

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

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, January 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.**  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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

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

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

Charles Cowell, Data Analyst/Programmer – 35 years of service.

7. Presentation from the Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in appreciation for the outstanding collaboration on the 2023 Oklahoma Deer Conference – Nels Rodefild, Chief of the Communication and Education Division and Rick Nolan, President of the Oklahoma Hunters and Angler.
8. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the December 4, 2023 regular Commissioner meeting.
9. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the December 6, 2023 special Commission meeting.
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the December 11, 2023 special Commission meeting.
11. Director's Report
  - a. Federal and Congressional Update
    - Oklahoma Legislative Update
  - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
  - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
12. Presentation of the November 30, 2023, Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.

13. Presentation on the Legislative process – Amanda Storck.
14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the Department's Vehicle Policy – Amanda Storck.
15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Amanda Storck.

**Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 1. Operations and Procedures**

**Subchapter 3. Functions, Organization, Powers and Duties**

800:1-3-3. Function, organization, powers and duties [AMENDED]

Add language regarding the Department Vehicle Policy.

16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division.

**Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 10. Sport Fishing Rules**

**Subchapter 1. Harvest and Possession Limits**

800:10-1-4. Size and bag limits on fish [AMENDED]

800:10-1-7. Possession limit [AMENDED]

**Subchapter 3. Methods of Taking**

800:10-3-3. Additional definitions [AMENDED]

800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grabhooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling and netting [AMENDED]

**Subchapter 5. Area Restrictions and Special Fees**

800:10-5-6. Lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams [AMENDED]

These rule changes set an aggregate daily bag limit and modified possession limit to protect and better manage long-lived native, nongame fish species such as the gars and buffalo fishes. Additional changes prohibit the practice of shoot and immediate release in bowfishing, clarify the definition of equipment used for bowfishing, and correct an error in the name of Pensacola Dam among regulations where bowfishing is legal. To avoid a conflict between the new aggregate limit and an existing daily limit for nongame bait fishes, a size qualification for bait fishes was developed. Lastly, new guidance is proposed for the legal and proper disposal of dead fish, fish remains, and fish carcasses.

17. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.

**Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 25. Wildlife Rules**

**Subchapter 1. Hunting/Trapping on Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Lands**

800:25-1-7. Deer, Dove, Turkey, and Rabbit Hunting on Foss State Park [AMENDED]

800:25-1-9. Deer and Waterfowl hunting on Ft. Cobb State Park [NEW]

800:25-1-10. Goose hunting on Great Plains State Park [NEW]

800:25-1-11. Deer Hunting on Salt Plains State Park [NEW]

800:25-1-12. Deer, Canada Goose, and Squirrel hunting on Sequoyah State Park [NEW]

**Subchapter 3. Hunting on Corps of Engineers Lands**

800:25-3-2. Areas open to archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only [AMENDED]

800:25-3-3. Areas open to archery equipment only [AMENDED]

**Subchapter 7. General Hunting Seasons**

800:25-7-52. Deer – primitive firearms (muzzleloading) [AMENDED]

800:25-7-53. Deer – gun [AMENDED]

800:25-7-54. Legal firearms and archery specifications [AMENDED]

**Part 18. Management of Private lands**

800:25-7-75. General provisions [AMENDED]

**Part 19. Seasons on Areas Owned or Managed By The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

800:25-7-83. Beaver River WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-83.1. Beaver River WMA – McFarland Unit [AMENDED]

800:25-7-87.1. Candy Creek WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-92.1. Cimarron Bluff WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-92.2. Cimarron Hills WMA [AMENDED]

**Subchapter 13. Commercial Hunt Areas**

800:25-13-9. Tagging requirements [AMENDED]

These rules will add controlled hunts and hunting opportunities on certain state parks, update Corps of Engineer land and allow expanded hunting opportunities on Wildlife Management Areas. Remove 3-year tagging exemption and require visible tags to remain until the animal is removed from the commercial hunt area and change the Special Use Permit requirements and fees for private lands leased by the ODWC.

18. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines.

**Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 30. Department of Wildlife Lands Management**

**Subchapter 1. Use of Department Managed Lands**

800:30-1-2. Use restrictions [AMENDED]

800:30-1-6. Littering [AMENDED]

800:30-1-16. Shooting ranges [AMENDED]

This rule will close prairie dog hunting on Cooper, Beaver River and Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Areas, add shotgun hulls and cartridge casings to littering on Wildlife Management Areas and update regulations for shooting ranges and archery ranges on Department owned or managed lands.

19. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Okfuskee County, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines.
  - a. Vote to enter Executive Session.
  - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3).
  - c. Vote to exit Executive Session.
  - d. Possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.

20. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a budget add-on resulting in a budget revision for FY24 – Amanda Storck.
21. Discussion and possible action on whether to maintain, pursuant to 51 O.S. § 24A.7(A)(1), confidentiality of the severance agreement with former director, J.D. Strong.
22. Discussion and possible action to approve and authorize a press release regarding the severance package issued to former director, J.D. Strong.
23. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
24. Announce the February 5, 2024 Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
25. Adjourn

This agency receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. To request an accommodation please contact 405-522-6279. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any facility, program, or activity, or if you need more information, please write to: **Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.**



## MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on December 4, 2023, of the

### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on December 4, 2023. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on December 1, 2023, at 8:15 a.m.

Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      LEIGH A. GADDIS, Chairwoman  
                                 JAMES V. BARWICK, Vice-Chairman  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 MARK H. MABREY, Member  
                                 JESS M. KANE, Member  
                                 TIM DIEHL, Member  
                                 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF); Niki Batt, Assistant Attorney General Council; Dan Bledsoe, Finley & Cook; David Sawyer, Definiti and Patrice Douglas.

J.D. Strong recognized Matthew Hensley, Wildlife Biologist for 20 years of service and Clint Carpenter, Game Warden, for 25 years of service.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2023 Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Chairwoman Gaddis announced that agenda item #8 and item #9 documentation were given to the Commission review and would not be presented publicly at this meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to approve the miscellaneous donations stated on the October 31, 2023 Financials. Motion carried with Commissioner Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, introduced Dan Bledsoe of accounting firm Finley & Cook PLLC who told the Commission that the annual Department audit went well and there were no findings of any significant weaknesses or inconsistencies.

Amanda Storck introduced David Sawyer of Definiti LLC, who presented the Fiscal Year 2023 Actuarial Valuation Report for the Wildlife Department's Defined Benefit Retirement Plan. The plan, which serves employees hired before July 1, 2010, is very well-funded and compare very favorably to other pension plans across the country. Mr. Sawyer advised the Commission to set a goal of having the plan 100% funded within 10 years.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zelbst, seconded by Commissioner Kane to table agenda item #12 until the January 8, 2024 Commission meeting. Motion carried with

Commissioner Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to enter into an executive session regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of the Director. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

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

Commissioner Barwick announced that no action will be taken at this time on the Executive Session discussion. Chairwoman Gaddis announced that a special Commission meeting has been set for Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 p.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

## MINUTES

Of the Special Meeting on December 6, 2023, of the

### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on December 6, 2023. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on December 5, 2023, at 10:42 a.m.

Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis called the Commission in session at 1:30 p.m.

Chairwoman Gaddis called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      LEIGH A. GADDIS, Chairwoman  
                                 JAMES V. BARWICK, Vice-Chairman  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 MARK H. MABREY, Member  
                                 JESS M. KANE, Member  
                                 TIM DIEHL, Member  
                                 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

Chairwoman Gaddis introduced the following guests: Niki Batt, Assistant Attorney General Council; Janelle Stecklein, Oklahoma Voice; Tyler Talley, Quorum Call and Deborah Torres, Governor's office.

Chairwoman Gaddis announced that agenda item #4 regarding the budget revision will be moved to the end of the agenda after item #7.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to enter into an executive session regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of the Director. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

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

Commissioner Barwick announced the Personnel Review Committee recommends acceptance of the resignation of the Director effective immediately and approval of the severance arrangement on the terms and conditions required under Oklahoma's Severance Act, as discussed in Executive Session. And the chair of the Commission is authorized to execute all documents on behalf of the Department and Commission in connection with completing the transaction, including the Severance Agreement, not to exceed the terms codified in Title 74, Section 840 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Dillingham to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to enter into executive session to discuss the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining, or resignation of a potential Interim Director, to include compensation.



Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to return to open session. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Commissioner Barwick announced the Personnel Review Committee recommends appointment of the Assistant Director, Wade Free, as Interim Director of the Wildlife Department. Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey, that the Personnel Review Committee would review the job description and make a recommendation at another time regarding the action to establish the hiring process for a new Director including but not limited to, determining necessary job qualification and requirements for candidates. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration requested Commission approval on a budget revision of \$169,341 to cover the severance package and this amount would be drawn out of the lifetime license trust account. Motion was made by Commissioner Zelbst, seconded by Commissioner Holder to approve the budget revision as requested. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Chairwoman Gaddis announced a Special Commission meeting on Monday, December 11, 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

## OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

## MINUTES

Of the Special Meeting on December 11, 2023, of the

### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on December 11, 2023. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on December 7, 2023, at 9:38 a.m.

Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis called the Commission in session at 7:30 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      LEIGH A. GADDIS, Chairwoman  
                                 JAMES V. BARWICK, Vice-Chairman  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 MARK H. MABREY, Member  
                                 JESS M. KANE, Member  
                                 TIM DIEHL, Member  
                                 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

Chairwoman Gaddis introduced the following guests: Deborah Torres, Governor's office.

Motion was made by Commissioner Barwick, seconded by Commissioner Kane to enter into an executive session regarding the employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation of a potential Interim Director, to include compensation. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

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

Commissioner Barwick announced the Personnel Review Committee recommends setting the salary and benefits for the Interim Director the same as the previous Director as discussed in Executive Session. Motion was made by Commissioner Holder, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to accept the recommendation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes". Commissioner Dillingham did not return to open meeting after the executive session.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration requested Commission approval on a budget revision of \$50,000 to cover the salary and benefit package for the Interim Director and this amount would be drawn out of the lifetime license trust account. Motion was made by Commissioner Zelbst, seconded by Commissioner Holder to approve the budget revision as requested. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Barwick, Holder, Zelbst, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY



## Commission Releases Severance Details of Former Director

The Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission received inquiries regarding a severance agreement authorized at the Dec. 6, 2023 Commission meeting. As confirmed by the Oklahoma Attorney General, this document is a confidential personnel record pursuant to 51 O.S. § 24A.7. Additionally, the Severance Agreement contains an express confidentiality provision negotiated, drafted and approved by the office of the Attorney General. While the Department and Commission value transparency, and respect that Oklahomans have the right to know how public funded dollars are spent, they are bound by the terms of the Attorney General-approved Severance Agreement to maintain its confidentiality.

Having secured the consent of former Director Strong, the Department and Commission are now able to release the following information concerning the Severance Agreement. Consistent with 74 O.S. § 840-2.27D(A), the Department's former director, J.D. Strong, received a severance payment in the amount of \$119,408.20. This sum includes payment for a health insurance premium payment, longevity payment and reimbursement for a portion of accumulated sick leave. In addition, and consistent with 74 O.S. § 840-2.20, Mr. Strong received reimbursement for accrued annual leave in the amount of \$49,932.80. Reimbursement for accrued annual leave is not considered a severance payment.

*The Department receives no general state tax appropriations and is funded by sportsmen and women through their purchase of hunting and fishing licenses as well as from federal Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration Program grants that are a direct result of outdoor enthusiasts who purchase firearms, ammunition, fishing equipment and motor boat fuel.*

# January 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## **CALENDAR ITEMS:**

Feb 5	Monthly Commission Meeting, ODWC Headquarters, OKC
Feb 5	Legislative Reception at ODWC Headquarters
Feb 13 & 14	Oklahoma Archery in the Schools State Shoots, OKC
Feb 21 & 22	Oklahoma Archery in the Schools State Shoots, Tulsa
March 6	Rack Madness, ODWC Headquarters, OKC

## **AGENCY UPDATE**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Accounting:**

Accounts Payable:

# of Claims Audited and Paid 325

Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid 2,029,777.25

Purchase Card Program:

Total # Agency Cardholders 192

Total # Agency Approvers (no cards) 12

Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits \$387,500.00

Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests \$543,000.00

# of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved 29

# of P/Card Transactions Processed 603

# of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions 259

OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions 21

Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases \$195,545.68

PCard Program Refresher Training 8

New Approver Training at OMES 1

New Cardholder Training at OMES 3

Risk Management:

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed 1

New Cases Reported 1

Purchasing:

# of Purchase Orders/CO issued 99

IT Acquisitions Processed 4

Construction Site Visits: 11/28/2023 Pre-Construction Meeting - Lake Jap Beaver - Cheryl Luetkemeyer

#### **Federal Aid:**

## November Activities

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$1,958,002.80
- Program Income: \$44,717.00
- In-Kind Contributions: \$45,095.00
- Ongoing Federal Audit Repayment: \$908,247.24 cumulative
- New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 10
- Grant Reports Submitted: 6
- Fisheries and Wildlife division Pcard charges sorted into 352 unique combinations of Fund / Division / Grant number / Project number / Product Code / Area / Object Code for claim jacket preparation
- Subaward invoices processed: 15
- Key Meetings / Milestones: Presented Federal Aid Overview to Commission; Ongoing PeopleSoft migration (39 meetings and test script sessions); FAC participated in one Wildlife and one Fisheries supervisor meeting; Meeting with Murray State College regarding potential shooting range partnership; Region 2 Federal Aid Coordinator's monthly meeting plus second meeting to discuss proposed changes to 2 CFR 200; Ongoing work with contractor for indirect cost rate proposal
- Special Note:
  - The USFWS released the FFY24 preliminary apportionments for Wildlife Restoration (WR) and Sport Fish Restoration (SFR), based on excise tax collections for the first three quarters of FFY23 (October 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023).
  - Oklahoma's preliminary WR apportionment was \$15,044,510 (-30.9% from prior year). Oklahoma's preliminary SFR apportionment was \$4,509,772 (-23.0% from prior year).
  - The decline over our prior year's preliminary apportionment was greater than expected. Initial percent changes provided by the regional USFWS office (and discussed at the November commission meeting) were based on excise tax collections at the national level, rather than Oklahoma's specific apportionment. At the national level, the preliminary apportionment declines were WR -19.5%, SFR -15.7%.
  - Later in the month, the USFWS announced that final excise tax collections for all four quarters of FFY23 were cumulatively down less than indicated by receipts through the third quarter. Final tax collections at the national level: WR -17.6%, SFR -9.8%.
  - We will not know Oklahoma's final apportionment until released by the USFWS, typically by March.

## Human Resources:

# Open Full-time Positions – 23

Positions Interviewed - 5

Candidates interviewed - 35

Positions Announced – 3

Candidates Screened – 112

Filled Positions – 4 (3 new hires, 0 promotions, 1 transfer)

See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month

Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), - 4

Full time employees on March payroll - 337

DB Plan Members – 153

DC Plan Members – 184

Hourly employees on supplemental payroll – 31

Retirement meetings and / or calculations - 4

Work Comp Injuries - 0

Other misc:

- New employee orientation for 3 new employees
- Assigned and facilitated 4th Quarter Safety Training for Central Office
- Assigned 4th Quarter Safety Training for Fisheries Division
- Completed production of HR Toolkit Fact Sheets and Video Instructions for Performance Management Process
- Game Warden Interviews and Testing for new Game Warden hires
- Final completion data and report for Mandatory Supervisor Training
- Reminders for Security Education Awareness Training
- Entered timesheet data and ran test payroll for GPC

## **IT:**

Upcoming and Ongoing Projects:

- Migrated old Web Server data to the new server.
- Processed 102 tickets.
- Set up AD controller and AD Dr as well as rolled the DNS role into the same environment.
- Migrated our files from the old file server to the new file server.
- There has been an ongoing effort to create a program for Shotgun Shoots in the Schools that we will continue to work on.
- Fished our IT audit.
- Tested Lenovo's for potential use in the future.
- Had CDW finish and clean up the work they had started in the Eagles Nest. Now the equipment is mounted properly to the wall and the power run is cleaner.
- Scheduled Pure install our free upgrades to our storage array.

## **License:**

For November 2023, License Section:

- Processed over 541 orders, including 446 licenses/permits and 424 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$76,890 in revenue
- Shipped 903 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$8,300 in revenue.
- Helped C&E with the Gar Week merch drop, selling over 800 gar stickers in less than 48 hours.
- Processed \$18,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1,416 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

## **November License Review**

Recreational Licenses were up 5% for the month compared to November 2022 and flat (+0.33%) YTD.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)	YTD Change
Resident Hunting	+9% (15,670)	-5%
Resident Fishing	+53% (1,678)	+3%
Resident Combo	+43% (1,326)	-14%
Resident Deer Gun Antlered	-4% (27,245)	-4%
Resident Deer Gun Antlerless	-7% (18,093)	-7%
Resident Youth Hunting	0% (1,389)	-3%
Resident Youth Deer Gun Antlered	-7% (7,130)	-4%
Resident Youth Deer Gun Antlerless	-9% (4,831)	-6%
Nonresident Youth Deer Gun Either Sex	+34% (781)	+30%
Nonresident Youth Deer Gun Antlerless	+40% (226)	+24%
Nonresident Deer Gun	+9% (6,543)	+8%
Nonresident Deer Archery	+10% (2,255)	+4%

Lifetime License sales are up 5% for the month compared to November 2022 and are down 2% YTD (14,750 sold).

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)	YTD Change
Lifetime Combo	+5% (447)	-8%
60-100% Disabled Veteran Combo	+11% (126)	+6%
Senior Citizen Combo	+12% (363)	+1%

### **Early December License Review (Sales through Dec. 10)**

Recreational Licenses were up 60% for the first 10 days of the month compared to December 2022 and up 2% overall in the category year to date. Early renewal periods are a factor in the spike.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)	YTD Change
Resident Hunting	+25% (1,362)	-4%
Resident Fishing	+59% (613)	+3%
Resident Combo	+48% (255)	-13%
Resident Youth Hunting	+2% (110)	-3%
Resident Youth Fishing	+116% (39)	+10%
Resident Youth Deer Gun Antlerless	-1.5% (6,898)	-3%
Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp	+22% (3,433)	+7%
Resident Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun	+32% (133)	+20%
Nonresident Hunting	+51% (705)	+17%
Nonresident 5-Day Hunting	+25% (1,926)	+12%

Lifetime Licenses were down 24% for the first 10 days of the month compared to December 2022 and are down 3% year to date (15,071 sold).



Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)	YTD Change
Lifetime Combo	-24% (143)	-9%
Lifetime Fishing	-17% (35)	-6%
Senior Citizen Combo	-18% (72)	0%

### Property:

Prepared over 100 surplus (non-vehicle) items for the upcoming auction. Communicated with PurpleWave on the location of additional surplus items in the field to be auctioned.

- Deployed 2 new vehicles to law division and received 1 new law truck to prepare for deployment. All FY23 vehicles have now been received.
- Began testing online orders from new uniform vendor in preparation to go live for staff early 2024.
- Made final preparation for 37 vehicles scheduled for auction. Met with PurpleWave to collect photos and data on each vehicle to be listed.
- Provided updated asset information and details to OMES for transition to PeopleSoft, including 230 new assets added since July 1.

### FISHERIES DIVISION

Statewide Fish Stockings, November 2023			
Species	#Fish	Size	# Locations
Channel catfish	12,570	9"	7
Channel catfish	24,493	7"	2
Rainbow trout, USFWS	18,490	11"	2
Rainbow trout, Commercial	2,192	9+"	4
Rainbow trout, Commercial	87	14-24"	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,832</b>		19

### Meetings

- Staff attended the Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership Meeting in Morristown, TN.
- Participated in the AFWA State Fisheries Chief's monthly online meeting.
- Participated in the AFWA/USFWS Fisheries Chief's quarterly online meeting.
- Staff attended the Oklahoma Water Sustainability Conference.

### Activities

- Successfully incubated and hatched 30,000 Rainbow Trout eggs received from Tennessee. Fish are currently 1.5 inches and doing well.
- Maintenance of pond rotovating and shaping, added spawning habitat to production ponds, installed new heater in Fish Building, and installed on new hauling tank on the new distribution truck.
- Staff assisted the research team with designing and setting up quarantine holding tanks for the Blue Sucker research project, these tanks are needed because fish will be obtained from zebra mussel-infested waters.
- Gave hatchery tours to local groups and schools.

- Staff did a lot of data collection in November including Skiatook and Sooner gillnetting, RS Kerr Paddlefish netting, and collection of otoliths and genetic samples from Lake Texoma buffalo fishes.
- Finished Eufaula Lake trap net survey equaling 142 total net nights.
- Staff sampled Saugeye on Lake Arcadia and Thunderbird.
- Performed SSP gill netting on Oologah Lake to monitor sport fish population trends and pulled otoliths from Hybrid Striped Bass and Walleye to help determine growth rates for those stocked species.
- Conducted gill net surveys to determine sportfish abundance and condition in Sahoma Lake.
- Personnel finished conducting trap net surveys to help determine crappie age and growth in Spavinaw Lake. Personnel also aged otoliths from white bass, hybrid striped bass, and crappie from 2023 fall SSP samplings.
- Gill netted Lawtonka and Burtschi.
- Fall gill and trapnetting on Cedar, Pine Creek, Clayton, Hugo, Wister, and Tenkiller lakes.

One Smallmouth Bass survey was conducted on the Illinois River to target trophy-sized individuals for an age/growth dataset. Two individuals > 20" were collected, processed, and aged. This brought the total number of trophy-sized Smallmouth Bass in the dataset to four. Ages of those individuals ranged from 6-11 years old. All black bass data was entered in excel.

- Staff completed trap net SSP survey at Texoma and crappie otoliths were collected from Texoma and McGee creek for A&G analysis.
- Staff assisted SOSU with fish community sampling in Texoma backwaters.
- Staff Installed new logo CTH program and regulation signage.
- Staff coordinated pollution response on the South Canadian River near Minco and monitored Oklahoma River draining in OKC to prevent stranded fish and mortality. Contacted OKC Public Works to determine the duration of construction and overall plan.
- Staff installed trail cams at both trout ponds to monitor angler fishing pressure.
- Staff met with HQ aquarist to learn procedures and schedule of maintaining aquariums.
- Staff continued Goldeye otolith precision project, interagency assessment of commercial fishing on nongame species, and S&R mortality of bowfishing.
- Staff finalizing analysis of the effectiveness of opercle tagged blue and flathead catfish and comparing catchability of blue and flathead catfish.
- Staff placed multiple Shelbyville habitat cubes into Oologah Lake to help enhance fishing opportunities around two public fishing docks.
- Met with OMES, Howard Construction, and Garver on site at Jap Beaver Lake for a Pre-construction meeting.
- Continued removing silt from Jap Beaver Lake basin.
- Ellsworth - Collier's Landing construction for the dock abutment is complete and the City of Lawton is staging materials and equipment for the parking area and access road renovations.
- Worked with City of Pauls Valley staff on the renovation designs for the breakwater structure at R.C. Longmire.
- Section 106 reviews for boating access projects at for R.C. Longmire (updated project footprint), Pawnee, and Bixhoma.

- Revised the project tracker on the Boating Access SharePoint which includes correspondence with cooperators and adding database to track project objectives and activities.
- Assisted with crappie trap netting on Eufalula, paddlefish netting at Kerr, cedar tree removal on PFA's, water line and fence repairs at DSFH.
- Multiple meetings w/LMFRF regarding active trout redds, stop logs, and habitat.
- American Horse, Elmer, and Watonga were mowed for the last time of the season. Trash was picked up at each area.
- Staff assisted the OFRL with a sampling gear comparison project for crappie on Canton. Catch rates appeared low with both gear types. Age analysis will be performed.
- Construction of additional office space inside the Canton heavy equipment building was completed. Tin was hung on the outside of the office space and a door was installed.
- Three staff members developed and submitted abstracts for oral presentations at the upcoming SDAFS conference. Presentations will cover stream program community monitoring, Redfin Darter occupancy modeling, and management of the Illinois River black bass fishery.
- Began scouting sites for 2024 community monitoring surveys. The initial preparation is done using aerial imagery to identify all the potential access points throughout the watershed.
- Performed gear repair, which included mending/sewing all the ripped mini-fyke nets and the benthic trawl.
- Two staff members attended a virtual three-day scientific writing course. The three class sessions were two hours each and after each class an independent exercise was assigned to practice the skills taught in the class. A final assignment consisted of editing an approximately 300-word paragraph that we'd previously written using all the techniques taught in the class.
- Put new axles on boat trailer.
- Completed 3 angler use surveys at McGee Creek and 3 pressure count surveys at BRPFHA.
- Staff began LMB electrofishing bias project.
- Staff completed significant infrastructure maintenance at BRPFHA.

## **C&E DIVISION**

- In October we reached one year since we started merchandise sales on the Go Outdoors Oklahoma platform. Approximately five weeks ago we initiated a new system with a goal of increasing sales. ODWC since go live with new merch system (5 Weeks ago):
  - Total Merchandise sales \$52,562, (same period last year \$13,600), +286% increase
  - Total Units Sold 2,045, (same period last year 680 units), +200% increase
  - Total Purchase Orders 1,960, (same period last year 579 orders), +238% increase
  - AUR \$25.71 (same period last year \$20.00), \$5.71 increase
  - Conversion Rate 2.57% (same period last year 0.79%), +178bps increase (conversion rate off internet transactions)
  - ODWC Hats 1,333 units sold (same period last year 180 units) +640% increase

- ODWC Drinkware 683 units sold (same period last year 500 units sold), +36% increase
- Economic Impact fliers for hunting, fishing and wildlife watching are being updated with new data from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Watching. These will be handed out to legislators during the 2024 session.
- Lance Meek finalized the install of new Security Cameras at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area building.
- For the first time in many years, the ODWC has sold out of collector duck stamps. Primarily through a targeted cross sell efforts to hunters completing a HIP permit, a total of 900 stamps have been sold.
- Outdoor Oklahoma magazine's subscriber fulfillment vendor, Infonet, is closing at the end of our contract year on June 30, 2024. Don Brown is developing Request for Proposal for a new vendor.
- Communication staff addressed marketing partnership inquiries from Boomtown Creamery, National Deer Alliance, Pradco, and the Oklahoma lottery. Staff is developing guidelines to better and more efficiently address these collaboration requests.
- Due to a major construction project of a new multi-million dollar holding/quarantine facility the Oklahoma Aquarium had to step back from the planned grant to update the Fishes of Oklahoma Gallery. All of their exhibit construction/design staff will be focusing their efforts on that facility once the exterior of the building is completed. They still plan to eventually begin the updating of the Fishes of Oklahoma gallery, but due to staffing needs were not going to be able to complete it in a timely fashion.
- Damon Springer picked up the new STEP/OKSSSP/FFA Clay target program trailer.
- Damon Springer, Jason Smith and Shawn Gee conducted an OKSSSP training for 23 new teachers. Some are replacing teachers at existing programs and ten were from schools that are starting the OKSSSP at their school
- Hunter Education calls were high on the list of those being answered during the last couple of months especially in November and early December.
- Kelly Boyer sent out qualification information for OKNASP and Varsity Archery Programs. The first round of scores are due in December. We anticipate around 400 different schools will submit scores to be eligible to participate in the Tier 2 West (Feb. 13) and Central (Feb. 14) State Shoots in OKC and Tier 2 East (Feb. 22) and Grand State (Feb. 21) shoots in Tulsa
- Kasie Harriet conducted several learn to hunt/trap courses as part of our virtual training courses for beginning/intermediate level hunters along with agency staff. Due to extra promotion this year's courses were some of the most well attended.
- Lance Meek and Colin Berg meet with the newly formed Oklahoma Hunter and Anglers (OHA) board about 101 courses. The OHA took over as the lead organizer for the Deer Conference this past August. They are adding 101 courses for turkey hunting, crappie fishing and others to engage beginning and intermediate adults.
- Jennifer Bengé worked with Scissortail Park to submit a new grant for the RBFF Vamos Grant program.
- The following changes to the controlled hunts program next spring:
  - Increase the base application fee from \$5 to \$10 for both residents and non-residents.
  - Allow hunters to purchase one additional preference point for each of the once-in-a-lifetime hunt categories (elk and antelope) at a cost of \$10 for residents and \$50 for non-residents. The points would accumulate to the hunter's point total and

carry forward if the hunter is not drawn. Hunters would still earn one point per year through the process of applying and not being selected.

- Increase the cost of point guard from \$5 to \$10 for residents, and from \$5 to \$50 for non-residents.
- The Special Hunt for Women and Their Families was held Dec. 2-3 at Cross Timbers WMA. 20 of the 35 people drawn participated and harvested 7 deer. Feedback has been positive, and a full report will be available soon.
- Admin, C&E and Fisheries are working together to raise additional funds for trout. Constituents will be able to donate through the Go Outdoors Oklahoma system and will receive a sticker as a thank you. Currently, Michael Bergin and Mike Chrisman are considering which licenses to cross sell the donation.
- Kelly Adams is working with Cameron Gammill, biologist at Lexington WMA, to host a “WMA Open House” event. This event follows the inaugural event held at Packsaddle WMA in Sept. The WMA Open House concept was designed to support agency R3 goals, C&E’s communication priority to address public hunting and shooting access, and to support findings in the female and hunting survey. The purpose of these events is to improve learning/knowledge about public hunting opportunities, promote engagement with hunters to reduce churn, and strengthen the hunting community by addressing their needs.
- Amanda Thomas coordinated several meetings with Garver and ODWC to move forward with Environmental Assessment, Engineering and review of plans for range projects at Optima, Copan, Canton, Ft. Gibson and Atoka. She also has site visits scheduled to meet with staff and conduct sight visits for ranges that will be moving to the EA/Engineering phases in future budget cycles. Jason Smith has prepared and submitted necessary paperwork to move the Arcadia Archery Range project forward with EA and Engineering with Garver.
- C&E Division launched a Donation Drive to raise additional funds.
- Staff has been meeting to plan the annual Rack Madness event for March 6, 2024. Several changes are being put in place improve the efficiency of staff time, reduce the overall cost of the event and promote antlerless harvest. Those changes include:
  - Adjusting the hours of operation to 1-7 p.m.
  - No chili for the public
  - Removing the requirement to be present to win (lifetime license provided by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation), to be drawn from those who register and attend the event
  - Adding a lifetime license giveaway donated by OGWA that will be drawn from hunters who have taken a doe, and come to Rack Madness
- C&E is wrapping up the fourth year of its Hunters in the Know Take a Doe communication campaign.
- Colin Berg met with several potential partner organizations to open up discussions regarding potential sponsorships/donations for future range projects as well as the Department Education programs. The Cherokee Strip Pheasants Forever Chapter donated \$3,000 towards to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation and Self Bow Society donated \$5,000 for the matching grant for the Arcadia Archery Park due to discussions had with their board members.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

- Diversity staff continue to provide updated data and comments to USFWS regarding the Alligator Snapping Turtle Species Status Assessment (SSA). Critical Oklahoma data to inform this SSA include population trend information, evidence of reproduction and recruitment in wild populations, and incidence of hook ingestion/mortality (both low).
- Research staff continue project oversight and administration with university partners. Winter pronghorn and mule deer helicopter capture and fitting animals with collars is being coordinated. Spotted skunk and gray fox camera trap deployment and sampling areas were discussed with OSU teams. Early 2024 turkey capture and fitting hens with transmitter backpacks is being planned in southeast and southwest Oklahoma.
- Staff monitored fall whooping crane migration and the online reporting form. An estimated 20 reports were verified by ODWC staff and communicated to USFWS. ODWC public outreach efforts included top-of-page messaging on our website, social media channels, and targeted messaging in the Go Outdoors license system.
- A number of surveys are scheduled to occur in the next several weeks: The mid-winter aerial waterfowl surveys (east and west), pronghorn aerial surveys (Cimarron and Texas counties) the first week of February, and the turkey winter flock survey is ongoing statewide.
- Prep work is ongoing for upcoming trapping workshops: Jan 20/21-Hulah WMA, Feb 3/4-James Collins WMA, Feb 10/11-Packsaddle WMA.
- WMA staff have been busy monitoring hunter use, pumping wetland development units, conducting controlled hunts, monitoring ag leases, and preparing for upcoming ag and grazing lease bids.
- Dove fields for next fall have been planted to wheat, and winter disking to promote sunflower growth for dove fields will be getting underway this month.
- Habitat work and road maintenance are limited this time of year to minimize hunter disturbance.
- A number of mastication / cedar removal projects have been bid out.
- Quail season is ongoing, and there are reports of varying degrees of hunter success.
- Closed on the Mills and Marquis properties, now a part of Sandy Sanders WMA.
- The annual deer herd health evaluation is planned for northwest Oklahoma, with an emphasis on sampling in proximity to the CWD Special Surveillance Areas.
- Staff are ramping up preparation for dormant season burning on WMA's.
- The Playa Lakes Joint Venture winter meeting will be held in Woodward on Jan 23-25.
- Waterfowl numbers have been hit and miss this year, and we have not seen typical winter numbers due to lack of substantial cold weather in northern regions. Significant winter weather events up north will help push birds further south and into Oklahoma.
- Significant timely rainfall led to high water levels at Kaw Lake, flooding substantial natural food sources on the upper end of the lake, and waterfowl use and hunting success there has been good. Through diligent effort on the part of Kaw WMA staff, the Corps of Engineers has agreed to hold water levels up through most of January which should ensure continued waterfowl use and corresponding good hunting opportunity.
- Deer Harvest numbers through the end of gun season, while lower than last year, were comparable to previous years. Emphasis was placed on encouraging

participation in the holiday antlerless hunts with hopes of keeping antlerless harvest up and in line with management goals.

- Private lands youth hunts have wrapped up, with overall success rate at ~55%
- The experimental family emphasis hunt at Cross Timbers WMA had 20 hunters show up and they harvested 7 deer.
- The window for WHIP applications recently opened, and similar to previous years we expect to receive substantially more applications than our funding can accommodate.
- Much of the southwest region benefitted from an unexpectedly substantial rainfall event in mid-December, which should give habitat a much-needed shot in the arm.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- Lt. Stephen Paul and Warden Spencer Grace assisted OHP with locating a drowning victim at Sooner Lake in early December. The individual was out duck hunting when he went a little too far out into the water, stepped in a hole and flooded his waders.
- D1, D2 & D4 Wardens all helped with the “Shop with a Cop” program in their local communities before the Holidays.
- Investigator Emily Long was recognized by Ft. Worth P.D. for her assistance in solving a decades old crime in their city. The case started off as an individual offering to sell some high-end taxidermy of big horn rams, mountain goat and various other mounts. The investigator from Ft. Worth contacted Investigator Long to ask her assistance in visiting with the individual. After many long days of hard work, she made numerous cases in Oklahoma and solved a burglary case for Ft. Worth that had been unsolved for decades.
- District 8 has two new Supervisors. Lt. Stephen Paul (Noble Co.) and Lt. Mike Baker (Beaver Co.) was promoted to supervisors on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. They will both do an outstanding job and hopefully provide years of service to the Department and division.
- We just concluded interviews for new hires in December. Looks like we will be hiring 6 of the 8 positions that we had open. Candidates now move onto the MMPI evaluation, physicals, background checks and drug screenings to see if the move forward in the hiring process.
- Cases from around the State:
  - a. D8 had a couple of guys shoot into a group of Sandhill Crane hunters from the county road with a high-powered rifle. These individuals took it upon themselves to try to scare off the decoys from a wheat field that they didn’t own or have rights to. The fact that they were shooting directly at a group of hunters didn’t even cross their minds until it was too late, and Capt. Ben Bickerstaff was calling to visit with them.
  - b. D6 Warden Clem made a case on a habitual wildlife violator and convicted felon. This individual has been arrested multiple times by multiple different game wardens in the Waurika Lake area over the years. The repeated violations led to Warden Clem getting a lifetime revocation of his hunting and fishing privileges about a year ago after Warden Clem got a conviction on him

for hunting without landowner consent. A few weeks ago, Warden Clem witnessed him fishing on Waurika Lake. The court issued a warrant for his arrest for violating his revocation and Warden Clem subsequently picked him up on that warrant. Due to this the court also filed a motion to revoke his probation on felony firearms charges. The individual now faces fish and wildlife charges as well as having his felony probation for firearms charges revoked.

- c. Warden Zimmerman got a conviction on a Texas for killing a buck the day before deer gun season opened and then provided false information to the online check station to try to make it appear legal. Warden Zimmerman charged him with illegal possession and providing false information to a check station and seized the antlers that were at a taxidermist in Texas.
  - d. D7 Warden Brothers had an elk head-lighted and shot from the road out of a motor vehicle in Kiowa county.
  - e. D8 Warden B. Cottrill (Garfield Co.) caught an individual with a poached buck on the night of Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>. It was shot with a high-powered rifle at night.
  - f. D2 Wardens have made numerous cases of hunting waterfowl over bait and continue to work more reports every day.
- Current counties that are open around the state are Cimarron (D8), Texas (D8), Woods (D8), Alfalfa (D8), Nowata (D1), Coal (D4), Jackson (D7), and Dewey (D7).





J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR  
WADE FREE, INTERIM DIRECTOR

Wildlife Conservation Commission

Leigh Gaddis

Chairman

James V. Barwick

Vice Chairman

Rick Holder

Secretary

Tim Diehl

D. Chad Dillingham

Jess Kane

Mark H. Mabrey

John P. Zelbst

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 22, 2023

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

**FROM:** Brittnee Preston

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

### Congress:

#### General activity –

- > Senator Mullin introduced the Senate version of the Black Vulture Relief Act this week. We worked with him on this text to ensure our concerns were addressed. His office worked very closely with us to make changes to ensure other species were not adversely affected.
- > S. 788, the E-Duck Stamp modernization bill, passed the House this week by a vote of 403-20. This bill now heads to the President's desk.
- > Former Speaker McCarthy announced this week that he will leave Congress at the end of the year.
- > EPW hearing on implementation of wildlife corridors programs funded under IJIA. Congress appropriated \$455 million to the USFWS for conservation projects across the country. The demand for the wildlife crossings program outweighed the available funding by 5 to 1. Chairman Carper (D-DE) noted that states have been leaders on this for a while and it is good that the federal government has stepped up to reinforce their efforts. Ranking member Capitol (R-WV) cautioned that it's one thing to appropriate funds for these programs but it's another for the agency to get that money out and she would like to know the status of the funding going out to states.
- > USFWS Director Martha Williams noted that they are focusing efforts on locally led projects for conservation and habitat improvement, fish passage programs, public access, and wildlife crossings. She noted that the investment is funding large scale projects that communities have been asking for years.

Brian Fouch, Associate Administrator for Federal Lands Federal Highway Administration, discussed their award process and the partnerships they have with state DOTs to administer grants quicker and streamline the process. He said they are working closely with states and the USFWS to make sure the funds are getting to the projects as quickly as possible.

- > The House voted 221-212 to pass an investigative resolution on a potential impeachment proceeding, which is aimed at beefing up the House's ability to secure evidence and testimony for a potential Biden impeachment. The

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

House Oversight and Judiciary Committees are slated to hold depositions and public hearings over the next six or so weeks. The committees intend to make a decision by the end of January whether to pursue and draft articles of impeachment or not.

#### Appropriations –

- > Appropriations expire January 19th and February 2nd. Negotiations stalled heading into the holiday break for many reasons but ultimately, a topline number has not been agreed to as both chambers have different solutions in mind.
- > The Speaker of the House was eyeing a year-long continuing resolution, which the Senate has indicated is a non-starter. The Senate has higher spending levels than the House and no one is quite sure if the spending limits deal former Speaker McCarthy made with the White House last summer is still valid.
- > Additionally, the White House is pushing hard for Congress to supply Ukraine with aid. Ukraine's President even paid Congress a visit in early December, but he left empty handed. Members are split on what to do with supplementary aid.
- > Border security negotiations have been another hold up. This issue took center stage leading up to the break and Oklahoma's senior Senator, Sen. Lankford, is leading the republican position in the negotiations. This has a direct link to FY 24 appropriations negotiations because the House Republicans say they will not vote for a funding bill without border security reforms.
- > To show the lack of coming together to solve these issues and the mounting obstacles Congress has to climb in order to find solutions to the funding issue, the House passed a 2-month FAA extension, but it was blocked in the Senate by a Colorado member over Ukraine aid. Every issue and every decision is tied back to appropriations.
- > One bright spot in the chaos was the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). In mid-December, the Senate overwhelmingly passed an \$886 billion NDAA bill and sent it to the House, which swiftly passed it and sent it to the President's desk.

#### Farm bill –

- > A one-year extension was included in the CR passed in November. The Farm bill now expires on September 30, 2024.

#### Agencies:

- > The USFWS [announced](#) a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force. The ANS Task Force will meet Wednesday and Thursday, January 24–25, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET each day. The meeting is open to the public but registration is required by January 18, 2024. To register and receive the telephone number or web address for remote participation, contact Susan Pasko, Executive Secretary, ANS Task Force, by telephone at (571) 623–0608, or by email at [Susan\\_Pasko@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Pasko@fws.gov).
- > The USFWS announced a [grant opportunity](#) under the Rapid Response Fund for Aquatic Invasive Species program. This Notice of Funding Opportunity requests proposals for projects that support efforts to plan a response or deploy response measures to a new detection of a potentially invasive species. Applications are due by July 15, 2024.
- > USFWS issued a [notice of a grant opportunity](#) through the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund for the Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Fund. The notice states the purpose and stipulations of the grant as follows: "The Service's Tortoise and Freshwater Turtle Conservation Fund is soliciting proposals that conserve threatened tortoise and freshwater turtle species that occur in foreign countries and in territories of the United States. Proposed work

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

must occur outside of the 50 U.S. states or must demonstrate substantive conservation benefits to populations outside of the 50 U.S. states. The primary purpose of this new conservation fund is to provide financial support for projects that conserve populations and habitats of freshwater turtles and tortoises and address threats to their survival.” Applications must be submitted electronically through GrantSolutions by no later than 11:59 PM ET on February 19, 2024.

**Coming up...**

- > The FARM bill expired on September 30, 2024
- > The current CR expires on January 19<sup>th</sup> and February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Wade Free, Interim Director**

**Personnel Actions**  
**December 2023**

**New Hires**

Michael Richardson – Fisheries Technician, Reg. & Aqua. Maintenance, 12/1/23

Scott Woodie – Hatchery Technician, Durant State Fish Hatchery, 12/4/23

Amanda Phillips – Administrative Assistant, Holdenville State Fish Hatchery,  
12/4/23

**Promotions**

**Transfers**

Megan Moore – License Assistant to C & E Administrative Assistant, 12/1/23

Chase Waldorf – Wildlife Biologist, Private Lands to Biologist @ McAlester AAP,  
12/1/23

Greg Baker – Wildlife Technician, Red & Grassy Slough WMAs to Pushmataha  
WMA, 12/1/23

**Resignations/Terminations**

Rebekah Pena – Accounting CPO, 12/5/23

Daniel G. Simmons – Hatchery Technician, Holdenville, 12/14/23

**Retirements**

Jim Burroughs – Fisheries Regional Supervisor, 12/31/23

Mike Plunkett – Wildlife Regional Supervisor, 12/31/23

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER 1. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**SUBCHAPTER 3. FUNCTION, ORGANIZATION, POWERS AND DUTIES**

**800:1-3-3. Function, organization, powers and duties**

The following describes the function, organization, powers and duties of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**(1) Creation and Composition of the Commission, Director and Department.**

(A) **Commission:** The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission were created by Section 1, Article XXVI of the Constitution of Oklahoma in 1956. See also 29 O.S. Section 3-101 et seq.

(B) **Director:** A Director of Wildlife Conservation was created by Section 3, Article XXVI of the Constitution of Oklahoma in 1956. See also 29 O.S., Section 3-104.

(C) **Department:** The Department includes assistants and employees appointed by the Director with the approval of the Commission. The Department is organized in divisions such as Administration, Fisheries, Wildlife, Law Enforcement, and Information & Education.

**(2) Commission organization.**

The Commission may establish ad hoc committees to assist the Commission for any lawful purpose. See 29 O.S., Section 3-103.

**(3) Powers, authority and duties.** The powers, authority and duties of the Department and Commission are generally set forth in Article XXVI of the Oklahoma Constitution, 29 O.S., Sections 3-101 et seq., and 27A O.S., Section 1-3-101 .

**(4) Vehicle policy.** Pursuant to 29 O.S. Section 3-193, the Commission has adopted and approved the Department's vehicle use policy, which is set forth in the ODWC employee handbook.

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER 10. SPORT FISHING RULES**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. HARVEST AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

**800:10-1-4. Size and bag limits on fish**

There are no length or bag (harvest) limit restrictions on any game or nongame fish taken from waters of this state, except as follows:

(1) General provisions for size limits and bag limits- All fish not kept must be returned to the water unharmed immediately.

(A) Size limits (measured as total length, unless specified) are minimum limits unless specified.

(B) Release of striped bass, striped bass hybrids, trout, paddlefish, or alligator gar caught and placed on a stringer, in a live well or otherwise held in possession is prohibited statewide (no culling).

(C) Persons fishing trotlines or throwlines must release all fish on their lines except those held in possession for their daily limit, before leaving the trotline or throwline.

(D) Fish taken by bow and arrow, gig, spear, or speargun shall not be released, shall count towards the daily bag limit, and any carcasses or remains shall be properly disposed of (OAC 800:10-5-6p and 29 O.S. 7-205, 7-403).

(E) A statewide aggregate daily bag limit of twenty (20) native, nongame fishes (combined) per person shall apply to bowfishing. The aggregate limit does not supersede any individual species limits (800:10-1-4 and 800:10-1-7b) or the nongame bait fish restriction in rivers and streams (800:10-5-6). Nonnative, invasive fish species (including common carp, grass carp, bighead carp, silver carp, black carp, and other species as described on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation website or in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations) and panfish species are excluded from this aggregate limit and may be taken without limit.

(~~E~~F) Bag limits for fish can be superseded and set by Commission resolution 29 O.S. 6-302(B) and will be published in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations.

(~~F~~G) "Close To Home" waters have an aggregate bag limit of three (3) combined of all panfish species and their hybrids, trout species, and/or channel catfish. Other species are subject to statewide limits.

(2) Largemouth bass and smallmouth bass statewide bag limit is six (6) in aggregate, of which only one

(1) may exceed sixteen (16) inches, except

(A) Waters where harvest of largemouth bass is prohibited include: Doc Hollis Lake.

(B) Waters with a fourteen (14) inch minimum size limit for spotted bass include: Blue River Public Fishing Area.

(C) Waters with a fourteen (14) inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass and smallmouth bass and a bag limit of six (6) largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and/or spotted bass (in aggregate), of which only one (1) may be a smallmouth bass include: rivers and streams statewide.

(D) Waters with a fourteen (14) inch minimum size limit and a bag limit of five (5) largemouth bass and/or smallmouth bass (in aggregate) include: Lake Texoma.

(E) When an individual angler possesses a tournament exemption authorized by the Department, daily bag and size limits may deviate from those listed here. Instructions for the tournament exemption application process will be provided in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations and on the Department website.

(3) Crappie (black crappie and/or white crappie, in aggregate) statewide bag limit is thirty-seven (37), except

(A) Waters with a ten (10) inch minimum size limit on crappie include: Arbuckle, Tenkiller, Hudson, Texoma, Ft. Gibson (including all tributaries and upstream to Markham Ferry Dam), and Grand Lake (including all tributaries to the state line).

- (B) Waters with a bag limit of six (6) crappie include: Blue River Public Fishing Area.
- (C) Waters with a bag limit of fifteen (15) crappie include: Arbuckle, Tenkiller, Hudson, Ft. Gibson (including all tributaries and upstream to Markham Ferry Dam), and Grand Lake (including all tributaries to the state line).
- (4) Forked tail catfish (blue catfish and/or channel catfish, in aggregate) statewide bag limit is fifteen (15) with only one (1) blue catfish greater than thirty (30) inches, except waters with a bag limit of six (6) forked tail catfish include: all U.S. Forest Service and State Park lakes (except Lake Murray) as well as the Fourche Maline River within the boundaries of Robbers Cave State Park from Carlton Lake Dam downstream to the southern park boundary, all Department Management Area ponds and fishing areas, and all waters within the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge.
- (5) Flathead catfish statewide bag limit is five (5).
- (6) Walleye, sauger, and/or saugeye (in aggregate) statewide minimum size limit is fourteen (14) inches and bag limit is six (6), except
  - (A) Waters with no walleye, sauger, or saugeye size limit include: Great Salt Plains Reservoir (and tailwater).
  - (B) Waters with a sixteen (16) inch minimum size limit for walleye, sauger, and/or saugeye include: the Arkansas River, including all reservoirs and unimpounded tributaries from Keystone Dam downstream to the Oklahoma state line.
  - (C) Waters with an eighteen (18) inch minimum size limit for walleye, sauger, and/or saugeye include: Atoka Bluestem, Bluestem, Carl Blackwell, Healdton, Ponca City, Shell, Sooner, and Thunderbird Reservoirs (and their respective tailwaters).
- (7) Rainbow trout, brown trout, and/or other trout species (in aggregate) statewide bag limit is three (3), except
  - (A) Waters where the daily bag limit may include only one (1) rainbow trout greater than twenty-five (25) inches and one (1) brown trout which must be greater than thirty (30) inches include: the lower Mountain Fork River trout area. Waters where the daily bag limit is one (1) rainbow trout which must be greater than twenty-five (25) inches and one brown trout which must be greater than thirty (30) inches include: the lower Mountain Fork trout area downstream of the State Park Dam. Fish kept from these waters count towards the bag limit for the entire lower Mountain Fork trout area.
  - (B) Waters where the daily bag limit is one (1) rainbow trout greater than twenty (20) inches include: the lower Illinois River trout area from the USGS stream gauge downstream to the gravel pit county road.
  - (C) Waters where the daily bag limit may include only one (1) brown trout greater than twenty (20) inches include: the lower Illinois River trout area.
  - (D) Waters where harvest of rainbow trout is prohibited from November 1 to March 1 include: the Blue River from its entry onto the Plaster Wildlife Management Unit/Landrum Wilderness downstream approximately ½ mile to a marker cable.
- (8) Striped bass statewide bag limit is five (5), except as designated in OAC 800:10-1-4(9). Waters with a twenty (20) inch minimum size limit on striped bass include: Sooner Reservoir.
- (9) Striped bass hybrid statewide bag limit is twenty (20), of which only five (5) may be greater than twenty (20) inches, except
  - (A) Waters where the bag limit is ten (10) striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids (in aggregate), of which only two (2) may be greater than twenty (20) inches include: Lake Texoma.
  - (B) Waters where the bag limit is five (5) striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids (in aggregate), of which only two (2) may be greater than twenty (20) inches include: Arcadia Lake and Skiatook Lake.
- (10) White bass bag limit is twenty-five (25) in Lake Texoma.
- (11) The statewide daily bag limit for paddlefish is one (1) per day, statewide. The catch and release of paddlefish is permitted by use of rod and reel, trotline and throwlines.
  - (A) Individual annual harvest limit- An individual harvest limit for paddlefish may be set or

amended annually by the Wildlife Conservation Commission and will be listed in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Special area (or management unit) paddlefish harvest caps, a general statewide paddlefish harvest cap, and the total number of paddlefish permits issued may be set or amended annually by the Wildlife Conservation Commission for use in determining the individual annual harvest limit. Once an individual angler has reached their annual harvest limit, continued catch and release is permitted.

(B) Paddlefish permit- An annual paddlefish permit issued by the Department is required to fish for paddlefish by any method or be in possession of paddlefish or paddlefish parts. This permit must be carried on their person while fishing and/or in possession of paddlefish or parts and be produced for inspection upon the demand of any Oklahoma citizen or game warden.

(C) Harvest Tagging- Paddlefish caught and held in possession must be tagged OAC 800:10-3-8a. All paddlefish must have all viscera (internal organs) removed before leaving the state. Anglers must cease snagging for the day when they have taken their daily limit of paddlefish into possession.

(D) Reporting- Harvest of paddlefish must be reported OAC 800:10-3-8b.

(12) The statewide daily bag limit for alligator gar is one (1) per day, except during the period of May 1 through May 31 when angling for alligator gar by all angling methods and possession are prohibited. The catch and release of alligator gar is permitted year round, except during the closure referenced above, by use of rod and reel only. Anglers must cease snagging for the day when they have taken their daily limit of alligator gar into possession. Harvest of alligator gar must be reported OAC 800:10-3-8b.

(13) A statewide daily bag limit of one (1) applies to any fish species classified as those of Special Concern Category I or Category II (OAC 800:25-19-6). Such harvest must be reported by phone or email to the Department Fisheries Division.

#### **800:10-1-7. Possession limit**

(a) No resident or nonresident shall have in their possession, in the field, more than one (1) daily bag limit listed in 800:10-1-4 and 800:10-1-6, regardless of the start and end times of the fishing activity. Nonresidents shall not have more than two (2) daily bag limits in their possession at any time other than in the field, except for paddlefish which shall not exceed the individual annual harvest limit as listed in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations.

(b) No person may possess with intent to transport or transport via land based transportation more than 200 shad, for personal use as bait. The sale, offer for sale, transport from Oklahoma with intent to sell or offer to sell shad taken from waters of this state is prohibited 800:15-5-2.

(c) No person shall transport shad from waters infested with Bighead or Silver Carp. A list of these waters shall be provided in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations or on the Department website. If shad are collected from these listed waters for use as bait, they may only be used in the water body from which they were collected.

(d) Fish cleaning – Any species of fish that are subject to size limits (800:10-1-4) must remain intact (head, tail, and skin/scales not removed) while actively engaged in fishing.

(e) Fish storage in possession – When fishing in waters of this state, all unattended baskets or containers used to store live fish in the field (both caught fish and fish used as bait) must be labeled with the angler's customer identification number and/or until December 31, 2024 such equipment may be labeled with a name and address. Storage equipment must be attended at least once every 24 hours. These rules do not supersede the labeling requirement for trout areas (800:10-5-3) or tailwaters (800:10-5-5).

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. METHODS OF TAKING**



### 800:10-3-3. Additional definitions

The following words or terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**"Bow and arrow"** when used for bowfishing means any bow and arrow (including crossbows) and devices that permit a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are permitted. Minimum requirements defining a bow containing a hand-held riser with a semi-rigid arc with two limbs connected by a string for propulsion. Arrows used for bowfishing shall have one (1) point, two (2) or more barbs, and are attached to the bow by a line for retrieving fish.

**"Foul hooked"** means a fish hooked other than inside the mouth.

**"Gaff hook"** means a handheld hook or handheld pole with a hook attached and may only be used in the landing of a fish, other than paddlefish, already hooked by other legal hook and line methods.

**"Gig"** means a hand-held fish spearing device mounted at the end of a shaft containing not more than three (3) points and not more than two (2) barbs on each point.

**"Grabhook"** means a handheld hook or handheld pole, or rope, with a single hook attached used in the initial taking of a fish.

**"Jugline"** means a vertical line suspended from a nonmetallic or nonglass floating device which is drifting free or anchored, having no more than five (5) hooks per line and limited to twenty (20) such juglines per person.

**"Limblines"** means a line attached to a limb, branch, other natural object, or non-metallic manmade pole having no more than two (2) hooks attached per line and limited to twenty (20) such limblines per person.

**"Noodling"** means the taking of fish by use of hands only.

**"Snagging"** means the dragging of one (1) single hook or one (1) treble hook through the water attached to a hand-held line or fishing rod and line for the purpose of impaling fish. Only one (1) pole or rod per angler is permitted while snagging.

**"Yo-Yo"** means any mechanical fishing device which automatically recoils when a fish strikes and is limited to no more than twenty (20) such devices per person.

**"Unattended"** means not within visual observing distance.

**"Fish Remains"** means any fish that has been filleted or has had the entrails removed.

### 800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grabhooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling and netting

(a) **Bow and arrow.** The use of bow and arrows in bowfishing shall be lawful for taking nongame fish only in all waters of the state throughout the year, except:

(1) Illinois River and its tributaries shall be closed at all times to such fishing except, those portions above the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir which is open from December 1 through March 31 annually. Tenkiller Reservoir below Horseshoe Bend boat ramp is open to bowfishing.

(2) Reservoir tailwaters, other than Eufaula, Keystone, Wister, Fort Gibson, Thunderbird,

Hudson (Markham Ferry), and Heyburn shall be closed to fishing with bow and arrows throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(3) All waters defined as "Designated Trout Areas" during open season for taking trout are closed.

(4) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.

(5) Only that section of the Caney River from Hulah Dam downstream approximately 1,200 feet to the re-regulation dam is closed. Fishing with a bow and arrow is lawful in the Caney River below the re-regulation dam.

(6) The following portions of Grand River:

(A) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of ~~Grand River~~ Pensacola Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(B) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of ~~Grand River~~ Pensacola Dam downstream to the highline crossing (approximately ½ mile) is closed throughout the year with the next ½ mile downstream from the highline crossing closed during periods when the spillway gates are open and discharging water and for seven (7) days following closure of the spillway gates.

(7) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(8) "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert and Taft and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.

(9) The taking of paddlefish by bow and arrow is prohibited on the Red River from Denison Dam downstream to the stateline year round.

(10) Bowfishing may be used at Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper throughout the year during daylight hours only.

(11) The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River from the spillway of Great Salt Plains Reservoir downstream to the State Highway 38 Bridge is closed.

(b) **Grabhooks.** Taking fish by use of a grabhook is prohibited in all state waters.

(c) **Gigs, spears and spearguns.** The use of gigs, spears and spearguns containing not more than three (3) points with no more than two (2) barbs on each point shall be lawful for taking nongame fish only, except white bass may be taken by use of a gig. These methods are lawful in all:

(1) Rivers and streams from December 1 through March 31, except:

(A) The taking of paddlefish by use of gig, spear or speargun is prohibited from May 16 through March 14 of the following year, statewide.

(B) The Poteau and Fourche Maline Rivers and all their tributaries within LeFlore County are closed throughout the year.

(C) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.

(D) The Canadian River from Eufaula Dam downstream for a distance of one (1) mile to be so designated by buoy or other appropriate marker is closed throughout the year.

(E) The Caney River from Hulah Dam downstream to the confluence of the old and new river channels is closed.

(F) The following portions of Grand River:

(i) The main river channel of the Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(ii) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream for a distance of one (1) mile is closed throughout the year.

(G) Rivers and streams in Delaware and Mayes counties are open to the use of gigs throughout the year, unless specifically closed in other sections of this chapter.

(H) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(I) The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River from the spillway of Great Salt Plains Reservoir downstream to the State Highway 38 bridge.

(2) Lakes and reservoirs throughout the year, except:

(A) Waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge other than that portion of Lake Elmer Thomas are closed.

(B) Tenkiller Reservoir, below the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, is closed throughout the year except by speargunning when used with a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus which is closed from June 15 through July 15 annually to the taking of flathead catfish only.

(C) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Carl Albert, Sooner, Lone Chimney and Taft and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed. Konawa is closed to gigging.

(D) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.

(3) Reservoir tailwaters other than Hudson (Markham Ferry) shall be closed to fishing with gigs, spears and spearguns throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(d) **Snagging.** Snagging for nongame fish only shall be lawful in all waters of the State throughout the year, except:

(1) Reservoir tailwaters other than Fort Gibson which is open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. shall be closed to fishing by snagging throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on

all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(2) Wister tailwater is closed to snagging from below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.

(3) The following rivers, lakes, and streams:

(A) The Illinois River and its tributaries above the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir and below the dam shall be closed at all times to such fishing.

(B) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.

(C) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.

(D) The Canadian River from Eufaula Dam tailwater downstream for a distance of one (1) mile to be so designated by buoy or other appropriate marker is closed throughout the year.

(E) The Caney River from the Hulah Dam downstream to the confluence of the old and new river channels is closed.

(F) The following portions of the Grand River:

(i) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(ii) That portion of the Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the highline crossing (a distance of approximately ½ mile) is closed throughout the year with the next ½ mile downstream from the highline crossing closed during periods when the spillway gates are closed.

(iii) That portion of the Grand River occurring from the Markham Ferry Dam (Lake Hudson Dam) downstream to the Highway 412 bridge from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. year-round.

(G) The Arkansas River from Zink Dam for 800 feet downstream between April 15 – May 15.

(H) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(I) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert, Sooner and Konawa and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.

(J) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.

(4) When snagging for paddlefish the hook must have the barbs removed or completely closed. Only one (1) rod and reel is permitted per angler when snagging.

(5) All snagging shall be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. in the areas east of I-35 and north of I-40 except the Miami City Park from the south boat ramp to the 125 Highway bridge which shall remain open.

(e) **Noodling.** Possession of hooks, gaffs, spears, poles with hooks attached and/or ropes with hooks attached while in the act of noodling, shall be proof of violation of the "hands only" noodling law. Noodling shall be lawful for nongame fish and blue, channel, and flathead catfish; only during daylight hours throughout the year.

(1) Rivers and streams of the state, except:

(A) The Illinois River and its tributaries above Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir and below the dam shall be closed at all times to such fishing.

(B) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.

(C) Kiamichi River from Hugo Dam downstream to the first railroad bridge is closed.

(D) The following portions of the Grand River:

(i) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(ii) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the highline crossing is closed throughout the year except the day of and two (2) days following closure of the spillway gates when noodling will be legal.

(E) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(F) Wister tailwaters is closed to noodling from below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.

(G) The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River from the spillway of Great Salt Plains Reservoir downstream to the State Highway 38 bridge.

(2) Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs, Grand and Hudson Lakes.

(3) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.

(4) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters (except noodling is allowed in the North Canadian River from the NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge downstream to the MacArthur St. bridge in Oklahoma City) and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert, Taft, and Lone Chimney, Ponca and Carl Blackwell and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.

(5) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.

(f) **Netting (noncommercial).** Netting (noncommercial) is closed statewide.

(g) **Collecting Bait for personal use.** Cast netting, trawl netting, dip netting, minnow traps and seining non-game fish commonly used for bait for personal use is lawful in all waters of this state unless specifically closed

under 800:10-5-2, 800:10-5-3 and/or 800:10-5-6. Cast nets and dip nets shall have a mesh size no greater than three-eighths (3/8) inch square mesh. Seines shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in length, and the mesh shall be no larger than one-half (1/2) inch square unless seining for minnows then the mesh shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) inch. Minnow traps shall have a mesh size no greater than one-half (1/2) inch, shall not be longer than three (3) feet, shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in diameter on round traps or eighteen (18) inches on a side on square or rectangular traps. The trap entrance (throat) cannot exceed two (2) inches across the opening. No person shall fish with more than 3 minnow traps. All minnow traps must have the owner's customer identification number attached and the traps must be attended once every 24 hours, and/or until December 31, 2024 traps may be labeled with a name and address. All game fish and non-game fish not commonly used for bait must be released immediately. Minnow traps cannot be made with glass.

## **SUBCHAPTER 5. AREA RESTRICTIONS AND SPECIAL FEES**

### **800:10-5-6. Lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams**

- (a) **Lake Carl Albert.** The following special rules govern public use on Lake Carl Albert:
  - (1) Outboard motors used shall not exceed ten (10) h.p.
  - (2) Maximum speed limit for boats shall be six (6) m.p.h.
  - (3) Waterfowl hunting shall be permitted in season; all other hunting shall be prohibited on the area.
  - (4) Swimming shall be prohibited on the area.
  - (5) Waterskiing and trotlines, throwlines, netting, noodling, yo-yo's and jug fishing are prohibited.
  - (6) Camping shall be limited to three (3) days.
- (b) **Pickens Lake.** The following special rules govern public use on Pickens Lake in Fountainhead State Park:
  - (1) Fishing shall be permitted throughout the year.
  - (2) All fishing shall be pole and line or rod and reel only (2 poles per person).
  - (3) Fishing shall be restricted to only Oklahoma residents in the following categories:
    - (A) All persons 65 years of age or older.
    - (B) All persons having disability of 60% or more.
    - (C) Legally blind persons.
    - (D) Any person who has not yet attained the age of 16 years.
    - (E) Any persons accompanying persons in categories above.
- (c) **Sooner Reservoir.** The following special rules govern public fishing at Sooner River:
  - (1) Fishing by juglines, trotlines, limblines, throwlines, snagging, spearfishing, gigging, grabhooks and scuba diving is prohibited.
  - (2) Fishing by boats, wading or all flotation devices is prohibited within the buoy-marked area of the intake channel, discharge channel and spillway embankment.
  - (3) Fishing from the dam, the fenced area below the dam and the north bank of the intake channel is prohibited.
  - (4) The use of Tilapia as bait and/or the stocking of Tilapia is prohibited.
- (d) **Lake Lone Chimney.** The following special rules govern public use at Lake Lone Chimney:
  - (1) No overnight camping is permitted until recreational facilities are developed.
  - (2) Boats and motors are permitted. All boats and motors must comply with existing state boat regulations and boat operators must obey Oklahoma State Boat Laws. All boats must be operated at no-wake speed of six (6) miles per hour or less and may not be left on the water or the lake area longer than the limit on camping.
  - (3) Water skiing and swimming are prohibited.

- (4) Disposal of trash, refuse and debris is prohibited, except in designated trash containers. This includes organic and inorganic material.
  - (5) Commercial concessions and private development on Tri-County Authority property are prohibited. Soliciting, advertising or promoting any commercial or private activity is prohibited.
  - (6) Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except when used to hunt during legal waterfowl hunting season.
  - (7) It shall be unlawful to drive, occupy, or park any motor driven vehicle including automobiles, trucks, mini-bikes, motorcycles, three-wheelers, etc., except on maintained roads, designated parking areas and designated camping areas. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle in a reckless manner or operate any vehicle in a manner to create a public nuisance or to destroy or damage public property. Operators must be licensed drivers.
  - (8) Cutting or defacing of trees and vegetation shall be prohibited. Removal of vegetation, soil, rocks, water or minerals is prohibited except under written permission by the Tri-County Authority Board of Directors.
  - (9) Disorderly conduct, vandalism, theft and damage to Tri-County Authority property is prohibited.
  - (10) The lake shall be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m., except for fishing and hunting activities.
  - (11) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles or rods.
  - (12) Trotlines, throwlines, limblines, juglines, nets, seines, yo-yo's, spearguns and the taking of fish by noodling and taking of bait minnows by any method are prohibited.
  - (13) All hunting or discharging of firearms, except for legal waterfowl hunting, is prohibited.
- (e) **Taft Lake.** The following special rules govern public use at Taft Lake:
- (1) Camping is permitted, but limited to three (3) days. Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas.
  - (2) Boats and motors are permitted. All boats and motors must comply with existing state boat regulations and boat operators must obey Oklahoma State Boat Laws. All boats must be operated at no-wake speed (six '6' miles per hour or less) and may not be left on the water or the lake area longer than the limit on camping.
  - (3) Water skiing and swimming are prohibited.
  - (4) Disposal of trash, refuse and debris is prohibited, except in designated trash containers. This includes organic and inorganic materials.
  - (5) Commercial concessions and private development on State property are prohibited. Soliciting, advertising or promoting any commercial or private activity is prohibited. The use of these areas for any commercial operation in any way is prohibited.
  - (6) Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times.
  - (7) Boat houses, ramps, docks and other facilities may not be constructed.
  - (8) It shall be unlawful to drive, occupy, or park any motor driven vehicle including automobiles, trucks, mini-bikes, motorcycles, etc., except on maintained roads (unless designated as "no parking zones"), designated parking areas, and designated camping areas. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle in a manner to create a public nuisance or to park in a "no parking zone". Operators must be licensed drivers.
  - (9) Cutting or defacing of trees and vegetation shall be prohibited. Removal of vegetation, soil, rocks, water or minerals is prohibited.
  - (10) Vandalism, theft, and damage to State Property is prohibited.
  - (11) No person shall use threatening, abusive, or indecent language, participate in a disorderly assemblage, nor publicly appear nude or intoxicated.
  - (12) After 10:00 p.m. and until 5:00 a.m., all areas will be restricted to fishing and fishing related activities only.

- (13) Fishing is permitted under regular fishing rules and regulations of the Department and State Statutes.
- (14) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles or rods.
- (15) Trotlines, throwlines, limblines, juglines, nets, seines, yo-yo's, spearguns, and the taking of fish by noodling or bow fishing and taking of bait minnows by any method is prohibited.
- (16) Firearms, bows and trapping shall not be allowed on the area.
- (f) **Kid's Fish Out Pond (Fountainhead State Park).** Fishing shall be restricted to persons in the following categories:
  - (1) All persons 64 years of age or older.
  - (2) Any person who has not yet attained the age of 16 years.
  - (3) All persons having 60% or more disability, or legally blind, or physically impaired and one companion accompanying same.
- (g) **Adair Recreation Area Lake.** Fishing is restricted to rod and reel fishing only and only one rod and reel per person.
- (h) **Lake Hefner, Lake Overholser (including tailwaters downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge), Lake Draper and the Oklahoma River (NW 10<sup>th</sup> St to NE 10<sup>th</sup> St).**  
Fishing is restricted to no more than three (3) rods or poles per person, with no more than three (3) hooks per line. No other fishing methods are allowed.
- (i) **"Close To Home"** fishing waters. Fishing is restricted to no more than three (3) rods or poles per person, with no more than three (3) hooks per line. No other fishing methods are allowed.
- (j) **Lakes and reservoirs.** Use of and/or placement into lakes and reservoirs of the waters of this state any container, including but not limited to drums, cans, tubs, boxes or barrels which attract, entice, or lure fish into an open cavity within the container is prohibited
- (k) **Lake Texoma.** The special Lake Texoma annual fishing license shall be eleven dollars (\$11.00). License shall be issued in accordance with Sections 4-201 and 4-202, Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
- (l) **Rivers and streams.** The take, possession or transport of more than twenty-five (25) nongame bait fish (which must be less than 6 inches in length), excluding shad; is prohibited from all rivers and streams.
- (m) **Scenic Rivers.** The use or possession of cast nets is prohibited on all Oklahoma Scenic Rivers including the Barren Fork River in its entirety to the Arkansas state line.
- (n) **OLAP walk-in fishing area.** The following special rules govern public use at OLAP walk-in fishing areas.
  - (1) Fishing is restricted to no more than three (3) rods or poles per person, with no more than three (3) hooks per line. No other fishing methods are allowed. Cast netting is prohibited.
  - (2) It shall be unlawful to drive, occupy, or park any motor driven vehicle including automobiles, trucks, mini-bikes, motorcycles, three-wheelers, etc., except on designated parking areas.
  - (3) Disposal of trash, refuse and debris is prohibited, and all trash must be packed out.
  - (4) Swimming, camping, fires, and alcohol are prohibited in walk-in fishing areas.
  - (5) Access is allowed on annual walk-in fishing areas year-round, and access on seasonal walk-in fishing areas is allowed beginning on the day following the end of spring turkey season and ending on the day preceding the beginning of dove season.
  - (6) Motorboats are prohibited unless authorized for the specific OLAP fishing area in the OLAP map directory and on signs posted at the OLAP walk-in area. Kayaks, canoes, fishing tubes, and vessels not powered by an inboard or outboard engine are permitted but must be carried to water edge unless stated otherwise for the specific OLAP fishing area in the OLAP map directory and/or on signs posted at the OLAP walk-in area.
  - (7) Fishing at OLAP walk-in fishing areas is catch and release only.
  - (8) Access is restricted to fishing areas and access corridors as specified in the OLAP map directory



and/or on signs posted at the OLAP walk-in area. Unauthorized access to restricted areas of the property may be considered trespassing.

- (o) **OLAP stream access.** The following special rules govern public use at OLAP stream access areas.
  - (1) OLAP stream access points provide a publicly accessible site to launch and retrieve boats for hunting, fishing and recreational activities. Activities unrelated to launching and retrieving boats or accessing a stream are prohibited.
  - (2) Persons must remain within the designated stream corridor or access area when accessing OLAP stream access areas for hunting, fishing, and recreational activities. Any access outside of the stream corridor or access area is trespassing. Stream corridors will be delineated in the OLAP map directory and/or on signs posted at the OLAP stream access area.
  - (3) Seasons, regulations, creel limits, and equipment restrictions are consistent with the existing regulations of the stream within which the OLAP stream access area occurs.
- (p) **All Waters of This State.** The following special rules apply to all waters of this state, as specifically defined in 29 O.S., Section 2-147. Disposal of dead fish, fish remains (as defined in OAC 800:10-3-3), or fish carcasses into waters of this state within 100 yards of a boat ramp, or designated swimming area shall be prohibited except where an official fish cleaning station has been provided or where fish cleaning is specifically authorized. Such disposal into waters of this state shall require the perforation of any cavities or organs providing positive buoyancy (i.e., air or gas bladder, digestive tract).

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. HUNTING/TRAPPING ON OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION  
LANDS**

**Section**

800:25-1-1.	Purpose
800:25-1-2.	General provisions
800:25-1-3.	Deer archery hunting on Lake Thunderbird State Park
800:25-1-4.	Waterfowl hunting on Lake Thunderbird State Park
800:25-1-5.	Trapping on Lake Thunderbird State Park [REVOKED]
800:25-1-6.	Waterfowl hunting on Foss State Park
800:25-1-7.	<u>Deer, Dove, Turkey, and Rabbit Hunting on Foss State Park</u>
800:25-1-8.	Deer and Waterfowl Hunting on Keystone State Park
800: 25-1-9.	<u>Deer and Waterfowl Hunting on Ft. Cobb State Park</u>
800: 25-1-10	<u>Goose Hunting on Great Plains State Park</u>
800: 25-1-11	<u>Deer Hunting on Salt Plains State Park</u>
800: 25-1-12	<u>Deer, Canada Goose and Squirrel Hunting on Sequoyah State Park</u>

**800:25-1-7. Deer, Dove, Turkey, and Rabbit Hunting on Foss State Park**

The following hunting seasons apply to Foss State Park, all shotgun hunting restricted to federally approved non-toxic shot and areas open to hunting are to be determined annually and published in the Oklahoma Hunting Guide:

- (1) Dove: September 15 – October 31.
- (2) Rabbit: October 1 – February 15.
- (3) Deer – controlled hunts only.
- (4) Turkey – controlled hunts only.

**800: 25-1-9. Deer and Waterfowl hunting on Ft. Cobb State Park [NEW]**

The following seasons apply to Ft. Cobb State Park. All shotgun is restricted to federally approved non-toxic shot.

1. Deer – Controlled hunts only.
2. Waterfowl – Controlled hunts only.

**800:25-1-10. Goose hunting on Great Plains State Park [NEW]**

The following seasons apply to Great Plains State Park; all shotgun hunting is restricted to federally approved non-toxic shot. Goose Hunting – controlled hunts only. Hunting only in blinds approved by Great Plains State Park.

**800: 25-1-11. Deer Hunting on Salt Plains State Park [NEW]**

The following seasons apply to Salt Plains State Park. Deer – Controlled hunts only.

**800: 25-1-12. Deer, Canada Goose, and Squirrel hunting on Sequoyah State Park [NEW]**

The following seasons apply to Sequoyah State Park.

1. Deer – Controlled hunts only.
2. Canada Goose – Controlled hunts only.
3. Squirrel – Controlled hunts only.

- a. Firearms are restricted to shotguns with pellets.

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. HUNTING ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LANDS**

#### **800:25-3-2. Areas open to archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only**

The following Corps of Engineers areas are open to archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only:

(1) Canton Lake: A 80-acre unit above Highway 58A in the Sandy Cove Area.

(2) Keystone Lake:

- (A) A 460-acre unit including land north and south of the Cowskin North Recreation Area.
- (B) A 200-acre unit on the west side of the north end of the Highway 64 bridge.
- (C) A 530-acre unit north of the New Mannford Ramp area.
- (D) A 480-acre unit east of the Cimarron Park area.
- (E) A 100-acre unit north and south of the Pawnee Cove Access Point.
- (F) A 200-acre unit in the Old Mannford Ramp area.
- (G) A 280-acre unit on the south side of the road ending at Washington Irving North.
- (H) A 120-acre unit west and south of the Sinnett Cemetery and south of the old Keystone road.
- (I) A 200-acre unit south of Highway 51 on Bakers Branch.
- (J) A 135-acre area on the west side of Walnut Creek (old Walnut Creek #3).

(3) Hugo Lake: Except, archery only during all deer seasons.

- (A) A 2,373-acre unit in the Kiamichi Park Area. Open for hunting for all species that can be legally taken during legal open seasons by archery equipment and shotgun with pellets, except closed the first Tuesday through Sunday in October and the first Tuesday through Sunday in December.
- ~~(B) A 418-acre unit in the Salt Creek Area.~~
- ~~(C)~~ A 478-acre unit in the Wilson Point Area.
- ~~(D)~~ A 481-acre unit in the Virgil Point Area.
- ~~(E)~~ A 280-acre unit in the Sawyer Bluff Area.
- ~~(F)~~ A 60-acre unit in the Rattan Landing Area.
- ~~(G)~~ A 500-acre unit in the embankment area above Hugo Dam.
- ~~(H)~~ A 475-acre unit lying South of the physical creek of Salt Creek on Hugo Lake.

(4) Tenkiller Ferry Lake: A 110-acre unit north of the asphalt road and east of Highway 10A.

(5) Copan Lake: Except, archery equipment only during all deer seasons.

- (A) A 650-acre unit below the dam.
- (B) A 100-acre unit east and southeast of Copan Point Park.
- (C) Three islands north of Washington Cove Park.

(6) Fort Gibson Lake:

- (A) A 300-acre unit on the north side of North Bay.
- (B) A 800-acre unit on the south side of the Chouteau Creek, starting at Highway 69 and running east and south to Highway 33.
- (C) A 320-acre unit across the lake from the Chouteau Bend Recreation Area.
- (D) A 480-acre unit on the west side of Mallard Bay.
- (E) A 103 -acre unit in Section 13 of the Blue Bill Point housing addition.
- (F) A 160-acre unit west of the town of Murphy.
- (G) A 650-acre unit on Pryor Creek beginning on the east side of Highway 69 in Sections 29, 30 & 31.

- (H) A 190-acre unit in the south ½ of Section 12, north of the Blue Bill Recreation Area.
  - (I) A 120-acre unit west of the town of Hulbert.
  - (J) A 515-acre unit on the south side of Mallard Bay.
  - (K) A 488-acre unit on the south side of Whitehorn Cove Concession.
- (7) Sardis:
- (A) A 950-acre unit in the Potato Hills Area.
  - (B) A 100-acre unit in the Sardis Cove Area.
- (8) Webbers Falls Lock and Dam 16:
- (A) A 37-acre unit on the peninsula north of the lock and dam.
  - (B) A 150-acre unit in the Hopewell Park Area.
  - (C) A 150-acre unit in the Brewer's Bend Area only open for hunting 1 December through 28 February.
  - (D) A 50-acre unit south of the Spaniard Creek Area.
  - (E) A 60-acre unit off Lock View access road and south of the project office.
  - (F) A 750-acre unit North of Three Forks Harbor to Grand River Bridge.
  - (G) A 265-acre unit from Grand River Bridge to Highway 16 Bridge near Okay.
  - (H) A 62.9-acre unit between Highway 16 and the Muskogee Turnpike
- (9) Lake Texoma:
- (A) A 380-acre unit below Denison Dam.
  - (B) A 160-acre unit in the Willow Springs Area.
  - (C) A 100-acre unit in the Buncombe Creek West Area
  - (D) A 110-acre unit on the Limestone Creek Area.
  - (E) A 250-acre unit on the Treasure Island, North Island Group.
  - (F) A 512-acre unit in the McLaughlin Creek Southwest Area.
  - (G) A 1,100-acre unit in the Washita Point Area.
  - (H) A 300-acre unit south of the Butcher Pen Area.
  - (I) A 800-acre unit on either side of Highway 70 on the east side of the lake.
  - (J) A 650-acre unit in the Lakeside West and South Area.
  - (K) A 420-acre unit in the Lebanon Area.
  - (L) A 226-acre unit on the west side of Wilson Creek.
  - (M) A 130-acre unit in the Caney Creek Area.
  - (O) A 170-acre unit in the Oakview North Area.
  - (P) A 115-acre unit in the North Platter Flats Area.
  - (Q) A 95-acre unit in the Newberry Creek South Area.
- (10) Kaw Lake:
- (A) A 280-acre unit in the Traders Bend Area.
  - (B) A 320-acre unit in the Sarge Creek Cove Area.
  - (C) A 220-acre unit in the Burbank Landing Area.
  - (D) A 110-acre unit between Sandy Park Swim Beach and Osage Cove.
  - (E) A 100-acre unit in the Bear Creek Cove, open for hunting only from 15 September through 15 February.
  - (F) A 186-acre unit south of Camp McFadden and north of a housing addition.
- (11) Eufaula Lake:
- (A) Open for archery equipment 1 October through 28 February and open for shotguns with pellets from 1 November through 28 February.
    - (i) A 165 -acre unit in the Highway 31 Landing Area.

- (ii) A 128 -acre unit in Holiday Cove Recreation Area.
    - (iii) A 200-acre unit in Hickory Point Recreation Area.
    - (iv) A 90 -acre unit in the Gentry Creek Recreation Area.
  - (B) Open for hunting for all species that can be legally taken during legal open seasons by archery equipment and shotguns with pellets.
    - (i) A 275-acre unit known as Duchess Creek Island.
    - (ii) A 47-acre unit in Juniper Park.
    - (iii) A 99-acre unit in the Coal Creek area.
    - (iv) A 69-acre unit southwest of the city of Crowder.
    - (v) A 116-acre unit east of the city of Crowder.
    - (vi) A 95-acre unit in the Rock Creek Heights area.
    - (vii) A 63-acre unit around Highway 9 Marina.
    - (viii) A 411-acre unit in the area of Highway 9A.
    - (ix) A 247-acre unit known as Bunny Creek.
    - (x) A 251-acre unit in Sandy Bass Bay.
    - (xi) A 32-acre unit in Dam Site area.
    - (xii) A 95-acre unit below Eufaula Dam, north of the river
  - (C) Open for hunting for all species that can be legally taken during legal open seasons by archery equipment and shotguns with pellets, except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday through Monday in December: A 395-acre unit in the Brooken Cove Recreational Area.
  - (D) Open for hunting for all species that can be legally taken during legal open seasons by archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only, except closed the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of October through the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of November: A 533-acre unit in the Gaines Creek Recreational Area.
- (12) Chouteau Lock and Dam 17: All lands beginning from the MK&T Railroad below Chouteau Lock and Dam 17 and continuing upstream to Newt Graham Lock and Dam 18, except that Pecan Park is open to hunting with archery equipment only and the Chouteau Lock and Dam 17 has a 600 yard "No Hunting" buffer area around both the lock and dam, and that Coal Creek Access Point and Afton Landing Park are closed to all hunting.
- (13) Hulah Lake:
- (A) A 200-acre unit in the Turkey Creek Point Area.
  - (B) A 60-acre unit below Hulah Dam.
  - (C) A 375-acre unit in the Caney Bend Area.
- (14) Wister Lake: A 400-acre unit east of the uncontrolled spillway and Glendale Dike.
- (15) Oologah Lake:
- (A) A 80-acre unit on the east side of Blue Creek Park.
  - (B) A 180 acre-unit on the south side of Spencer Creek Park.
  - (C) A 120-acre unit east of Double Creek Park.
- (16) Waurika Lake: All lands presently designated as open to public hunting, except fall turkey hunting is archery only.
- (17) Newt Graham Lock and Dam 18: All lands beginning from Newt Graham Lock and Dam 18 and continuing upstream to Interstate 44, except that the Newt Graham Lock and Dam 18 has a 600 yard 'No Hunting' buffer area around it, and that Bluegill Access Point, Highway 33 Access Point and Bluff Landing Public Use Area are closed to all hunting.
- (18) Pine Creek Lake: Except, archery only during all deer seasons.
- (A) A 280-acre unit below Pine Creek Dam.
  - (B) A 225-acre unit within Little River Park open November 1 – January 15.
  - (C) A 190-acre unit within Pine Creek Cove open November 1 – January 15.

- (D) A 530-acre unit upstream and downstream of the dike, SW of Pine Creek Cove.
- (E) A 500-acre unit north of Little River Park and South of the old highway.
- (F) A 345-acre unit within Little River Park open November 1 – January 15 except closed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Sunday in November.
- (G) A 200-acre unit North of Highway 3 and South of the old highway except closed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday – Sunday in November.

**800:25-3-3. Areas open to archery equipment only**

The following Corps of Engineers areas are open to archery equipment only:

- (1) Birch Lake: A 450-acre unit in the Birch cove, Outlet Park and Twin cove areas.
- (2) Kaw Lake:
  - (A) A 400-acre unit in the Washunga Bay Area.
  - (B) A 600-acre unit in the McFadden Cove Area and below the dam embankment access road.
  - (C) A 236-acre unit in the Osage Cove Area open from 1 December to 31 December.
  - (D) A 60-acre unit south of Kaw City and west of Pioneer Park.
- (3) Fort Gibson:
  - (A) A 360-acre unit on the north side of the mouth of North Bay.
  - (B) A 50-acre unit south of Jackson Bay Area.
  - (C) A 150-acre area on the northeast end of Ranger Creek.
  - (D) A 100-acre unit in the Snug Harbor area.
  - (E) A 320-acre unit on the south side of North Bay.
  - (F) A 320-acre unit on the north side of Long Bay.
  - (G) A 70-acre area on the upper end of Pryor Creek adjacent to the east side of Highway 69.
  - (H) A 36-acre area in Section 6, T16N, R20E.
  - (I) A 77-acre area on the north shore of Ranger Creek.
  - (J) A 166-acre area west of Taylor Ferry South Park in Sections 20 & 21, T17N, R19E.
- (4) Copan Lake:
  - (A) A 50-acre unit north of Copan Point Park.
  - (B) A 50-acre unit north of the Post Oak area.
  - (C) A 5-acre unit west of Post Oak Park between the old and new Highway 10.
  - (D) A 340-acre unit north of the Washington Cove Park.
- (5) Heyburn Lake: A 120-acre unit on the south side of the Dam Site Area and west of the outlet channel.
- (6) Skiatook Lake:
  - (A) A 138-acre unit in the Osage Park Area.
  - (B) A 150-acre unit area below Skiatook Dam.
  - (C) A 120-acre unit in Hominy Landing.
- (7) Hulah Lake: A 40-acre unit south of the Hulah State Park office.
- ~~(8) Pine Creek Lake:-~~
  - ~~(A) — Open for hunting for all species that can be legally taken during legal open seasons by archery equipment, except for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday through Sunday in November; A 200-acre unit north of Highway 3 and south of the old highway.-~~
  - ~~(B) — A 120-acre unit west of Little River Park.-~~
- (98) Fort Supply:

- (A) A 183-acre unit in the south portion of Fort Supply Park.
- (B) A 46-acre unit in the Project Office Area.
- (~~409~~) Arcadia Conservation Education Area: (Open by ODWC sanctioned controlled hunt through the City of Edmond Game and Fish Commission only.)
  - (A) A 500-acre unit ½ mile North of Memorial Road on Midwest Boulevard
  - (B) 230-acre unit at Douglas and 150<sup>th</sup> street.
- (~~410~~) Keystone Lake: A 570-acre area south of the town of Prue (old Walnut Creek #1).
- (~~4211~~) Lake Texoma:
  - (A) A 610-acre unit in the Burns Run Area
  - (B) A 550-acre unit in the Alberta Creek Area.
  - (C) A 60-acre unit in the Colbert Boat Club Area.
  - (D) A 40-acre unit in the Oak Hills Area.
  - (E) A 100-acre unit in the Willafa Woods Area.
  - (F) A 50-acre unit in the Buncombe Creek South Area.
- (~~4312~~) Hugo Lake:
  - (A) A 13 acre unit located across from Wilson Point in Section 18, east of Highway 147.
  - (B) A 40 acre unit located north of County Road E2040 in Section 6 and east of Highway 147.

## SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS

### 800:25-7-52. Deer - primitive firearms (muzzleloading)

The following hunting dates, open areas, bag limits and legal means of taking apply to deer hunting with primitive (muzzleloading) firearms:

- (1) **Dates.** The dates for the deer primitive (muzzleloading) firearms seasons shall be the fourth Saturday in October continuing nine days through Sunday.
- (2) **Open areas.** The season is open statewide.
- (3) **Bag limit.** Up to six (6) deer including no more than one (1) antlered deer. A separate license is required for each deer to be hunted or harvested. All deer taken are included in the combined season statewide bag limit. Individual Management Zone antlerless bag limits and antlerless days will be determined by resolution and be published in the Hunting Guide. An unfilled muzzleloading antlered license may be used to harvest an antlerless deer in designated areas on the last day of the primitive (muzzleloading) season.
- (4) **Legal means of taking.** The legal means of taking deer with primitive (muzzleloading) firearms shall be as follows:
  - (A) Muzzleloading rifles, shotguns and pistols: 40 caliber or larger rifle or pistol, or 20 gauge or larger shotgun, firing a single slug or ball that is loaded from the muzzle.
  - (B) Air powered arrow rifles as described in 800: 25-7-54(6).
  - (~~BC~~) Archery equipment described as legal for the deer archery season may be used during the primitive (muzzleloading) firearms season. The hunter shall have the option of hunting with a primitive (muzzleloading) license or an archery license. If hunting with a primitive (muzzleloading) license, the bag limit is one antlered deer, except as otherwise provided.
  - (~~CD~~) Persons hunting with archery equipment with either archery or primitive (muzzleloading) license are required to wear either the upper garment or head covering as described in 800:25-7-3(c).
  - (~~DE~~) No person shall carry or use any modern firearm in conjunction with any legal primitive firearm (muzzleloading) during the primitive firearm (muzzleloading) deer season while hunting deer with a

muzzleloader, except under the provisions of the Oklahoma Self-Defense Act.

#### **800:25-7-53. Deer - gun**

The following hunting dates, bag limits and legal means of taking apply to hunting deer with gun:

(1) **Dates.** The dates for the deer gun season shall be the Saturday prior to Thanksgiving and run for sixteen (16) consecutive days in management zones as designated by Commission resolution.

(2) **Bag limit.** Up to six (6) deer including no more than one (1) antlered deer. A separate license is required for each deer to be hunted or harvested. All deer taken are included in the combined season statewide bag limit. Individual Management Zone antlerless bag limits and antlerless days will be determined by resolution and published in the Hunting Guide. An unfilled deer gun antlered license may be used to harvest an antlerless deer in designated areas on the last day of the deer gun season.

(3) **Legal means of taking.** The legal means of taking deer with gun shall be as follows:

(A) Rifles (conventional or muzzleloading), handguns, shotguns or bow and arrows, see 800:25-7-54. All public lands within the state are open to rifles, handguns, shotguns or bows unless otherwise specified.

(B) Muzzleloading firearms that are legal for the primitive (muzzleloading) season shall also be legal in all areas open to rifles, except black powder firearms loaded from the breech are also legal. Metallic and/or optical sights may also be used on muzzleloading firearms during the deer gun season. Muzzleloading pistols (single shot or revolver) with characteristics that are described for rifles are permissible.

(C) Hunters choosing to hunt with primitive (muzzleloading) firearms, air powered arrow rifles or air rifles must possess appropriate deer gun license and comply with fluorescent clothing and bag limit requirements as set for the Deer Gun Season.

(D) Laser sights are illegal.

(E) Air powered arrow rifles shall be legal during any open rifle season. No arrow rifle may be transported in a motorized vehicle unless projectile has been removed from the barrel assembly and arrow rifle has been decocked.

(4) **Zone Management Hunts**

(A) Dates and open areas: The Commission may, by resolution, establish an antlerless deer gun season at any time in designated management zones or on designated Wildlife Management Areas, as published in the current Oklahoma Hunting Guide and Regulations, during any dates as established by the Commission.

(B) Bag Limit: Zone Management Hunt bag limits will be established by resolution. Antlerless deer taken during a Zone Management Hunt are considered bonus deer and do not count against the statewide deer bag limit. Unfilled deer gun licenses for the deer gun season or controlled hunts are not valid for Zone Management Hunts.

(C) Legal means of taking: Same as deer gun season.

(5) **The harvest of antlerless mule deer shall be prohibited during the deer gun seasons.**

#### **800:25-7-54. Legal firearms and archery specifications**

The following are the legal firearms specifications for rifles, muzzleloading firearms, shotguns, handguns and bows:

(1) **Rifles.** Centerfire rifles only and firing ammunition with a soft-nosed or hollow point bullet are legal if firing at least a 55-grain weight bullet. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(2) **Muzzleloading firearms.** Muzzleloading rifles and shotguns that are legal for the muzzleloading season shall also be legal in all areas open to rifles, except black powder firearms



loaded from the breech are also legal. Muzzleloading pistols (single shot or revolver) with characteristics that are described for 40 caliber rifles are permissible as secondary firearms, but may be used only for killing a downed animal.

(3) **Shotguns.** Any centerfire shotgun firing a single rifled slug.

(4) **Handguns.** Any centerfire handgun firing a single soft-nosed or hollow point bullet with at least a 55-grain weight. Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(5) **Bows, arrows, and bolts.** A legal bow is defined as any bow of thirty (30) pounds or more draw weight, any recurve, longbow, or self-bow of forty (40) pounds or more draw weight or any crossbow having a draw weight of 100 pounds or more and being equipped with safety devices. Crossbow bolts must be a minimum of 14 inches in length. Legal arrows and bolts for deer shall be fitted with broadhead hunting type points not less than 7/8 inches wide, including mechanical broadheads meeting these dimensions when fully open. Devices that permit a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are permitted. Laser sights are prohibited. Hand-held releases are permitted.

(6) **Arrow rifle.** A device that fires an arrow or bolt solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant. Legal arrow rifles will maintain a minimum of 2000psi and have a visible pressure gauge to prove proper pressure. Legal arrows and bolts shall be a minimum of 18 inches in length with fletching for stability and fitted with a broadhead hunting type point not less than 7/8 inches wide, including mechanical broadheads meeting these dimensions when fully open. Arrow rifles are only to be used during open rifle and muzzleloader seasons and are not permitted during archery ~~or muzzleloader~~ seasons.

## **PART 18. MANAGEMENT OF PRIVATE LANDS**

### **800:25-7-75. General provisions**

The following general provisions apply to privately owned lands that are managed or leased and opened for public use by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

(1) An annual Special Use Permit (Access Permit) of ~~\$39.00~~\$99.00 plus \$1.00 vendor fee for resident and ~~\$84.00~~\$199.00 plus \$1.00 vendor fee for nonresident will be required of all persons who ~~on or after January 1, 1997, hunt, fish or otherwise use private lands in 4,000-acre blocks or larger leased and/or administered by the Wildlife Department unless otherwise provided.~~

(2) Legal residents of Oklahoma who are under 18 years of age on the first day of the current calendar year or are 64 years of age or older shall be exempt from the Special Use Permit (Access Permit) requirements.

(3) A Three(3) Day Special Use Permit of ~~\$9.00~~\$19.00 plus \$1.00 vendor fee for residents is available to allow residents to use the private land administered by the Department of Wildlife Conservation for non-hunting or non-fishing related activities unless exempt except on OLAP lands limited to hunting only.  
[Oklahoma Statute as Section 4-136 of Title 29]

## **PART 19. SEASONS ON AREAS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

### **800:25-7-83. Beaver River WMA**

The following hunting and trapping seasons apply to the Beaver River WMA:

(1) Quail: Same as statewide dates, except closed ~~during deer primitive~~ and the first nine days of deer gun season and closed to nonresidents from February 1 to end of season. Hunting hours close at 4:30 p.m. daily.

(2) Pheasant: Same as statewide season dates and bag limit, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season. Hunting hours close at 4:30 p.m. daily.

- (3) Prairie chicken: Closed season.
- (4) Turkey - Fall:
  - (A) Archery: Same as statewide season dates.
  - (B) Gun: Same as statewide season dates, shotgun only.
- (5) Turkey - Spring: Same as statewide season dates, 1 tom limit. Hunting hours close at 7:00 p.m. daily.
- (6) Squirrel: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (7) Rabbit: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (8) Crow: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (9) Dove: Same as statewide season dates.
- (10) Rail and gallinule: Same as statewide season dates.
- (11) Common snipe: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (12) Woodcock: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (13) Deer - archery: Same as statewide season dates.
- (14) Deer - primitive: Same as statewide season dates, except closed to mule deer-antlerless hunting.
- (15) Deer - gun: Controlled hunts only.
- (16) Trapping: Open to water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only except open to statewide regulations from February 1 to the end of February.
- (17) Pursuit with hounds: Closed season.
- (18) Predator/furbearer calling: Same as statewide dates, except closed during deer gun season.
- (19) Waterfowl: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during deer gun season.

**800:25-7-83.1. Beaver River WMA - McFarland Unit**

The following hunting and trapping seasons apply to the McFarland Unit on Beaver River WMA: ~~That portion of the McFarland Unit lying in Section 1 & 12, T4N, R23E and Section 7, T4N, R24E are restricted to archery and shotgun with pellets only.~~

- (1) Quail: Same as statewide season dates, except closed the first nine days of deer gun season and closed to nonresidents from February 1 to end of season. Hunting hours close at 4:30 p.m. daily.
- (2) Pheasant: Same as statewide season dates and bag limit, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season. Hunting hours close at 4:30 p.m. daily.
- (3) Prairie chicken: Closed season.
- (4) Turkey - Fall:
  - (A) Archery: Same as statewide season dates.
  - (B) Gun: Same as statewide season dates, shotgun only.
- (5) Turkey - Spring: Same as statewide season dates, 1 tom limit. Hunting hours close at 7:00 p.m. daily.
- (6) Squirrel: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (7) Rabbit: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (8) Crow: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (9) Dove: Same as statewide season dates.
- (10) Rail and gallinule: Same as statewide season dates.

- (11) Common snipe: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (12) Woodcock: Same as statewide dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (13) Deer - archery: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (14) Deer - primitive: ~~Controlled Hunts Only~~ Same as statewide season dates, except closed to mule deer hunting.
- (15) Deer - gun: Controlled Hunts Only.
- (16) Trapping: Open to water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only except open to statewide regulations from February 1 to the end of February.
- (17) Pursuit with hounds: Closed season.
- (18) Predator/furbearer calling: Same as statewide dates, except closed during deer gun season.
- (19) Waterfowl: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during deer gun season.

#### **800:25-7-87.1. Candy Creek WMA**

The following hunting and trapping seasons apply to the Candy Creek WMA:

- (1) Quail: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (2) Pheasant: Closed Season.
- (3) Prairie Chicken: Closed Season.
- (4) Turkey - Fall
  - (A) Archery: Same as statewide season dates.
  - (B) Gun: Same as statewide season dates; shotgun only.
- (5) Turkey - Spring: Same as statewide season dates, 1 tom limit.
- (6) Squirrel: September 1 - ~~January 15~~ February 28, except closed during the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (7) Rabbit: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (8) Crow: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (9) Dove: Same as statewide season dates.
- (10) Rail and Gallinule: Same as statewide season dates.
- (11) Common Snipe: Same as statewide season dates, except closed the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (12) Woodcock: Same as statewide season dates, except closed the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (13) Deer-archery: Same as statewide season dates.
- (14) Deer-primitive firearms: Controlled hunts only.
- (15) Deer-gun: Controlled hunts only.
- (16) Trapping: Open to water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only.
- (17) Pursuit with hounds: Same as statewide season dates, except closed March 16 - August 31 and the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (18) Predator/furbearer calling: Same as statewide season dates, except closed March 16 - August 31 and the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.
- (19) Waterfowl: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine (9) days of deer gun season.

#### **800:25-7-92.1. Cimarron Bluff WMA**

The following hunting and trapping seasons apply to the Cimarron Bluff WMA:

- (1) Quail: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season and closed to nonresidents from February 1 to end of season. Hunting hours close at ~~12:00 noon~~4:30PM daily.
- (2) Pheasant: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season. Hunting hours close at ~~12:00 noon~~4:30PM daily.
- (3) Prairie chicken: Closed season.
- (4) Turkey-Fall:
  - (A) Archery: Same as statewide season dates.
  - (B) Gun: Same as statewide season dates, shotgun only.
- (5) Turkey-Spring: Same as statewide season dates, One (1) tom limit. Hunting hours close at 7:00 p.m. daily.
- (6) Squirrel: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during first nine days of deer gun season.
- (7) Rabbit: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (8) Crow: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (9) Dove: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (10) Rail and gallinule: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (11) Common snipe: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (12) Woodcock: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (13) Deer-archery: Same as statewide season dates.
- (14) Deer-primitive firearms: Controlled Hunts Only.
- (15) Deer-gun: Controlled Hunts Only.
- (16) Trapping: Open to water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only except open to statewide regulations from February 1 to the end of February.
- (17) Pursuit with hounds: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during deer muzzleloader season and deer gun season.
- (18) Predator/furbearer calling: Same as statewide season dates, except closed the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (19) Waterfowl: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.

#### **800:25-7-92.2. Cimarron Hills WMA**

The following hunting and trapping seasons apply to the Cimarron Hills WMA:

- (1) Quail: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season and closed to nonresidents from February 1 to end of season. Hunting hours close at ~~12:00 noon~~4:30PM daily.
- (2) Pheasant: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season. Hunting hours close at ~~12:00 noon~~4:30PM daily.
- (3) Prairie chicken: Closed season.
- (4) Turkey - Fall:
  - (A) Archery: Same as statewide season dates.
  - (B) Gun: Same as statewide season dates, shotgun only.

- (5) Turkey - Spring: Same as statewide season dates, One (1) tom limit. Hunting hours close at 7:00 p.m. daily.
- (6) Squirrel: Same as statewide season dates, except closed the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (7) Rabbit: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (8) Crow: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (9) Dove: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (10) Rail and gallinule: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (11) Common snipe: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (12) Woodcock: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (13) Deer - archery: Same as statewide season dates.
- (14) Deer - primitive firearms: Controlled Hunts Only.
- (15) Deer - gun: Controlled Hunts Only.
- (16) Trapping: Open to water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only except open to statewide regulations from February 1 to the end of February.
- (17) Pursuit with hounds: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during deer muzzleloader season and deer gun season.
- (18) Predator/furbearer calling: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.
- (19) Waterfowl: Same as statewide season dates, except closed during the first nine days of deer gun season.

### **SUBCHAPTER 13. COMMERCIAL HUNT AREAS**

#### **800:25-13-9. Tagging requirements**

- (a) All wildlife must be tagged with tags available from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation before being transported from the commercial hunting area [29 O.S., Sections 5-101 through 5-103].
- (b) Any elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope or turkey must be tagged or otherwise permanently marked with appropriate commercial tags prior to the release and harvest of such animals. The tag shall not be removed until the animal has been harvested. ~~However, this tagging requirement does not apply to any elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, pronghorn antelope or turkey harvested during the appropriate regular hunting seasons for such animals for that specific area of the state. After the third consecutive year of being licensed for such animals and inspection by a designated Department employee that wild elk, deer, or antelope are not gaining access to the Commercial Hunting Area the tagging of the licensed elk, deer, or antelope before harvest will not be mandatory.~~
- (c) Licensee must sign a written invoice which shall accompany such wildlife to final destination. These invoices shall be evidence of rightful possession and ownership for a period of twenty days from the date of said invoice. A copy of such invoices must be permanently kept for at least one year from date of expiration of license by the commercial propagator and must also include whether the birds were shipped alive or dead. Such invoice should contain the following:
  - (1) The propagator's permit number.
  - (2) The kind and number of each species killed, sold, given away, transported or shipped.
  - (3) The name and address of the recipient.

(4) The date received from licensee.

~~(d) Exemptions: Any area that has been enclosed by a fence deemed suitable for containing big game animals for a minimum of 10 years prior to applying for this license shall be exempt from the requirements of paragraph (b) above.~~

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
CHAPTER 30. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE LANDS MANAGEMENT**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. USE OF DEPARTMENT MANAGED LANDS**

**800:30-1-2. Use restrictions**

The following restrictions apply to Oklahoma Department of Wildlife managed lands:

(1) **Wildlife Management Areas.** All lands owned, licensed, leased or under the management of the Wildlife Division of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, except for the McCurtain County Wilderness Area, are designated Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) to accurately reflect the overall objectives for these lands and the results of management activities conducted thereon. Depending on the specific management objectives, all or parts of any particular wildlife management area may also be designated as a public hunting area, game management area or migratory bird refuge, or wetland development unit.

(2) **Public Hunting Areas.** On a Public Hunting Area (PHA portion), all legal forms of wildlife harvest are permitted under statewide hunting, fishing and furbearer regulations unless specific regulations for the area indicate otherwise.

(3) **Game Management Areas.** A Game Management Area (GMA portion) is closed to all wildlife harvest, except as specifically permitted by Commission action.

(4) **Migratory Bird Refuges.** A designated Migratory Bird Refuge or Waterfowl Refuge Portion (WRP) is closed to all public use and access during the period of October 15 - January 31, except as specifically permitted by Commission action or special hunt permittee's on days of their hunt unless specifically noted otherwise. In addition, unless otherwise provided, all shotgun hunting is restricted to federally approved nontoxic shot and the possession of lead shot is prohibited.

(5) **Wetland Development Units.** Areas designated as Wetland Development Units (WDU) are open for hunting as published annually in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Shooting hours for waterfowl are ½ hour before official sunrise until 1 p.m. daily. Unless otherwise provided, all shotgun hunting is restricted to federally approved nontoxic shot and the possession of lead shot is prohibited.

(6) **Wilderness Area.** On the Wilderness Area, there shall be no public entry except by persons possessing prior written permission from the Director of the Department of Wildlife Conservation or his designated representatives; Department employees; or by the Oklahoma Board of Agriculture, Division of Forestry personnel engaged in fire protection or suppression activities. The self-guided nature trail on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area does not fall under these restrictions.

(7) **Closed areas.** Closed areas within larger management units may not be open to specific types of hunting or other activities on a year-round basis. Other uses may be permissible according to the above priorities insofar as they do not conflict with the specific objectives assigned to these closed areas. Those areas are:

(A) An 80-acre portion of Canton WMA described as N/2 NE/4 of Section 3, T19N, R14W; Dewey County-, Beaver River WMA, Cooper WMA, and Sandy Sanders WMA. Prairie Dog Refuge -closed to prairie dog hunting.

(B) All recreation areas located on National Forest lands including Cedar Lake, Billy Creek and Winding Stair in the Ouachita WMA, Kulli and Bokohoma in the Ouachita WMA, Skipout, Spring Creek and Dead Indian in Black Kettle WMA are closed to hunting.

(C) That portion of the Corps of Engineers Lock and Dam 17 (Chouteau) project under license to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation in Sections 4, 9, and 10, T16N, R18E, Wagoner County; all licensed lands lying south and west of the center of the Navigation Channel, as described by the Corps of Engineers, and north of the paved road leading to Lock and Dam 17 are open to fishing and non-hunting public use from February 1 to October 14 and for special hunt permittees on the days of their hunt. Public access for wildlife viewing is allowed from old Hwy 69 road pavement

and bridge as signed. Lands lying west of new Hwy 69 are open for hunting, fishing, and public use from February 1 to October 14, and lands lying east of old Hwy 69, are only open to fishing and non-hunting public use from February 1 to October 14. It shall be further unlawful to enter the Vann's Lake Refuge with a firearm, except for special hunt permittees on the days of their hunt and during designated hunting periods and locations described above.

(D) A parcel described at Lots 9-10-12-13 and the SW/4 of the SW/4 of Section 6 T26N, R8W, Grant County known as the Van Osdol Wildlife Management Area.

(E) Any areas displaying signs with the words, "Safety Zone" shall prohibit anyone from the act of hunting within the boundaries of any area so marked. Retrieval of hunting dogs or downed wildlife is allowed, without any means of take.

(F) A parcel described as S/2 SW/4 SW/4 of Section 15; S/2 SE/4 of Section 16; NE/4 of Section 21 and W/2 NW/4 of Section 22 all in T26N R 19W, Woodward County known as the Selman Bat Cave Wildlife Management Area.

(8) **Conservation Education Area.** The primary purpose of the conservation education area is conservation education. All activities are strictly regulated by ODWC.

#### **800:30-1-6. Littering**

Disposal of garbage, trash, refuse, litter, shotgun hulls and cartridge casings, sewage, debris or any other form of solid waste is prohibited on Department managed lands, except in designated trash containers.

#### **800:30-1-16. Shooting ranges**

(a) On all Department owned or managed lands, the discharge of firearms for purposes other than while hunting is restricted to the specific target or shooting ranges provided for public use.

(1) Shooting ranges are open year-round, unless specified otherwise in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting ~~Guide~~Regulations or signs at the range.

(2) Shooting hours are official sunrise to thirty minutes after official sunset, daily.

(3) Any person using the shooting range under the age of 16 must be immediately supervised by an adult (18 years old or older).

(4) All firearms shooting single projectiles or any pellets larger than conventional BB (.180" dia.) must be shot at approved berms and target areas only. Air-borne clay targets may be shot using pellets no larger than conventional BB (.180" dia.).

(5) All rifle, pistol, shotgun, and muzzleloader targets will consist of paper or clay targets only.

(6) All paper targets must be removed before leaving the shooting area.

(7) Centerfire rifles and pistols .50 caliber and larger are prohibited.

(8) Fully automatic firearms are prohibited.

(9) Fireworks, explosive devices, exploding targets, tracer and incendiary rounds are prohibited.

(10) Eye and ear protection shall be worn while shooting.

(11) Shooters, and accompanying adult, must possess a valid State of Oklahoma hunting license, or State of Oklahoma combination hunting/fishing license unless exempt.

(12) ~~Do not shoot while another shooter is down range.~~ Shooting while another person is down range is prohibited.

(13) No person shall possess, consume, or use any intoxicating beverage or beer, as defined in Title 37, at any shooting range or shooting range parking areas.

(b) For Department shooting ranges that include an archery ~~range~~area, the following shall apply:

(1) Archery range is open year-round, unless specified otherwise in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting ~~Guide~~Regulations or signs at the range.

(2) Shooting hours are official sunrise to thirty minutes after official sunset, daily.



- (3) Any person using the archery range under the age of 16 must be immediately supervised by an adult (18 years or older.)
  - (4) Archers using the elevated platform must wear a safety harness meeting the standards of the Treestand Manufacturers Association and be attached to the platform at all times.
  - (5) Archers may only shoot at stationary targets.
  - (6) Archers must draw and release arrows or bolts from the tower or directly below the tower ONLY.
  - (7) All nocked arrows or bolts must point down range at all times.
  - (8) The archery tower is limited to 4 shooters at a time, no spectators are allowed on the archery tower.
  - (9) Shooting while another person is down range is prohibited. ~~Do not shoot while another archer is down range.~~
  - (10) Broadheads may only be used in designated lanes.
  - (11) Shooters and accompanying adults must possess a valid state of Oklahoma hunting license or state of Oklahoma combination hunting/fishing license unless exempt.
  - (12) Archery targets designed specifically for archery are allowed on the archery range. Archery targets must be removed after use.
  - (13) Only legal archery equipment is allowed on the archery range. ~~No firearms allowed on the archery range.~~
  - (14) No person shall possess, consume, or use any intoxicating beverage or beer, as defined in Title 37, at any shooting range or shooting range parking areas.
- (c) Exemptions to (a) or (b) of this Section may only be granted by the Director of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation upon prior submission of a written application setting forth the location, date, nature and purpose of such activity.