

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, November 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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

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

1. Call to Order – Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Wade Farrar
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Wade Farrar
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Recognition of students from Altus and North Moore schools on their achievements at the National Archery in the Schools Program national tournament – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of the Communication and Education Division and Kelly Boyer, Communication and Education Specialist.
7. Recognition and Presentation to John Wier and the Oklahoma Prescribed Burn Association as the Oklahoma winner of the 2021 NBCI Firebird Award – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Tell Judkins, Upland Game Biologist.
8. Recognition of ODWC Leadership Development Program participants and presentation of curriculum – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration and Karla Beatty, Human Resources Officer.
9. Presentation of Tenure Awards
Tom Cartwright, District Chief – 35 years
10. Recognition of the Spirit of ODWC Award winner – J.D. Strong, Director
11. Recognition of Kelly Adams, Communication and Education Supervisor, as the winner of the Mark J. Reeff Award from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – J.D. Strong.
12. Recognition of Lance Meek, Communication and Education Senior Specialist, as the winner of the Special Recognition Award from the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – J.D. Strong.
13. Presentation of Shikar-Safari Club International Officer of the Year winner Kenny Lawson – Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement with Bill and Suzie Brewster, Shikar-Safari Club International.

14. Presentation from the Central Flyway Council in appreciation of Josh Richardson's service in the Central Flyway Technical Committee – Bill Dinkines and Jerry Shaw, Programs Supervisor and Flyway Council Representative, Wildlife Division.
15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the September 7, 2021 Commission meeting.
16. 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.
17. Presentation of the August 31 and September 30, 2021 Financial Statements and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck.
18. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a budget revision for FY22 – Amanda Storck.
19. Consideration and vote to approve amend, reject or take other action on the Investment Policy – Amanda Storck
20. Presentation of Quail and Pheasant Season Forecasts – Bill Dinkines and Tell Judkins.
21. Update on the 2021 season at the Paddlefish Research Center – Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries Division, Brandon Brown, Fisheries Supervisor and Jason Schooley, Senior Biologist.
22. Discussion of Director's authority to settle a legal claim up to the Risk Management retention amount, 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.
23. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on dates for the 2022 Commission meetings as follows: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 5 (Tuesday), August 1, September 6 (Tuesday), October 3, November 7, December 5.
24. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
25. Announce the December 6, 2021 Commission Meeting has been cancelled.
26. 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 September 7, 2021 of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 7, 2021. 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 August 26, 2021 at 4:10 p.m.

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

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
 BILL K. BREWSTER, Member
 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member
 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member
 JESS M. KANE, Member

MEMBER ABSENT: BRUCE MABREY, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Laura McIver, Quail Forever; J.W. Dub Austin, Indian Territory Quail Forever; Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation; Doug Schoeling, USFWS; John Hendrix, USFWS; RC & Phyllis Brown, Landowner of the Year recipient; Sam Munhollon, OK Station Chapter Safari Club International; Rick Nolan, National Wild Turkey Federation.

Director Strong recognized Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division for 30 years of service.

Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication & Education Division and Colin Berg, Communication & Education Supervisor, gave a presentation on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Education Programs. Mr. Barwick asked how many schools are on the waiting list to receive education kits. Mr. Berg stated that they only have so many kits to give out each year, but about 20-30 schools are on the list by the end of the school year and ready to go through training. Teacher training is reserved for the months of June – September to ready teachers for the upcoming year. Also, ODWC does not have enough staff to conduct training year round. Mr. Dillingham asked if we know the number of students that transition into hunters and how many students are retained year to year. Mr. Berg said they don't have all this information now, but hope that the new GoOutdoors system and the issuance of customer id numbers to these participants will help track this information.

Mr. Rodefeld explained Oklahoma's participation the National Archery in Schools Program national competition. He introduced Kelly Boyer, Communication and Education Specialist. Mr. Boyer talked about the NASP national tournament and the number of schools that attended and introduced the Locust Grove Middle School Archery Team. They were the 2021 NASP Bullseye and IBO Challenge National Champions. Mr. Boyer then introduced Brad Cowan (Locust Grove archery coach) who recognized several students who were individual winners in their respective competitions and divisions.

Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Barwick to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2021 Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Director Strong gave a brief update and highlighted the Congressional report submitted by Brittnee Preston, the Department's part-time Federal and Congressional Liaison. This report was sent to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. He gave a 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. Director Strong mentioned the Outdoor Oklahoma Adventure Raffle had closed and the winners have been notified. The second year of the raffles generated more than \$224,000 in revenue. The highest auction item, a cow elk hunt provided by Commissioner Zelbst, brought in over \$74,000.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statement for July 31, 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Barwick to accept the financial statement as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, reviewed the Landowner Conservationist of the Year Award. Each year ODWC employees nominate landowners who are good wildlife stewards of their property. Mr. Dinkines introduced Brett Cooper, Private Lands Biologist, who gave a power point of the improvements made to the ranch of the 2021 recipient. He then introduced Mr. R. C. Brown as the 2021 Landowner Conservationist of the Year. Mr. Brown has a 6,732 acre ranch in Woods County. Mr. Brown thanked the Commission, ODWC and all the partners for this award. He mentioned that Commissioner Kane's family helped his grandad get started with their first ranch that was located in Kiowa County.

Bill Dinkines introduced Laura McIver, Oklahoma Regional Representative of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever who presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 on behalf of Indian Territory Quail Forever Chapter represented by J.W. (Dub) Austin. The money is for wildlife management on Spavinaw WMA and Oolagah WMA and \$1,000 to go the Shotgun Training Education Program. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Dillingham to approve the donation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Chairwoman Gaddis announced that #14 on the Agenda would be postponed to a later meeting.

Chairwoman Gaddis announced the October Commission meeting would be held on Monday, October 11, 2021 at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

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

For the period July 1, 2021 Through August 31, 2021

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
August 31, 2021

| | Governmental Fund Types | | Fiduciary Fund Types | Account Groups | | 08/31/2021 Totals | 08/31/2020 Totals |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | General | Capital Projects | | General Fixed Assets | General Long-Term Debt | | |
| Assets and Other Debits: | | | | | | | |
| Cash | 12,918,851 | | 3,875,538 | | | 16,794,389 | 15,943,172 |
| Investments | 0 | | 287,816,423 | | | 287,816,423 | 244,587,735 |
| Accounts Receivable | 3,451,466 | | | | | 3,451,466 | 3,412,109 |
| Monthly Lifetime License | | | 171,675 | | | 171,675 | 195,525 |
| Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief | 4,635,409 | | 7,000 | | | 4,642,409.00 | 3,579,069.00 |
| Fixed Assets | | | | 71,140,847 | | 71,140,847 | 69,994,095 |
| Land | | | | 96,610,614 | | 96,610,614 | 96,633,279 |
| Other Debits: | | | | | | | |
| Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences | | | | | 3,445,392 | 3,445,392 | 3,228,820 |
| Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation | | | | | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 | 11,509,243 |
| | 21,005,726 | 0 | 291,870,636 | 167,751,461 | 20,000,935 | 500,628,758 | 445,510,978 |
| Liabilities and Fund Balance: | | | | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable (accrual) | 1,193,252 | | | | | 1,193,252 | 2,089,313 |
| Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes) | 171,675 | | | | | 171,675 | 195,525 |
| Compensated Absences Payable(leave accrual) | | | | | 3,445,392 | 3,445,392 | 3,228,820 |
| Net Pension Obligation | | | | | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 | 11,509,243 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,364,927 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,000,935 | 21,365,862 | 17,022,901 |
| Fund Balance: | | | | | | | |
| Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits | | | 143,511,347 | | | 143,511,347 | 126,740,856 |
| Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC) | | | 6,083,101 | | | 6,083,101 | 4,162,354 |
| Investment in General Fixed Assets | | | | 167,751,461 | | 167,751,461 | 166,627,374 |
| Fund Balance | 19,640,799 | | 142,276,188 | | | 161,916,987 | 130,957,493 |
| Total Fund Balance | 19,640,799 | 0 | 291,870,636 | 167,751,461 | 0 | 479,262,896 | 428,488,077 |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | 21,005,726 | 0 | 291,870,636 | 167,751,461 | 20,000,935 | 500,628,758 | 445,510,978 |

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
August 31, 2021

| | Expendable Trust | Nonexpendable Trust | Pension Trust | DC Trust | 08/31/2021 Totals | 08/31/2020 Totals |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | | | | | |
| Cash (Wildlife Heritage) | 387,800 | 3,487,738 | | | 3,875,538 | 3,616,147 |
| Investments | 45,024,210 | 93,197,765 | 143,511,347 | 6,083,101 | 287,816,423 | 248,750,089 |
| Due From Other Funds | | 171,675 | | | 171,675 | 195,525 |
| Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief) | | 7,000 | | | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| | 45,412,010 | 96,864,178 | 143,511,347 | 6,083,101 | 291,870,636 | 252,568,761 |
| Fund Balance: | | | | | | |
| Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits | | | 143,511,347 | 6,083,101 | 149,594,448 | 130,903,210 |
| Fund Balance | 45,412,010 | 96,864,178 | | | 142,276,188 | 121,665,551 |
| Total Fund Balance | 45,412,010 | 96,864,178 | 143,511,347 | 6,083,101 | 291,870,636 | 252,568,761 |

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

| | Governmental Fund Types | | Fiduciary Fund Type | 08/31/2021 | 08/31/2020 | Percent of |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | General | Capital Projects | Expendable Trust | Totals | Totals | Inc. or Dec. |
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| Licenses (without Lifetimes) | 1,580,644 | | | 1,580,644 | 1,975,235 | -19.98% |
| Other Wildlife Sales | 439,144 | | | 439,144 | 449,081 | -2.21% |
| Agriculture and Oil Lease | 208,064 | | | 208,064 | 350,044 | -40.56% |
| Grant Revenue | 3,840,895 | | | 3,840,895 | 4,425,998 | -13.22% |
| Investment Income | 37,050 | | 7,484 | 44,534 | 68,462 | -34.95% |
| Miscellaneous | 209,851 | | | 209,851 | 1,986,474 | -89.44% |
| Total Revenues | 6,315,648 | 0 | 7,484 | 6,323,132 | 9,255,294 | -31.68% |
| Expenditures: | | | | | | |
| Administration | 1,148,176 | | | 1,148,176 | 1,349,498 | -14.92% |
| Wildlife | 2,275,833 | | | 2,275,833 | 3,347,564 | -32.02% |
| Fish | 1,983,635 | | | 1,983,635 | 1,747,486 | 13.51% |
| Law Enforcement | 2,213,662 | | | 2,213,662 | 1,870,579 | 18.34% |
| Information and Education | 683,158 | | | 683,158 | 525,927 | 29.90% |
| Capital Improvements | 1,658,865 | | | 1,658,865 | 2,952,318 | -43.81% |
| Land Acquisitions | | - | | - | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total Expenditures | 9,963,329 | 0 | | 9,963,329 | 11,793,372 | -15.52% |
| Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | (3,647,681) | 0 | 7,484 | (3,640,197) | (2,538,078) | 43.42% |
| Other Financing Sources(uses): | | | | | | |
| Sale of General Fixed Assets | 0 | | | 0 | 535,233 | -100.00% |
| Operating Transfers In | 59,269 | 0 | 3,193,190 | 3,252,459 | 8,086,218 | -59.78% |
| Operating Transfers Out | 0 | | (59,269) | (59,269) | (44,791) | 32.32% |
| Operating Transfers Out (215) | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total Other Financing Sources(uses) | 59,269 | 0 | 3,133,921 | 3,193,190 | 8,576,660 | -62.77% |
| Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses | (3,588,412) | 0 | 3,141,405 | (447,007) | 6,038,582 | -107.40% |
| Fund Balances, Beginning of Year: | 23,229,211 | 0 | 42,270,605 | 65,499,816 | 35,306,282 | 85.52% |
| Fund Balances August 31, 2021: | 19,640,799 | 0 | 45,412,010 | 65,052,809 | 41,344,864 | 57.34% |

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

| | Fiduciary Fund Types | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Nonexpendable Trust | Pension Trust | DC Trust | 08/31/2021 Totals | 08/31/2020 Totals |
| Operating Revenues: | | | | | |
| Licenses (Lifetime) | 297,150 | | | 297,150 | 195,525 |
| Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses) | 25,345 | | | 25,345 | 38,400 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 0 | 3,151,620 | 145,337 | 3,296,957 | 9,189,631 |
| Employer Contributions | | 0 | 92,403 | 92,403 | 837,634 |
| Employee Contributions | | 95,598 | 66,305 | 161,903 | 148,792 |
| Total Operating Revenues | 322,495 | 3,247,218 | 304,045 | 3,873,758 | 10,409,982 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | | | |
| Administration | | 68,905 | 1,310 | 70,215 | 59,176 |
| Benefits and Participant Refunds | 0 | 1,407,445 | 12,906 | 1,420,351 | 1,388,462 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 0 | 1,476,350 | 14,216 | 1,490,566 | 1,447,638 |
| Operating Income | 322,495 | 1,770,868 | 289,829 | 2,383,192 | 8,962,344 |
| Nonoperating Expenses: | | | | | |
| Transfers Out | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Nonoperating Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Income | 322,495 | 1,770,868 | 289,829 | 2,383,192 | 8,962,344 |
| Fund Balances, Beginning | 96,541,683 | 141,740,479 | 5,793,272 | 244,075,434 | 215,125,564 |
| Fund Balances, August 31, 2021 | 96,864,178 | 143,511,347 | 6,083,101 | 246,458,626 | 224,087,908 |



Wildlife Contributions Report

August 2021

| Order ID | Order Date | Total Payment Amount | Name Of Individual Or Business | Description Of Contribution |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 20663298 | 8/4/2021 3:02 PM | \$100.00 | Gordon Goodfellow / Oklahoma Striped Bass Club | Fish Division/yearly donation |
| | Total | \$100.00 | | |

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

For the period July 1, 2021 Through September 30, 2021

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
September 30, 2021

| | Governmental Fund Types | | Fiduciary Fund Types | Account Groups | | 09/30/2021 Totals | 09/30/2020 Totals |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | General | Capital Projects | | General Fixed Assets | General Long-Term Debt | | |
| Assets and Other Debits: | | | | | | | |
| Cash | 11,267,089 | | 3,895,336 | | | 15,162,425 | 15,122,789 |
| Investments | 0 | | 280,566,425 | | | 280,566,425 | 239,938,132 |
| Accounts Receivable | 4,247,138 | | | | | 4,247,138 | 4,015,496 |
| Monthly Lifetime License | | | 271,375 | | | 271,375 | 243,150 |
| Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief | 5,070,106 | | 7,000 | | | 5,077,106.00 | 4,392,848.00 |
| Fixed Assets | | | | 71,252,864 | | 71,252,864 | 70,697,200 |
| Land | | | | 96,610,614 | | 96,610,614 | 95,529,555 |
| Other Debits: | | | | | | | |
| Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences | | | | | 3,447,883 | 3,447,883 | 3,230,126 |
| Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation | | | | | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 |
| | 20,584,333 | 0 | 284,740,136 | 167,863,478 | 20,003,426 | 493,191,373 | 445,338,991 |
| Liabilities and Fund Balance: | | | | | | | |
| Liabilities: | | | | | | | |
| Accounts Payable (accrual) | 838,577 | | | | | 838,577 | 695,367 |
| Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes) | 271,375 | | | | | 271,375 | 243,150 |
| Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual) | | | | | 3,447,883 | 3,447,883 | 3,230,126 |
| Net Pension Obligation | | | | | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 | 16,555,543 |
| Total Liabilities | 1,109,952 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,003,426 | 21,113,378 | 20,724,186 |
| Fund Balance: | | | | | | | |
| Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits | | | 139,912,841 | | | 139,912,841 | 124,364,479 |
| Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC) | | | 5,940,885 | | | 5,940,885 | 4,123,237 |
| Investment in General Fixed Assets | | | | 167,863,478 | | 167,863,478 | 166,226,755 |
| Fund Balance | 19,474,381 | | 138,886,410 | | | 158,360,791 | 129,900,334 |
| Total Fund Balance | 19,474,381 | 0 | 284,740,136 | 167,863,478 | 0 | 472,077,995 | 424,614,805 |
| Total Liabilities and Fund Balance | 20,584,333 | 0 | 284,740,136 | 167,863,478 | 20,003,426 | 493,191,373 | 445,338,991 |

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
September 30, 2021

| | Expendable Trust | Nonexpendable Trust | Pension Trust | DC Trust | 09/30/2021 Totals | 09/30/2020 Totals |
|--|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Assets: | | | | | | |
| Cash (Wildlife Heritage) | 391,433 | 3,503,903 | | | 3,895,336 | 3,635,732 |
| Investments | 41,343,259 | 93,369,440 | 139,912,841 | 5,940,885 | 280,566,425 | 244,061,369 |
| Due From Other Funds | | 271,375 | | | 271,375 | 243,150 |
| Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief) | | 7,000 | | | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| | 41,734,692 | 97,151,718 | 139,912,841 | 5,940,885 | 284,740,136 | 247,947,251 |
| Fund Balance: | | | | | | |
| Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits | | | 139,912,841 | 5,940,885 | 145,853,726 | 128,487,716 |
| Fund Balance | 41,734,692 | 97,151,718 | | | 138,886,410 | 119,459,535 |
| Total Fund Balance | 41,734,692 | 97,151,718 | 139,912,841 | 5,940,885 | 284,740,136 | 247,947,251 |

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

| | Governmental Fund Types | | Fiduciary Fund Type | 09/30/2021 | 09/30/2020 | Percent of |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| | General | Capital Projects | Expendable Trust | Totals | Totals | Inc. or Dec. |
| Revenues: | | | | | | |
| Licenses (without Lifetimes) | 3,673,422 | | | 3,673,422 | 3,707,163 | -0.91% |
| Other Wildlife Sales | 611,329 | | | 611,329 | 649,329 | -5.85% |
| Agriculture and Oil Lease | 264,787 | | | 264,787 | 360,982 | -26.65% |
| Grant Revenue | 6,217,131 | | | 6,217,131 | 6,881,121 | -9.65% |
| Investment Income | 53,950 | | 11,117 | 65,067 | 99,759 | -34.78% |
| Miscellaneous | 262,601 | | | 262,601 | 2,040,273 | -87.13% |
| Total Revenues | 11,083,220 | 0 | 11,117 | 11,094,337 | 13,738,627 | -19.25% |
| Expenditures: | | | | | | |
| Administration | 1,726,009 | | | 1,726,009 | 1,560,447 | 10.61% |
| Wildlife | 3,796,267 | | | 3,796,267 | 4,093,807 | -7.27% |
| Fish | 2,972,565 | | | 2,972,565 | 2,899,249 | 2.53% |
| Law Enforcement | 3,406,294 | | | 3,406,294 | 3,049,565 | 11.70% |
| Information and Education | 979,246 | | | 979,246 | 768,562 | 27.41% |
| Capital Improvements | 2,016,938 | | | 2,016,938 | 3,079,449 | -34.50% |
| Land Acquisitions | | - | | - | 0 | 0.00% |
| Total Expenditures | 14,897,319 | 0 | | 14,897,319 | 15,451,079 | -3.58% |
| Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures | (3,814,099) | 0 | 11,117 | (3,802,982) | (1,712,452) | 122.08% |
| Other Financing Sources(uses): | | | | | | |
| Sale of General Fixed Assets | 0 | | | 0 | 1,638,956 | -100.00% |
| Operating Transfers In | 59,269 | 0 | (487,761) | (428,492) | 5,491,734 | -107.80% |
| Operating Transfers Out | 0 | | (59,269) | (59,269) | (44,791) | 32.32% |
| Operating Transfers Out (215) | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Total Other Financing Sources(uses) | 59,269 | 0 | (547,030) | (487,761) | 7,085,899 | -106.88% |
| Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses | (3,754,830) | 0 | (535,913) | (4,290,743) | 5,373,447 | -179.85% |
| Fund Balances, Beginning of Year: | 23,229,211 | 0 | 42,270,605 | 65,499,816 | 35,306,282 | 85.52% |
| Fund Balances September 30, 2021: | 19,474,381 | 0 | 41,734,692 | 61,209,073 | 40,679,729 | 50.47% |

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

| | Fiduciary Fund Types | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Nonexpendable Trust | Pension Trust | DC Trust | 09/30/2021 Totals | 09/30/2020 Totals |
| Operating Revenues: | | | | | |
| Licenses (Lifetime) | 568,525 | | | 568,525 | 603,525 |
| Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses) | 41,510 | | | 41,510 | 52,155 |
| Interest and Investment Income | 0 | (417,958) | (74,861) | -492,819 | 6,495,948 |
| Employer Contributions | | 625,000 | 139,295 | 764,295 | 1,730,215 |
| Employee Contributions | | 145,177 | 100,082 | 245,259 | 224,559 |
| Total Operating Revenues | 610,035 | 352,219 | 164,516 | 1,126,770 | 9,106,402 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | | | |
| Administration | | 69,283 | 1,340 | 70,623 | 59,686 |
| Benefits and Participant Refunds | 0 | 2,110,574 | 15,563 | 2,126,137 | 2,078,111 |
| Total Operating Expenses | 0 | 2,179,857 | 16,903 | 2,196,760 | 2,137,797 |
| Operating Income | 610,035 | (1,827,638) | 147,613 | (1,069,990) | 6,968,605 |
| Nonoperating Expenses: | | | | | |
| Transfers Out | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Nonoperating Expenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Income | 610,035 | (1,827,638) | 147,613 | (1,069,990) | 6,968,605 |
| Fund Balances, Beginning | 96,541,683 | 141,740,479 | 5,793,272 | 244,075,434 | 215,125,564 |
| Fund Balances, September 30, 2021 | 97,151,718 | 139,912,841 | 5,940,885 | 243,005,444 | 222,094,169 |



Wildlife Contributions Report

Sep-21

| Order ID | Order Date | Total Payment Amount | Name Of Individual Or Business | Description Of Contribution |
|----------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 20709672 | 9/9/2021 2:31 PM | \$1,000.00 | Quail Forever Indian | C&E Division/STEP |
| 20709671 | 9/9/2021 2:29 PM | \$9,000.00 | Quail Forever Indian Territory | Wildlife Division/Habitat expenses on Spavinaw and Oologah |
| | Total | \$10,000.00 | | |

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

Personnel Actions
September 2021

New Hires

Mark Wilder – Fisheries Hatchery Technician, Durant, 9/1/21

Tyler Delmedico – Wildlife Technician, Cherokee WMA, 9/20/21

Promotions

Mark Walker – Law Enforcement District Chief, D6, 9/15/21

Transfers

Resignations/Terminations

Kristin Watkins – Administration License Clerk, 9/9/21

Retirements

Rick Cagle – Law Enforcement District Chief, D6, 9/1/21

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

Personnel Actions
October 2021

New Hires

Kimberly Clark – Hatchery Technician, Holdenville, 10/11/2021

Nicholas Shenold – Boating Access/Shooting Range Coordinator, 10/11/2021

Paxton Smith – Wildlife Technician, Migratory Birds, 10/18/2021

Kaylee Cheek – Fish Secretary, Central Office, 10/20/2021

Promotions

Chance Phillips – Wildlife Technician at Red & Grassy Slough WMAs to Wildlife Biologist at Hugo & Pine Creek WMAs, 10/1/2021

Tyler Howser – Game Warden, Blaine County to Game Warden Supervisor, District 6, 10/1/2021

Transfers

Resignations/Terminations

Retirements



OCTOBER 2021 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CALENDAR ITEMS:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Oct 8 | FOOF Fishing Clinic with Foundation and OG&E at Sooner Lake |
| Oct 10-11 | Commission tour and monthly meeting, Panhandle State University |
| Oct 13 | Leadership Summit debrief for four Commissioners, ODWC/Teams |
| Oct 17-20 | SEAFWA Annual Meeting, Roanoke, VA |
| Oct 29 | Inaugural Foundation Hall of Fame banquet, Omni OKC |
| Oct 29-30 | OK/TX Joint Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus meeting, Durant, OK |
| Nov 15-19 | North American Falconer's Asso. Annual Conference, Quartz Mountain SP |
| Nov 15-18 | Grand National Quail Hunt, Enid, OK |

AGENCY UPDATE

○ **LEGISLATURE:**

- SSP 1021 - A study on the Wildlife Dept.'s plans for license streamlining and restructuring – was held on September 15th at 9 a.m. ODWC presented its proposed new license structure and fees, as well as the process followed to create the structure. The study can be watched here: t.ly/053yQ
- HSP 1121 – A study of fence systems and standards in Oklahoma – was held on September 7th from 8:30 – 10:00. ODWC participated and offered insight into how we build and maintain fences on our properties. The study can be watched here: bit.ly/3E8CMQL
- The Oklahoma and Texas Legislative Sportsmen's Caucuses are hosting a joint fishing and policy event in Durant on October 29th & 30th. Commissioners interested in attending can contact Kent Keene: kkeene@congressionalsportsmen.org.
- The Governor has called the Redistricting Special Session. It is to begin on November 15th.

○ **HUMAN DIMENSIONS**

- Completed the Bowfishing Survey report and shared with other agency personnel
 - Presented the results at the Oklahoma Chapter American Fisheries Society meeting
- Completed trainings on statistical analyses and data visualization techniques
- Shared the results of the private lands survey with private lands biologists at their quarterly meeting
- Met to define major themes that emerged from the Women and Hunting focus groups conducted by Dr. Audrey King. A report on these focus groups will be shared in October and work will begin using these themes to develop a follow-up survey.
- Created a webpage on the TOAD which shares current human dimensions projects with the rest of the agency
- Began work on creating sampling practices for the 2021 Game Harvest Survey

ADMINISTRATION

- Accounting
 - Number of Claims Audited and Paid - 529
 - Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid - \$2,916,567
 - Total # Agency Cardholders - 191 (22 approving officials)
 - Total Agency Spending Limit - \$390,500
 - Number of P/Card Transactions Processed - 718
 - Number of In-depth Audited Transactions - 110
 - Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases - \$193,850.78
 - Number of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved - 31
 - OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions - 3
 - New and Refresher PCard-holder and Approver Training Completed 3 Sent, 3 Completed
 - Number of Purchase Orders/CO issued - 74
 - IT Acquisitions Processed - 30
 - OMES Surveys Completed - 1
 - Risk Management Cases Reported - 5 new ODWC vehicle accident/incident reports: Hail, Fire, Equipment, Dent/Ding, etc.
 - 2 pending 3rd party vehicle claims: Law Enforcement Officer hit by 3rd Party; Fish Division employee hit by 3rd Party
 - 2 pending ODWC property claims: OKC HQ Freeze/Pipes, PRC Freeze/Pipes, Jenks Burglary
 - Construction Site Visits: Cheryl Luetkemeyer - Ouachita WMA - Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting - Shop Building - August 12, 2021, JA Manning Progress Meeting with Engineer, CAP Consultant, & Fish Staff - August 19, 2021, JA Manning Progress Meeting & Discuss 7 Day Letter with Engineer, CAP Consultant, Fish Staff, & Contractor - August 30, 2021
 -
- Human Resources
 - Open Full-time Positions, August 17
 - Positions Interviewed 3, Candidates interviewed 15
 - Positions Announced, 1
 - See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
 - Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), 3
 - 2 Office 365 training sessions
 - 1 Six hour HRDS Supervisor Training
 - 3 employees New Hire Orientations
 - 2 Strategic Planning meetings
 - Set up flu vaccine clinic
 -
- IT
 - New Tickets: 524 Still Open 18
 - New computer configuration and deployment underway for 50 new computers
 - CrowdStrike deployment is at about 8%. Since we must touch every computer, this will take some time to get through all of them.
 - Began planning for switch upgrades to accommodate Phase II office configuration.
 - The development project for HR retirement reporting is close to completion. Rodney is testing and adjusting as required.
 - AV/Conference Room reassessment is underway. Planning on meeting with Ford Audio when the list is completed to get an estimate on fixing our critical issues and

refitting our system so that we have more control to manage the system and not depend on presets only.

-
- License
 - Conducted on-site staff training at the Jenks Office to enable Jenks staff to sell licenses via the Go Outdoors Service Desk. Jenks Office sales went live August 18th.
 - Processed over 650 orders, including 465 licenses and 308 hard card orders (mail and walk-in orders) - \$42,000 in revenue
 - Shipped over 600 merchandise items (hats, books, etc), totaling over \$6,000 in revenue.
 - Processed \$84,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as lease payments, fines, restitution, etc.
 -
- Property
 - Met with Lingo construction and other contractors to get all the underground utilities, fiber cables, sprinklers located before scheduling French drain and waterproofing.
 - Vega Drywall made repairs on water damaged ceiling and repainted areas on the 1st and 2nd floors.
 - Prepped one new Wildlife truck.
 - One complete truck exchange for Wildlife division regional supervisor Rod Smith.
 - Received bids on water treatment for the cold and hot water loops to the chiller and boilers.
 - Worked with Spaces Inc. to get updated pricing on reconfiguration on accounting and fed-aid workstations.
 - Set up Game Wardens Spencer Grace and Royce Gillham with loaner trucks.
 - Prep. last two new law trucks for Wardens Blake Cottrill & Clayton Kannady
 - Complete law truck exchanges

FISHERIES DIVISION

August

Statewide Fish Stockings

| Species | Number Fish | Size | Number Locations |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Channel catfish | 7,719 | 11-12" | 5 |
| Hybrid sunfish | 9,213 | 4-6" | 2 |
| Rainbow trout | 9,468 | 11" | 2 |

Meeting attended

- Participated in the annual Oklahoma Chapter American Fisheries Society meeting, August 31-September 2 at Sequoyah State Park.
- Participated in the annual Southern Division American Fisheries Society Reservoir Committee Summer conference call.

Activities

- Department staff (Administration, Communication and Education, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement) participated in electrofishing surveys for blue catfish on Kaw Lake.

- With the assistance of Oklahoma Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, 695 spider blocks fish attractors were constructed for use at reservoirs in Southeastern OK.
- Constructed and installed 150 spider blocks at seven fish attractor locations in Okemah Lake.
- Constructed and installed spider blocks in Crystal and Veterans CTHFP's. Additionally, benches were delivery to several CTHFP's for installation.
- Assisted Communication and Education Division staff with developing a Bass Regulation Communication Strategy for upcoming proposed bass regulation changes, and prepared an outline for the associated Tournament Exemption and Reporting Program.
- A total of 498 Largemouth Bass Otoliths were aged from Wetumka, Sportsman, Dripping Springs, Shawnee #1 and Shawnee #2 reservoirs.
- A total of 227 Channel Catfish Otoliths were aged from Tecumseh, Holdenville Wewoka, Stilwell and Vian reservoirs.
- Processed otoliths for Broken Bow, Carlton, and Ozzie Cobb reservoirs.
- Florida largemouth bass DNA samples were prepared and shipped to Auburn University for analyses.
- Gear bias of low-frequency electrofishing for Blue Catfish in reservoirs is ongoing, with 3,459 fish at Wiley Post and 2,543 fish at Arcadia being tagged.
- Community sampling was continued at 15 plus sites in the Verdigris River drainage.
- Keystone Reservoir was surveyed for yearling striped bass to better evaluate spawning success.
- Water quality profiles were collected on Fort Gibson and Tenkiller reservoirs.
- Tidbit temperature monitors set along the Lower Mountain Fork River were retrieved and new units were deployed.
- An equipment maintenance video was created and posted on the TOAD and the South-Central Region shared page.
- A presentation was given to the Green Country Fly Fishers in Bartlesville on trout fishing in Oklahoma.
- Attended pay meeting for the Manning SFH pump station project, provided oversight on the project, and worked with construction and properties and engineering staff to resolve construction issues.
- Attended initial meeting with Garver Engineering to discuss design of Phase II of the Manning SFH renovation project, which includes construction of a reservoir.
- Renovation of the Ponca City Office shop building was initiated.
- Routine grounds maintenance and upkeep was performed on all Department Lakes statewide.

C&E DIVISION

- Kelly Adams was honored with the Mark Reef Memorial Award at the annual meeting of Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The award recognizes the best of the best of young professionals at state wildlife departments across the United States and Canada.
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee continued training events for new schools starting our Outdoor Education programs and existing schools with new teachers. Final training for 2021 is scheduled for last week in September.
- Micah Holmes and Jena Donnell worked to educate landowners about aflatoxins and neonicotinoids. With the help of OSU, Best Management Practices were developed and emailed to landowners subscribed to receive ODWC's landowner newsletter, Your Side of the Fence.
- Damon Springer worked with Career Tech FFA staff to set up dates for District FFA Clay Target program shoots and the state shoot. October 11 NW District shoot at Ft Supply Trap

Range in Ft. Supply, October 13 Central District shoot at Tri-City Gun Club in Norman, October 21 NE District shoot at Oil Capital Rod and Gun Club in Coweta, November 3 SE District shoot on private property in Broken Bow, November 9 SW District Shoot at J&J Shooting Range in Altus, November 17 State Shoot at OKC Gun Club in Arcadia.

- An email was sent manually through Brandt platform on 9/14 to 29,902 subscribers eligible to apply for a Senior citizen lifetime license. This is done annually to anyone in the system who is now eligible for a senior lifetime.
- Jena Donnell met with Tinker Airforce Base naturalists to learn more about their Texas Horned Lizard head start program, a potentially innovative way to bolster the lizard numbers. TAFB relocated dozens of THL eggs and newly emerged hatchlings from their preserve to the Oklahoma City Zoo's behind-the-scenes "Lizard Lab." More on this story can be found in the September issue of the Wild Side e-newsletter.
- Lance Meek worked on Range projects and met with City of Altus staff, and select community members, regarding their interest in pursuing an open to the public range.
- Social media ad spending has increased using funds from our second grant from the Association for Conservation Information. This will include social media, search and display ads, and will continue through the end of the year. Michael Bergin is also planning some texts and push notifications under the grant, and the bulk of the spending will be looking for a production company to create a new slate of hunting ads much in the same spirit of the fishing ads we did this summer.
- Daniel Griffith worked with Kasie Harriett to updates the hunting resources section of the website. Updates included adding locations of prepared dove fields on WMAs leading to a 200% year over year increase in web site visitors to those dove information pages.
- Sarah Southerland led an effort to host a fishing clinic at Scissortail Park during their regular Night Market event. The fishing clinic was co-hosted with OKC Latina as part of the Vamos a Pescar grant. Three more fishing clinics are planned under the Vamos a Pescar grant. More information can be seen here:
<https://www.oklahoman.com/story/sports/2021/09/20/oklahoma-wildlife-department-tries-hook-more-hispanic-families-fishing/8385860002/>
- Skylar St. Yves met with OG&E staff and has a second clinic set up at their Sooner Power Plant on October 8th. Skylar continued to update information on the Fishing Resources page as well.
- Targeted email to feral hog exemption holders which included a reminder to renew their exemptions and a special notice from ODAFF that offered special assistance in targeted control counties.
- Whitney Jenkins coordinated an effort to host a booth at the Memorial Marathon's Health and Wellness Expo. The booth focused on Close to Home Fishing opportunities.
- Several C&E specialists worked with fisheries on two separate communications. The first was an introduction to Oklahoma's current black bass population status. The second was a reminder of the reduced bag limit for trout effective September 11.
- R3 coordinators Kasie Joyner and Skylar St.Yves met with marketing specialist Michael Bergin about Operation Retention plans and updates.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- The Oklahoma Falconers Association (OFA) will be hosting the 60th anniversary of the North American Falconers Association (NAFA) field meet from 11/15-11/19/21. Commissioners are welcome to join a falconer on a hunt if they would like or just come out and observe and visit with the falconers and their birds in the weathering yard. The event

will be held at Quartz Mountain State Park. If they are interested in setting up a time to come out, please have them contact me for those arrangements.

- Early teal and special resident goose season are two of the seasons with September opening dates. Reports were of average to good numbers of teal migrating through the state and pockets of high hunter participation with good success. Resident goose hunting looked to be average in regard to hunter participation and success, with abundant opportunity statewide.
- Wetland habitat conditions are exceptional in many natural depressive wetlands and man-made stock ponds; however, riparian habitats and managed moist soil units had limited seed production as a result of mid-summer flooding, often resulting in limited forage production. Flooding also limited the exposure of the extensive mud flats required for the millet seeding program. However, biologists were able to aerial seed approximately 600 acres at Keystone and Texoma lakes, collectively.
- A recently implemented pilot program to sell cedars to lumber interests was completed on James Collins WMA. While some revenue was generated, the primary goal of this project was to re-claim openings / create savannah habitat. By burning the dried cedar tops, the very desired effect of setting back hardwood encroachment was accomplished.



- With limited waterfowl reproduction in the northern prairies last spring due to severe and widespread drought, we do not expect exceptionally high numbers migrating through and wintering in the state this year. Overall, we expect a good, but more limited waterfowl hunting season and state-wide habitat conditions are above average moving into the fall. Hunters may experience more difficult hunting as the ratio of adult:juvenile birds will greatly favor adult birds who have lived through at least one hunting season. Continued reproduction issues may lead to a "restrictive" harvest package being offered to the Flyway states in the future.
- Archery deer season is underway. All indicators show that deer are entering the season in good condition and numbers.
- The Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) has 89 properties signed up for the 2021-22 season totaling almost half a million acres. This program pairs interested

landowners, leases, or hunting groups with a minimum of 1,000 acres together with an ODWC professional to facilitate better deer management on the enrolled private properties. Cooperating landowners conduct spotlight counts, collect biological data and jawbones to provide data for management decisions. Bonus antlerless permits are made available to these landowners should the data indicate that antlerless harvest numbers are not likely to be met in the regular season.

- The nuisance bear collected in Cleveland County was necropsied. Bear was a young male in excellent condition, but no ear tags, tattoos or pit tags were detected.
- A full quail report and season forecast will be released after October and will be included in the November Commission packet. Preliminary August Roadside survey analysis indicates statewide average down slightly. Northwest and Southwest regions up over last year.
- Turkey brood surveys were completed and results overall statewide were fair, but some isolated areas did show more positive results.
- Maintenance and spruce-up work was the overwhelming activity this past month for WMA staff, in preparation for our biggest opening day, October 1, the first day of archery seasons.
- Staff are finishing up fall/winter food plot plantings.
- The duck blind drawings for several eastern Oklahoma reservoirs were held September 18th at the NE Regional office:

237 applicants / 139 Permits awarded

| <u>Lake</u> | <u>2021 Permits issued</u> | <u>Compared to 2020</u> | <u>Compared to 2019</u> |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ft Gibson | 45 | 59 | 57 |
| Eufaula | 55 | 50 | 50 |
| Webbers Falls | 39 | 39 | 48 |
| TOTALS | 139 | 148 | 155 |

- A Learn To Dove Hunt workshop, sponsored by NWTF, was held at Packsaddle WMA the last weekend of September. Department personnel volunteered to help mentor new dove hunters. Although harvest was low, a good time was had by all.
- NW region and research section staff met with OSU researchers concerning upcoming panhandle pronghorn and bear research projects.
- The first of the fall private lands youth hunts were held the weekend of October 9-10. A total of 61 hunters were selected for 11 hunt areas (Beckham, Carter, Ellis, Love, McClain and Sequoyah counties). One hunt sponsor area cancelled at the last minute due to the then sharply increasing spike in Covid-19 cases.
- Over 800 acres of invasive species (Johnson grass/sericea lespedeza) were treated on WMA's

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

- 4 Wardens attended and were certified at the Hunter Incident Investigation School. Those wardens were Zach Paulk (D5), Andrew Potter (D3), Riley Wilman (D1), and Austin Jackson (D1).
- Many wardens attended the Criminal Jurisdiction in Indian Country Training on Sept. 27 & 28. This class must be completed before they can be cross-commissioned with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This just gives everyone another leg to stand on when dealing with the aftermath of the McGirt Supreme Court decision.
- 82 Wardens attended the Narcan Training on 09-17-21. This is training to qualify the officers to carry the treatment kits to possibly save themselves or the public that have been exposed to the drug Fentanyl.

- D7 Wardens worked a special emphasis Dove Season with the USFWS and in conjunction with Texas Wildlife and Parks. They checked numerous parties of hunters and issued a few citations. Great team work between all the Agencies has resulted in increased communications along the border.
- Early deer hunters have been kicking off season a few weeks early around the state. Cases have been made all across the state and are waiting to go through the court process now.

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

P.O. Box 53465 Oklahoma City, OK 73152 (405) 521-3851

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 28, 2021

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report August and September Federal and Congressional Issues for October Commission Meeting

State of Play:

- > This past month marked the end of the 20-year war as U.S. troops left Afghanistan and the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Those two events overshadowed the last several weeks and will continue to be a issue as refugees make their way into states across the nation. Oklahoma is expected to have around 1,800 Afghan refugees arrive in the coming weeks.

President –

- > President Biden has been busy pushing for passage of the major issues that are outstanding on his agenda and facing imminent fiscal deadlines: funding the government through a continuing resolution, raising the debt ceiling, passing an infrastructure package, and passing a reconciliation package dealing with social issues and climate change.
- > President Biden, Majority Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi spoke about a path forward on reconciliation, the budget and the debt ceiling where they reportedly discussed repealing the Trump Administration's tax credits as a pay for.
- > Minority Leader McConnell reportedly spoke with Treasury Secretary Janet about the likeliness of the Treasury's ability to use extraordinary measures to run out next month urging him and his party to join the Democrats in voting to raise the debt ceiling. McConnell is reportedly not going to budge.
- >

Infrastructure package –

- > The House was set through a deal within the Democratic caucus to vote on the infrastructure package on September 27th, however, due to issues with the CR, the debt ceiling and reconciliation bills, the vote was delayed.

Fiscal lay of the land –

- > The House prepared two CRs, HR 5304 & HR 5305. The House passed HR 5305 on a party line vote. The bill extended the debt ceiling through December 16, 2022, extends government funding through December 3, 2021 and provides nearly \$35 billion in emergency aid to address recent natural disasters and help relocate Afghans who fled their country after the Taliban takeover.
- > As a follow up, Senate Republicans filed their own stopgap funding measure without a debt limit suspension. Minority Leader McConnell has said the House bill will not pass the Senate.
- > On September 27th, the Senate Republicans blocked passage of the House passed CR that would raise debt ceiling and extend government funding through December.
- > Democrats have announced that they have a framework to pay for the \$3.5 T reconciliation package but no details have been released.

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.

Congress:

General Congressional actions:

- > A government shutdown, a reconciliation bill, an infrastructure package and the debt ceiling all hang in the balance.

House –

- > The House returned from August recess on September 20th.
- > The House passed their budget reconciliation framework in early September and pushed forward with committee drafts throughout the rest of the month. The House voted to pass the \$3.5 T budget reconciliation package by a vote of 220-212. This now tees up the House to draft specific parts of the package to move forward on Biden's social and climate agenda. The agreement that the Democratic Caucus came to on reconciliation also sets up a vote on the infrastructure bill slated to occur on September 27th, which is just a few days before the September 30th expiration of the surface transportation authorization. It is important to note that the adoption of the reconciliation process makes the spending package filibuster proof in the Senate.
- > The House Natural Resources Committee worked through two full days of markups with a lot of amendments. They developed a \$25.6 Billion Reconciliation Measure from the markups. Below is a laundry list of items included in the Committee's portion of the bill:
 - Direct investments:
 - \$9.5 billion for coastal and Great Lakes restoration and climate resiliency projects
 - \$3 billion to support the Civilian Climate Corps through the Department of the Interior
 - \$2.5 billion to clean up abandoned hardrock mines
 - \$2 billion for Indian water rights settlements over the next decade and \$3.7 billion each decade thereafter
 - \$2 billion for Indian Health Service health facility construction, maintenance, and improvement
 - \$1.15 billion for emergency drought relief
 - \$1 billion for tribal climate resilience and adaptation
 - \$993 million for health infrastructure in U.S. territories
 - \$900 million for wildfire management
 - \$500 million for tribal housing improvements
 - \$500 million for a Tribal Civilian Climate Corps
 - \$250 million for Salton Sea projects
 - \$200 million for tribal public safety and justice
 - \$225 million for climate resilience and restoration
 - \$100 million for mitigating climate-induced weather events
 - \$100 million for tribal wildfire management
 - \$100 million for large-scale water recycling
 - Hundreds of millions more for urban parks and increasing childhood outdoor access
 - The Committee voted to raise public money through:
 - Establishing a hardrock mineral royalty, which could raise around \$2 billion over 10 years
 - Establishing a hardrock mineral reclamation fee, which could raise around \$200 million over 10 years
 - Increasing the annual hardrock mining claim maintenance fee, which could raise nearly \$800 million over 10 years
 - Directing the Department of the Interior (DOI) to hold offshore wind lease sales in federal waters around American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - Restoring DOI's authority to hold offshore wind lease sales in federal waters in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico and off the coasts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida
 - Increasing outdated fossil fuel royalty rates and extending royalties to methane emissions

- Ending noncompetitive leasing and charging annual fees for the extraction of fossil fuel public resources
- Strengthening bonding standards and charging fees on offshore fossil fuel pipelines and idled oil and gas wells; and
- Increasing civil and criminal penalties, ending so-called fossil fuel royalty relief and requiring companies to pay for annual inspection costs.

Senate –

- > The Senate returned from August recess on September 13th.
- > On September 27th, the Senate Republicans blocked passage of the House passed CR that would raise debt ceiling and extend government funding through December.

Agencies:

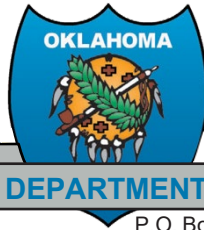
- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
 - The USFWS [announced the final rule](#) to open hunting and fishing opportunities on seven National Wildlife Refuges including two in Oklahoma: Sequoyah NWR and Wichita Mountain NWR.
 - The USFWS issued their [final rule](#) on Migratory Bird Hunting season dates and daily bag and possession limits.
 - The USFWS [announced](#) the availability of a draft environmental assessment (DEA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and application for an incidental take permit (ITP) supported by a habitat conservation plan (HCP) for the operation of an existing wind facility, the Wildhorse Mountain Wind project (project), in Pushmataha County, Oklahoma. Wildhorse Wind Energy, LLC (Applicant) has applied for an ITP under the Endangered Species Act. The requested ITP, which would be in effect for a period of 30 years, if granted, would cover incidental take of the federally endangered Indiana bat and threatened northern long-eared bat. Comments are due by September 27, 2021.
 - The USFWS [announced](#) they are revising the regulations governing the annual Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Contest (also known as the Federal Duck Stamp Contest (Contest)). They are removing the previously specified permanent theme and the mandatory inclusion of an appropriate hunting element within all Contest entries and revising the qualifications of the judging panel to reflect this change beginning with the 2022 Contest.

Coming up...

- > Appropriations work and avoiding a government shutdown.
- > Reconciliation package
- > Infrastructure package
- > Debt Ceiling

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
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| James V. Barwick VICE CHAIRMAN | Jess Kane MEMBER |
| Rick Holder SECRETARY | Bruce Mabrey MEMBER |
| Bill Brewster MEMBER | John P. Zelbst MEMBER |



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR
J.D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 53465 Oklahoma City, OK 73152 PH. (405) 521-3851

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 22, 2021

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report October Federal and Congressional Issues for November Commission Meeting

State of Play:

President –

- > President Biden has shifted his focus to climate change recently.
- > The Senate filibuster may soon be on the chopping block. After the Senate Republicans used it to stop the debt ceiling increase and the elections bill, Majority Leader Schumer is seriously considering doing away with the filibuster. President Biden, reportedly, is supportive of ending the filibuster for things like the debt ceiling.
- > The U.S. posted the second-largest annual budget deficit on record for 2021 as pandemic-relief spending sustained the federal government's massive borrowing needs. The deficit for the fiscal year through September was \$2.77 trillion, compared with the \$3.1 trillion peak seen in the previous year, a Treasury Department report showed on October 22nd.

Infrastructure package –

- > The infrastructure package is still in flux. Negotiations are ongoing and Congress has until October 31st to pass a package or highway transportation programs will expire. It is possible that an extension will be passed to push the programs authorization back to the all-encompassing December 3rd deadline. This includes the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

Reconciliation package –

- > House and Senate Democrats are working on scaling back the reconciliation bill to a lower spending level. Democrats are looking at a \$1.5-2 trillion spending total instead of a \$3.5 trillion. It is possible that the debt ceiling extension beyond December 3rd is added into this bill.
- > Democrats set a deadline of October 22nd to have a deal done but it became clear late in the week that they would miss the deadline. Reportedly, they are close to a deal and hope to have it done by the beginning of the following week.

Recovering America's Wildlife –

- > The House Natural Resources Committee put together a wildlife markup on October 13th. Recovering was expected to be included in the list of bills but once the meeting notice was released, it was not on the list. The Committee said they simply needed to focus on other wildlife issues at that time but intended to markup Recovering soon.
- > The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is potentially going to hold a hearing on Recovering in December. Final details have not been released on that hearing yet.

Congress:

General Congressional actions:

- > GOVERNMENT FUNDING: On September 27th, the Senate Republicans blocked passage of the House passed CR that would raise debt ceiling and extend government funding through December.
- > The House passed a bill to raise the debt limit but it is expected to fail in the Senate. It is unclear how the Senate plans to deal with the debt ceiling before the expected deadline of October 18th.
- > The Senate passed a stopgap funding bill by a vote of 65-35 funding the government through December 3rd. The legislation would also provide \$6.3 billion to help resettle Afghan allies who were evacuated during the U.S. withdrawal and nearly \$29 billion in aid to communities recovering from major disasters this year, including Hurricane Ida in August.
- > The House then passed the same CR bill by a 254-175 to avoid a government shutdown.
- > DEBT CEILING: Shortly after avoiding a shutdown, the Democrats struck a deal with Republicans on the debt ceiling. They intend to extend the debt ceiling for a short period of time, coinciding with the government spending bill extension expiration in December. The debt limit would be increased by \$480 billion to \$28.9 trillion, temporarily averting a default on U.S. debt obligations, under a Senate amendment to the House-passed version of S. 1301.
- > The House returned to DC from recess for a day to pass the debt ceiling by a vote of 219-206 before heading out of town again.
- > Due to Majority Leader Schumer's remarks following the Senate vote on the short-term debt ceiling increase last week, Minority Leader McConnell publicly remarked that Republicans will not assist Democrats to raise the debt limit in December. Speaker Pelosi floated the idea of giving the Treasury Secretary the ability to raise the debt ceiling on his or her own with Congressional authority to override the decision if they see fit. December's schedule is setting up to have quite a few stand-offs.

House –

- > The House Agriculture Committee held a hearing on several bills including: H.R. 5608, Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act. This bill would authorize \$70 million for each year from 2022 to 2028 and requires the Secretary of USDA to offer cooperative agreements with state or tribal wildlife agencies and departments agriculture to provide direct financial assistance to support the efforts of such agencies and departments to develop and implement management strategies to address chronic wasting disease within their respective jurisdiction.

Senate –

- > The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on several bills mostly on wildfires. One bill of note that was included in the hearing was [S. 2561](#), to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that a land resource management plan or land use plan approved, amended, or revised under those Acts shall not be considered to be a continuing Federal agency action or constitute a discretionary Federal involvement or control for a distinct Federal purpose.

Agencies:

- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
 - USFWS is [proposing](#) to delist 23 species from the ESA due to extinction. None of these species are listed as OK species though.
 - USFWS finalized its reversal of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act rule from the Trump Administration.
 - The USFWS issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to address human-caused migratory bird mortality by codifying our interpretation that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits incidental take of migratory birds and developing regulations that authorize incidental take under prescribed conditions.
- > Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - The EPA [announced](#) they plan to host regional roundtables on WOTUS.

Coming up...

- > Reconciliation package could be done within a few days of this report
- > Infrastructure package deadline of October 31st. An extension likely.
- > Appropriations deadline of December 3rd.
- > Debt Ceiling deadline of December 3rd.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is the state agency responsible for managing fish and wildlife. The Wildlife Department receives no general tax appropriations and is supported by hunting and fishing license fees and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment.