

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, January 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

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

1. Call to Order – Chairman Bruce Mabrey
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Nathan Erdman
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nathan Erdman
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards – J.D. Strong, Director

Kurt Kuklinski, Research Supervisor – 20 years; Todd Craighead, Information & Education Specialist – 25 years.

7. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the December 7, 2020 regular Commission meeting.
8. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
 - a. Federal and Congressional Update
 - Oklahoma Legislative Update – Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison
 - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
 - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
9. Presentation of the November 30, 2020 Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a budget add-on resulting in a budget revision for FY21 – Amanda Storck.
11. Presentation on Durant Hatchery Renovation – Ken Cunningham, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Division and Shane Lewis, Assistant Hatchery Manager.
12. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real property located in Beckham and Harmon counties, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session Pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration and vote in open session - Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division

13. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
14. Announce the date for the next regular Commission Meeting on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
15. 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 December 7, 2020 of the OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, December 7, 2020. 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 November 24, 2020 at 11:45 a.m.

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

Chairman Bruce Mabrey called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	BRUCE R. MABREY, Chairman ROBERT S. HUGHES II, Vice-Chairman LEIGH A. GADDIS, Secretary BILL K. BREWSTER, Member D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member JOHN P. ZELBST, Member C. RICK HOLDER, Member
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ABESENT:	JAMES V. BARWICK, Member
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J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Laura McIver and James Dietsch, Quail Forever; Rick Grundman, Executive Director of OWCF; Suzie Brewster, Shikar Safari; Dan Bledsoe, Finley & Cook; David Kent, Retirement Horizons Inc.; Stephen Harris, Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department.

Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2020 regular Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes".

Director Strong gave a brief Oklahoma Legislative 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. Director 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.

Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement, introduced Suzie Brewster with Shikar-Safari Club International, who presented Game Warden Jared Cramer with the Shikar-Safari Club International Officer of the Year Award.

Director Strong recognized ODWC and Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department for receiving the Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies 2020 Special Recognition Award. These two agencies worked together to promote awareness and participation

in angling through the Oklahoma Fish Trail. Jennifer Mullins, Director of Travel Promotions, for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department led the effort with support from Kelly Adams, Information and Education Supervisor to develop and execute the award-winning communication plan. Ms. Mullins was unable to attend, so Stephen Harris was on hand to accept the award on behalf of Tourism.

Director Strong also recognized ODWC for receiving the 2020 Southeastern Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Special Recognition Award for their efforts to remind Oklahomans that The Outdoors is Always Open. Kelly Adams and Michael Bergin, Senior Information & Education Specialist were the lead contributors on this communication effort.

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, introduced Tell Judkins, Upland Game Biologist who gave an update and power point presentation on the 2020 quail and pheasant season. He explained the surveying process and the bird numbers outlook in the different regions. He also said that hunter numbers seemed to be lower than average at Wildlife Management Areas on opening day.

Bill Dinkines introduced Jeff Tibbits, OLAP Biologist, who updated the Commission on the Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP). OLAP provides financial incentives to landowners who allow public access for hunting, fishing, stream access, and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands. Currently the Department has 90,000 acres of private land enrolled in OLAP. Mr. Tibbits introduced Laura McIver, Oklahoma Regional Representative for Quail Forever. Ms. McIver announced a new program called OLAP Habitat Incentives. This program is a partnership between ODWC and Quail Forever/Pheasants Forever that provides funding for conservation practices on enrolled OLAP properties. Funds may only be used as cost-share to private landowners implementing conservation practices to improve and manage upland wildlife habitat. The purpose of the OLAP Habitat Incentives is to create conservation partnerships to develop habitat that benefits wildlife and improves hunting opportunities on private land enrolled in OLAP.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statements for September 30, 2020 and October 31, 2020. Motion was made by Ms. Gaddis, seconded by Mr. Dillingham to accept the statements as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting “Yes.”

Amanda Storck requested Commission approval on a budget revision for \$100,000 to be added to the Information & Education Division budget for a branding initiative. Mr. Holder, Chairman of the Finance Committee, stated that the committee had reviewed this request and support this budget revision. Motion was made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to approve the budget revision as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting “Yes.”

Amanda Storck introduced David Kent with Retirement Horizons Inc. to give an update on the FY2020 Actuarial Valuation Report for the Wildlife Retirement Define Benefit Plan. The valuation report contains important information regarding the funding status of the plan. Other statistical data are also included. This year the funded ratio decreased from 91% to 88% and the required annual department contribution increased from \$2.3 million to \$2.7 million. The value change is due to the 2% ad-hoc COLA. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is \$15.9 million.

Amanda Storck introduced Dan Bledsoe with Finley & Cook PLLC, who presented the FY20 Annual Financial Audit Report. The Department has an annual independent audit of the financial records and federal aid records of the agency. The FY20 audit found no finding on the financial statements and no finding on the grants. The auditor complimented the agency on its staff.

Chairman Mabrey announced the Wildlife Commission meeting dates for 2021 as follows: January 4, February 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 7 (Tuesday), October 4, November 1, December 6. Mr. Brewster requested to change the January 4 date to January 11. Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Hughes to approve the dates as presented with the revision of the January 4 meeting being changed to January 11. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

New Business:

Amanda Stork gave the most current license sales information:

- Overall Sales (Recreational and Lifetime Licenses) – Up 9% for November, Up 23% Year to Date.
- Resident Deer Gun – up 13% vs November 2019
 - Antlered – up 9%
 - Antlerless – up 20%
- Resident Youth Deer Gun – up 5% vs November 2019
 - Antlered – up 2%
 - Antlerless – up 11%
- Nonresident Deer Gun (Adult) – Up 12% vs November 2019
- Nonresident Youth Deer Gun – up 3%
 - Either Sex – up 3%
 - Doe Only – up 5%
- Lifetime Sales
 - Up 29% vs November 2019
 - Up 37% Year to Date

Mr. Dillingham said the on-line licensing app is great and so convenient.

Mr. Strong announced that you can now get a vintage lifetime license hard card.

Mr. Zelbst requested the record show that on this day 79 years ago the USS Oklahoma sank in the Japanese air raid of Pearl Harbor. In all, the USS Oklahoma lost twenty officers and 395 enlisted men. Except for the USS Arizona, the Oklahoma lost the most casualties of all ships in the harbor that day.

Ms. Gaddis reminded the Commissioners to make their yearly donation to the Foundation.

Ms. Gaddis also announced that Christmas treats were in the breakroom compliments of the Commission. Due to Covid, an office Christmas celebration is not planned, so the Commissioners wanted to show their appreciation to ODWC staff by providing a variety of special treats.

Chairman Mabrey announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled on Monday, January 11, 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce R. Mabrey, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Leigh A. Gaddis, SECRETARY

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce Mabrey CHAIRMAN	Bill Brewster MEMBER
Robert S. Hughes II VICE CHAIRMAN	D. Chad Dillingham MEMBER
Leigh Gaddis SECRETARY	Rick Holder MEMBER
James V. Barwick MEMBER	John P. Zelbst MEMBER



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR

J.D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 21, 2020

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report on November and December Federal and Congressional Issues for January Commission Meeting

Election and Transition:

The House Democratic majority lost a few of their seats putting their number at 222, meaning they only have a slight majority over the needed 218 votes to pass bills that may be of a partisan nature. Two of the 222 Dems are part of President-elect Biden's nominations to his cabinet, which could quickly put the House Majority at 220-215.

The Senate Republican majority is at 50-48 while the remaining two races will be decided at the beginning of January. If the Senate ends up in a 50-50 tie, the majority goes to the party that controls the White House.

State of Play:

President –

- > President Trump signed the bipartisan funding conservation grants. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act passed Congress in September and reauthorizes the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Act and Chesapeake Bay Program through 2025.

Congress:

- > Omnibus Appropriations & COVID-19 Stimulus -

Since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic, Congress has passed four bills to address the crisis and the effect it has had on the country. Negotiations have been ongoing since July, halting occasionally and breaking down multiple times only to start back up a few days to a few weeks later.

At the beginning of October Speaker Pelosi introduced an updated version of their package that passed back in May, the HEROES Act, with \$1 trillion less in spending than their original bill. The total spending in this bill was \$2.2 trillion. It calls for an additional \$1 billion for FEMA firefighter funding to address the massive wildfires scorching the West. It also calls for \$1.5 billion for drinking and wastewater grants for low-income households and \$50 million for EPA environmental justice grants. It includes \$45 million, including \$15 million to address wildlife trafficking, and \$30 million for caring for captive species listed under the Endangered Species Act in facilities impacted by the coronavirus. Additionally, the bill would also prevent entities that receive funds from shutting off utility services for customers in the event of nonpayment.

The introduction of this bill caused talks to ramp back up with the Administration offering a \$1.6 trillion deal to the Democrats on Capitol Hill. This increased offer caused Pelosi to halt a vote on the updated \$2.2 trillion package for a day to see if they could work out a deal. Ultimately, it resulted in a vote on the bill the next day while they reportedly continued for one more day to work out a deal.

The following week President Trump ordered his Administration to stop negotiating for a stimulus bill with House Democrats until after the election as discussions swirled around pushing a stand-alone bill on airline aid.

A few days later, the President proposed a new \$1.8 trillion package to Speaker Pelosi. This was up from the previous week's offer of \$1.6 trillion in aid. The House Democrats and Senate Leader Mitch McConnell have shot

down this offer.

The Senate subsequently began to update their “skinny stimulus” package from earlier in September but this bill, through a couple of versions never made it off of the floor.

Negotiations were up and down through November with a new target of developing a package by the government funding deadline of December 11th.

After the election the Senate Appropriations Committee released their version of the 12 appropriations bills. These did not move but provided a starting point for picking up with negotiations ahead of the December 11th government funding deadline.

Congress struggled to come to agreement on a final appropriation deal and since they were set to include several other end of the year tasks in the agreement, including a massive stimulus bill in the midst of the COVID pandemic, negotiations stalled and stretched out several times.

In early December, a bipartisan group of lawmakers unveiled a \$908 billion coronavirus relief proposal. The deal includes aid for unemployment, state and local governments, healthcare, education, housing and small businesses just to name a few. This deal was the only tangible deal out there as far as stimulus aid packages go.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin floated a new \$916 billion coronavirus relief offer shortly after the bipartisan announcement that would scale back proposed unemployment benefits to offer a second round of tax rebate checks but it didn't go far in the negotiation process.

The House and Senate reached a point in the negotiations where it became necessary to pass a stopgap bill extending the government funding deadline by a week to December 18th, allowing for an additional week to work on a deal. By the 18th, it became clear that Congress was not going to finish an agreement before the deadline and was forced to pass a bill extending the deadline by a couple of days through the weekend.

An agreement was reached late on Sunday, December 20th. The final package was a \$2.3 trillion government spending package, which included: \$1.4 trillion for an Omnibus appropriations bill, \$908 billion COVID relief bill, a 2-year WRDA reauthorization, energy provisions and a tax extenders package.

An additional extension was passed to push through the next day and on the 21st, a weeklong extension was passed as writing the massive 5,000-page bill. A detailed summary of the relevant provisions is below.

- > Other negotiations –
 - The House and Senate also began serious negotiations for the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 in an effort to keep the reauthorization on the 2-year cycle. The House passed a final negotiated package but then the final reauthorization was included in the Omnibus spending and relief bill summarized below.
 - Additionally, tax provisions set to expire at the end of the year and several energy provisions were picked up with a target of including them in the final Omnibus bill as well. (See summary below)

FY 21 OMNIBUS & RELIEF BILL SUMMARY (December 2020)

- > \$2.3 trillion spending and relief package which includes: **\$1.4 trillion** in the omnibus spending bill, **\$740.5 billion** in defense spending and **\$664.5 billion** in domestic spending and a **\$900 billion** COVID relief bill.

AGRICULTURE BILL –

- Provides \$23.4 billion in discretionary funding.
- The bill provides \$1.064 billion for APHIS, an increase of more than \$21 million above the FY20 enacted level. The funding will help protect the nation's animal and plant resources from diseases and pests such as chronic wasting disease and cotton pests.
- Provides \$833 million for conservation programs such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.

COMMERCE, SCIENCE AND JUSTICE –

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.

- \$5.43 billion for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an increase of \$78 million over the FY20 enacted level, to support core operations (e.g., weather and ocean monitoring, fisheries management, grant and external partnership programs, etc.)

ENERGY AND WATER BILL –

- \$7.795 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, \$145 million above the FY20 enacted level
- \$1.691 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$11 million above the FY 20 enacted level

INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL –

- \$9.237 billion for EPA
- \$13.72 billion for the Interior Department
- \$1.341 billion for the Bureau of Land Management;
- \$1.55 billion for the Fish and Wildlife Service;
 - \$270 million for Ecological Services, \$3.7 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$26 million above the President’s budget request.
 - \$504 million for National Wildlife Refuge System, \$1.4 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$21 million below the President’s budget request.
 - \$72 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, \$4.8 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$41 million above the President’s budget request.
- \$1.315 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey
- \$3.12 billion for National Park Service, \$44 million below the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$332 million above the President’s budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$2.69 billion for Operation of the National Park System, \$111 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$172 million above the President’s budget request.
 - \$74 million for National Recreation and Preservation, \$3 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$40 million above the President’s budget request.
 - \$144 million for the Historic Preservation Fund, \$26 million above the fiscal year 2020 enacted level and \$104 million above the President’s budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes \$71 million for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- \$7.423 billion for the USFS
- The bill allocates \$900 million in mandatory funds to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which includes \$360 million for National Park Service State Assistance Grants.
- Retains the provision prohibiting funds to regulate the lead content of ammunition or fishing tackle.

COVID RELIEF BILL:

General provision:

- \$900 billion in total relief aid
- Individual and family relief checks of \$600 and \$600 per child. This includes making “mixed-status” families, where one spouse does not have a social security number, eligible for relief checks. These families were not included in the previous stimulus relief checks from March 2020.
- \$325 billion in additional assistance to small businesses, including \$284.5 billion for a second round of Paycheck Protection Program forgivable loans.
- \$73 billion to the Department of Health and Human Services for pandemic-related purposes including: testing, contract tracing, manufacturing and distribution of a vaccine.
- \$8.75 billion for the CDC to support for federal, state and local vaccination efforts
- \$25 billion for rental assistance and provides an s and an extension of the eviction moratorium
- Provides a tax credit to support employers offering paid sick leave
- Adds a \$300 per week Unemployment Insurance enhancement for Americans out of work
- \$82 billion to the Education Stabilization Fund created under the CARES Act for colleges and K-12 education.
- \$11.1875 billion to USDA, to remain available until expended, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus by providing support to agricultural producers, growers, and processors.
- \$45 billion for various modes of transportation.

WRDA reauthorization:

- Reauthorizes the program for 2 years.

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.

- Funds the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund at \$500 million in 2021 and increasing eventually to \$1.5 billion a year.
- Directs the Corps to carry out a demonstration program for detecting, preventing, treating, and eliminating harmful algal blooms
- Authorizes the Corps to prioritize the processing of permits and approvals for the repair and reconstruction of certain damaged flood control infrastructure.
- Reauthorizes the National Dam Safety Program
- Allows the Secretary to accept and expend funds contributed by a State or other non-Federal interest to dredge or to provide technical assistance related to the planning and design of dredging activities in a non-Federal waterway
- Increases authorization levels for invasive species mitigation and reduction activities and includes new authorizations for aquatic invasive species prevention activities across the country.
- Authorizes 46 pending Corps Chiefs Reports
- Authorizes 27 feasibility studies including:
- Oklahoma provisions:
 - Authorizes the USACE to modify the water storage to provide a sufficient quantity of water supply storage space in the inactive pool storage to support the fishery downstream from Tenkiller Reservoir.
 - Authorizes a feasibility study to determine whether the purchase of additional flood easements, changes in lake level management, additional levee infrastructure, or implementation of other flood risk management or containment mechanisms in the Arkansas River Basin, Oklahoma, would benefit local communities by reducing flood risks around water resources development projects of the Corps of Engineers in a range of different flood scenarios.
 - Authorizes the Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee System
 - Clarifies that any Federal funds used to carry out construction of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System are considered as initiating construction of the project such that future funds will not require a new start designation.

> Congress' other moving pieces –

- [H.R. 1380](#), the Big Cat Public Safety Act by Rep. Quigley (D-IL) passed the House by a vote of 272-114. This bill revises restrictions on the possession and exhibition of big cats, including to restrict direct contact between the public and big cats.
- House Democrats nominated Speaker Nancy Pelosi to remain atop the party for another two years. Majority leader Steny Hoyer and Majority Whip Jim Clyburn ran uncontested within their party and like Pelosi, all were reappointed on a voice vote. In January, when the next Congress begins, Pelosi's Speakership will be voted on the House floor.
- Sen. John Barrasso has opted to chair the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee giving up his gavel to the Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. The decision could have major implications for the Biden administration's climate priorities. Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV) is next in line to take over the EPW Committee.
- Additional Committee movement is expected and set to be announced in the coming weeks.

Agencies:

- > Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- EPA announced a grant opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2020 and Fiscal Year 2021 [National Wetland Program Development Grants](#). “The EPA is soliciting applications from eligible applicants for projects that develop or refine state, tribal, or local government wetland programs as a whole, or individual components of those programs. Applications for projects submitted under this announcement for Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) must address the National Priority Area identified in Section I.B.” Applications are due by January 12, 2021.
- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
- The USFWS [announced](#) a Recovery Implementation funding opportunity. The grant is meant “to support the implementation of priority recovery actions for federally endangered and threatened species.” Applications must be submitted by September 30, 2021.
 - The USFWS [announced](#) a Candidate Species Conservation funding opportunity. The grant is meant “to accomplish conservation tasks for high priority candidate species (based on the annual Candidate Species Assessments) or other at-risk species in the United States, such that identified threats to the species may be reduced or eliminated.”

- The USFWS announced a [grant opportunity](#) under the FY 2021 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Traditional Conservation Grants Program (Service Legacy Region 2). Deadline for applications is May 12, 2021.
- The USFWS announced a [final rule](#) that adds a definition of “habitat” to regulations that implement section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. This rulemaking responds to Supreme Court case law regarding the designation of critical habitat and provides transparency, clarity, and consistency for stakeholders.
- The USFWS [announced](#) a 12-month finding on a petition to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.
- The USFWS [announced](#) a final rule on regulations for implementing Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. “The revisions set forth a process for excluding areas of critical habitat under section 4(b)(2) of the Act, which mandates consideration of the impacts of designating critical habitat and permits exclusions of particular areas following a discretionary exclusion analysis. These regulations outline when and how the Service will undertake an exclusion analysis, including identifying a non-exhaustive list of categories of potential impacts.”

Coming up...

- > Potential veto override of the National Defense Authorization Act during the week of December 28th.
- > 117th Congress convenes on January 3rd.

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

For the period July 1, 2020 Through November 30, 2020

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
November 30, 2020

	Account Groups					
	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	11/30/2020
	General	Capital Projects	Trust			Totals
Assets and Other Debits:						
Cash	16,133,123		3,670,208			19,803,331
Investments	0		253,322,374			253,322,374
Accounts Receivable	3,014,551					3,014,551
Monthly Lifetime License			365,325			365,325
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	4,535,614		7,000			4,542,614.00
Fixed Assets				70,824,605		70,824,605
Land				95,408,697		95,408,697
Other Debits:						
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,223,665	3,223,665
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543
	23,683,288	0	257,364,907	166,233,302	19,779,208	467,060,705
Liabilities and Fund Balance:						
Liabilities:						
Accounts Payable (accrual)	1,060,295					1,060,295
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	365,325					365,325
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,223,665	3,223,665
Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543
Total Liabilities	1,425,620	0	0	0	19,779,208	21,204,828
Fund Balance:						
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			130,551,930			130,551,930
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			4,644,310			4,644,310
Investment in General Fixed Assets				166,233,302		166,233,302
Fund Balance	22,257,668		122,168,667			144,426,335
Total Fund Balance	22,257,668	0	257,364,907	166,233,302	0	445,855,877
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	23,683,288	0	257,364,907	166,233,302	19,779,208	467,060,705

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
November 30, 2020

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	11/30/2020 Totals	11/30/2019 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	349,150	3,321,058			3,670,208	3,368,458
Investments	27,824,094	90,302,040	130,551,930	4,644,310	253,322,374	231,266,605
Due From Other Funds		365,325			365,325	281,975
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	28,173,244	93,995,423	130,551,930	4,644,310	257,364,907	234,924,038
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			130,551,930	4,644,310	135,196,240	124,356,143
Fund Balance	28,173,244	93,995,423			122,168,667	110,567,895
Total Fund Balance	28,173,244	93,995,423	130,551,930	4,644,310	257,364,907	234,924,038

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, 2020 Through November 30, 2020

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	11/30/2020 Totals	11/30/2019 Totals	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust			
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	11,143,429			11,143,429	8,130,754	37.05%
Other Wildlife Sales	1,252,968			1,252,968	1,419,983	-11.76%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	388,118			388,118	300,978	28.95%
Grant Revenue	10,322,802			10,322,802	12,351,051	-16.42%
Investment Income	125,690		29,554	155,244	209,665	-25.96%
Miscellaneous	2,200,497			2,200,497	411,419	434.86%
Total Revenues	25,433,504	0	29,554	25,463,058	22,823,850	11.56%
 Expenditures:						
Administration	2,981,439			2,981,439	2,912,428	2.37%
Wildlife	6,185,165			6,185,165	5,739,577	7.76%
Fish	4,437,625			4,437,625	4,444,848	-0.16%
Law Enforcement	4,905,742			4,905,742	5,591,305	-12.26%
Information and Education	1,267,578			1,267,578	1,407,474	-9.94%
Capital Improvements	4,249,872			4,249,872	5,561,702	-23.59%
Land Acquisitions	-			-	1,065,241	-100.00%
Total Expenditures	24,027,421	0		24,027,421	26,722,575	-10.09%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,406,083	0	29,554	1,435,637	(3,898,725)	-136.82%
 Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	1,759,815			1,759,815	281,955	524.15%
Operating Transfers In	94,458	0	11,929,178	12,023,636	8,275,555	45.29%
Operating Transfers Out	0		(94,458)	(94,458)	(4,657,415)	-97.97%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	1,854,273	0	11,834,720	13,688,993	3,900,095	250.99%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	3,260,356	0	11,864,274	15,124,630	1,370	1,103,887.59%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,997,312	0	16,308,970	35,306,282	35,919,682	-1.71%
Fund Balances November 30, 2020:	22,257,668	0	28,173,244	50,430,912	35,921,052	40.39%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2020 Through November 30, 2020

	Fiduciary Fund Types			11/30/2020	11/30/2019
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	Totals	Totals
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	968,850			968,850	995,750
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	75,800			75,800	50,165
Interest and Investment Income	0	12,949,437	614,784	13,564,221	4,969,776
Employer Contributions		2,472,744	191,856	2,664,600	1,689,964
Employee Contributions		236,434	137,800	374,234	372,688
Total Operating Revenues	1,044,650	15,658,615	944,440	17,647,705	8,078,343
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		118,875	2,658	121,533	138,415
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	3,459,792	281	3,460,073	3,284,522
Total Operating Expenses	0	3,578,667	2,939	3,581,606	3,422,937
Operating Income	1,044,650	12,079,948	941,501	14,066,099	4,655,406
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	1,044,650	12,079,948	941,501	14,066,099	4,655,406
Fund Balances, Beginning	92,950,773	118,471,982	3,702,809	215,125,564	210,874,145
Fund Balances, November 30, 2020	93,995,423	130,551,930	4,644,310	229,191,663	215,529,551



Wildlife Contributions Report

November 2020

Order ID	Order Date	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
19983700	11/24/2020 1:29 PM	\$3,500.00	Dolese Bros	Fish Division/Dolese Park-Trout
19924298	11/6/2020 3:50 PM	\$2,500.00	BancFirst	Fish Division/Jenks-Trout
Total		\$6,000.00		



CALENDAR ITEMS:

Jan 5-8 WAFWA Virtual Mid-Winter Meeting

AGENCY UPDATE

LEGISLATURE:

- Committee assignments were announced for the Senate. The Senate Agriculture and Wildlife Committee will continue to be chaired by Senator Casey Murdock and Vice Chaired by Senator Roland Pederson. Full committee membership can be found here: <https://oksenate.gov/committees/agriculture-and-wildlife>
- Committee assignments were also announced for the House. The House Wildlife Committee will now be chaired by Representative Ty Burns and Vice-Chaired by newly elected Rep. Eddie Dempsey. Full committee membership can be found here: <https://okhouse.gov/Committees/CommitteeMembers.aspx?CommID=437&SubCommID=0>
- The Senate requested 1,675 bills, and the House requested 2,100 bills and 41 joint resolutions.
- The final bill filing deadline is January 21st.

HUMAN DIMENSIONS

- The controlled hunts application process survey with questions included about Foundation raffle opportunities and price points was sent out to 8,000 previous controlled hunts applicants. Three reminders attained a 25% response rate for this online survey. A second wave of invitations will be sent out in January to assess bias and results will begin to be available in early February.
- The conservation passport holders' survey closed and the final report is in progress.
- Interviews began with Oklahoma university faculty to assess ODWC engagement and recruitment with their universities. Interviews will be assessed for themes and the next stage will be talking with students about their interest and familiarity with ODWC.
- The 2020 Game Harvest Survey draft was created and circulated to wildlife supervisors. Topics covered include standard harvest and participation questions, communication preferences, WMA activity participation (other than hunting) and land access issues.
- Public comment form for rule change proposals was opened through online survey software.
- Final emails were sent to invite youth hunt participants to take part in an evaluative survey so private lands staff can make improvements to the program.

FISHERIES DIVISION

November

Statewide Fish Stockings

Species	Number Fish	Size	Number Locations
Channel catfish	58,526	7"	11
Rainbow trout	23,570	11"	2
Rainbow trout	7,155	9-14"	5
Rainbow trout	382	14-24"	5

Activities

- The final design workshop for the Manning SFH Phase I renovation project was held and the project has gone out for bid.

- Standardized sportfish surveys were conducted on 15 reservoirs statewide to monitor populations of catfish, crappie, hybrid striped bass, paddlefish, saugeye, walleye, and white bass; data entry and analysis is ongoing.
- Alligator Gar winter mark recapture surveys were initiated.
- Structures (otoliths, pectoral spine, anal spine, pectoral ray, and scales) are being aged to validate a non-lethal means to age largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass.
- Fin clips were collected for a new smallmouth bass genetics project in the upper Illinois River.
- Slenderhead darter specimens were collected for a taxonomy research project.
- A habitat assessment was conducted on the upper Illinois River.
- The ongoing angler survey on Lake Texoma was completed, and data analysis is ongoing. A creel survey was also initiated on Sunset Lake in to gauge angling pressure and angler catch and harvest.
- Grant package materials were completed for boating access and lake renovation projects on Atoka Bluestem, Bixhoma, Jap Beaver, and Stroud reservoirs.
- A dock replacement project on Eagle Lake was completed.
- Staff participated in OSU AUL search by attending virtual research seminars and Q/A sessions with candidates.
- Black bass sampling efforts on the upper Mountain Fork River were summarized for U.S. Forest Service personnel.
- Proofs were edited by staff for two NAJFM and 6 OAS manuscripts; wrote, edited, and created figures for Rainbow Trout research publication.
- Staff conducted a workshop for Wildlife Division staff on management of aquatic resources on private lands.
- Staff presented a farm pond management program for Wagoner High School science class.

I&E DIVISION

- Kasie Harriet and Skylar St. Yves conducted several virtual hunting and fishing courses during the last month. Participation in the courses has increased showing interest amongst our constituency. Additional courses for 2021 are being added.
- A number of I&E employees attended the Brandt Marketing Summit. Insights into how to retain the current "COVID cohort" were discussed and the team is ready to work on Operation Retention.
- Daniel Griffith continues to update the website and is working to incorporate the regulations into webpages, making them easier to find. He is working with both R3 coordinators to provide the most appropriate and helpful information to hunters and anglers depending on their location on the R3 spectrum (beginner, intermediate and advanced). He has worked with [Nels Rodefeld](#) and [Rodney Derrick](#) to implement a new program, the Oklahoma Slam and Super Slam.
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee conducted Varsity Archery training courses for 17 new high schools. Goal is to add 25 schools during this school year to this new program.
- Lance Meek and Jennifer Benge continued to work on promotion of our on-line HE course option. We set a goal of certifying 5,200 students on line between August and December and we are on pace to exceed this goal.
- Lance Meek and Shawn Gee worked on finalizing the gun range projects at James Collins and Okmulgee gun ranges. They are both near completion and have opened back up for public use.
- Sarah Southerland is working on a Limited English Proficiency Plan to provide ODWC information in a variety of languages such as Spanish, American Sign Language and Vietnamese. She is also working with HECHO and Latino Outdoors to identify potential story

leads and outlets. Additionally, Sarah worked with Jennifer Benge to apply for a grant through their Vamos a Pescar program.

- Lance Meek worked on completing the gun range project at Silverleaf. It was our first project with a private, open-to-the-public gun range. The improvements have been made and the final grant requirements are nearly complete.
- Damon Springer and Jason Smith worked on projects at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area including the major road project and working to repair a broken water line that feeds the wildlife offices and storage facility.
- Over 160 schools have submitted scores to Kelly Boyer as part of our virtual qualifying scores for the OKNASP state shoots. Kelly worked on putting those scores into an excel spreadsheet so when all three shoot dates are completed that we are able to break them into Grand State which will be held at the OKC Fairgrounds in February and a virtual shoot for tie 2.
- Jena Donnell worked with the Private Lands section to produce the latest edition of Your Side of the Fence. The newsletter that is distributed to conservation-minded landowners around the state.
- Sarah Southerland and Todd Craighead joined USFWS and ODWC employees at Deep Fork National Wildlife Refuge to video and photograph the planting of 1,800 seedlings.
- Skylar St. Yves neared completion of a new on-line angler recognition program which is going live in January. He continued to update the fishing resources page on the website and conducted several virtual fishing courses.
- Michael Bergin and Blake Podhajsky worked to produce a “sensory” video of venison being prepared for the upcoming Holiday Antlerless Season. This video is short, and will appear on social media, the OJ, text messages and email.
- Smokey Solis worked with Blake Podhajsky to produce a special “thank you” video featuring Director, J.D. Strong. This video will be sent in an email to all license holders, and be seen on social media. Darrin Hill produced a video highlighting Blue River PFHA that aired on OETA. See the video [here](#).
- Kasie Harriet worked with volunteers from the NWTF to set up a mentored squirrel hunt that will be taking place at Sequoyah State Park in January. The event is limited to 25 mentors and 25 new hunters.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- GIS data entry for WMA management plans continues and nearing completion.
- WMA maintenance and management activity this month included: 34 miles of roads were maintained and 505 tons of rock were placed, 11 miles of fireguards were maintained, 130 acres of food plots were planted, 11 acres were managed by mowing, discing, treating with herbicide, or removing cedars.
- Wetland unit pumping was completed on an additional 100 acres.
- Personnel conducted 18 waterfowl surveys on area lakes, conducted 26 hunter use surveys, and conducted 35 controlled hunts. Three elk hunts have been completed at the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. Two more hunts (the 3rd “regular hunt” and the 2nd “walk-in” hunt) will be held in January.
- Ag and Grazing leases were re-written for bid.
- Dirt work was started on the Sans Bois WMA shop building.
- Division staff assisted with a virtual outreach clinic entitled “Finding a Hunting Spot: How to use the ODWC mapping system”.
- WMA staff began working on fireguard maintenance/preparation, burn equipment maintenance/preparation, writing burn plans, etc. for upcoming prescribed burns.
- WMA use this year increased, as expected, from previous years, in large part due to the COVID-19 crisis. Unfortunately, along with this increased use, we saw increased vandalism on some WMA's.

- The deer herd health evaluation will be starting in January. This winter, efforts will be focused on Northwest and North Central Oklahoma.
- Private lands youth antlerless hunts were a success. The new hunts in Beckham county ran 100% success rate, every youth that attended harvested at least 1 deer, and several purchased additional tags and harvested more than one deer. Oklahoma Youth Hunt Program volunteers were much appreciated and some good connections were made for future fruitful partnerships. Attendance was pretty high; there were a few no-shows, but not much higher than "normal" years.
- FY '21 Partner match money from the Comanche Pool Prairie Resource Foundation was received, and will be used for private lands habitat work in NW Oklahoma. We currently have several applications on file and are awaiting clearance through FWS to begin work. Approved projects will result in good on-the-ground habitat work several months. The total grant is for \$500K, with \$200K of habitat work planned for this FY.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- Capt. Marni Loftis put on a revocation class for everyone in Law Enforcement. She has been working on getting everyone that should be suspended done and entered into our system. This could mean some extra money in reinstatement fees for the Department, once we get Game Wardens and Court Clerks on the same page.
- Covid has been hitting Law Enforcement in the last few weeks. A number of officers have either had it or have been on quarantine for someone in their family having it.
- Game Wardens are busy still working investigations from deer season and also working the waterfowl season hunters. The guide waterfowl hunters have caused an increase in calls and sometimes issues in NW and SW Oklahoma.
- Law Enforcement ordered 12 trucks this year instead of our normal 23. They are Dodge ½ ton 4X4 trucks. This will be the 3rd year for Dodges and so far so good.