

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

**Public Meeting:**        **Tuesday, September 7, 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](http://www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma)

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

1. Call to Order – Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Nathan Erdman
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nathan Erdman
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division – 30 years.

7. Presentation on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Education Programs – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education Division and Colin Berg, Communication and Education Supervisor.
8. Recognition of students from Locust Grove and North Moore schools on their achievements at the National Archery in the Schools Program national tournament – Nels Rodefeld and Kelly Boyer, Communication and Education Specialist.
9. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the August 2, 2021 Commission meeting.
10. 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.
11. Presentation of the July 31, 2021 Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
12. Presentation and recognition of the 2021 Landowner Conservationist of the Year – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Brett Cooper, Private Lands Biologist.

13. Presentation and consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on donations from the Indian Territory Chapter of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever for \$9,000 to support upland game conservation on Spavinaw and Oologah Wildlife Management Areas and \$1,000 for the Shotgun Training Education Program (STEP) – Bill Dinkines and Laura McIver, Oklahoma Regional Representative of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever.
14. 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.
15. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
16. Announce the date for the next regular Commission Meeting on Monday, October 11, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Oklahoma.
17. 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 August 2, 2021 of the

## OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 2, 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 July 26, 2021 at 9:55 a.m.

In compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting was streamed live and recorded at [www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma](http://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  
                                  BILL K. BREWSTER, Member  
                                  BRUCE MABREY, Member  
                                  D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                  JESS M. KANE, Member

MEMBER ABSENT:        C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                  JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Laura McIver, Quail Forever; Tyler Talley, eCapitol; Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation; Andy Gresham, Edmond, Oklahoma; and Bobby & Braden Tennell, Carrier, Oklahoma. Braden Tennell is the 2021 OKSSP Junior Male State Champion high shooter.

Chairwoman Gaddis recognized and welcomed newly appointed Commissioner for District 1, Jess M. Kane. She also recognized and honored Commissioner Bruce Mabrey as the outgoing Chairman of the Commission. She thanked Mr. Mabrey for his dedicated service and his outstanding leadership.

Director Strong recognized the following employees: Tony Crawford, Wildlife Technician – 20 years of service; Thad Potts, Wildlife Biologist – 20 years of service; James Edwards Jr., Warden Supervisor – 20 years of service; David Routledge, Fish Technician – 35 years of service; Keith Thomas, Fish Biologist – 35 years of service.

Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Mabrey to approve the minutes from the June 28, 2021 Special Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, 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 that the 2021 Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) summer meeting was

held virtually in July and that Commissioners Gaddis and Barwick attended. He reminded the Commission that ODWC will be hosting the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of WAFWA in July 2022.

Rick Grundman, Executive Director, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, gave a brief update on the Foundation. He announced the first annual Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on October 29, 2021 at the OMNI Hotel and will honor John D. Groendyke. Each Commissioner was given flyers for the event. The Foundation is partnering with ODWC and OG&E to provide fishing clinics. Mr. Grundman will be visiting Sooner Lake this month to see if the cooling ponds can be opened up for Family Fishing Clinics. The Foundation will host a reception at the Oklahoma Wildlife Expo on Friday, September 24 in the Roper's Cantina at Lazy E Arena. Guest will enjoy drinks, snacks and VIP tours of the Expo activities.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statement for June 30, 2021. She also gave a license sales update:

Recreational Licenses – Number of licenses sold was flat for July 2020, down 6% YTD.

Resident Fishing – Down 44% for the month, Down 25% YTD

Resident Combo – Down 1.5% for the month, Down 7% YTD

Nonresident Fishing – Up 2% for the month, Up 1% YTD

NR Trip Fishing – Down 5% for the month, Up 10% YTD

Nonresident Hunting – Even for the month (less than .5%), Up 38% YTD

Lake Texoma (notable) – Down 11% for the month, but up 9% YTD (Almost 34,000 Texoma permits)

Lifetimes – Down 28%, Down 3% YTD

- Notable – YTD numbers remain high for popular licenses – Lifetime Combo up 15%, Lifetime Fishing up 22%

Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Brewster to accept the financial statement as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Chairwoman Gaddis announced that #10 on the agenda would be tabled.

Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries Division, introduced Edward A. (Andy) Gresham for the donation of a 16' War Eagle boat and a 40 hp Yamaha outboard motor. This boat will be used for law enforcement work on the Red River. Mr. Bolton presented Mr. Gresham with a special recognition award crafted by retired ODWC employee Bill Newman. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Mabrey to accept the donation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, presented the Wildlife Division Biologist of the Year award to Thad Potts, Wildlife Biologist for the Canton, Dewey County, Drummond Flats, Major County and Sandhills WMA's.

Barry Bolton presented the Fisheries Division Professional of the Year award to Shane Lewis, Assistant Hatchery Manager at Durant Fish Hatchery.

Chairwoman Gaddis announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

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

**Personnel Actions**  
**August 2021**

**New Hires**

Seth Bennett – Wildlife Technician, SE Region/Pushmataha WMA, 8/9/21

Alecia Ross – Wildlife Division Secretary, Central Office, 8/10/21

Tammy Shanholtzer – Fisheries Division Secretary, Porter Office, 8/23/21

**Promotions**

**Transfers**

**Resignations/Terminations**

**Retirements**

Jeff Neal – Wildlife Technician Migratory Birds, ACEA, 8/1/21

Rick Cagle – Law Enforcement, District Chief, 8/31/21



## SEPTEMBER 2021 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### CALENDAR ITEMS:

Aug 17-18	Fisheries electrofishing survey of blue catfish at Kaw Lake
Sep 8-14	AFWA Annual Meeting, virtual and in Providence, RI
Sep 15	Senate Interim Study on license reform proposals
Oct 10-11	Commission tour and monthly meeting, Panhandle State University
Oct 17-20	SEAFWA Annual Meeting, Roanoke, VA

### AGENCY UPDATE

#### • **LEGISLATURE:**

- HSP 1121 – A study of fence systems and standards in Oklahoma – has been tentatively scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 10:30. ODWC has been asked to participate, although no additional information is available at this time.
- Representatives Carl Newton (Cherokee) and Trish Ranson (Stillwater) attended the August 7<sup>th</sup> Bat Watch at Selman Cave with their families. Thank you to Melynda Hickman for putting on a great event!
- House Wildlife Chairman Ty Burns joined ODWC staff during their catfish electrofishing survey at Kaw Lake. Thank you to all of the awesome ODWC staff, particularly Jeremy Duck and Spencer Grace, who made this a great day for Rep. Burns!
- JD Strong and Corey Jager participated in ceremonial bill signings for two wildlife bills – SB 770 (wildlife diversity tax check off reauthorization; photo on left, below) and HB 1112 (trapping/squirrel to rules; photo on right, below). We want to thank Senators Mark Allen and Blake Stephens, and Representatives John Tally and Eric Roberts for their support and enthusiasm with getting these bills passed. For three of the four bill authors, these wildlife bills were their very first bills to pass.



#### • **HUMAN DIMENSIONS**

- The Bowfishing survey sent to 15,000 licensed anglers was closed on August 16 and received 1,354 responses. Seven percent of those that responded had bowfished in the last 12 months (24% had bowfished at some point in their life).

- A detailed report of the results will be circulated in early September.
- Betsey presented the results of this survey at the Oklahoma chapter of the American Fisheries Society meeting.
- Six focus groups were created to look into women and hunting and the Wildlife Department's role in communicating and engaging with women hunters. Three groups of currently licensed hunters included (1) public land hunters (2) those over 50 and (3) women who use archery to hunt and three groups of lapsed women (1) public land hunters (2) those over 50 (3) middle aged women.
- Worked with James Morel to circulate a survey to waterfowl hunters about the e-stamp. This is an effort across multiple flyway states and was created by flyway states and the USFWS.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

- Accounting
  - Number of Claims Audited and Paid - 407
  - Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid - \$1,763,312.45
  - Number of P/Card Transactions Processed - 722
  - Number of In-depth Audited Transactions - 110
  - Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases - \$173,772.34
  - Number of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved - 30
  - OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions - 5
  - New and Refresher PCard-holder and Approver Training Completed 2 Sent, 2 Completed
  - Number of Purchase Orders/CO issued - 65
  - IT Acquisitions Processed - 36
  - OMES Surveys Completed - 1
  - Risk Management Cases Reported - 0 new ODWC vehicle accident/incident reports: Hail, Fire, Equipment, Dent/Ding, etc.
  - 3 pending 3rd party vehicle claim: Law Enforcement Officer hit by 3rd Party, Law Enforcement Office damaged property (OMES RM Claim), 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 - J. A. Manning Construction Progress Meeting - 07/15/2021
- Human Resources
  - Open Full-time Positions, August 13
  - Positions Interviewed 5, Candidates interviewed 22
  - Positions Announced, 3
  - See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
  - Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), 3
  - 2 Office 365 training sessions
  - 3 New Hire Orientations
- IT
  - This month we have worked 118 tickets 140 Calls and 120 emails.
  - I.T. has been having meetings for the upcoming security requirements set forth by the state and how to best implement them.
  - Working on issues that remain from the Office 365 migration.
  - Welcomed our new intern Anthony this week and will be training him on basic I.T. work.

- Ongoing projects with the death audit report, assisting Federal Aid reports, worked with HR on their personnel program and retirement program, as well as continued work with the Choctaws and DHS.
- License
  - Processed over 930 customer orders, including 590 licenses and 370 hard card orders (mail and walk-in orders) Totaling almost \$39,000 in revenue
  - Shipped over 500 merchandise items (hats, books, etc.) totaling almost \$7,000 in revenue
  - Deposited over \$123,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as lease payments, fines, restitution, etc.
- Property
  - Prepped nine new law enforcement trucks, one fish truck, and one wildlife truck getting ready for vehicle exchange
  - Nine complete truck exchange for Game Wardens
  - Kelli Joyner hired as new Property Assistant
  - Reconciled Admin Division Comdata invoice and submitted for payment
  - Met with Lingo Construction and Beck Design on south stairwell waterproofing
  - Carrier came out and made repairs on chiller
  - New control panel and sump pump installed in reflecting pond pit.
  - Working with Tempco and Fadco to get skylight in lobby repaired
  - Washed five pool trucks and had oil change and transmission service on two pool vehicles
  - Ordered \$1,200 of office supplies for mailroom stock

## **FISHERIES DIVISION**

### **July**

#### Statewide Fish Stockings

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number Fish</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Number Locations</b>
Bluegill sunfish	550	4-5"	1
Channel catfish	273	14"	1
Channel catfish	459,724	<1"	1
Grass carp	40	14"	1
Hybrid sunfish	2,500	5-6"	2
Largemouth bass	250	2"	2
Rainbow trout	4,810	11"	1

#### Meetings attended

- Staff participated in the 2020 WAFWA Summer Virtual Conference, July 14-16, 19-20.
- Staff participated in the AFWA monthly fisheries chiefs conference call.

#### Activities

- Gear bias of low-frequency electrofishing for Blue Catfish at Arcadia Reservoir and Wiley Post Reservoir is ongoing, with 1,950 fish at Arcadia and 2,300 fish at Wiley Post being tagged.
- Seining for hybrid striped bass was conducted at Thunderbird Reservoir to determine survival and food habits.



- Collected striped bass below Eufaula in collaboration with OSU researchers for the striped bass population study in the lower Arkansas River.
- Surveyed 35 sites in the Verdigris River watershed as part of our annual statewide community sampling program. Vouchered specimens collected during previous community surveys were identified.
- Assisted USFWS staff with snorkel sampling on Little River and Glover River.
- Tandem hoop nets were used to survey channel catfish populations at 16 reservoirs statewide. Survey data are concurrently being entered and analyzed. Otoliths were collected from a subsample of captured individuals and are being processed as time permits.
- Florida largemouth bass DNA samples collected during spring surveys were shipped to Auburn University for analysis.
- Seining was conducted on Broken Bow Reservoir and Wister Lake with over 1,800 fish being processed.
- Conducted electrofishing surveys on Sally Jones and Horton Slough for Sequoyah NWR personnel.
- Prepared and submitted Vann's lake refuge regulation change proposal to increase fishing access in the Muskogee/Wagoner area.
- Assisted ODEQ staff with fish collections at McGee Creek for mercury sampling.
- On-site technical assistance was provided to three private pond owners. Woods County was also provided assistance with the design and rehabilitation of a pond.
- Fish attractor buoys were inspected and replaced on Arbuckle and Veterans lakes. Three new habitat projects were completed on Pawnee Lake.
- Two fish kills on Hudson Lake were investigated.
- Staff continued working on outreach projects related to native fisheries, and surveyed smallmouth buffalo in reservoir.
- New fishing regulation proposals are currently being drafted and reviewed.
- Signs for the new Barren Fork property were drafted, and a Kiosk was designed and ordered.
- Maintenance on Department lakes statewide included mowing, brush clearing, vegetation management, and general grounds and dam maintenance.
- Staff inspected boating and fishing access locations statewide, including Bell Cow, Shawnee, Dripping Springs, Okemah, Okmulgee and Eufaula lakes.
- Staff met with the cities of Pawnee and Hominy regarding future boating access projects.
- Staff continues to monitor the Manning SFH pump station project and participate in coordination meetings with the contractor.
- Staff assisted with the Scissortail Park Fishing event.
- A presentation was given to the Friends of the Arkansas River on the Arkansas River fishery. Attendees included about 60 members and various media personalities.

#### **C&E DIVISION**

- The Outdoor Oklahoma Adventure Raffle has closed and the winners have been notified. The second year of the raffles generated more than \$224,000 in revenue. The full list can be seen here: [https://officemgmtenterserv-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/mike\\_chrisman\\_odwc\\_ok\\_gov/EdGzT9utbalFj6MSbc-j4JoBE\\_knGK8q8bd1-na4WHDKLw?e=00rEyF](https://officemgmtenterserv-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/personal/mike_chrisman_odwc_ok_gov/EdGzT9utbalFj6MSbc-j4JoBE_knGK8q8bd1-na4WHDKLw?e=00rEyF)

- The Education Section has been working closely with the FFA to plan the upcoming FFA Shotgun Shoots.
  - October 11- Ft Supply
  - October 13- Norman
  - October 21- Coweta
  - November 3-Broken Bow
  - November 9- Altus
  - November 17- State Shoot --OKC Gun Club
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee conducted two teacher training courses for NASP, Varsity Archery, Explore Bowhunting, Explore Bowfishing, Hunter Education and Fishing in the Schools programs certifications. Around half of the teachers that attend workshops are from schools that already have our programs and are needing new teachers trained. The other half are from schools that are just now starting our programs. Additional courses are scheduled for August and September. Approximately 20 teachers attend each two-three day training course.
- Damon Springer and Jason Smith set up a pre-dove season warm up ODWC staff and other state employees at the OKC Gun Club on August 26.
- Colin Berg, Shawn Gee and Kelly Boyer received training from License Section along with fisheries staff at Jenks so that all staff are able to sell lifetime license to constituents. Micki O'Neal received her training the previous month and began issuing lifetimes soon after all of the required equipment arrived.
- Kasie Harriet worked with Daniel Griffith to get dove field locations added to the Department website. Over 50 field locations were submitted by biologists from across the state. Dove season kicks off the fall hunting seasons, and opening weekend is free hunting days making it a great time to introduce new hunters.
- Skylar St. Yves prepared a fishing license sales update for the WOG and continued to work on the fishing resource pages on the website. These pages have grown in popularity and provide beginning, intermediate and advanced anglers with some outstanding information. Updates on lake specific pages have included things such as adding bait shops and camping area information to better assist our anglers as they plan their fishing trips.
- Lance Meek and Shawn Gee continued efforts on WMA gun range projects along with other agency personnel. Virtually every range that is scheduled for renovation has some kind of work that will take place during this fiscal year. Some are undergoing EA's, while others are in the engineering phase and a couple will begin construction.
- Once again the Wildlife Department had an excellent showing at a national conference of wildlife resource agencies, most recently the CommEd Division took home a number of awards at the annual meeting of the Association of Conservation Information.

Place: FIRST

Category: Best Social Media Presence

Winner: Social Media Team (Sarah/Kelly and all)

Submitted entry: Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Social Media

Place: FIRST

Category: External Newsletter

Winner: Jena

submitted entries:

April Wild Side <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDWC/bulletins/2834ffb>

June Wild Side <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/OKDWC/bulletins/28e1147>

Place: FIRST

Category: Internal Communication

Winner: Jena  
Submitted entry: Communication and Education Division Road Show map

Place: FIRST  
Category: Photography: Scenic  
Winner: Sarah Southerland  
Submitted entry: Photo titled "Still Dawn"

Place: SECOND  
Category: Video: PSA and Marketing  
Winner: Blake Podhajsky  
Submitted entry: Tess Maune - Outdoors Are Always Open  
YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/RxKHH6c8PI>

Place: THIRD  
Category: One-time Publication: Other  
Winner: Skylar  
Submitted entry: Prescribed Fire Workshop Handout

Place: THIRD  
Category: Poster  
Winner: Skylar  
Submitted entry: Identifying Antlerless Mule Deer Poster

Place: THIRD  
Category: Video Feature: How-to / Instructional  
Winner: Darrin Hill  
Submitted entry: Easy Tenkara Fishing  
YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/BVpBNFurxA>

Place: THIRD  
Category: Photography: People  
Winner: Sarah Southerland  
Submitted entry: Pink Sky

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

- WMA staff are busy with normal end-of-summer area maintenance and spruce-up in preparation for the upcoming hunting season. Habitat work largely consisted of manipulation of dove fields, and also soil/site prep for fall plantings in September. August rains delayed mowing dove feeding fields on many areas across the state.
- Staff on several WMA's conducted late summer bat acoustic surveys.
- Staff continued preparations for annual Duck Blind Drawings at Porter office which will be held on September 18.
- Monitored agriculture, hay, and grazing leases, and cattle were removed on all WMA's prior to the September 1 dove opener.
- Responded to a number of nuisance bear reports, which is normal for late summer. Conducted bear scent surveys in southeast and northeast regions.
- Completed mourning dove trapping and banding.
- Deer spotlight surveys are winding down on WMA's, fawn production is looking good.
- Completed initial meeting with researchers in the Panhandle for pronghorn & bear research projects.

- Staff led GIS computer training.
- A limited amount of millet seed was planted for waterfowl.
- Staff began quail roadside surveys.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- Wardens attended an Environmental Crimes class on Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>. This class was taught by Department of Environmental Quality Criminal Investigation Unit. Investigator Michael Freeman taught the class for us. The class was also 8 hours of CLEET credit for each officer.
- Wardens also have the chance to attend a Narcan class on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>. This class will enable all wardens who attend the class to carry a Narcan kit that could possibly save their or the public's life in the future.
- Wardens have been teaching hunter education classes over the last few weeks. They have classes scheduled well into November.
- The Districts have been finishing up all of their continuing education classes of the last month. They have also been getting their firearms training done and qualifications done for the year.

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

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

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

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Trust	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	07/31/2021 Totals	07/31/2020 Totals
<b>Assets and Other Debits:</b>							
Cash	14,734,536		3,859,804			18,594,340	17,914,944
Investments	0		284,295,115			284,295,115	235,617,830
Accounts Receivable	1,874,097					1,874,097	2,802,713
Monthly Lifetime License			125,475			125,475	164,850
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	5,180,394		7,000			5,187,394.00	4,284,254.00
Fixed Assets				70,519,921		70,519,921	69,801,393
Land				96,610,614		96,610,614	96,633,279
<b>Other Debits:</b>							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,453,776	3,453,776	3,236,668
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
	21,789,027	0	288,287,394	167,130,535	20,009,319	497,216,275	437,687,920
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance:</b>							
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	1,595,644					1,595,644	2,067,570
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	125,475					125,475	164,850
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,453,776	3,453,776	3,236,668
Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1,721,119</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,009,319</b>	<b>21,730,438</b>	<b>16,978,331</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			142,276,031			142,276,031	122,144,089
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			5,876,488			5,876,488	3,922,828
Investment in General Fixed Assets				167,130,535		167,130,535	166,434,672
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>20,067,908</b>		<b>140,134,875</b>			<b>160,202,783</b>	<b>128,208,000</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>20,067,908</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>288,287,394</b>	<b>167,130,535</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>475,485,837</b>	<b>420,709,589</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>21,789,027</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>288,287,394</b>	<b>167,130,535</b>	<b>20,009,319</b>	<b>497,216,275</b>	<b>437,687,920</b>

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

**Combining Balance Sheets**  
**July 31, 2021**

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	07/31/2021 Totals	07/31/2020 Totals
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	384,046	3,475,758			3,859,804	3,591,827
Investments	43,070,306	93,072,290	142,276,031	5,876,488	284,295,115	239,540,658
Due From Other Funds		125,475			125,475	164,850
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	<u>43,454,352</u>	<u>96,680,523</u>	<u>142,276,031</u>	<u>5,876,488</u>	<u>288,287,394</u>	<u>243,304,335</u>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			142,276,031	5,876,488	148,152,519	126,066,917
Fund Balance	43,454,352	96,680,523			140,134,875	117,237,418
	<u>43,454,352</u>	<u>96,680,523</u>	<u>142,276,031</u>	<u>5,876,488</u>	<u>288,287,394</u>	<u>243,304,335</u>

**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 July 31, 2021**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	07/31/2021	07/31/2020	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
<b>Revenues:</b>						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	638,628			638,628	681,035	-6.23%
Other Wildlife Sales	258,444			258,444	240,436	7.49%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	66,904			66,904	154,507	-56.70%
Grant Revenue	857,597			857,597	1,883,850	-54.48%
Investment Income	18,274		3,730	22,004	33,425	-34.17%
Miscellaneous	102,669			102,669	1,885,832	-94.56%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,942,516</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,730</b>	<b>1,946,246</b>	<b>4,879,085</b>	<b>-60.11%</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>						
Administration	661,232			661,232	555,166	19.11%
Wildlife	984,655			984,655	1,454,825	-32.32%
Fish	865,703			865,703	656,417	31.88%
Law Enforcement	1,248,267			1,248,267	785,875	58.84%
Information and Education	268,655			268,655	215,543	24.64%
Capital Improvements	1,134,576			1,134,576	1,611,533	-29.60%
Land Acquisitions	-	-		-	0	0.00%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>5,163,088</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>5,163,088</b>	<b>5,279,359</b>	<b>-2.20%</b>
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	(3,220,572)	0	3,730	(3,216,842)	(400,274)	703.66%
<b>Other Financing Sources(uses):</b>						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	0			0	535,233	-100.00%
Operating Transfers In	59,269	0	1,239,286	1,298,555	3,952,606	-67.15%
Operating Transfers Out	0		(59,269)	(59,269)	(44,791)	32.32%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
<b>Total Other Financing Sources(uses)</b>	<b>59,269</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,180,017</b>	<b>1,239,286</b>	<b>4,443,048</b>	<b>-72.11%</b>
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	(3,161,303)	0	1,183,747	(1,977,556)	4,042,774	-148.92%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	23,229,211	0	42,270,605	65,499,816	35,306,282	85.52%
<b>Fund Balances July 31, 2021:</b>	<b>20,067,908</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,454,352</b>	<b>63,522,260</b>	<b>39,349,056</b>	<b>61.43%</b>



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

	Fiduciary Fund Types			07/31/2021 Totals	07/31/2020 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	125,475			125,475	164,850
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	13,365			13,365	20,575
Interest and Investment Income	0	1,259,511	18,847	1,278,358	4,533,817
Employer Contributions		0	45,753	45,753	37,477
Employee Contributions		47,783	32,832	80,615	73,846
<b>Total Operating Revenues</b>	<b>138,840</b>	<b>1,307,294</b>	<b>97,432</b>	<b>1,543,566</b>	<b>4,830,565</b>
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		68,525	1,310	69,835	58,783
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	703,217	12,906	716,123	694,231
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>771,742</b>	<b>14,216</b>	<b>785,958</b>	<b>753,014</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>138,840</b>	<b>535,552</b>	<b>83,216</b>	<b>757,608</b>	<b>4,077,551</b>
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Nonoperating Expenses</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>138,840</b>	<b>535,552</b>	<b>83,216</b>	<b>757,608</b>	<b>4,077,551</b>
<b>Fund Balances, Beginning</b>	<b>96,541,683</b>	<b>141,740,479</b>	<b>5,793,272</b>	<b>244,075,434</b>	<b>215,125,564</b>
<b>Fund Balances, July 31, 2021</b>	<b>96,680,523</b>	<b>142,276,031</b>	<b>5,876,488</b>	<b>244,833,042</b>	<b>219,203,115</b>



## Wildlife Contributions Report

July 2021

Order ID	Order Date	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
20637316	7/14/2021 2:58 PM	\$5,092.00	Barry Shrader	Fish Division/Blue River catch and release
20637314	7/14/2021 2:56 PM	\$2,500.00	Barry Shrader	Fish Division/Blue River catch and release
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,592.00</b>		

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:** August 23, 2021

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

**FROM:** Brittnee Preston

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

**State of Play:**

The Congressional Budget Office announced the government will run out of borrowing authority in October or November unless Congress takes action. The debt limit was reached on July 31st but the Treasury has the ability to use extraordinary measures to get by until October or November.

President –

- > President Biden has been very busy dealing with what has been deemed the “twin crises,” the new wave of COVID cases and the Taliban’s taking of Afghanistan.

Infrastructure package –

- > The Senate moved forward on an infrastructure deal passing a \$1.2 trillion, eight-year infrastructure bill. The only wildlife related provisions allocate \$2.13 billion over five years for ecosystem restoration activities to the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture and modifies eligibility rules for Surface Transportation Block Grants to include wildlife crossing structures. The package now sits in the House awaiting consideration.

Fiscal lay of the land –

**Congress:**

General Congressional Actions –

- > The House recessed for the month of August while the Senate postponed their recess to work on the infrastructure package and budget deal. After completing that work, the Senate recessed until after Labor Day. The House cut their recess short and came back to work on the Senate passed infrastructure package and budget.

House –

- > The House finished up markups on their 12 appropriations bills in mid-July and pushed forward with a 7 bill bundle the last week of July just before recessing for August. This bill included: Transportation-HUD, Agriculture, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior and Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, and Military Construction-VA.
- > The House Natural Resources committee held a hearing on H.R. 2773, the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act. Collin O’Mara, President and Chief Executive Officer for The National Wildlife Federation, and Mr. Stephen Geurtin, Deputy Director for Policy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified on the bill. There weren’t any negative questions or comments made on the bill. The witnesses emphasized that the best

thing to do is invest in species conservation and wildlife.

Senate –

- > The Senate began to move some of their appropriations bills ahead of August. A summary of the House and Senate versions of the appropriations bills released so far is attached as Appendix 1.
- > Senate Republican's blocked the Senate from moving forward on the infrastructure package, holding the line at a 49-51 vote against ending debate and proceeding on the bill. This move has stalled out the bill for the time being. The Republicans who were part of the negotiations stated their no votes were cast to work on two outlying issues. Majority Leader Chuck Schumer cast a no vote with the Republicans but stated it was a procedural tactic to allow the measure to be brought up again.
- > The following week, in a 68-29 vote, the Senate passed the \$1.2 T infrastructure package that includes \$550 billion in new money spent on the nation's physical infrastructure. The vote came after senators spent the weekend haggling over amendments and time agreements to consider them, making this the third vote-a-rama of the year.
- > The Senate's budget blueprint of \$3.5 T past by a party line vote. The budget resolution does not include the debt ceiling fix.
- > The Senate is now in recess and the House is scheduled to return from August recess early on August 23rd to consider the budget resolution.

### Agencies:

- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
  - The USFWS [announced](#) the opportunity to review and comment on two economic analysis documents prepared during development of the proposed rule to revoke the January 7, 2021, rule governing the prohibitions on incidental take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Comments are due by August 19th.
  - The USFWS [announced](#) they will be extending the comment period for the proposed 4(D) rule for the LPC by 30 days. If comments were already submitted, no need to resubmit.
  - The USFWS [announced](#) the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) FY22 U.S. Small Grants. "The U.S. Small Grants Program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. Projects must involve only long-term protection, restoration, enhancement and/or establishment of wetland and associated upland habitats to benefit migratory birds." The deadline to apply for this grant is October 14, 2021.
- > Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - The Biden administration will hold public engagement sessions throughout this month as it considers which streams and waterways are protected under the Clean Water Act. The EPA plans to revoke the Trump Administration WOTUS rule and expand federal protections of navigable waters.

### Coming up...

- > Appropriations work
- > Infrastructure package
- > Debt Ceiling

## APPENDIX 1

### HOUSE FY 22 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS SUMMARY

#### AGRICULTURE BILL

- The bill provides \$26.6 billion in discretionary spending, a 13 percent increase over the current year's enacted level.
- Includes \$347.4 million across USDA to address the impacts of climate change.
- \$1.125 billion – \$57 million above the FY 2021 enacted level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which covers funding for plant and animal diseases including CWD.
- \$1.06 billion to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land.
- Provides \$894,743,000 for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

#### ENERGY AND WATER BILL

- The bill provides \$53.226 billion, an increase of \$1.474 billion above 2021
- \$14 billion of investments in clean energy and science to help develop clean, affordable, and secure American energy to address climate change
- Provides a total of \$8.66 billion, an increase of \$1.9 billion above the President's budget request for the Army Corps of Engineers
- Provides a total of \$1.97 billion for the Interior Department, an increase of \$274.9 million above fiscal year 2021 and \$413 million above the President's budget request.
- Provides \$1.95 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$276 million above fiscal year 2021 and \$413 million above the request.

#### INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

- Confronts the climate crisis by expanding environmental enforcement efforts, creating a Civilian Climate Corps, and launching a renewed focus on land and water conservation
- Supports Native American families by investing in a strong and resilient Indian Country, including through education and health care programs
- Dramatically expands environmental justice efforts to address unacceptable pollution in communities of color
- Honors the federal government's responsibilities to Native Americans
- \$15.6 billion in discretionary appropriations for DOI, an increase of \$2.3 billion above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$240 million below the President's budget request
- \$66.5 million for the National Landscape Conservation System.
- \$1.9 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an increase of \$301 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$32 million below the President's budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$24.1 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund, \$19 million below the FY 21 enacted level.
  - \$315million for Ecological Services, an increase of \$45.5 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$17 million below the President's budget request.
  - \$582 million for National Wildlife Refuge System, an increase of \$78 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$2 million below the President's budget request.
  - \$22 million for Multinational Species Conservation Fund, an increase of \$4 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and the President's budget request
  - \$82 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$10 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and equal to the President's budget request.
  - Provides for \$45,311,000 for Aquatic Invasive Species, of which no less than \$3,834,000 is to help States implement plans required by the National Invasive Species Act
- \$3.5 billion for National Park Service, an increase of \$324 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$28 million below the President's budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$3 billion for Operation of the National Park System, an increase of \$277 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$12 million below the President's budget request.

- \$80 million for National Recreation and Preservation, an increase of \$6 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$6 million above the President's budget request.
- \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey, an increase of \$327 million above the enacted level and equal to the President's budget request.

## **SENATE FY 22 APPROPRIATIONS BILLS SUMMARY**

### **AGRICULTURE BILL**

- Funds USDA at \$25.855 billion, which is an increase of \$2.5 billion over fiscal year 2021 enacted levels.
- \$918 million for Natural Resources Conservation Service for Conservation Operations. This includes:
  - provisions focused on the climate priorities including a \$12 million increase to support climate smart agricultural practices for a total of \$35 million
  - \$8 million to support NRCS Climate Hub projects across the country.
  - A new \$15 million Working Lands Resiliency Program is created in the bill to focus on voluntary and farmer friendly climate actions on farms and ranches across the country, in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
  -

### **ENERGY AND WATER BILL**

- The bill provides \$53.625 billion in discretionary budget authority, \$1.873 billion more than fiscal year 2021
- Provides \$8.7 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, an increase of \$906 million over fiscal year 2021
- Provides \$1.832 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$310 million over fiscal year 2021

### **INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL**

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