level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$298.7 million for Ecological Services.
  - \$539.2 million for National Wildlife Refuge System.
  - \$21 million for Multinational Species Conservation Fund.
  - \$24.556 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
  - \$73.8 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
  - \$53.86 million for migratory bird management
  - \$247 million for Fish and Aquatic Conservation
  - \$50.643 million for Aquatic Invasive Species, which includes \$3,500,000 for zebra mussel eradication.
- Provides \$3.457 billion for the National Park Service,
  - \$29.9 million for National Recreation and Preservation
  - \$195 million for the Historic Preservation Fund.
- \$1.5 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey.
  - Provides \$29.3 million for Cooperative Research Units

Farm bill –

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- > Farm bill discussions are swirling, and House and Senate drafts are expected soon. The House Agriculture Chairman, G.T. Thompson, said he expects a mid-September markup of the bill and will release text after August recess.
- > The House was slated to take up their version of the Agriculture appropriations bill during the last week of the July but tensions rose over funding levels and the upcoming Farm bill reauthorization. The House GOP pulled the bill from the floor calendar at the last minute.

#### Floor work –

- > The House and Senate passed [SJRes 9](#), by Sen. Marsahll (R-KS) disapproving of the DOI’s rule listing the Lesser Prairie Chicken and [SJRes 24](#), by Sen. Mullin (R-OK) disapproving the USFWS rule on the Endangered Status of the Northern Long-eared bat. Both bills are now headed to the President’s desk. President Biden has said he intends to veto these resolutions and the Senate is not likely to have the votes to override his veto.
- > In a quick and last action before leaving town for recess, the Senate passed [S. 788](#), the Duck Stamp Modernization Act by unanimous consent. The House has moved their version of the bill through committee, but it has not received floor action yet.

#### Committee work –

- > Hearings –
  - The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and the Farm Service Agency programs. Terry Cosby, Chief of the NRCS and Zach Duchenaus, Administrator of the Farm Service Agency, testified at the hearing. Most of the hearing centered around the agencies’ limitations and barriers to programs. Staff shortage and waitlists for program access were the top issues that were repeated throughout the hearing. Mr. Cosby emphasized the need to keep programs voluntary and flexible for producers as well as cited acreage caps as a cause for the CRP program backlog of applicants.

Rep. Lucas asked questions about the FSA watershed program importance and the status of the agency’s spending of BIL funding. Mr. Duchenaus noted that the purpose of the program is both flood protection and dam rehabilitation. He said EWP had over 60 different events that they responded to last year and while it has been successful, there is a huge waiting list of people needing the services. This takes a lot of staff power.

Rep. Lucas mentioned his carbon sequestration bill and asked Mr. Cosby to comment on the NRCS’s work in this area. He said they are working to build out this research and monitoring activity through their conservation projects.

- The House Natural Resources held a hearing on the USFWS budget. Director Martha Williams testified before the Committee. Main topics of discussion were grizzly bear, ESA, and migratory birds. The members of the committee largely focused on state specific topics in their questioning.
- The House Natural Resource Subcommittee held a hearing on BLM’s conservation health rule and H.R. 3397. HR 3397 would ban the rule proposed in April to make conservation a “use” of land along with energy exploration, grazing and recreation. Essentially, the proposed rule would allow conservation leases to conserve BLM lands applying land health standards to public lands. Current law limits those standards directly to livestock grazing allotments.

South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem and Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon testified on the first panel and Principal Deputy Director of BLM, Nada Culver, and non-governmental witnesses testified on a second panel. The Governors argued that the BLM rule oversteps their authority and is costly and

onerous on states efforts to handle conservation on public lands. Gov. Noem stated that the BLM rule allows the agency to go around the NEPA process, which is not fair way to handle the process.

Deputy Director Culver emphasized the need for the rule and stated the agency was opposed to the bill.

- Rep. Newhouse (R-WA) announced the formation of an [Endangered Species Working Group](#) with the Congressional Western Caucus, and the House Committee on Natural Resources. The news release issued by Mr. Newhouse states, “The goal of the Working Group will be to publish a series of policy recommendations that reform the ESA to the benefit of the American people and species conservation.”
- The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife, and Fisheries held a hearing on the “ESA at 50: Destructive Cost of the ESA.” NOAA Administrator Janet Coit, USFWS Director Martha Williams, East Central Energy CEO, Justin Jahnz, Owner of Obsidian Seed Company, Sean Vibbert, VP of Law and Policy, Johnathan Wood and President and CEO of Associations of Zoos and Aquariums, Dan Ashe all testified at this hearing.

The Subcommittee and Full Committee Chairs noted that the ESA has grown to an overreaching point and that a law with a 3% success rate needs to be reviewed and updated. The Ranking Members of the same touted the importance of the ESA and that Republicans are on a mission to do away with the law. The full chair noted that the Committee is working with Rep. Newhouse on his newly formed Endangered Species Working Group to not get rid of the law but to make it work better. Full Committee Chairman, Westerman also announced that he is working on his own version of the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which he plans to call the Restoring America’s Wildlife Habitat Act to promote biodiversity and develop healthy habitat. He said that there are lots of habitat on America’s public lands that are being destroyed by wildfires. He said there are many species that should be off the list including wolves. He wants to take a fresh look at the ESA and get back to the intended purpose of the Act.

Witnesses pointed out the successes of the law and how the law has incentivized landowners to conserve species and habitat through a voluntary manner. Ms. Coit and Ms. Williams focused on the good that the ESA does to support species and to preserve wildlife habitat in ways that will support species for years to come. Mr. Wood emphasized that a delisting process needs to be addressed. Mr. Ashe noted that a major issue to species conservation is not doing enough before species get to the list.

- Chairwoman Capito and Ranking Member Carper of the Senate EPW Committee [introduced](#) the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver (WILD) Reauthorization Act. This bill reauthorizes the appropriations for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. It authorizes grant programs for conservation of the African and Asian Elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, the great ape, and marine turtles.
- The House Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on several bills including H.R. 1437, by Rep. Rose (R-TN), the Black Vulture Relief Act. This bill allows a broad take of black vultures for producers facing challenges with livestock loss. Mr. Stephen Guertin, USFWS Deputy Director for Program Management and Policy, testified to the available permits for taking black vultures, the Services requirements for managing treaties under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and a program they administer for states choosing to participate black vulture mitigation. Mr. Guertin stated that he thinks the bill will limit the Services mitigation techniques. The bill sponsor and Mr. Charlie Beshler, Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee Chair of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association both stated that the main issue is the 3 allowed take permits is not enough for producers. Mr. Beshler said that a producer must lose 5% before they are allowed to take.

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- > Markups –
  - The House Natural Resources also held a markup this week on several bills including:
    - [H.R. 2872](#), to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow states to issue electronic stamps. The bill passed the Committee by unanimous consent.
    - [H.R. 615](#), the Protecting Hunters and Anglers Act, which prohibits the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture from prohibiting the use of lead ammunition or tackle on certain Federal land or water under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. This bill passed by a vote of 21-15.
    - [H.R. 3397](#), to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health. This bill passed by a vote of 20-16.

#### Agencies:

- > USFWS [advanced notice of proposed rulemaking](#) to gather information necessary to develop a proposed rule for the exhibition of migratory birds and eagles. USFWS would like suggestions and scope of issues to include in the rulemaking. Comments were due by July 3, 2023.
- > The USFWS issued a [proposed rule](#) to revise current regulatory authorizations and add new regulatory authorizations for possession of migratory birds and eagles and other purposes. These proposed changes would more efficiently and appropriately authorize the general public, educators, and government agency employees to possess birds and eagles in certain specific situations while meeting our obligations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Comments were due by July 31, 2023.
- > The USFWS announced the FY 2024 - Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act - [BIG Tier 1](#) and [BIG Tier 2](#) funding opportunity. Applications are due by September 20, 2023.
- > USFWS [announced](#) an interim rule for implementing the Big Cat Public Safety Act (BCPSA). This rule is effective June 12, 2023. Comments on this interim rule and the information collection requirements contained in it must be received by August 11, 2023.
- > The USFWS and the NMFS together are proposing to amend portions of regulations that implement [section 4](#) and [section 7](#) of the ESA. The goal of these regulations is to clarify and improve the interagency consultation processes. Comments are due by August 21, 2023.
- > The USFWS is [proposing](#) to revise regulations concerning protections of endangered species and threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Specifically, they “are proposing to reinstate the general application of the “blanket rule” option for protecting newly listed threatened species pursuant to section 4(d) of the Act, with the continued option to promulgate species-specific rules.” Comments on this rule are due by August 21, 2023.
- > The USFWS issued a [final rule](#) on two mussel types: the western fanshell and the “Ouachita” fanshell. This rule was effective as of July 27, 2023.
- > The USFWS issued a [candidate notice of review \(CNOR\)](#) for the Lesser Prairie Chicken. “This document also includes findings on resubmitted petitions and describes progress in revising the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (Lists) during the period October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022.” The Service will accept information on the species at any time.
- > The USFWS issued a [final rule](#) revising the regulations concerning experimental populations of endangered species and threatened species.

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- > USDA [announced](#) a funding opportunity under the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program Fiscal Year 2024. Application deadline is set for October 20, 2023.
- > The USFWS [issued](#) a final rule revising the List of Birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to both add and remove species.

**Coming up...**

- > The FARM bill expires in September of this year.
- > The end of the 2023 fiscal year is September 30<sup>th</sup>.

# August 2023 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## CALENDAR ITEMS:

Sep 12 Commission Rules Committee meeting, 9 AM at Headquarters  
Sep 23 Oklahoma Waterfowl Festival, G&H Decoys, Henryetta  
Sep 29 OWCF Call of the Wild Gala

## AGENCY UPDATE

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Accounting:**

Accounts Payable:

# of Claims Audited and Paid- 474

Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid - \$2,457,307.91

Purchase Card Program:

Total # Agency Cardholders - 198

Total # Agency Approvers (no cards) - 14

Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits - \$353,000.00

Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests - \$445,500.00

# of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved - 42

# of P/Card Transactions Processed - 748

# of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions - 92

OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions - 0

Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases - \$204,304.59

PCard Program Refresher Training - 39

New Approver Training at OMES - 1

New Cardholder Training at OMES - 2

Risk Management:

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed - 0

New Cases Reported - 4

Purchasing:

# of Purchase Orders/CO issued - 150

IT Acquisitions Processed - 15

Construction Site Visits: N/A

#### **Federal Aid:**

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,266,910.47
- Program Income \$268,870.73; In-Kind contribution \$4,700.00
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 22
- Fisheries and Wildlife division Pcard charges sorted into 349 unique combinations of Fund / Division / Grant number / Project number / Product Code / Area / Object Code for claim jacket preparation
- Key Meetings / Milestones: Met with USFWS and other State Fish & Wildlife agencies to review and resolve comments received for the 50 CFR 80 update; Met

with City of Lawton regarding Ellsworth boating access project; Met with SWAU regarding alligator research project

- Federal Aid staff attended over 30 meetings regarding PeopleSoft Migration
- Grants Specialist position - June 1 start, Grant Assistant - August 1 start

### **Human Resources:**

# Open Full-time Positions - 21

Positions Interviewed - 2

Candidates interviewed - 10

Positions Announced - 4

Candidates Screened - 112

Filled Positions - 1

See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month

Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), - 6

Full time employees on March payroll - 341

DB Plan Members - 156

DC Plan Members - 185

Hourly employees on supplemental payroll - 39

Retirement meetings and / or calculations - 2

Work Comp Injuries - 2

Other misc:

- Continue to answer Workday questions
- FY24 Budget work
- MINRC meeting attended
- Continued cleanup of data in Workday
- Updated 2 HR Toolkit Factsheets
- Draft employee handbook update submitted for approval
- Updates to HR forms with the latest versions and logos
- New employee orientation for 4 new hires
- Submit articles for the HR Corner in the WOG
- WAFWA DEI Meeting attended
- I & D Consortium Meeting
- Youth Camp HR Presentation
- Sage STEAM Camp attended
- ODWC tour for Elgin FFA Officers

### **IT:**

136 total inbound tickets. The mild ticket flow allowed I.T. to focus on training. We took courses in leadership, security, and programming. We also brought back biweekly team meetings.

Upcoming and Ongoing Projects:

- Deployed laptops for several users.
- Upgraded the CISCO UCS firmware to the latest version.
- Tested the VPN tunnel we created for OMES to look at our test SQL database works.
- Secured licensing for the Microsoft Teams Room.
- Created a query to get hunter certifications each month.
- Continued work into creating a more robust leased equipment inventory program.
- Assisted OMES in getting access to Federal Aid data they need.
- Upgraded computer hardware for the Oklahoma Room AV system.
- Started paperwork for I.T. audit.



**License:**

- Processed over 800 orders, including 784 licenses/permits and 549 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$52,980 in revenue.
- Shipped 568 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$8,100 in revenue.
- Processed \$255,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1608 online applications for various licenses and permits.

**Property:**

- Building repairs underway: Waterfall pump in lobby, AC Unit Coil & Compressor, Aquarium UV Sterilizers.
- Provided video/picture evidence of headquarters vandalism to OKC Police. Suspect arrested and in custody.
- Received 17 new vehicles and started preparation for deployment. Deployed 4 new vehicles out to the field.

**FISHERIES DIVISION**

<b>Statewide Fish Stockings, July 2023</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b>#Fish</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b># Locations</b>
Channel catfish	21,700	1.75"	1
Hybrid Sunfish (CTHFP)	172	9"	1
Rainbow trout, USFWS	25,650	4.5"	1
Rainbow trout, USFWS	4,810	11" range	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,332</b>		<b>3</b>

**Meetings**

- Staff attended the OKSTBA meeting and presented a long-term HSB presentation.
- Attended and gave a presentation about the Smallmouth Bass fishery on the upper Illinois River, the trout fishery on the lower Illinois River, and overall species diversity in the Illinois River watershed at an event hosted on the Illinois River by the Oklahoma chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.
- Fisheries staff attended and gave presentations at the Fisheries division meeting.

**Activities**

- Met with DEQ to complete annual water inspection.
- Conducting twice-weekly water quality monitoring on the Salt Fork River in cooperation with other regions and law enforcement. Knowing when conditions are deteriorating, and a fish kill may be imminent allows for better response and public relations.
- Staff participated in aquatic education events including fishing clinics at Osage Hills State Park and the Marland Mansion in Ponca City.
- Fisheries staff assisted USFWS with the stocking of alligator gar in Kaw Lake.
- Facilitated fishing guide booklet revisions on behalf of the Fish Division.
- Worked on manuscript preparation and revisions for multiple papers on paddlefish field sex identification, factors influencing paddlefish restoration stocking success, and male paddlefish reproductive scaling.

- Concluded caviar sales and shipments for the 2023 season.
- Processing and aging otoliths from Grand Lake buffalo and began data analysis. Began aging buffalo and carpsuckers from Hulah tailwater.
- The bulk of July was spent in the field as we completed over 70 stream fish community surveys at approximately 25 sites throughout the Grand/Neosho River watershed. Of the sites where the data has been entered, we're averaging 25 species per site and our replicate surveys are adding 6 species on average. Seven species of greatest conservation need have been collected so far including Cardinal Shiner, Ozark Minnow, Redspot Chub, Redfin Darter, River Darter, Sunburst Darter, and Paddlefish.
- Began compiling and analyzing the Plains Minnow occupancy modeling dataset, which will be presented at the upcoming OKAFS meeting in August.
- Provided data on species' occurrences and habitat associations to Dr. Bill Matthews for species profiles in the new Oklahoma fish book.
- Fisheries staff surveyed Flathead Catfish on Grand Lake.
- Staff completed 4 angler creel surveys at McGee Creek Reservoir. As expected, hot weather has reduced the number of anglers encountered.
- Staff within the Fisheries Division are preparing presentations for OKAFS in August.
- Staff at Blue River continue vehicle count surveys to quantify and better understand seasonal use trends.
- Personnel continued summer creel survey of Close-to-Home Fishing Program (CTHFP) pond, Veterans Pond in Jenks, to determine angling pressure, angler success, and angler opinion regarding regulations and management of Close-to-Home ponds in the area. Fifty-four interviews have been conducted between April, May, and June.
- Staff collected around 3,000 threadfin and gizzard shad, combined, from Eucha Lake and transferred to Bixhoma Lake. These shad transfers are done to supplement the forage base and help improve the condition of Largemouth Bass.
- Hoop nets were set at Veterans Park Pond to evaluate the population dynamics of stocked channel catfish and help determine future stocking needs.
- Staff assisted the ANS program with continuing research on the invasive Bighead Carp in the Neosho-Grand River System. This assistance involved working with local guides to obtain Bighead Carp and aiding the ANS crew with data collection.
- Assisted with the Northeast Vo-tech Afton Campus Family fishing clinic. 73 individuals came out for the clinic on June 2nd.
- Stocked 93,000 advanced fingerling F1 Florida Largemouth Bass (American Sportfish Hatchery) in Grand Lake. This was year two of a proposed 10-year project evaluating Florida genetics growth in Grand Lake.
- Collected Flathead catfish from Grand Lake for age and growth study. They also are assisting the OFRL with a catfish nesting cavity project with data from Grand Lake.
- Assisted the Eastern Shawnee tribe with collecting fish from the Spring River for their contaminant testing protocols. These collections consist of 20 fish (same species) for game and non-game species, respectively.
- Conducted mowing, bank access improvements, vegetation control, and road maintenance on ODWC Public Fishing Areas.
- Assisted LE with fishing clinic in Tahlequah, and Durant Fish Hatchery with water line repairs.

- Met w/State Park, COE, trout club, and Back Country Hunters and Anglers to discuss SER issues.
- Continued the creel survey as well as sampled Harrah Heritage Park Pond with hoop nets for channel catfish (still analyzing the data but we saw low numbers, only 20 caught).
- Used the Weedoo to remove vegetation at Buck Thomas and Jones Park ponds to enhance fishing opportunities.
- Assisted with the Yukon and Blanchard fishing clinics.
- Continued our channel catfish spawning box evaluations at Purcell, Lindsay, and Elmore City Lakes and water sample collections throughout the Arkansas River system. Data analysis for catfish spawning cavity evaluations is ongoing.
- Wrapped up tag retention data analysis for opercula tagging blue and flathead catfish, began working with Texas on the accuracy of sex determination for alligator gar, preliminarily investigated percid (walleye/saugeye) impact on crappie growth, and began analysis on hole-punch tagging retention in Centrarchids.
- Conducted shoreline seining at Hugo and Pine Creek to assess young of the year sportfish and forage species.
- Continued monitoring water quality and trout stockings at LMFR.
- Collected skipjack herring and young of the year striped bass for age/growth on LIR.
- Continued renovation work at Jap Beaver Lake, by removing silt around drainpipe, shoreline, and boat ramp.
- Routine equipment and facility Maintenance.
- Sampled Blue catfish at Lake Ellsworth tagging over 3500 fish for the OFRL research project.
- Ran hoop nets at Lake Elmer and American Horse. Age and growth data were collected and will be analyzed.
- Elmer, Watonga, and American Horse were mowed, and trash was picked up.
- Engineers for Watonga Dam completed a survey of the area. Preliminary plans were discussed and will be developed between now and February 1, 2024.

## **C&E DIVISION**

- Amanda Thomas prepared PO's for range projects across the state, organized the ribbon cutting celebration for the opening of the newly completed Packsaddle range, conducted sight visits for upcoming construction phase at Atoka and revised/submitted the grant application for the City of Altus gun range planning grant.
- Jason Smith worked on and submitted the Arcadia Archery Range Planning grant (supported by OWCF) as well as conducted area maintenance and upkeep.
- Smokey Solis, with the help of the regulations committee, completed the 2023-24 Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Printed copies will be available mid-August. The new regulations can be viewed on [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) or [gooutdoorsoklahoma.com](http://gooutdoorsoklahoma.com)
- Don Brown is overseeing the Waterfowl Stamp Design Contest. He has worked with partners to promote the contest to a wider audience. The contest closes Aug. 31. This year's contest features the gadwall.
- Shawn Gee and Kelly Boyer conducted several teachers training courses for new teachers taking over existing programs as well as staff from schools that are just starting our suite of outdoor education programs. Most of these trainings take place at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area.

- Lance Meek and Jennifer Bengé attended the International Hunter Education Association national conference where they were able to network with hunter education coordinators from across the country.
- Betsey York completed data collection for the survey to a sample of paddlefish permit holders to determine activity related to paddlefishing and to close out trend data related to the use and satisfaction of the Paddlefish Research Center processing facility.
- She also finalized part two of a three part study of the fishing guide industry in Oklahoma. A survey will be sent to licensed fishing guides to determine activity and perceptions related to license requirements.
- Kara Gardner and Kasie Harriett are working together to develop a photo sharing platform for hunters. Similar to The Dock, this platform will encourage hunters to share their photos with us. It is called The Tailgate and is planned to go live Sept. 15.
- The third and final premier season for 2023 of Outdoor Oklahoma kicks off Sunday, Sept. 17.
- The popular Readers' Photography Showcase issue of Outdoor Oklahoma was released. About 360 people submitted nearly 760 photos but just 77 photographers were featured in the issue.
- Lance Meek and Kasie Harriet participated in several planning meeting for the 2023 Deer Conference course coming up in August. The course registration filled up in just a couple of weeks after opening registration.
- Damon Springer and Jason Smith conducted a teacher training course as well as worked on equipment in preparation for the upcoming fall FFA shoots. They also prepared and delivered equipment for STEP events.
- ODWC's communication section once again excelled at the Association for Conservation Information's awards program this year in Nevada. We took home 10 awards! There were 598 entries in 35 categories this year, so you can imagine to win a top three finish is meaningful. Our results are below including the category, entry and person/s who entered.

**FIRST PLACE:**

- Video: Outdoor Recreation "*Champions of Change*" Blake (second year in a row for Blake winning this category!)
- Best Social Media Campaign. "*Gar Week*". Sarah and crew (also won this category in 2019)
- Regulations Publications "*The Fishing and Hunting Regulations*" Smokey and the regs committee

**SECOND PLACE:**

- Video: How To/ Instructional "*Redbud Jelly*" Blake (Missed first place by .67 and a special nod to the "talent" Tell Judkins) **NOTE: Samples of redbud jelly will be available after the meeting.**
- Best Social Media Presence "*ODWC Social Media*" Sarah and crew (finished first last previous two years and third three years ago.)
- Photography Scenic "*Fishing Access*" Darrin
- Graphics: Logos / Illustrations "*A Rich History and a Bright Future - The ODWC Logo*" Smokey along with the ODWC Brand Committee
- Poster "*Hunters Against Hunger Poster*" Smokey (ODWC finished 2<sup>nd</sup> last year, 3<sup>rd</sup> two years ago)

**THIRD PLACE:**

- Video: Recurring Program. "*Outdoor Oklahoma*" Blake, Darrin, Todd (finished second last year. notable is that since the format has changed the show has been scoring better and fishing top three.)
- One-time Publication: Book/Report "*Hunters Against Hunger Program Guide*" Smokey
- The ODWC will host the conference in 2026 so stay tuned on how you may be able to help put on a great event.

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

- Have been blessed with uncharacteristic mid-late summer rainfall across much of the state.
- 2023 resident goose banding wrapped up, with a total of 1,112 Canada Geese banded.
- Mourning Dove banding is wrapping up for this season.
- August Quail Roadside surveys and Pheasant brood surveys are underway, and Summer Turkey surveys run through the end of August.
- Biologist Clay Barnes recently attended the Western Zone translocation meeting in Alexandria, LA to provide updates and work with all partners on logistics for the upcoming translocations of five pairs of Red-cockaded woodpeckers (RCW) to Oklahoma/McCurtain County Wilderness Area from the Kisatchee National Forest in Louisiana. Final preparations are underway to have recruitment stands, including artificial nest cavity inserts, ready to receive the RCW's, likely in late October.
- Realtree Outdoors recognized Oklahoma as one of 7 states in an online article "Serious Sleeper States with Big Whitetails" (<https://realtree.com/deer-hunting/articles/serious-sleeper-states-with-big-whitetails>) online article
- Division staff attended the Texas Quail symposium in Abilene, August 18-19
- The Central Flyway Council and technical working groups will meet in Montana the last week of August, Oklahoma is represented on the council and committees by Paxton Smith, Jerry Shaw, and Mark Howery.
- CWD Plan is being reviewed and updated, in conjunction with ODAFF and other stakeholders, to reflect current science and management.
- GIS section staff will be participating in the South Central Arc User Group Conference on September
- The Wildlife Division research committee and the Interdivisional Wildlife Diversity Team met to prioritize future research needs and draft the 2023 Request For Proposals for WSFR and State Wildlife Grants funding.
- Several Division staff attended the SEAFWA Wild Turkey working group meeting in June.
- Kurt Kuklinski, Research Supervisor, provided information for a [story on the US Congress vote to overturn the ESA listing of the Lesser Prairie-chicken](#)
- WMA activities are starting to ramp up in preparation for the upcoming hunting seasons:
  - maintenance of 103 miles of roads (2338 Tons of Gravel), 4 gates, 17 miles of fireguards, 21 parking areas, area shooting ranges, >3500 acres sprayed for invasive plant species, including almost 2,900 acres sprayed for sericia lespedeza, and 267 acres treated mechanically or chemically for brush control
  - Conducted 832 acres of summer growing season burns
  - Planted 210 acres of summer food plots

- Planted 65 acres of Japanese Millet in WDU's, disced additional WDU's for native food production, and sprayed 95 acres of WDU for cocklebur control
- Continue to monitor Ag, Hay and Grazing leases.
- Deer spotlight surveys have begun and will be run as scheduled through early September.
- Dove field prep is wrapping up and dove field locations have been uploaded to the web app for sharing with the public
- A meeting for all Nuisance Bear Coordinators was held at Lexington WMA, including training, testing of all dart guns and replenishing/replacing tranquilizer drugs.
- The WHIP committee met to review and select applications for FY 24 funding.
- The 23-24 Regulation booklet was reviewed by all Division staff prior to publishing.
- Staff assisted with a fishing clinic in Tahlequah
- Ribbon-cutting was held on the newly constructed shooting range at Packsaddle WMA.
- An "[Open House](#)" Dove season event is scheduled at Packsaddle WMA on 16 September.
- The NRDA funded water control structure replacement at Hackberry Flat WMA has been completed.
- NRDA funded repair / renovation work is scheduled to begin at Walnut Slough WDA at Ft. Cobb
- Pronghorn aerial fawn surveys were completed the first few days of August

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- New guns are in (Glock model 45 with Holosun 507T red dot sights). We had instructors go through their red dot training on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Then they will set up transition training for the different districts after that. The classes we have scheduled so far are:
  - Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> D7 Red dot training at Elk City PD range.
  - Aug. 25<sup>th</sup> D8 Red dot training at Enid PD range.
  - Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> D4 Red dot training at Ada PD range.
  - Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> D2 Red dot training at Cherokee County Detention center
  - Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> D1 Red dot training at Bartlesville PD range.
  - Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> D5 Red dot training at Chandler PD range.
- We had 15 wardens go through a two-day airboat training in Purcell on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. This is to get newer wardens and wardens in areas that didn't have an airboat trained up on the use of airboats.
- Game Warden Austin Jackson (D1) has attended the Texas Game Warden Leadership Academy. He spent a week at the Texas Game Warden Training facility in July and will return for some more training at the end of August. This training is based off the NACLEC leadership academy that we have sent numerous supervisors to in the past.
- We have 9 wardens going through the second phase of peer support group training coming up at the end of August and first of September.
- 2023 Ram warden trucks are going out to the field currently. We have about half of the 25 vehicles delivered to us currently. Getting these out into the field should help with the transmission issues we have had with the 2016, 2017 and 2018 Chevy trucks.
- Captain Jeff Brown (D1), Captain Mark Reichenberger (D8) and LT. Max Crocker (D8) have all turned in retirement paperwork. Brown and Reich will retire Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> with

Crocker going Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> . That is roughly 110 years of experience leaving within a month. Parties for Reich and Crocker are set for Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> in Enid. Brown's party is set for Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> in Talala.

- The new wardens that were hired last March are mostly out of FTO and in the field on their own now. We have 4 of them getting ready to attend the basic CLEET academy in October.

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

**Personnel Actions**  
**July 2023**

**New Hires**

Kent Schneider – Hatchery Technician, Holdenville Hatchery, 7/5/23

**Promotions**

Mark Wilder – Hatchery Technician to Assistant Hatchery Manager at Durant State Fish Hatchery, 7/1/23

**Transfers**

**Resignations/Terminations**

Skylar St. Yves – Communication & Education Specialist, Central Office, 7/14/23

Devin Jordan – Hatchery Technician, Durant SFH, 7/21/23

**Retirements**



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

***For the period July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023***

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups**  
**June 30, 2023**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	06/30/2023	06/30/2022
			Trust			Totals	Totals
<b>Assets and Other Debits:</b>							
Cash	12,060,476		4,373,630			16,434,106	15,671,234
Investments	0		269,314,579			269,314,579	245,556,332
Accounts Receivable	2,893,177					2,893,177	2,923,152
Monthly Lifetime License			153,225			153,225	140,000
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	6,896,748		7,000			6,903,748.00	4,270,535.00
Fixed Assets				76,742,607		76,742,607	76,811,217
Land				104,864,066		104,864,066	103,575,289
<b>Other Debits:</b>							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					0	0	3,493,393
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					21,202,403	21,202,403	-3,924,890
	21,850,401	0	273,848,434	181,606,673	21,202,403	498,507,911	444,252,727
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance:</b>							
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	866,090					866,090	461,859
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	153,225					153,225	140,000
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					0	0	3,493,393
Net Pension Obligation					21,202,403	21,202,403	-3,924,890
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,019,315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,202,403</b>	<b>22,221,718</b>	<b>170,362</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			128,968,377			128,968,377	119,442,532
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			7,343,690			7,343,690	5,717,471
Investment in General Fixed Assets				181,606,673		181,606,673	180,386,506
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>20,831,086</b>		<b>137,536,367</b>			<b>158,367,453</b>	<b>138,535,856</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>20,831,086</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273,848,434</b>	<b>181,606,673</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>476,286,193</b>	<b>444,082,365</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>21,850,401</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>273,848,434</b>	<b>181,606,673</b>	<b>21,202,403</b>	<b>498,507,911</b>	<b>444,252,727</b>

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Trust Funds**

**Combining Balance Sheets**  
**June 30, 2023**

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	06/30/2023 Totals	06/30/2022 Totals
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	495,722	3,877,908			4,373,630	4,091,810
Investments	34,217,022	98,785,490	128,968,377	7,343,690	269,314,579	251,273,803
Due From Other Funds		153,225			153,225	140,000
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	<b>34,712,744</b>	<b>102,823,623</b>	<b>128,968,377</b>	<b>7,343,690</b>	<b>273,848,434</b>	<b>255,512,613</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			128,968,377	7,343,690	136,312,067	125,160,003
Fund Balance	34,712,744	102,823,623			137,536,367	130,352,610
Total Fund Balance	<b>34,712,744</b>	<b>102,823,623</b>	<b>128,968,377</b>	<b>7,343,690</b>	<b>273,848,434</b>	<b>255,512,613</b>

**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, 2022 Through June 30, 2023**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	06/30/2023	06/30/2022	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	20,822,866			20,822,866	19,409,244	7.28%
Other Wildlife Sales	3,602,397			3,602,397	3,629,078	-0.74%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,906,371			1,906,371	1,635,988	16.53%
Grant Revenue	25,117,662			25,117,662	27,032,704	-7.08%
Investment Income	290,912		74,215	365,127	220,158	65.85%
Miscellaneous	1,147,167			1,147,167	1,405,488	-18.38%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>52,887,375</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>74,215</b>	<b>52,961,590</b>	<b>53,332,660</b>	<b>-0.70%</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Administration	8,085,081			8,085,081	6,857,097	17.91%
Wildlife	15,762,137			15,762,137	14,565,415	8.22%
Fish	9,963,254			9,963,254	10,676,680	-6.68%
Law Enforcement	11,578,021			11,578,021	12,693,321	-8.79%
Information and Education	3,187,716			3,187,716	3,088,334	3.22%
Capital Improvements	5,440,296			5,440,296	6,104,448	-10.88%
Land Acquisitions		1,288,777		1,288,777	6,964,675	-81.50%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>54,016,505</b>	<b>1,288,777</b>		<b>55,305,282</b>	<b>60,949,970</b>	<b>-9.26%</b>
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(1,129,130)	(1,288,777)	74,215	(2,343,692)	(7,617,310)	-69.23%
<b>Other Financing Sources(uses):</b>						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	890,750			890,750	874,655	1.84%
Operating Transfers In	4,193,991	1,288,777	13,986,073	19,468,841	(7,062,901)	375.65%
Operating Transfers Out	(1,288,777)		(4,193,991)	(5,482,768)	(8,683,562)	-36.86%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total Other Financing Sources(uses)</b>	<b>3,795,964</b>	<b>1,288,777</b>	<b>9,792,082</b>	<b>14,876,823</b>	<b>(14,871,808)</b>	<b>200.03%</b>
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	2,666,834	0	9,866,297	12,533,131	(22,489,118)	155.73%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,164,252	0	24,846,447	43,010,699	65,499,816	-34.33%
<b>Fund Balances June 30, 2023:</b>	<b>20,831,086</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34,712,744</b>	<b>55,543,830</b>	<b>43,010,698</b>	<b>29.14%</b>

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Trust Funds**  
**For the Period July 1, 2022 Through June 30, 2023**

	Fiduciary Fund Types			06/30/2023 Totals	06/30/2022 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,827,325			2,827,325	3,039,100
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	207,605			207,605	207,910
Interest and Investment Income	0	16,006,670	805,516	16,812,186	-17,520,062
Employer Contributions		2,250,000	670,165	2,920,165	3,082,218
Employee Contributions		521,618	444,776	966,394	972,343
Total Operating Revenues	3,034,930	18,778,288	1,920,457	23,733,675	(10,218,491)
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		244,456	5,450	249,906	291,057
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	9,007,987	288,788	9,296,775	8,617,190
Total Operating Expenses	0	9,252,443	294,238	9,546,681	8,908,247
Operating Income	3,034,930	9,525,845	1,626,219	14,186,994	(19,126,738)
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	3,034,930	9,525,845	1,626,219	14,186,994	(19,126,738)
Fund Balances, Beginning	99,788,693	119,442,532	5,717,471	224,948,696	244,075,434
Fund Balances, June 30, 2023	102,823,623	128,968,377	7,343,690	239,135,690	224,948,696



## Wildlife Contributions Report

June 2023

<b>Total Payment Amount</b>	<b>Name Of Individual Or Business</b>	<b>Description Of Contribution</b>
\$10.00	Glenn Ray McHam	General Contribution
\$10.00	Emily Irby	General Contribution
\$50.00	Rick & Pam Hughes	In Memory of Bruce Albert Semler
<b>\$70.00</b>	<b>Total</b>	

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

**Personnel Actions**  
**June 2023**

**New Hires**

Abigail Johns – Hatchery Technician, Durant, 6/1/23

Jamie Weymouth – License Assistant, Central Office, 6/1/23

Cheyenne Gonzales – Wildlife Diversity Biologist, 6/1/23

**Promotions**

Amy Newcomb – Grants Assistant to Grants Specialist, 6/1/23

**Transfers**

Aaron Dossey – Wildlife Technician @ Keystone WMA to Wildlife Technician at Ouachita WMA, 6/1/23

**Resignations/Terminations**

Whitney Heskett – C & E Technician, Central Office, 6/15/23

**Retirements**

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

***For the period July 1, 2022 Through May 31, 2023***



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups**  
**May 31, 2023**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	05/31/2023	05/31/2022
			Trust			Totals	Totals
<b>Assets and Other Debits:</b>							
Cash	13,356,150		4,348,018			17,704,168	17,408,021
Investments	0		259,591,043			259,591,043	260,829,672
Accounts Receivable	2,967,965					2,967,965	2,269,454
Monthly Lifetime License			193,400			193,400	194,425
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	6,322,716		7,000			6,329,716.00	4,456,788.00
Fixed Assets				76,999,438		76,999,438	76,420,839
Land				104,864,066		104,864,066	103,565,869
<b>Other Debits:</b>							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					0	0	3,518,573
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					21,202,403	21,202,403	-3,924,890
	22,646,831	0	264,139,461	181,863,504	21,202,403	489,852,199	460,288,963
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance:</b>							
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	1,242,737					1,242,737	868,135
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	193,400					193,400	194,425
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					0	0	3,518,573
Net Pension Obligation					21,202,403	21,202,403	-3,924,890
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,436,137</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,202,403</b>	<b>22,638,540</b>	<b>656,243</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			124,278,643			124,278,643	127,607,449
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			6,946,579			6,946,579	6,025,513
Investment in General Fixed Assets				181,863,504		181,863,504	179,986,708
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>21,210,694</b>		<b>132,914,239</b>			<b>154,124,933</b>	<b>146,013,050</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>21,210,694</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>264,139,461</b>	<b>181,863,504</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>467,213,659</b>	<b>459,632,720</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>22,646,831</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>264,139,461</b>	<b>181,863,504</b>	<b>21,202,403</b>	<b>489,852,199</b>	<b>460,288,963</b>

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Trust Funds**

**Combining Balance Sheets**  
**May 31, 2023**

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	05/31/2023 Totals	05/31/2022 Totals
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	487,170	3,860,848			4,348,018	4,071,332
Investments	29,773,731	98,592,090	124,278,643	6,946,579	259,591,043	266,855,185
Due From Other Funds		193,400			193,400	194,425
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	<b>30,260,901</b>	<b>102,653,338</b>	<b>124,278,643</b>	<b>6,946,579</b>	<b>264,139,461</b>	<b>271,127,942</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			124,278,643	6,946,579	131,225,222	133,632,962
Fund Balance	30,260,901	102,653,338			132,914,239	137,494,980
Total Fund Balance	<b>30,260,901</b>	<b>102,653,338</b>	<b>124,278,643</b>	<b>6,946,579</b>	<b>264,139,461</b>	<b>271,127,942</b>

**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, 2022 Through May 31, 2023**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	05/31/2023	05/31/2022	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	20,238,497			20,238,497	19,016,150	6.43%
Other Wildlife Sales	3,328,157			3,328,157	3,398,618	-2.07%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,686,081			1,686,081	1,539,277	9.54%
Grant Revenue	22,480,127			22,480,127	24,706,868	-9.01%
Investment Income	258,041		65,663	323,704	201,972	60.27%
Miscellaneous	1,093,102			1,093,102	1,361,793	-19.73%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>49,084,005</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65,663</b>	<b>49,149,668</b>	<b>50,224,678</b>	<b>-2.14%</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Administration	7,512,759			7,512,759	6,831,720	9.97%
Wildlife	14,552,672			14,552,672	13,122,951	10.89%
Fish	9,186,526			9,186,526	9,913,527	-7.33%
Law Enforcement	10,659,154			10,659,154	11,712,543	-8.99%
Information and Education	2,966,644			2,966,644	2,831,807	4.76%
Capital Improvements	4,955,772			4,955,772	5,648,834	-12.27%
Land Acquisitions		1,288,777		1,288,777	6,955,255	-81.47%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>49,833,527</b>	<b>1,288,777</b>		<b>51,122,304</b>	<b>57,016,637</b>	<b>-10.34%</b>
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(749,522)	(1,288,777)	65,663	(1,972,636)	(6,791,959)	-70.96%
<b>Other Financing Sources(uses):</b>						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	890,750			890,750	874,655	1.84%
Operating Transfers In	4,193,991	1,288,777	9,542,782	15,025,550	140,760	10,574.59%
Operating Transfers Out	(1,288,777)		(4,193,991)	(5,482,768)	(8,674,142)	-36.79%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Other Financing Sources(uses)</b>	<b>3,795,964</b>	<b>1,288,777</b>	<b>5,348,791</b>	<b>10,433,532</b>	<b>(7,658,727)</b>	<b>236.23%</b>
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	3,046,442	0	5,414,454	8,460,896	(14,450,686)	158.55%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,164,252	0	24,846,447	43,010,699	65,499,816	-34.33%
<b>Fund Balances May 31, 2023:</b>	<b>21,210,694</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,260,901</b>	<b>51,471,595</b>	<b>51,049,130</b>	<b>0.83%</b>

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Trust Funds**  
**For the Period July 1, 2022 Through May 31, 2023**

	Fiduciary Fund Types			05/31/2023 Totals	05/31/2022 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,674,100			2,674,100	2,680,825
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	190,545			190,545	191,200
Interest and Investment Income	0	10,569,865	459,868	11,029,733	-9,636,277
Employer Contributions		2,250,000	611,733	2,861,733	3,031,975
Employee Contributions		479,330	404,896	884,226	892,847
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>2,864,645</b>	<b>13,299,195</b>	<b>1,476,497</b>	<b>17,640,337</b>	<b>(2,839,430)</b>
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		238,364	5,420	243,784	290,330
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	8,224,720	241,969	8,466,689	7,899,004
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,463,084</b>	<b>247,389</b>	<b>8,710,473</b>	<b>8,189,334</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>2,864,645</b>	<b>4,836,111</b>	<b>1,229,108</b>	<b>8,929,864</b>	<b>(11,028,764)</b>
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Nonoperating Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,864,645</b>	<b>4,836,111</b>	<b>1,229,108</b>	<b>8,929,864</b>	<b>(11,028,764)</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning</b>	<b>99,788,693</b>	<b>119,442,532</b>	<b>5,717,471</b>	<b>224,948,696</b>	<b>244,075,434</b>
<b>Fund Balances, May 31, 2023</b>	<b>102,653,338</b>	<b>124,278,643</b>	<b>6,946,579</b>	<b>233,878,560</b>	<b>233,046,670</b>



# Wildlife Contributions Report

May 2023

<b>Total Payment Amount</b>	<b>Name Of Individual Or Business</b>	<b>Description Of Contribution</b>
\$10,000.00	City of Grove	Fish Division/largemouth bass stocking
\$5,000.00	Southstone Operating	Fish Division/largemouth bass stocking
\$50.00	Nancy Helms	In Memory of John Meyer
\$15,050.00	Total	