

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, June 3rd, 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

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 – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation – Wade Farrar
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Wade Farrar
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Mikki Wilmoth, Wildlife Administrative Assistant – 20 years of service.

7. Presentation, consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a donation of \$27,500 from the National Wild Turkey Federation – Russ Horton, Assistant Chief of Wildlife Division and Annie Farrell, District Biologist, National Wild Turkey Federation.
8. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the May 6th, 2024, regular Commission meeting.
9. 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.
10. Presentation of April 30th, 2024, Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Lindsey Presley, Accounting Supervisor, Comptroller.

11. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the department's FY2025 Annual Budget – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
12. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) for retirees in accordance with the Retirement Plan – Andrea Crews.
13. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the nominations of the 2024-2025 Commissioner Officers – Commissioner Zelbst.
14. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
15. Announce the July 1st, 2024, Commission meeting is cancelled.
16. Adjourn

This agency receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and sex (gender) pursuant to 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. To request accommodation or informational material in an alternative format, please contact the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, (405) 521-3851. If you believe 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 St. NW, Washington, DC**

June 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

June 3-7 WAFWA Summer Meeting, Stevenson, Washington

June 16-21 ODWC Youth Camp, OU Biological Station, Kingston, Oklahoma

AGENCY UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION

Accounting – April Activity

Accounts Payable:

of Claims Audited and Paid 418

Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid \$1,964,054.23

Purchase Card Program:

Total # Agency Cardholders 192

Total # Agency Approvers (no cards) 13

Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits \$443,000.00

Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests \$525,000.00

of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved 33

of P/Card Transactions Processed 802

of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions 186

OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions 23

Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases \$211,923.67

PCard Program Refresher Training 6

New Approver Training at OMES 1

New Cardholder Training at OMES 2

Risk Management:

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed 0

New Cases Reported 0

Purchasing:

of Purchase Orders/CO issued 24

IT Acquisitions Processed 2

Federal Aid

Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,316,126.96

- Program Income: \$202,951.97
- In-Kind Contributions: \$5,800.00
- New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 2
- Grant Reports Submitted: 38
- Reviewed 707 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$165,435.89 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 6
- Key Meetings / Milestones: Federal Aid staff spent the majority of the month focused on post go-live PeopleSoft adjustments and working with OMES on integration of WorkDay payroll. All staff attended PeopleSoft query training. Meetings were held with two subrecipients. Prep for Civil Rights Review report response continued.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the final State Wildlife Grants program apportionments.

Human Resources

Open Full-time Positions - 35

Positions Interviewed - 6

Candidates interviewed - 28

Positions Announced - 1

Candidates Screened - 158

Filled Positions - 8 (6 promotion, 2 hires)

See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.

Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), - 21

Full time employees on March payroll - 331

DB Plan Members - 145

DC Plan Members - 186

Hourly employees on supplemental payroll - 31

Retirement meetings and / or calculations - 1

Work Comp Injuries - 2

Other misc.:

- Work on Budget Payroll process for FY25
- Submitted HR Corner article for the May WOG
- Rollout of PeopleSoft GPC timekeeping
- Developed and produced training materials for new time & leave reporting procedures.
- Toolkit Factsheet, PowerPoint presentation, Training Video for Workday Learning app.
- Hosted multiple Teams Meetings to answer questions regarding new time & leave reporting procedure.

IT

- IT took in a total of 71 tickets so far. The slight increase is due to an outage related to Scan to Folder being down.
- Transferred backlog of computers to property for Daniel to sell at the next Purple Wave auction.
- Resolved Scan to Folder Issue for branch offices by adding a firewall exception to Crowd strike.
- Continued work on the leased inventory program.
- Started building program to update personnel tables from Workday for the vehicle and contact list.
- We are working with law enforcement to spec out new hardware for when we do their laptop lease refresh all at once.
- A Quote was finalized to get the security system updated. Waiting for budget approval.

License

- Processed over 1,030 orders, including 939 licenses/permits and 744 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$106,975 in revenue.
- Shipped 142 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$2,100 in revenue.
- Processed over \$500,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 2,504 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

April License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 17% for the month compared to April 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Hunting	-9% (1,176)
Resident Fishing	-24% (23,261)
Resident Combo	-10% (1,861)
Nonresident Hunting	+18% (2,662)
Spring Turkey	+6% (8,024)

Lifetime License sales were up 38% for the month compared to April 2023. Over 2,300 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	+203% (543)
Lifetime Fishing	+97% (336)
Senior Citizen Combo	+11% (668)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+1% (581)

Mid-May License Review (Sales through May 20)

Recreational Licenses are up 12% for the first 20 days of the month compared to May 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Fishing	+13% (17,499)
Resident Combo	+26% (1,022)
Resident Youth Fishing	+12% (863)
Spring Turkey	+25% (1,196)
Nonresident Hunting	+39% (780)
Nonresident 1-Day Fishing	+22% (3,254)
Nonresident Fishing	+12% (3,936)
Nonresident Deer Archery	+294% (63)
Nonresident Deer Gun	+690% (79)

Lifetime Licenses were up 16% for the first 21 days of the month compared to May 2023 (over 200 more lifetimes sold).

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	+213% (442)
Lifetime Fishing	+36% (195)
Senior Citizen Combo	-23% (310)

News of the license changes is making the rounds, as we're seeing increased call and walk-in traffic on top of these sales stats. We'll continue to monitor as we get closer to July 1.

Property

- Completed April Auction.
- Received additional new vehicles. Continued preparation process on each truck to deploy out to the field.
- Completed annual inventory. Processed inventory deletions and transfers for review of new inventory system with old comparison.
- Issued out multiple new vehicles and began preparation process for auction of turn-in vehicles.

FISHERIES

Statewide Fish Stocking, April 2024

Species # Fish Size # Locations

Rainbow Trout, ODWC 25,870 Fingerling 1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial 2,365 9+" 1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial 56 14-24" 1
Rainbow Trout, USFWS 11,645 11" range 1
Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC 2,375 6+" 5
Hybrid Sunfish, Aquatic Ed 438 7" 3
Channel Catfish, Commercial 100 14-24" 1
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC 1,527 Fingerling 1
Bluegill, ODWC 155 4-6" 1
Walleye, ODWC 2,558,000 Fry 5
Walleye, State Trade 4,000,000 Fry 2
White Bass, Lake to Lake 350 Adults 1
Total: 6,602,881

Meeting

- Met with USFWS on a TEAM chat to discuss the new trout MAO, resulting in two possible avenues for the new 3-year commercial trout contract.
- Staff attended and presented project findings at the 2024 OKAFS meeting in conjunction with the Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Association in Stillwater, OK, including a workshop on the aging of long-lived fish species. The conference was attended by 285, including 77 OKAFS members.

Activity

- Received and stocked 3 million walleye fry from Kansas.
- Traveled to Nebraska to assist with walleye spawn and bring back 7 million green eggs.
- Completed annual fish disease testing.
- Received 4 million walleye and saugeye eggs from Colorado.
- Assisted NRCS and Medicine Park Aquarium with outdoor classroom.
- Shocked broodstock FLMB from overwinter ponds and placed into spawning ponds (85% return on FLMB brood).
- Harvested Koi overwinter ponds and stocked into 3 spawning ponds.

- Monitored Scott's Fathead Minnow spawning project (currently have 2 ponds for spawning and have seen eggs in both).
- Tagged/clipped 400 Young of the Year FLMB for certification.
- Fin clipped fingerling trout and distributed them to the Mtn Fork River.
- Staff provided a fishing clinic for 4th graders at the Dewey County Conservation Day. Assistance was also provided at four Big Five Fish-a-Thon events in the northwest region.
- Approximately 100 largemouth bass brooders were collected from American Horse Lake and taken to Holdenville State Fish Hatchery for farm pond production.
- A fish health sample was collected from the Salt Fork River and sent to Colorado in preparation for a Plains Minnow trade with Colorado.
- Staff assisted Nebraska with walleye broodstock collection at Merritt Lake and brought back approximately 7 million walleye and saugeye eggs for production in Oklahoma.
- Completed SSP electrofishing surveys at Durant City Lake and Lake Murray.
- Completed Blue River pressure count survey (1-year survey to assess total and site-specific visitation, use patterns, and residency from license plate).
- Continued work on bass electrofishing bias project including two sampling events and dummy transmitter surgeries.
- Staff prepared for and assisted with 4 days of fishing clinics with Big-5 Services and ODWC Game Wardens at Coalgate 45th Infantry Pond (over 500 participants).
- Inspected flooding damage at BRPFHA, looked for stranded campers, evacuated and closed the area temporarily for security reasons, and worked to repair damaged roadways and culverts.
- Attended Round 3 public meeting of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan and provided agency comments/concerns.
- Personnel continued working on the Grand Lake Creel Survey. In April, 2 weekend surveys and 1 weekday survey were accomplished. A total of 32 interviews were completed in April, bringing the total thus far to 37 total angler interviews.
- Personnel attended and participated in the OKAFS/Clean Lakes conference in Stillwater and attended the aging workshop and attended and presented at the conference.
- Personnel sampled LMB via Spring SSP on Eucha, Claremore, Heyburn, Bixhoma, and Stroud Lakes. Genetic samples, sex, and ages were also collected on 150 fish from Eucha during the SSP sampling. Genetics and aging were also done on 250

Grand Lake bass in areas close to the stocking sites of the F1 LMB, looking at growth rates of naturally occurring fish vs stocked F1 fish.

- Personnel stocked FLMB from Durant Hatchery into Eucha Lake this spring. Approximately 2,000 fish were stocked into the lake. These fish are one year old already, which gives them a much better chance of surviving.
- Personnel assisted with the Badges and Bobbers event on Vinita Lake. This joint clinic is run by ODWC LE and local Craig County LE. Approximately 160 kids showed up and fished at the event.
- Work continues on 8 publications (working titles): Writing is being finalized on “Bowfishing shoot and release a long-term laboratory study” for North American Journal of Fisheries Management, rewriting commenced on “Growth rates influence on within genera gape advantages for *Morone* spp.” (journal undetermined). Writing and analysis continued on “Retention of operculum placed carlin dangler tags on Catfish” for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management and “Hierarchical Growth Modeling applied to Smallmouth Bass populations across the United States” in conjunction with TPWD and KDWP (journal undetermined). Analysis continues on “Environmental and Biological Influences on Channel Catfish Recruitment in Central Oklahoma” for SEAFWA, “Longear Sunfish aging precision and population dynamics in central Oklahoma Lakes” for OAS, “Goldeye aging and precision of Otoliths with observations of processing error” (journal undetermined), and “Capture probabilities and size biases for low-frequency electrofishing, large-mesh gillnetting, and juglines for Blue and Flathead Catfish” (journal undetermined)
- Work continues 8 projects and presentations (working titles): Conducted ageing for “Comparing the precision of Blue Catfish otoliths and pectoral spines from Lake Sooner”.
- Additional spawning boxes were deployed for “Use of artificial spawning boxes in central Oklahoma Channel Catfish impoundments”. Water was collected, and the beta code was finalized for “Arkansas River Striped Bass natal origins.” Alligator Gar was spawned with USFWS, and eggs were collected for “Alligator gar egg desiccation”. Habitat was deployed to study the “Use of different artificial habitats by fishes,” and sonar testing is being conducted. The experimental design was conducted on “Lake Thunderbird creel with inference on forward facing sonar.” Analyzed lab data for Rainbow Trout tag retention” and tagging assistance was given to SE Region for their “Mountain Fork stocked Rainbow Trout movement” study. Prep work and literature review was done for “Research needs for Native Nongame fishes” presentation for North American Native Fishes Association meeting (next month). Literature being collected for literature review of “Visible implant elastomer tags” in finfish and shellfish.
- Angler concerns were addressed at Lake Eufaula, and a mossback habitat build and deployment were conducted with Major League Fishing.

- Close to home, creel and fishing clinics were conducted. . Close-to-home Creel data was compiled for review. Planning on “R3 based assessment for Close to Home Fisheries” project was conducted.
- Spring Largemouth Bass electrofishing was conducted on two small Central Region lakes along with a full sample of all arms of Lake Eufaula (150 transects).
- The Central Office Aquarium and Waterfall were maintained.
- Waiting on review from Environmental Biology of Fishes for “Commercial harvest and population characteristics of freshwater drum and buffalo Ictiobus spp. in Ohio waters of Lake Erie” in conjunction with ODNR and University of Vermont and “Alligator Gar Habitat Suitability under Climate Change” in conjunction with the University of Central Oklahoma.
- Channel Catfish sampling and population estimation were conducted.
- Continued removing silt from Jap Beaver Basin to create fishing jetties.
- Contractors at Jap Beaver Lake poured concrete for the lower 16 feet of the primary spillway structure.
- Staff overhauled the BA site at Crows Roost East at Fort Cobb Lake, including tree trimming, mowing, weed eating, parking lot repair, and expanded camping area.
- Staff conducted electrofishing and collected LMB otoliths at Carlton, Cedar, Coon Creek, Crooked Branch, Nanih Waiya, Ozzie Cobb, Wayne Wallace, Crowder and Carl Albert lakes.
- Work continued on the trout tagging and movement project, along with fin clipping and stocking of ODWC hatchery-reared rainbow trout.
- Multiple meetings with State Parks and LMFRRF regarding trout projects and proposed stream habitat restoration.
- Assisted USFS w/aquatic vegetation removal project.
- Continued assisting DFH with fence line repairs and maintenance.
- Streams staff met with w/landowners and selected sampling sites in the Clear and Muddy Boggy drainage.
- Repaired sampling gear and conducted catfish hoop netting on Cimarron River.
- Surveyed upper Little and Mtn Fork watersheds for Ouachita Mountain Shiners and Lower Little and Glover Rivers for Rocky Shiners.

- Staff collected 125 male White Bass broodstock from Little Beaver for Byron Hatchery to produce Hybrid Striped Bass.
- Staff participated in various forms of technical assistance and public relations, including collecting fish from Kaw Lake for Kaw Nation for contaminants testing, facilitating a Fish ID display for Pawnee County Conservation District for their Conservation Day, and fish preparation for the Legislative Fish Fry.
- Staff picked up angler-shot fish from Ft. Gibson Lake Numbers Bowfishing Tournament and processed carcasses for a multitude of data, including age, length, weight, and DNA.
- ANS coordinator attended the Mississippi River Basin Panel meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas. Presentations focused on ANS-related legislation and field collection methods of invasive carp. This meeting is beneficial for keeping ODWC's ANS program up to date on ANS issues, legislation, and best field practices.
- A total of 99 eDNA samples were shipped off for metabarcoding analysis to a vendor in Colorado. The analysis is pending, but all species present in each given sample will be listed. The target of these samples is invasive carp, but other invaders can also be identified using this sampling tool.
- East Central staff conducted spring LMB electrofishing surveys on Vian, Brushy, Onapa, and R.S. Kerr lakes to add to long-term datasets. Largemouth Bass otoliths were collected with each survey for age and growth purposes.
- Staff sampled skipjack herring below Eufaula Dam 4 times. This project looks at skipjack age and growth in the Lower Arkansas River and evaluates skipjack sampling methodologies.

C&E DIVISION

- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee set up and conducted teacher training courses that begin in May and are now set at different times until September to bring on 25 new schools and train replacement educators for existing school programs.
- The Wildlife Diversity Fund received \$21,160 in donations for tax year 2023. This is slightly higher than the FY 2021 and 2022 totals. The fund's 5-year total is \$108,077.
- Staff worked a booth at the Oklahoma Fitness Expo to inform attendees about fishing and hunting opportunities.
- Michael Bergin made plans for commissioning the 2025 art for the license hard cards.
- Provided the ODWC logo for use on a TV commercial for Wade's RV following their donation of \$2,000 donation through the OWCF to the Stars and Stripes Program.
- Staff will work a booth at the Hispanic Cultural Day on May 15 at the State Capitol.
- Heather Gaylord worked on and distributed several news bulletins related to fishing. She also engaged and set up clinics with OG&E power plant staff which will take place in May as well as the rest of the year.

- Staff worked on Arcadia Area projects and moved through the process of engineering and EA assessment for the parking lot project and the Archery Range Project. Staff also met with the engineers regarding the Arcadia parking lots.
- Lance Meek handled requests and assisted organizations and staff with several meetings that took place at the Arcadia Conservation Education center.
- Completed the analysis of the Fishing Guide Survey and provided a draft summary.
- Met with the National Deer Alliance regarding a potential marketing collaboration.
- Staff will tour the shooting range at Murray State College and discuss potential further on May 30
- Amanda Thomas met with contractors for the Atoka shooting range and documented progress as it was happening at the range. Amanda also coordinated numerous meetings with engineers and agency staff as work continues to progress on other future range projects.
- Kasie Harriet conducted several virtual courses. Kasie and Lance Meek continued the work with volunteers from the OHA on the 2024 deer conference which will be back at the Reed Center in Midwest City on August 17th. They also worked on finalizing the planning for efforts related to hunter recruitment, retention and reactivation along with other staff from the C&E division.
- Colin Berg spoke at an event hosted by the OSU shooting sports club members.
- Two multi-state conservation grant projects are being coordinated. Both grants dedicate \$50,000 to digital ads.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- Staff spent considerable time preparing the FY25 budget.
- Staff across the state collected tissue samples from hunter harvested turkeys for the ongoing DNA study.
- Preliminary figures show that just under 6100 turkeys were checked statewide.
- Over 14 miles of firebreak prep was completed for planned growing season burns.
- 200+ acres of woody vegetation were mulched.
- 120 acres of food plots were sprayed (primarily clover), and over 150 acres of food plots were planted, as spring/summer planting season continues.
- 10 acres of invasive species were sprayed (5 ac musk thistle and 5 ac sericea)
- 36 boundary signs were installed or replaced.
- Maintained 44 miles of area roads and 28 parking areas, including spreading 141 tons of gravel and installing one tin horn.
- Assisted Oklahoma Department of Forestry with emerald ash borer monitoring on 7 WMAs.
- Surveys were conducted for greater prairie chicken and lesser prairie chicken. Between storms and rainfall events across much of the state, and abnormally windy conditions during the entire month of April in NW Oklahoma, finding good survey days proved difficult.
- Significant time was spent on drawdowns of 6 WDUs. Because of heavy rainfall and subsequent high lake levels, this was much more challenging than normal.
- Routine seasonal maintenance of the WMA buildings, grounds, and equipment continues.
- Disked 22 acres in WDU's and repaired 2 ponds.

- WDU water control structures are in transit for Hackberry Flat and Mountain Park WMA renovations.
- Shooting ranges were maintained as needed, including routine trash pickup.
- Staff continue to work on ag and Grazing lease activities, including maintaining grazing infrastructure.
- Staff provided Technical Assistance on 1500 acres.
- Site evaluation and plan preparation are ongoing as staff work to award WHIP funding to approved applicants.
- ODWC hosted the annual WAFWA Wild Turkey Technical Committee meeting at Packsaddle WMA
- McCurtain Co. Wilderness Area (MCWA) staff are conducting nest checks for Red Cockaded Woodpecker breeding, nesting and fledgling activity. Staff will continue to monitor for activity, check nests and band fledglings.
- The septic tank and water well pump was replaced at Pushmataha WMA
- Research and Diversity staff are preparing grant packages for newly approved Wildlife Restoration (2) and State Wildlife Grant projects (5)
- Research and Diversity staff continue to participate in Breeding Bird surveys at survey blocks in northeastern and southwestern Oklahoma. Standard routes are surveyed by biologists to record bird species observed and any breeding behaviors observed.
- New research needs are being developed among all Wildlife Division staff for consideration in the annual Request for Proposals solicitation notice to be released in August.
- Preparation of the annual Big Game report is underway.
- Staff assisted with the annual “Cops and Bobbers” Fishing Clinic at Boomer Lake in Stillwater. There were over 175 participants in attendance.
- The vacant GIS specialist position was filled.
- GIS staff are working with Division staff on the WMA Planning Application in preparation for reprinting of the WMA Atlas
- Bobcat and otter tagging books were collected and data is being analyzed for both tagging books as well as roadside furbearer data. Results will be reported once analysis is complete.
- Staff are working to set up procedures for sampling for genetic testing of deer as required by recently passed legislation.
- Nominations for the Oklahoma Landowner Conservationist of the year are currently being solicited.
- Wildlife Chief will be attending the WAFWA annual meeting June 2-6 in Washington

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Statewide

- New wardens graduated from academy and have started the first phase of their FTO program. We will have two wardens attending the CLEET basic academy starting in July. Once they are done with CLEET they will have spent 38 weeks in training in their first year of employment. That is almost 10 months out of the first year we spend training them. Another reason is we don't want to lose them within the first few years of employment. Pay is so important to keep a highly trained and competent force of wardens.

- Investigator Emily Long won the International Wildlife Crimestoppers Game Warden of the Year Award for 2024. She will attend the annual conference this year in Clearwater Beach, Florida to receive her award.

Dist. 1

- D1 had pistol training and all three weapons qual and cookout and district meeting at Owasso – Friday May 10 all day.
- Larry Green was recently fishing below Kaw Dam and noticed a subject culling Stripers and contacted them and made a nice case from that.
- Jason Adair and Chris Newkirk attended a HE instructor and Aquatic Ed instructor course recently with leadership from the Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee, Miami PD and Ottawa Co Sheriff. It was taught by ODWC and hosted by the above agencies.
- Several of D1 Wardens were busy this month responding to tornado damage at Barnsdall and Bartlesville. Our LTs were some of the first folks to respond and did a great job helping with canvassing and organizing additional resources.
- Two D1 Wardens, Rylee and Riley, are part of a small group of GWs testing printers in the field so that we can print from any location using our phones and laptops. Standby for news on this budding technology.
- Warden Austin Jackson was instrumental in helping set up a fishing day at Vinita City Lake called Badges and Bobbers. Jenks, Alexander, Moore and Stauffer also helped with weigh-ins, worm installations, and various other aspects of the day.
- Wardens Jackson and Alexander presented a Skins and Skull program to the Nowata Co 4H club at Nowata.
- D1 and D2 teamed up for our annual DT Training, held this year at Wagoner.
- D8 brought their patrol air boat over and assisted D1 in covering some otherwise impossible to reach areas. Wardens Jackson, Stauffer, and Alexander teamed up with LT Paul and worked creeks in Nowata Co that may have never seen an airboat before and checked over 60 anglers.
- D1 wardens also assisted with the Copan Fishing Derby, touch a truck at Blue Jacket, and a career day event at Dewey High School.

Dist. 2

- Wardens Morris, Couch, and Lt. Matlock assisted at the OKSSSP event in El Reno.

- Wardens Youngblood, Garrett, and Lt. Wilcox presented the skins and skulls program to various schools in the district.
- Wardens Morris, Langford, Cramer, Stanley, Rowland, and Lt. Wilcox attended Camp Bandage in Broken Arrow on 5/4/24. Their booth consisted of the decoy deer, decoy turkey, skins and skulls, various antlers, fish, and snake posters, and answered questions of all kinds.
- Wardens Cramer, Stanley, and Lt. Wilcox put on a fishing clinic at Honor Heights Park for Woodall Elementary's 2nd graders.
- Wardens Morris, Bailey, and Langford helped put on a fishing clinic at Bixhoma Lake.
- Warden Langford was able to make 6 over-limit striper cases throughout the month. Several were putting fish on different stringers to avoid being caught with over limit possessions, but Warden Langford spent many hours watching from concealment to make the cases.
- Wardens Rowland, Shimp, Couch, and Lt. Matlock assisted the Corp of Engineers with a 2-day Fishing Clinic at Gentry Creek. Warden Rowland put on 2 two-day skins and skulls program at Eufaula. Wardens Rowland, Henry, and Langford worked a special emphasis at Webber Falls dam.
- Warden Shimp attended DTI training. Lt. Matlock and Capt. Robertson assisted with the legislative fish fry at the state capitol.
- Wardens Couch and Shimp attended the honor guard Fallen Officers memorial in Oklahoma City.
- Warden Couch participated in a C& E interview on becoming a game warden.
- Warden Rowland assisted OLAP to set up a new property at Flat Rock Creek.
- Warden Bailey worked a trespass complaint near Beggs school, made contact with the school and showed camera photos to the principal. All were students at school and the situation was addressed, all were minors.
- Warden Matlock worked a trespass complaint involving a tribal citizen and the tribe declined to prosecute.
- All 17 District wardens assisted in various roles at the Game Warden Academy.

Dist. 3

- Warden Potter received information on a turkey baiting case on Hugo WMA. Potter obtained a trail/cell camera warrant identifying 2 adult suspects and additional bait sites. Charges are pending suspect interviews.

- Warden's Penwright, T. Gillham, and Hanson were working boat patrol on Sardis Lake on Saturday, May 4 when they noticed a disabled boat in the middle of the lake. They assisted the stranded boaters and towed them back to shore before a nasty storm blew in. The storm was severe enough they had to seek cover until it blew out. Matt said they saw funnel clouds over the lake.
- Lt. Polk and Lt. Lawson, Commissioner Diehl, and Biologist Chance Phillips are scheduled to meet with the Herron family who are local foresters and own roughly 40,000 acres of timberland in McCurtain County. This is the third attempt at negotiating a deal for the ODWC to manage the property as a WMA. It would be a win-win deal for all parties involved and the public if an agreement can be reached.
- Lt. Lawson and Reserve Warden Phillips are continuing an investigation into a possible Lacey Act case involving the shooting that took place last fall on a Weyco lease. The shooting victim and his family and friends were lease members and the shooting victim allegedly killed a trophy class buck the day before the incident. Neither the victim nor his family members at the lease had any licenses. The story was corroborated by two of the victim's coworkers. Lt. Lawson forwarded the suspect's information to Louisiana Game Warden Rich Reinhold.
- Warden J. Gillham took over a license fraud/illegal bear case from Warden Potter involving a woman he believes has been living in Texas for several years. The suspect purchased resident bear licenses and killed two bears in Oklahoma. Warden Gillham has gathered evidence to prove she is a legal resident of Texas and uses her parent's Oklahoma address to buy resident licenses. Gillham's request for tax records was denied, the reason for the denial stated it had to be for a tax violation or federal law violation to gain those records. Gillham re-submitted his request for tax records as a possible Federal Lacey Act violation and is waiting for a response.
- Warden Polk assisted MCSO regarding a vehicle stuck in a creek on Ouachita WMA. The car is connected to a 22-year-old woman and a child from Missouri who have been reported missing since March. So far the missing Woman and child have not been located.

Dist. 4

- During this period, District Four Game Wardens were dedicated to serving the community through public outreach events and enforcement activities. In total, wardens conducted 941 compliance checks with sportsmen, completed 343 hours of Law Enforcement training, and participated in 60 public outreach events that included 245 programs presented. These events included the Big 5 and Ada Public Schools fishing clinics, the Lt. Governor's turkey hunt, Skins & Skulls, STEP, and Snake ID programs.
- All District Four Wardens participated in the Big 5 fishing in Coal Co., where 600 children and parents learned fishing techniques with many catching their first fish.

- Game Wardens Clayton Johnson, Zane Arnold, Lydia Gearhart, Cody Jones, Garrett Beam and Trae Taylor assisted with a fishing clinic at Wintersmith Park in Ada for 200 2 nd graders from Hayes Elementary.
- Warden Trey Hale presented 5 Snake ID programs to area schools and to the cadets attending our Game Warden Academy.
- Wardens Bailey Johnson, Trae Taylor, Garret Harley, Dale Stites, Cpt. Cartwright and Lt. Bud Cramer provided shotgun instruction through a STEP program and Warden Stites also assisted as a hunting guide at the Lt. Governor's Turkey Hunt in Okemah.
- Oklahoma Legislators and ODWC Commissioners enjoyed a guided stripper fishing trip on Lake Texoma hosted by District Four Game Wardens. A big thank you to Game Wardens Trey Hale and Garrett Beam for providing their guiding expertise, boats, bait, and rod and reels.
- Wardens Trae Taylor and Garret Harley investigated a report of two Louisiana residents who were alleged to have illegally harvested two wild turkeys in Hughes County. Wardens Taylor and Harley's investigation found the subjects were hunting without a valid non-resident hunting license, turkey license and were in possession of two tom turkeys. Each of the men were issued citations for illegal possession of a wild turkey, hunting without a valid non-resident hunting licenses, hunting without a valid turkey license, and their turkeys were seized as evidence.
- Game Warden Cody Jones provided life-saving measures to a motorist while returning to his assigned county from a public outreach event. Warden Jones observed a vehicle that had driven off the roadway and crashed into a gate. Warden Jones stopped to check on the motorist to find the driver slumped over, unconscious and the doors of the vehicle locked. Warden Jones used a window punch to gain entry into the vehicle facilitating life-saving CPR efforts by paramedics. Warden Jones also aided paramedics in transferring the individual to an ambulance for further medical attention. Warden Jones' swift actions and unwavering commitment to the well-being of others undoubtedly made a significant impact in a critical moment.
- Game Warden Zane Arnold responded to a call from the Johnston Co. Sheriff's Office regarding flooded and washed-out roads on the Tishomingo WMU. Upon arriving, Warden Arnold located an unoccupied vehicle in a flooded area. While attempting to locate the vehicle owner, an individual armed with a rebar spear and several knives on his belt approached Warden Arnold from a nearby wooded area. The individual began screaming profanity at Warden Arnold calling him a Nazi. While keeping a safe distance, Warden Arnold requested backup as he attempted to de-escalate the situation. When the deputies arrived, the individual continued to make terroristic threats toward the officers' this is when a deputy deployed pepper spray onto the subject. The subject was then taken into custody. The subject is charged with Obstructing an Officer, Theft or Vandalism of State Property, and Attempting,

Conspiring, or endeavoring to perform an act of violence involving serious bodily harm or death. This person has an extensive criminal history of violent crimes toward law enforcement officers. Warden Arnold's exceptional professionalism effectively diffused the situation and prevented a potential tragedy.

Dist. 5

- Lt. Young, Wardens Flynn & Runyan assisted with search & rescue & traffic control at the Sulphur tornado. Warden Gillham assisted with search and rescue & scene management at the Marietta tornado.
- D5 Completed an LEDT Refresher course which emphasized the need for more of it by counting the number of innocent traffic cones run over.
- Capt. Emmons, Lt.s Young & Strang assisted teaching the state approved LASER Active Shooter Program for Metro-Tech Police Academy along with students from Del City & GW Buley ensuring every Warden in D5 has had the valuable training. Warden Buley learned the importance of not turning his back on an unsecured shooter who he had just "shot" down. Buley turned around, knelt down & began to apply a tourniquet to one of the victims as the "shooter" regained blood pressure and "Re-animated" and began firing about 8 rounds into the Perineum (TAINT) of GW Buley. Buley was advised "You can't put a tourniquet on a Taint". He will not forget that valuable lesson which amplifies the reason we train...training is where mistakes should be made, not out along a remote riverbank or secluded country road.
- Lt. Strang is testing the E-Ticket method.
- GW Buley seized 2 Peacock Bass from a Pet Store selling them.
- GW Branch's OSU Wildlife Law Enforcement class was completed with field scenarios for the students acting as GWs. Capt. Emmons, Lt. Strang, GWs France, Mesis, Harriett, Murray & Buley were role players acting as violators.
- GW Branch taught our Defensive Tactics Refresher class to District's 1, 2 & 7.
- GW Mesis received a call of a Mt. Lion trapped in a chicken pen. Upon arrival, the Mt. Lion turned out to be a Serval cat whose owner was located and was able to retrieve the upset feline.
- While interviewing a subject who had harvested a hen turkey on Lex WMA, GW Meskimen received a call someone had rolled a vehicle on the WMA. GW Meskimen was able to locate the rolled vehicle which was well camouflaged in the foliage and trees. Fortunately, no one was injured. When asked why they were driving so fast on the WMA the driver stated the fish weren't biting at Dalgren Lake and it was too crowded, so he wanted to get to Lake Thunderbird fast.
- GW Flynn assisted C&E with the Ask a Warden on social media.

- Falls Creek STEP: GWs Meskimen, Flynn, Gillham, Runyan
- McCloud STEP: Lt. Strang, GWs Murray & Buley
- Fishing event Cops & Bobbers with Stillwater PD: GWs Branch, France & Harriett
- Purcell & Dibble School Day Outdoor Education program was worked by GWs Meskimen, France & Lt.s Young & Strang.
- Mesis presented 2 Skins & Skulls programs for Guthrie & Cashion public schools.
- GW Campbell had a career day at Spencer public schools.
- GW Campbell & Buley did a Fishing Clinic at the Jones City Pond.
- GW France did an Aquatic Ed program for North Rock Creek Schools north of Shawnee.
- GW Murray rescued Mallard ducklings from a storm drain in Yukon. He also worked the Fishing Derby at Lake El Reno.

Dist. 6

- Warden Clem conducted spot checks of our echeck system which led to an illegal turkey case. After that was discovered Warden Clem did a little more checking on the same individual and found that he had checked in a deer the previous deer season that he did not have a license for. Warden Clem issued citations for illegal possession of deer and turkey and seized as evidence a bow and shotgun that were used to kill the deer and turkey.
- On May 2 at 04:30 Warden Clem received a call from a Waurika police department officer asking for assistance with an unresponsive person locked in a car. Warden Clem responded, and the officers were able to break a window on the vehicle and get to the individual. It was determined that the person in the vehicle did not have a pulse and Warden Clem started CPR and continued until EMS arrived. The person did not survive but great job Warden Clem for answering your phone at 04:30 and assisting other LE agencies and your community.
- Warden Zimmerman made a case in Grady County on 2 non-residents from Arkansas that killed 2 turkeys on a property that they did not have permission to hunt. Subjects received citations for hunting without landowner consent.
- Warden Zimmerman also made a case on a Grady County resident who shot a turkey out of season over bait. The subject received citations for taking turkey during closed season and hunting turkeys within 100 yards of bait.
- Warden Zimmerman conducted a public outreach program for the Salvation Army in Chickasha. Warden King assisted with the El Reno Kids fishing derby. This is one

of the largest kids derbys in the state with around 500 kids attending each year. The Canadian County warden has attended this event for as long as I can remember.

Dist. 7

- Clint Carpenter-2 Skins & Skulls programs.
- Investigated call of possible road hunting & trespassing in Dewey County.
- Tucker Blackburn worked several cases of hunting without consent.
- Assisted Roger Mills County with a stolen firearms case.
- Filed charges from pursuit in Roger Mills County.
- Attended FTO Training at HQ.
- Dylan Jones checked for more baited turkey areas on another guide/outfitter.
- Attended Quail Forever event.
- Gave programs at an elementary school.
- Lt. James Edwards investigated a NC guide possibly roadhunting.
- Worked on new Mission Statement Committee for LE Division Mission Statement.
- Took a call of several dead dove found south of Elk Lake and reported to Marcus Thibodeau and Ron Smith.
- Took a call of a possible shot calf near Delhi.
- Attended Bureau of Reclamation Tabletop Activity for an emergency action plan for Altus/Lugert Lake Dam and Mountain Park/Tom Steed Dam.
- Attended FTO Training at HQ.
- Spoke on the KECO/The Early Morning Show on turkey season info.
- Lt. David Smith assisted with inventory transfers for Orlando Martinez who is leaving the ODWC.
- Attended Bureau of Reclamation Tabletop Activity for an emergency action plan for Altus/Lugert Lake Dam and Mountain Park/Tom Steed Dam.
- Tanner Raasch has been dealing with a Hunting Guide/Landowner over permission to hunt an area. It's turning in to a borderline hunter harassment situation.
- Capt. Jeff Headrick attended the Bureau of Reclamation Table Top Activity for an emergency action plan for Altus/Lugert Lake Dam and Mountain Park/Tom Steed Dam.
- Attended the FTO Training at HQ.
- All but two D7 GW's attended our annual DT Training and they will make that up at a later date.
- All D7 GW's have been working fishermen

Dist. 8

- Capt. Bickerstaff and Warden Badley worked a shooting incident on opening day of turkey season. Investigation revealed that the 2 nonresident hunters killed two Jakes over bait in addition to peppering a member of their own hunting party. There was even an attempt to move the feeder after the fact and before the investigators inspected the scene, the truth was eventually uncovered.
- Warden P Cottrill is still following up on some license and check station cases from deer season.

- Warden Baker is still working on some long multi state wildlife agencies investigations thru the WIT team. These 2 cases involve many states residencies and several different big game species.
- Lt Paul and Warden P Cottrill are still waiting on results of the OSBI gun and thermal report for the shooting investigation in Major County where the lady was shot in her home by a coyote road hunter at night.
- Warden Reigh, Lt Baker, Lt Paul, and Capt Bickerstaff have spent several days at the academy teaching Waterfowl enforcement, blood tracking, man tracking, and hunter incident investigation.
- FTO training
- Badge pinning ceremony.
- The Honor Guard was present at the OLEM ceremony and well represented.
- Beginning FTO phase 1 for two new guys.