
Conservation Passport Holder Survey



In November 2020, the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) conducted a survey of conservation passport license holders. This license allows access to ODWC-owned Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) without the hunting and fishing privileges. It is typically purchased by those that want to use WMAs for other recreational activities such as wildlife watching, hiking, horseback riding, or attending events. The entire population of individuals who held a conservation passport license from January 2019-November 2020 was surveyed (i.e. a census). Annual and 3-day passports were included. Invitations to the online-only survey were sent to 1,678 passport holders. Of these, 246 responded giving a response rate of 15%. Respondents matched the census population demographics well, giving confidence that the results that we obtained are likely representative of the entire population of conservation passport license holders. This survey was conducted to gain baseline information on a license population (conservation passport holders) that is typically not surveyed.

Methods

The census population of conservation passport holders was pulled from the online Go Outdoors license database. Four invitations were sent to the online survey on November 13th, November 17th, November 20th and November 24th. A copy of the survey can be seen in Appendix C. We included an incentive to increase participation and encouraged individuals to check their

spam folders using ODWC social media channels. The survey was closed on December 4th with the last response received on December 1st.

Results

The respondent population matched the census population well in terms of license type, residency, and age. Forty-seven percent of respondents were Oklahoma residents, whereas thirty-five percent of the census population was residents. It makes sense that a greater number of Oklahoma residents would respond to a survey from their state fish and wildlife agency.

Demographic questions helped us to describe the population of conservation passport holders (Table 1). Thirty-five percent hold a graduate degree, followed by equivalent populations of college graduates and those that attended college but did not graduate (24%). Sixty eight percent were male- this is in contrast to our hunting populations which waver around 80% male (fishing populations are more equivalent in their gender breakdown). The average age of respondents was 48 years old, the average age of all passport holders (all those the survey was sent to) is 44 years old.

Education Level	
Less than high school	0.00%
High school degree	0.00%
Some college but no degree	41.30%
Associate degree	6.52%
Bachelor degree	17.39%
Graduate degree	34.78%
Household Income	
Under \$15,000	2.17%
\$15,000-\$29,999	6.52%
\$30,000-\$49,999	21.74%
\$50,000-\$74,999	21.74%
\$75,000-\$99,999	15.22%
\$100,000-\$150,000	19.57%
Over \$150,000	13.04%
Gender	
Male	65.22%
Female	32.61%

Table 2: Demographic characteristics of conservation passport holders

In comparison to other survey efforts where demographics have been asked (ODWC 2014 Angler Survey) conservation passport holders seem to obtain higher levels of education, with about a third having a graduate degree (only 8.3% of anglers obtained a graduate degree). Income levels followed a similar pattern to anglers.

The first survey question allowed us to screen for respondents that actually used a passport to access WMA areas. Eighty-two percent responded that they used their passport for land access. The responses indicated that a number of people did not remember that they had purchased a

passport. Many respondents also appeared to confuse wildlife management areas with public lands owned and managed by other entities, like state parks or Federal entities.

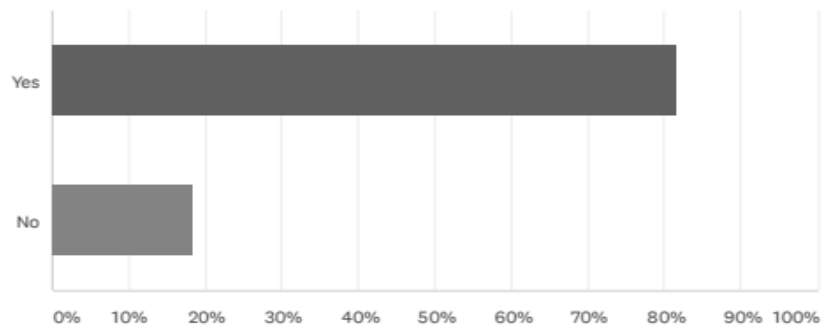


Figure 1: Did you visit a Wildlife Management Area? (n=244)

As shown below in Table 2, the most common activities that passport holders participate in are hiking (42%), bird watching (34%), photography (33%), and camping (25%). Sixteen percent also selected that they use their passport to accompany hunters, anglers or target shooters on their trips. Common “other” activities that respondents wrote in included entomology (butterflies, insects, etc.) and trail running.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Hiking	42.08% 77
Bird watching	33.88% 62
Photography	32.79% 60
Camping	25.14% 46
Other (please specify)	Responses 16.94% 31
Companion for hunting, fishing or target shooting	15.85% 29
Swimming	7.10% 13
Race	4.92% 9
Field day	3.83% 7
Horseback riding	3.28% 6
Herping	3.28% 6
Kayaking	3.28% 6
Bike riding	2.19% 4
Foraging	1.64% 3
Boating	1.64% 3
Total Respondents: 183	

Table 2: What activity do you use your conservation passport for? *Check all that apply.* (n=183)

Fifteen percent of respondents purchased a conservation passport as part of an organized group event sometime while using their conservation passport. The average number of days that people visited a WMA using their conservation passport was 7.58 days. There was consistent use throughout the year, but the most often used month by passport holders is September (Fig. 2).

This data allows us to look at what activities are most common during more popular hunting seasons. For example, during the spring turkey season – April and May – the majority (55%) of non-hunting and non-fishing users are bird watchers. Looking at the height of deer gun season –

November - photography becomes the most popular activity with 43% of respondents participating. Another 25% of respondents that recreate in November selected that they use their passport as a companion to a hunter.

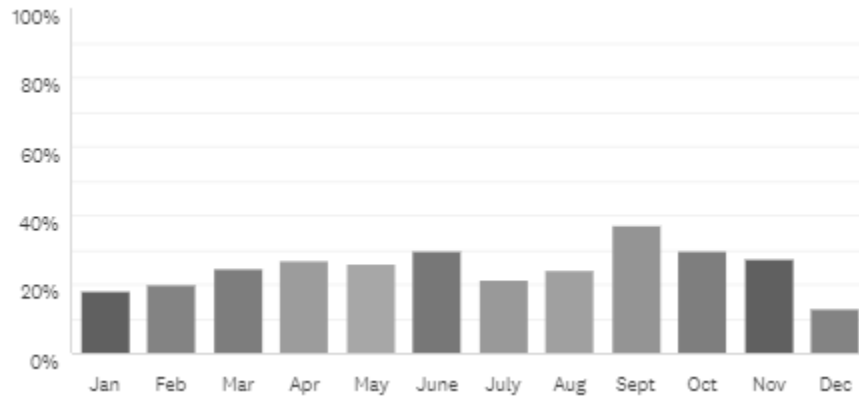


Figure 2: During what months did you visit a WMA? *Check all that apply.* (n=178)

A majority of those that used their passport to visit a were very satisfied or satisfied with their experience (Fig. 3)

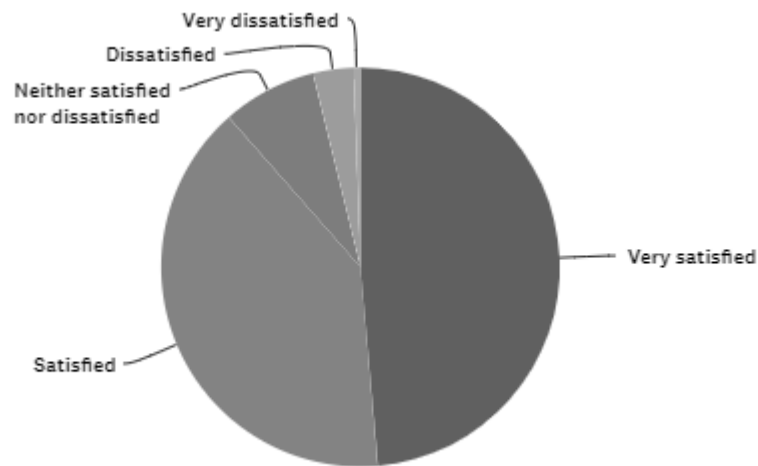


Figure 3: How satisfied are you with your experiences on WMAs? (n=183)

We asked respondents what WMAs they visited using their passport and the top four were Blue River, Hackberry, Sparrow Hawk and Sandy Sanders. Pine Creek and Thomas Bamberger are the only two that had no visitation denoted. We listed all WMAs in the state, as reflected on our website, but Pine Creek does not require a conservation passport and Thomas Bamberger is relatively new to the WMA system. Appendix A displays a table of the visitation to each WMA in order of popularity. In open-ended comments, there were several areas mentioned that are not WMAs- this highlights the confusion around ODWC owned land and other public land in Oklahoma.

On the 2019 Game Harvest Survey we asked hunters in Oklahoma what infrastructure improvements are important to them? We also asked this question of passport holders so that we could see if there were similarities between the two groups. Roads and restrooms were most popular with conservation passport holders (Fig. 4). The two most common “other” responses were trails (creation of and maintenance) and trash pick-up. Hunters, meanwhile, most preferred improvements to camping areas and signage. Camping areas and signage were also relatively important to passport holders. Shooting ranges were understandably more popular with hunters and parking lots were more often selected by hunters as well. This type of question may help managers better understand if and how the needs and interests of different groups might vary, as well as areas that overlap among groups.

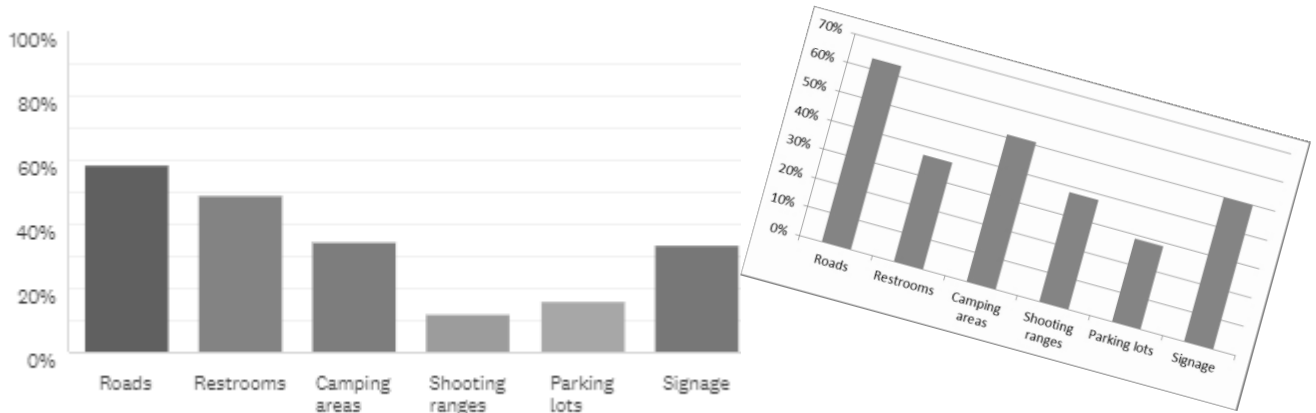


Figure 4: What infrastructure improvements are important to you? (n=173). Inset graph asking what infrastructure improvements are important from the 2019 Game Harvest Survey.

We also asked passport holders who should pay for conservation in Oklahoma, a question we have posed to hunters in the past, as well. The majority of passport holders selected “All Oklahomans” (53%, Fig. 5). The most common “other” response was anyone that *uses* the areas. This could have been due to the fact that we had non-residents responding to the survey so they would also want to pay for conservation in the areas that they recreate in. In 2000, a similar question was asked on the Game Harvest Survey about who should pay for conservation and the majority of hunters also selected “All Oklahomans”.

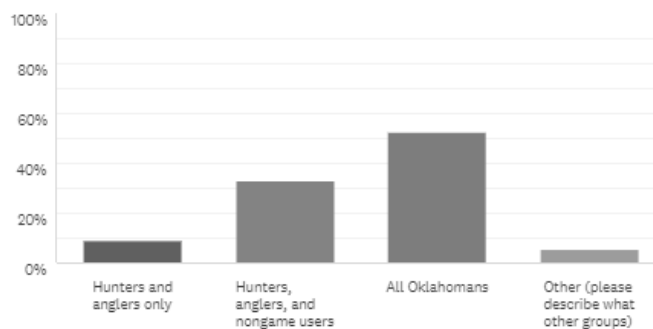


Figure 5: In your opinion, who should pay for fish and wildlife conservation in the state of Oklahoma? (n=219).

When asked about how they believed the Wildlife Department is funded, 29% of passport holders believed that it was by general tax dollars and 52% selected state park fees funded ODWC. This could be higher due to non-residents responding to this survey and not understanding Oklahoma’s funding model. However, even hunters and anglers lack full knowledge of ODWC’s funding sources. In 2008, 26% of hunters on the Game Harvest Survey believed we are funded by general tax dollars. In 2014 we asked anglers how they believe we are funded- 32% believed we receive state tax dollars and 36% believed we receive state park fees. This shows that consistently, about a quarter of our license holders believe we receive tax money from the state.

Related to hunting and fishing participation passport holders were first asked if they had ever held any other kind of ODWC license. Forty percent had held a fishing license, and 34% had held a hunting license at some point. Forty percent had never held any kind of hunting or fishing license. When asked if they had ever actually participated in hunting or fishing in Oklahoma, 43% had fished, 30% had hunted, and 43% had never hunted or fished in Oklahoma. It is also possible that respondents had participated in these activities in other states, but this information was not specifically captured. Of those that hunted or fished, 44% used public land to fish and 28% had used public land to hunt. This is similar to the results of our Game Harvest Survey where typically between 30%-35% of active hunters use public land to hunt.

Eighty-one percent believed that the price of the conservation passport is just right and the most common way that people had heard about the passport was via the Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing regulations. Signage at a WMA and hearing about it from friends and family were also popular answers. People most commonly wrote in that they heard about the need for a passport via an event that they had signed up for that was hosted on a WMA. When asked what they would do if the conservation passport were no longer available, the answers were interestingly mixed. Respondents could check all that apply and 40% selected they would purchase a fishing license (Fig. 6), almost 30% selected they would buy a hunting license, and another 30% would choose other places to recreate if the passport were no longer available. There was also a significant number of respondents (23%) who were unsure what they would do. This may be telling of the internal dilemma some may have of purchasing a license related to consumptive activities (see open-ended comments in Appendix B and C).

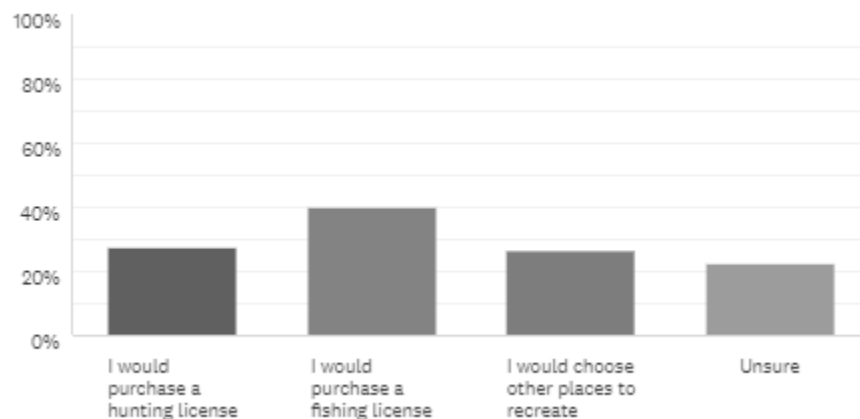


Figure 6: If the Conservation Passport were no longer available, would you purchase hunting or fishing license to recreate on Wildlife Management Areas, or go elsewhere to recreate? *Check all that apply* (n=217)

We asked respondents in an open-ended format where they like to recreate most in Oklahoma and why. All responses can be seen in appendix A. In summary, the locations were diverse, but common responses for why they prefer those locations over others included: proximity to home/ease of access, photography opportunities, and unique landscapes, isolation/quietness of the area, diverse species, and good infrastructure (Fig. 7).

Q20 Where is your favorite place to recreate in Oklahoma and why?



We also left an open ended comment box asking the respondents if they have suggestions for how we can better manage for non-hunting and non-fishing activities. All responses are available in appendix B. Common responses included: do not restrict non-hunting/fishing activities and allow them to happen at the same time, price too high (should be a family day option so that they don't have to pay \$150 for a family), more non-hunting/fishing related educational programs, more hiking and biking trails, better road management, and better communication about what activities are allowed and when.

Discussion

This survey should be conducted again in the future so that we have comparison data. To our knowledge, this was the first time this group of license holders had been targeted for research. In the future, we may consider conducting a larger effort, with multiple modes of response (e.g. mail, telephone) in order to get a larger group of respondents. With a smaller total number of license holders the internet approach is often more appealing. We would recommend that future surveys of this population limit the sample to the prior year, or maybe two years of sales. Purchasers in this license category may not remember their activities if we expand the population to include those that purchase sometime in the last 3-5 years. Two years seemed to trip some people up who had purchased a 3-day access passport.

Appendix A: Chart of Wildlife Management Area Visitation

WMA	% Visiting	WMA	% Visiting	WMA	% Visiting
Blue River	21%	Robbers Cave	3%	Oologah	2%
Hackberry Flat	16%	Tenkiller	3%	Ouachita Leflore Unit	2%
Wichita Mountains NWR	16%	Arbuckle Springs	3%	Ouachita McCurtain Unit	2%
Sparrow Hawk	10%	Canton	3%	Rita Blanca	2%
Sandy Sanders	9%	Cimarron Bluff	3%	Spavinaw	2%
Broken Bow	8%	Cimarron Hills	3%	Waurika County	2%
Salt Plains NWR	8%	Deep Fork	3%	Waurika	2%
Red Slough	7%	Hulah	3%	Cooper	1%
Cherokee	6%	McCurtain County Wilderness Area	3%	Dewey County	1%
Lexington	6%	Osage	3%	Fort Gibson	1%
Black Kettle	5%	Unsure	3%	Heyburn	1%
Optima	5%	Arcadia CEA	2%	Love Valley	1%
Sequoyah	5%	Camp Gruber	2%	Neosho	1%
Chickasaw NRA	4%	Hugo	2%	San Bois	1%
Cookson	4%	Keystone	2%	Sandhills	1%
Cross Timbers	4%	McClellan-Kerr	2%	Altus-Lugert	1%
McGee Creek	4%	Packsaddle	2%	Candy Creek	1%
Atoka	4%	Pushmataha	2%	Fobb Bottom	1%
Eufaula	4%	Skitaook	2%	Gary Sherrer	1%
Hickory Creek	4%	Wister	2%	Gist	1%
Texoma Washita Arm	4%	Other (please specify)	2%	Grady County	1%
Three Rivers	4%	Atoka Public Hunting Area	2%	John Dahl	1%
Washita NWR	4%	Beaver River	2%	Ozark Plateau	1%
Fort Cobb	3%	Copan	2%	Schultz	1%
Fort Supply	3%	Drummond Flats	2%	Stringtown	1%
Honobia Creek	3%	Ellis County	2%	Washita County	1%
Kaw	3%	Grassy Slough	2%	Whitegrass Flats	1%
Lower Illinois River	3%	James Collins	2%	Yourman	1%
Optima NWR	3%	Major County	2%	Pine Creek	0%
		Mountain Park	2%	Thomas Bamberger	0%
		Okmulgee	2%		

Appendix B: Where is your favorite place to recreate in Oklahoma and why?

- Wichita Mts, SW Oklahoma, due to infrastructure, relatively easy access from home, wildlife viewing options.
- Kaw. Closest to home.
- I have enjoyed every place I've recreated in Oklahoma, but Blue River was especially beautiful.
- State Parks. I love bringing my family to Roman Nose, Gloss Mountains, Salt Plains, Turner Falls, Mt. Scott area and others.
- Grand Lake
- Blue River because it's where I grew up.
- hobina creek
- Hackberry Flats--only one I've been to.
- Not sure yet
- Blue River for the peace and relaxation
- Lake Murray
- Da forest
- Blue River, because it is a beautiful place with clean water to fish for trout.
- Blue River
- Gruber & Cookson
- Wichita Mountains
- Turkey Mountain for the convenient locale and various trail races throughout the year
- Black Mesa State Park and surrounding area. Great birding
- I have only been to Sandy Sanders. The annual event I normally attend at Sandy Sanders is the Do Wacka Do Trail Run. It was canceled this year because of Covid.
- Grand Lake - we have a house there
- Red Slough - great wildlife for photography; species different from rest of state available to see (i.e., alligators, wood storks, roseate spoonbills, etc.)
- Lake Optima. I enjoy the hunting and remoteness.
- Hackberry Flat. It's on my way from Texas to Wyoming.
- Medicine park
- Private land and ponds.
- The Nickel Preserve owned by the Nature Conservancy, it's restricted private land, with great trails and minimal traffic.
- Blue river. Serene and peaceful
- Cloudy, OK. Our property is located there and it is a beautiful place.
- Sparrow hawk
- Kaw
- Turner falls and this place where we went for camping that required to purchase passport membership
- Sandy Sanders...God's country
- Hickory Creek
- Love Valley
- hog hunting
- Anywhere! I just live Oklahoma's diversity.
- Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge
- LAKE TEXOMA
- Lakes and flatland
- WMAs and State Parks. Its is reasonable priced.

- I am a New Mexican and have only been to OK this one time. I would return if there were better information available about the wildlife viewing and photography options in your state. You have some great opportunities, but no one knows about them.
- So far Candy Creek, as that's the only WMA I've visited. We love the thrill of wading across the creek. Open fields, woods, looking down into the wooded creek valley area... it's quiet and beautiful. I can imagine I'm just walking on my own property. Feel so lucky to be able to access a place like that and get away from town. Way better than turkey mountain and other such heavily trafficked areas.
- Lake hulah
- Lake Tenkiller and Zeb, I love to kayak and to shoot
- Really love Cooper Lake park, just a beautiful area.
- My favorite is probably the Wichinta Mountains area, but I also really like the Ouachitas, the Arbuckles and what my friends and I call the "Otoe Prairie", north of Stillwater.
- Near the Wichita Mountains. The scenery.
- The Panhandle, love the isolation and the atmosphere
- Wichita Mountains because there is not a lot of development in the refuge and a lot of native plants there still. I like the Tallgrass Prairie Reserve for this reason and fewer artificial lights at night. It is getting harder to find quality fishing lakes that are public, though. Seems like even sunfish aren't plentiful anymore, there's pollution, and invasive species overtake the various lakes. Maybe too many carp, even?
- NA
- Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge because I live in Lawton.
- Southwest
- Lake Tenkiller scuba diving area
- Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge... Good Roads Neatly kept lost to see.
- Around Wilburton ok. It's close to home.
- No real favorite yet
- I don't have time to recreate
- I enjoyed hiking at Broken Bow and Sparrow Hawk, both were great outdoor experiences.
- Hackberry Flats - i love the atmosphere and the quietness
- Woodard area Where I birded.
- I really enjoyed birding in the Panhandle. Tallgrass Prairie is important to me as well.
- Arbuckle mountains
- Blue River, enjoy the river and camping areas
- Beavers Bend & Blue River - beautiful places for my family to hang out and experience nature
- Blue River, close to my house and quiet during the week
- Sulphur, beautiful area. Lexington, very well maintained and nice facilities
- Equestrian trail areas that OETRA helps to maintain around Oklahoma lakes.
- Blue River. Great spot, and a great annual camping destination for me and my friends
- Nature conservancy tall grass prairie - great photo opportunities close to home
- Broken bow or Lugert area
- Red Slough, because it is the closest WMA to my residence in north Louisiana.
- Sparrow Hawk for the trails and views, the Illinois for fishing and kayaking
- Winding Stair- the amount of trails available to choose from.
- My backyard, its park like
- Blue
- Lake Thunderbird, because I live on Alameda between the twin bridges and the marina.
- N/a
- Lake Tenkiller area. Beautiful country.

- Arcadia Conservation Education Area. It's close to home and still has wild places
- I am a very keen fly fisher..
- Blue River due to proximity and quality of area.
- Lake Waurika, close to home, good fishing, camping, and swimming available.
- Osage Hills State Park; varied topography and close to home.
- San bois. It's home. I grew up in the hills when I was a kid before it was bought and sold to WMA
- Cherokee Wildlife Management Area or other private shooting range.
- Hickory Creek because it is not highly used.
- Blue River. Trout Fishing
- Nickel Preserve (a nature Conservancy property)
- Great salt planes
- Little River NWR - Very natural, not a lot of "management". Hard to find natural habitat. Wister WMA is also very nice.
- BEAVER'S BEND STATE PARK. IT A BEATIFUL PLACE, AND LOTS OF PLACES AND THINGS TO DO.
- Osage Hills State Park. Familiarity.
- Arbuckle springs and McGee Creek... limited gun hunting leads to significantly netter deer herd age structure. i.e. more mature bucks.
- Witchitas Wildlife Refuge, it has the most diverse landscape in Oklahoma and the most diverse wildlife.
- I've enjoyed many places and do not have a favorite. I tend to change depending on the season
- Eastern Oklahoma for the trees Western Oklahoma for the desert like appearance (like Black Mesa)
- Blue River Camping Area. Proximity and Natural Beauty.
- South east
- Blue River is one of my favorite childhood memories that I still visit from time to time with my family and Girl Scout troop. Broken Bow is another one of my most favorite it needs a little tlc but not as bad as blue river.
- Wichita Mountains NWR, Black Mesa, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve
- Lake Murray.
- Beaver
- Tough question. Either Sandy Sanders WMA or Wichita NWR for the scenery and good birds.
- Any place I can get off road and find solitude to spend the day/weekend
- Wichita Mountains--beautiful hiking, most visually impressive Chickasaw Natl recreation area--hiking, swimming, camping. Not too far from where I live. best facilities
- We enjoy floating the Blue and motorcycle rides down Talimena drive
- Oklahoma contains diverse landscapes, and I enjoy recreating at numerous locations across the state. I do have a particular fondness for the drier, western half, particularly the Glass Mountains and Black Mountain regions.
- Wichita Mountains
- grand Lake
- Shooting ranges
- Wichita mountains. Elk and buffalo
- Wichita Mountains because it has a variety of hiking traiks
- Quartz Mountain
- Wichita Mtns NWR. Unique landscape and wildlife watching opportunities.
- Canton. Hardly anyone there and its easily accessible

- My favorite ODWC properties are Red Slough, Hackberry Flat and Drummond Flats, Pushmataha, and McCurtain County Wilderness Area because of the great birding. But I've had a great time at every ODWC property I've been to. My favorite place to recreate in OK is probably the Black Mesa area.
- Black Mesa and the surrounding area: cool landscapes, great wildlife (especially birds), cool insects.
- Sandy Sanders - It is close and has easy trails to run.
- Blue river
- American Horselake. Undeveloped, and remote. I do wish it had one electrical outlet somewhere to charge my car, but I don't want developer camping sites
- Tishomingo
- Vian Mountainbike trails
- Hickory Creek. Love the variety of terrain
- Broken Bow, Three Rivers, Eufaula. Hunting and fishing is great! The Birds are colorful and there are many species of different types of trees and wild flowers.
- Wichita Mountain National Wildlife Refuge. Good infrastructure, good trails, good nature center, lots of wildlife, no hunting.
- No favorite, I like them all.
- Wilderness areas, away from crowds. But I don't like to be around hunters because I think it can be unsafe and it makes the ambience less enjoyable. Sparrowhawk holds a special place in my heart since I grew up near there.
- Not sure, I spend little time in OK. My favorite outdoors time in OK was working on an environmental survey near Talihina.
- I enjoy Cooking WMA and Sparrow Hawk. They are near my home town. My Dad grew up on Cookson WMA. My grandpa worked for ODWC.
- Cross Timbers, location and access points
- Blue river
- Turner Falls is nice
- Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge; convenience, beauty and hiking
- Northeastern Oklahoma. I prefer the hardwoods for hunting deer.
- Sequoyah
- So far Kaw WMA is the only place I have gone for recreation in the state of OK. I am a non-resident.
- National wildlife refuges..WMA areas..
- I live in Norman OK and I like to have places nearby like Lexington WMA and Lake Thunderbird SP and Lake Stanley Draper (closest and easiest to get to)
- Okmulgee is beautiful and peaceful.
- Wichita Mountains so far, but I still have exploring of Oklahoma to do.
- Usually on grandpa's land because there's a large amount of wildlife there
- WMA ~ There's plenty of it and is available to the public.
- Black Mesa and Cimarron County. Terrain and scenery different than anywhere else in OK.
- Blue river. Only place I've been
- Hackberry Flat - it often has interesting shorebirds and other wildlife
- No favorite
- Not really a favorite spot we love them all
- I've enjoyed several of the state parks, but Chickasaw NRA and Wichita Mts are probably my favorites as they are most accessible to me from OKC, and have some hiking opportunities. Many of the state parks don't seem to have great hiking available.

- My favorite places close to home are Thunderbird SP and Lexington WMA. For farther distances, Salt Plains NWR, Wichita Mtns NWR, Hackberry Flatts WMA are also places I enjoy.
- South Oklahoma because it's closer
- Ouachita Mountains and the arid Southwest
- Blue river, and because it is very beautiful
- Black Kettle
- southeast. Primitive
- Eufala, ducks
- Hackberry Flats for bird watching
- Southern Oklahoma
- Three Rivers. Huge, isolated, diverse wildlife.
- Cooper Wildlife Management Area
- Sparrow Hawk, because those are the legal, local mountain bike trails.

Appendix C: Do you have any suggestions for the Wildlife Department to better manage for the activities you enjoy other than hunting and fishing?

- I'm a Texas resident and travel to Oklahoma to use the WMAs because of the open access and user-friendliness. OK does a far better job than TX.
- On the other hand, it might be a good idea to keep hunters and hikers together. It could prevent overcrowding, which has become a huge problem in states like Colorado and Washington. Long trails, difficult trails, and danger scare away most tourism. So if you want to protect the environment, perhaps it's best to steer the course. I just wish my family weren't so afraid to go up on Sparrowhawk when it was its prettiest.
- They need better waste management for not just the people but also the animals! Also, stick with the rules that are placed for a reason. Also making sure that they have programs available and hiking trail maps to either be downloaded beforehand or picked up! Also learning experiences would be great and would bring in some revenue.
- I don't think I knew that the management areas were open to campers/hikers, they seemed pretty reserved for hunting for me and do not seem to have the facilities; when you look for places to recreate online in OK, the state parks mostly come up. I think better advertisement of their availability for recreation would be helpful.
- I would love to see more mountain bike trails around Tahlequah. I would suggest bike-specific trails, but more multi-use trails would be incredible for the area. As more people are recreating, building sustainable trail options is of the utmost importance.
- Increase funding for: 1. access to the remote or less used locations. 2. hiring of personnel to manage these areas locally.
- I would like to see improvement at the camping areas and to add animal interactions.
- Yeah. Get your Legislature to directly fund your Habitat Conservation programs for the benefit of ALL Okies! The State lands belong to every citizen of the State, not just the hunters and fishers. Take some pride in that ownership and take better care of your lands.
- I would like more advertisement or visibility for available dates/periods when you can access the WMA without fear of hunters etc. I think it would be more encouraging for many people unfamiliar with WMAs. More publicized information saying people who do not hunt or fish are welcome.
- Better signs. More info about the area. More camping locations. More pit toilets.
- To the extent possible, extend the OLAP program. Have the public school lands presently under individual lease agreements converted to a public hunting (paid by hunters) access program.
- More frequent maintenance of the shooting range, since, unfortunately, some users are trashing it and damaging target holders.
- The areas, where there is an option for non-hunting and non-fishing activities such as camping, need better management in investment into the campsites. Campsite registration and payment that doesn't require a passport but all those campsite funds are sent directly back into the maintenance of the campground.
- Make the non-resident hunting license cheaper for military and first responders.
- I know that the way funding is set up at the federal and even state level makes hunting and fishing the main source of funding. Because of this, ODWC obviously focuses on these types of activities. It's frustrating to me that there is almost no mention of on-consumptive recreation (e.g. bird watching, herping, etc) on the ODWC website and in other materials. I think this is short-sighted on ODWC's part but they are forced to do it based on funding mechanisms. I personally would be willing to pay taxes on equipment like binoculars and other things to help fund conservation. I choose to buy the conservation passport in order

to be counted as a non-consumptive user not be lumped with fishing and hunting to artificially boost those numbers. I also buy federal duck stamps every year for myself and my kids through the American Birding Association (ABA) because I believe in the cause and like to support conservation financially, but want non-consumptive users to be recognized for their contributions. The fact that question 16 exists on this survey confuses me as to why ODWC would want to classify non-consumptive users as something else. This type of granularity is what is needed for ODWC to monitor trends of its users.

- Establish more hiking trails.
- Yes, as state above, I would buy a noncommercial foraging license. I am also particularly interested in primitive camping (I mean camping away from generators and other humans, not necessarily backpacking), and I'm thankful that WMAs offer that possibility. But it's been quite difficult to figure out which WMAs offer camping (to nonhunters) and what time of year is safe to visit. While I'm happy to support wildlife conservation, I do think \$26/person/year can be a deterrent since it's not clear that nonhunting/fishing activities are completely welcome/encouraged.
- One of the other reasons for not visiting the place that I signed up on line for the permit is the start of "Hunting Season" where non hunters were prohibited for a portion of the year. While I understand the safety issues, if both parties are informed of the risks and wish to accept by using the area you as the managing entity have done your due diligence. It's up to the affected parties (if an issue occurs) to determine how an issue could be resolved. Cooperation between all is paramount. No one should be given more or less access no matter what their circumstances. If I want to photograph while someone is hunting I should be able to. If someone wants to hunt while I photograph they need to make sure their target is what they are hunting before making the shot. Accidental things happen daily everywhere and are not preventable. Learning to utilize care while performing all tasks will lead to more safety, not preventing people from working, recreating and enjoying life together.
- Need backcountry camping availability. Volunteer management...maybe there is
- It would be nice if the roads were a little bit better managed. Some of the places are dirt roads and I love going in all seasons rain or shine.
- Why can there not be daily fee conservation passport? Why do you need a passport for each person? I do not get out often enough to make the yearly price worth while for each person in a vehicle. Why can there not be a daily/weekend passport for a family? I like to take my wife and kids out for the day once or twice a year and so for a family of 6 that over \$150.
- Good job, keep up the good work. I'm glad you offer a day pass for out of state visitors.
- Offer painting classes/workshops...
- I am originally from Oklahoma born and raised I still love to go back time to time and hunt and fish always nice parks and rec areas no complaints
- Camping is a huge deal for us followed by kayaking. It's difficult to figure out if there is a campsite or not without a LOT of digging
- Improve the roads so people who do not drive trucks can come and enjoy the WMAs.
- I just wish the app was more user friendly in finding bag limits and seasons other than flipping threw the catalog cause it won't hardly download on a iPhone
- better infrastructure such as bathrooms, trash cans, trail maintenance, etc.
- Online opportunities during the pandemic
- In some cases limiting access numbers could prove beneficial
- I wish there were more trails for 4x4 over landing going through the WMA's. So many trails are gated and/or blocked in some of the area's. Oklahoma has so many beautiful places and those blocked or gated trails are the only way to get to them. I would like to see trails open up for the overlanding community.

- Keep the cows off WMAs. They destroy the understory and are definitely not WILDLIFE. Stop mowing. Stop planting agricultural crops. WMAs are not farms. Wildlife evolved to eat wild foods. Let them.
- Publish birding/butterflying lists for WMAs.
- More education programs would be nice that are NOT focused on hunting and fishing. Like how the Selman Bat Caves has education opportunities in the summer to see bats and learn about them. A lot of people who are NOT birders don't know even much about local birds.
- Better documentations of available trails
- more hiking opportunities!
- Allow other activities on Sundays all year
- Take better care of litter. Turner Falls was horrible the last time we visited. We brought a family from France, and it was embarrassing how much trash we saw.
- For my purposes, the Department is very well run.
- Better bathrooms
- Allowed Use of ATV's and utvs on maintained and old roads
- Keep it Up!
- Please provide more wildlife and nature viewing places. Birders will support ODWC and WMA's thru taxes, fees, etc., on items used to bird and thru entry fees if necessary.
- Thank you for everything you do!
- Better communication about all of the different uses of WMAs. I always thought they were off limits to non hunters.
- Should install Port-a-cans at all WMAs in Parking Lot areas.
- More hiking trails, please!
- Continue the consistent improvements to public sporting access. I drive from Dallas to recreate in Oklahoma because of the improvements and property quality.
- I would like to have areas to hike and bird that are not impacted by hunting closures.
- Blue River bathrooms are disgusting, but McGee Creek was nice.
- Times are changing. My wife and I left Oklahoma and moved to Arizona exclusively for increased recreational opportunities. I grew up hunting and fishing in Oklahoma and I still enjoy doing both. I also believe in staying fit and having good trails close to home for hiking, mountain biking, and trail running is an expectation. The WMAs should invest in infrastructure such as trails and trailhead signs, restrooms, etc in order to better accommodate non-hunting and non-fishing activities. Also, please keep the units open during hunting season. Sparrow Hawn should be archery only due to the close proximity to homes and heavy use by hikers. Cookson should probably do the same in time. Cookson has so much potential for great trail. It's sad, but Arkansas is doing so much more. Please look to them as an example. Hunters, hikers, cyclists can coexist on our public lands. Please work to make this happen. Who knows, we might move back. Unfortunately, the lack of outdoor activities sealed it for us.
- It would be nice to see more information given by Wildlife Biologist and staff on the various areas through tours signage web tours etc.
- As a weekend visitor and out of state resident, I think the 3 day conservation passport is too expensive at \$15 + \$3 fee when I needed it only to hike for a weekend. \$26 for a year seems reasonable, but \$15 for 3 days is unproportionally high.
- manage invasive species and conduct prescribed fire - conserve native habitat.
- Create a calendar in Excel format with color codings that clarify when non-hunters can camp at each WMA. Right now the website listing is confusing. We may be there when we shouldn't be.
- To have a greater presence of Fish and Game agents in the area which would greatly help with discouraging poachers and people who run dogs during deer season.

- Price should be \$25 and yearly license should begin at the date of purchase NOT Jan. 1- Dec. 31.
- More land access through OLAP in central Oklahoma, specifically for hiking/wildlife watching as opposed exclusively for hunting and fishing. Expand WMA access for hiking/wildlife watching during hunting season.
- All is good
- Please reduce and limit rifle hunting opportunities and activities on WMA's.
- Keep funding research so we can value the Oklahoma natural resources respectfully :)
- It would be nice to have a day fee option - I would be willing to pay \$10 for a single day use fee.
- Hiking and mountainbiking
- Passports should be pro rated. I was charged the full fee even though I purchase my passport in mid October. It would be nice not to have to worry about hunters while birding or walking in the Management areas. More environmental, birding/ other education/activities should be provided to Oklahomans so more people can visit the management areas. Perhaps a fee can be charged just like state parks are doing.
- More trail races in rugged challenging areas!
- I love to run and walk enjoying nature.
- Making lakes accessible to birders. As a birder I would like to get closer to the water but but very few lakes allow that. You have to be in a boat. I am talking about trails around the lakes.
- Though outside of the purview of the Conservation Passport, I would like to see greater incentivization for restoration/conservation enacted by State land lease holders. This could include working a leasee to develop a management plan and providing cost sharing and technical assistance for desired improvement projects.
- Like I said, information is key. Also access to and management of places where migratory shorebirds birds hang out, such as mudflats and flooded fields and hedgerows for songbirds. Unfortunately for people like me, birding is better in Eastern Oklahoma than in the west. But that could change with proper management.
- As far as Drummond Flats is concerned, I appreciate very much the opportunity to watch shorebirds there. I know it will be a long-range goal for that area to restore the prairie grasses that used to be there. It is already such a great place, though
- Better maintenance of trails and campgrounds.
- Keep up the improvements

Appendix D: Conservation Passport Holder Survey

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) would like to learn more about Conservation Passport holders. We hope to use your feedback to improve experiences and better showcase ODWC areas to our non-hunting and non-fishing public.

For the purpose of this survey, Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) refers to any land owned or managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. This does NOT include National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, State Parks, etc. For reference, you can find a full listing of ODWC WMAs here: <https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/hunting/wma/all>

1. Did you visit a Wildlife Management Area using your Conservation Passport?

Yes

No

2. What activity(ies) do you use your Conservation Passport for?

Horseback riding

Herping

Hiking

Race

Bird watching

Companion for hunting, fishing or target shooting

Photography

Foraging

Bike riding

Boating

Camping

Kayaking

Swimming

Field day

Other (please specify)

3. Were any of the activities on WMAs part of an organized group event?

Yes

No

Unsure

4. Approximately how many separate days did you visit a WMA in the past year?

5. During what month(s) did you visit a WMA for these activities? *Check all that apply.*

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January | <input type="checkbox"/> July |
| <input type="checkbox"/> February | <input type="checkbox"/> August |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March | <input type="checkbox"/> September |
| <input type="checkbox"/> April | <input type="checkbox"/> October |
| <input type="checkbox"/> May | <input type="checkbox"/> November |
| <input type="checkbox"/> June | <input type="checkbox"/> December |

6. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your experiences on WMAs?

- Very satisfied Satisfied Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied Dissatisfied Very dissatisfied

7. Which WMAs did you visit with your Conservation Passport?

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arbuckle Springs | <input type="checkbox"/> Lower Illinois River |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arcadia CEA | <input type="checkbox"/> Major County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Altus-Lugert | <input type="checkbox"/> McClellan-Kerr |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atoka | <input type="checkbox"/> McCurtain County Wilderness Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atoka Public Hunting Area | <input type="checkbox"/> McGee Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beaver River | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black Kettle | <input type="checkbox"/> Neosho |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue River | <input type="checkbox"/> Okmulgee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broken Bow | <input type="checkbox"/> Oologah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Gruber | <input type="checkbox"/> Optima |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Candy Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Optima NWR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canton | <input type="checkbox"/> Osage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherokee | <input type="checkbox"/> Ouachita Leflore Unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chickasaw NRA | <input type="checkbox"/> Ouachita McCurtain Unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cimarron Bluff | <input type="checkbox"/> Ozark Plateau |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cimarron Hills | <input type="checkbox"/> Packsaddle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cookson | <input type="checkbox"/> Pine Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooper | <input type="checkbox"/> Pushmataha |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Copan | <input type="checkbox"/> Red Slough |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross Timbers | <input type="checkbox"/> Rita Blanca |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deep Fork | <input type="checkbox"/> Robbers Cave |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dewey County | <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Plains NWR |

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drummond Flats | <input type="checkbox"/> San Bois |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellis County | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandhills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eufaula | <input type="checkbox"/> Sandy Sanders |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fobb Bottom | <input type="checkbox"/> Schultz |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Cobb | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoyah |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Gibson | <input type="checkbox"/> Skitaook |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fort Supply | <input type="checkbox"/> Sparrow Hawk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary Sherrer | <input type="checkbox"/> Spavinaw |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gist | <input type="checkbox"/> Stringtown |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grady County | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenkiller |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grassy Slough | <input type="checkbox"/> Texoma Washita Arm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hackberry Flat | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas Bamberger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heyburn | <input type="checkbox"/> Three Rivers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hickory Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Washita County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Honobia Creek | <input type="checkbox"/> Washita NWR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hugo | <input type="checkbox"/> Waurika County |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hulah | <input type="checkbox"/> Waurika |
| <input type="checkbox"/> James Collins | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitegrass Flats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Dahl | <input type="checkbox"/> Wichita Mountains NWR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Wister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keystone | <input type="checkbox"/> Yourman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lexington | <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Love Valley | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) | |

8. Which of the following WMA infrastructure improvements are important to you? *Check all that apply.*

- Roads
- Restrooms
- Camping areas
- Shooting ranges
- Parking lots
- Signage
- Other (please specify)

9. In your opinion, who should pay for fish and wildlife conservation in the state of Oklahoma?

- Hunters and anglers only
- Hunters, anglers, and nongame users (birders, hikers, etc.)
- All Oklahomans
- Other (please describe what other groups)

10. How do you think the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is funded? *Check all that apply.*

- Federal tax on hunting and fishing equipment
- General tax dollars
- State park fees
- Hunting and fishing license sales
- Conservation passport sales
- Other

11. Have you ever held an Oklahoma....

- Hunting License
- Fishing License
- I have never held an Oklahoma hunting or fishing license
- Not sure/can't remember

12. Have you ever... ?

- Hunted in Oklahoma
- Fished in Oklahoma
- I have never hunted or fished in Oklahoma
- Not sure/Can't remember

13. Have you ever used public land to hunt or fish?

- Yes to hunt
- Yes to fish
- I do not hunt or fish
- I hunt and fish on private land only

14. The price of the Conservation Passport is currently \$26 for a year. Do you feel this price is...

- Too expensive
- Just right
- Too cheap

15. How did you hear about a Wildlife Conservation Passport?

- Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing regulations
- ODWC employee
- Signage at a WMA
- Family/friend told me about it
- Other (please specify)

16. If the Conservation Passport were no longer available, would you purchase a hunting or fishing license to recreate on Wildlife Management Areas, or go elsewhere to recreate? *Check all that apply.*

- I would purchase a **hunting** license and continue to recreate on WMAs
- I would purchase a **fishing** license and continue to recreate on WMAs
- I would not purchase a hunting or fishing licenses, and choose other places to recreate
- Unsure

17. What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- Less than high school degree
- High school degree or equivalent (e.g., GED)
- Some college but no degree
- Associate degree
- Bachelor degree
- Graduate degree

18. What is your gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

19. What is your household income?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Under \$15,000 | <input type="radio"/> Between \$75,000 and \$99,999 |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$15,000 and \$29,999 | <input type="radio"/> Between \$100,000 and \$150,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$30,000 and \$49,999 | <input type="radio"/> Over \$150,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> Between \$50,000 and \$74,999 | |

20. Where is your favorite place to recreate in Oklahoma and why?

21. Do you have any suggestions for the Wildlife Department to better manage for the activities you enjoy other than hunting and fishing?