

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, October 7th, 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 – Chairman Barwick
2. Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation –
4. Pledge of Allegiance –
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Damon Springer, Sr. Communication & Education Specialist – 25 Years
Nels Rodefeld, Communication & Education Division Chief – 30 Years
Gary Wilcox, Game Warden Supervisor – 35 Years
Jeff Headrick, Game Warden, District Chief – 35 Years

7. Recognition of students from Locust Grove schools on their achievements at the National Archery in the Schools Program national tournament. – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of the Communication and Education Division and Kelly Boyer, Communication and Education Specialist.
8. Recognition of students from Altus schools on their achievements at the National Archery in the Schools Program national tournament. Nels Rodefeld, Chief of the Communication and Education Division and Kelly Boyer, Communication and Education Specialist.
9. Update on Oklahoma's National Archery in the Schools and Varsity Archery Programs – Nels Rodefeld, Communication & Education Chief, and Kelly Boyer, Communication & Education Specialist.
10. Presentation on Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program. – Nels Rodefeld, Chief, Communication and Education; Lance Meek Communication and Education Senior Specialist; Darrell Noblitt, President Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program.
11. Presentation on Bitter Creek Shooting Sports Complex, a third-party shooting range project with the City of Altus - Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education; Amanda Thomas, Shooting Range Coordinator, Michael Shive, Altus Parks and Recreation Director, and Chad Wiginton, Western Oklahoma State College President

12. Presentation, consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a \$13,434 donation from the Blue River Fly Fishers, to be used for management of the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division, Ethan Lovelace, Fisheries Biologist
13. Presentation, consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a donation totaling \$3,400 from the Homesteaders Chapter and \$1,810.25 from the Deep Fork Canadian Chapter of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever. - Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Laura McIver, Regional Representative, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
14. Presentation on quail and pheasant survey results – Bill Dinkines and Tell Judkins, Upland Game Biologist.
15. Presentation, consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on \$23,725 in donations from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF). Bill Dinkines and Annie Farrell, District Biologist, NWTF
16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the September 9, 2024, regular Commission meeting.
17. Director's Report
 - a. 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.
18. Presentation of the August 30th, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
19. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
20. Announce the November 4, 2024, Commission meeting has been cancelled.
21. Adjourn

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MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on September 9th, 2024, of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at The Cedar Gate – Event Legacy Barn, Kingfisher, Oklahoma, on September 9, 2024. 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 Event Legacy Barn on September 5th, 2024, at 3:15 p.m. A public notice was published in the Kingfisher Times on August 25th & September 1st, 2024.

Chairman James V. Barwick called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Tammy St. Yves, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member

Executive Assistant Tammy St. Yves introduced the following guests: Barry Bolton, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF); Richard Hatcher, OWCF; Sidney Shaw, Jim Johnson, with Morgan Stanley.

Commissioner Zelbst announced former Commissioner, John D. Groendyke, is also in attendance.

Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division, introduced Chas Patterson, Northwest Region Fisheries Supervisor who gave an overview presentation of the fisheries management programs in the Northwest Region. The Northwest Region is made up of 16 counties, which is the largest fisheries region in the state with the least amount of water. Mr. Patterson stated the Northwest Region operates out of the Byron Fish Hatchery and the Canton Heavy Equipment facility. There are four major reservoirs in the region (Fort Supply, Canton, Great Salt Plains, and Foss) and six department lakes (Carl Etling, Evans Chambers, Lloyd Vincent, Elmer, American Horse, and Watonga). Seasonal trout areas include Sunset, and Boecher. Mr. Patterson mentioned the Watonga Dam renovation and that the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has recently accepted a bid from CPI. Mr. Patterson then introduced Fisheries Biologist, Dalton Norris, who spoke about a project surveying ponds with tilapia in them to see how tilapia impacts the diet of bass and if stocking them in Oklahoma is worth the cost. Mr. Norris stated that within their surveys they found no major impact on diets of bass, as they only found tilapia in bass for a span of three days.

Ken Cunningham introduced Assistant Hatchery Manager, Colter Fluman, who gave an overview presentation of Byron State Fish Hatchery. Mr. Fluman stated Byron Fish Hatchery is one of ODWC's four fish hatcheries in the state. Byron is a 3000 square ft. aquaculture facility with 20 culture ponds, 3 storage reservoirs and a lower reservoir pump station for water re-use. Byron is the only hatchery where intensive indoor culture occurs. The hatchery annually produces 15 – 20 million fry and facilitates trade with several states. Fish produced include walleye, sauger, saugeye, striped bass, hybrid-striped bass. Outdoor pond culture also results in producing larger sized walleye, saugeye, sauger, hybrid-striped bass, channel catfish, sunfish, and flathead minnows. Byron was also recently successful in raising fingerling-sized rainbow trout, which were stocked in the Lower Mountain Fork. Commissioner Barwick recommended and encouraged the Commission to tour the Byron State Fish Hatchery, stating it is an impressive operation.

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, announced the upcoming retirement of Wildlife Division's Assistant Chief, Russ Horton. Mr. Dinkines stated this is Mr. Horton's last Commission meeting and recognized him for his 36 years of service.

Mr. Dinkines gave a brief introduction to the Northwest Region management activities presentation, stating this is the last of the series of presentations for the Wildlife Division's Regions. He then introduced the new Assistant Chief of Wildlife Division, and acting Northwest Regional Supervisor, Scott Parry, who gave an overview presentation on Northwest Region management activities. Mr. Parry stated the Northwest Region covers 17 wildlife management areas, totaling 107,273 acres, 151 miles of public access roads, 145 parking areas, 46 camping areas and controlled hunts. Mr. Parry stated most of the focus for the Northwest Region is habitat management. He then mentioned management tools within the region includes the mechanical removal and or chemical treatment and control of invasive woody species, prescribed fire, grazing management, and agricultural leases. Mr. Parry stated in fiscal year 24 the Northwest Region burned 5,710 acres. He also mentioned grazing is a big management tool because it allows more acres to be impacted on a more regular basis. Currently approximately 90,000 acres are grazed in the region. Grazing also allows producers to bid on grazing leases which generates a little more than \$400,000 annually that is available for federal match. Mr. Parry continued, stating that approximately 2,000 acres are currently leased for agricultural use. Agricultural leases in the region generate \$40,000 annually that is available for federal match. Mr. Parry indicated there are four shooting ranges in the region with two more renovations planned. He also stated the pronghorn research is ongoing and as of July 31, 2024, there were 125 collared adult pronghorn and 60 fawns. Commissioner Holder asked about stocking rates on grazing leases and who manages those? Mr. Parry answered stating the stocking rate is set by the area biologist and ODWC is probably more conservative on rates so there isn't overgrazing.

Motion was made by Commissioner Zelbst, seconded by Commissioner Holder to approve the minutes from the August 5th Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane and Barwick voting "Yes".

Director Wade Free updated the Commission on calendar items and division activities found in the Director's Report. He mentioned the upcoming Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) annual meeting being held in Madison, Wisconsin and Southeastern Association of Fisheries and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA) conference being held in Augusta, Georgia. He highlighted the upcoming retirement of Assistant Chief of Wildlife, Russ Horton, stating "it's not just the service he provided to

the Department, but that he's just a good human being; they don't come any better than Russ Horton." A copy of the Director's Report was given to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting.

Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Report and miscellaneous contributions for July 31st, 2024.

Motion was made by Commissioner Gaddis, seconded by Commissioner Holder to accept the financial report, and approve the miscellaneous contributions as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane, and Barwick voting "Yes".

Wade Farrar, Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement, thanked the Commission for continuing to allow regional field staff to attend their respective regions offsite Commission meetings; he then introduced Marshall Reigh, President of the Oklahoma State Game Warden Association who presented a \$1000 dollar contribution to the ODWC Stars and Stripes License Project. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Stars and Stripes License Project is a donor-funded project that offers hunting and fishing licenses to military veterans and select survivors of veterans lost while serving their country.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to accept the contribution as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners, Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane, and Barwick voting "Yes".

Commissioner Barwick addressed the Commission and asked if anyone had any questions on what is trying to be achieved on agenda item 13 as it relates to payments in lieu of taxes and requesting an official attorney general opinion, with respect to the enforceability, application, and constitutionality of 29 O. S. Section 3-303 C.

Motion was made by Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to approve the Director of ODWC or Chairman on behalf the Commission, to request an official attorney general opinion on the enforceability, application, and constitutionality of 29 O.S. Sec. 3-303 C, with respect to the annual payments to counties for certain real property owned by the Commission in lieu of ad valorem taxes. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane, and Barwick voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Diehl, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion relating to the "employment, hiring, appointment, promotion, demotion, disciplining or resignation" of the Interim Director; and Scott Parry, the recently designated Assistant Chief of Wildlife to include compensation. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane, and Barwick voting "Yes".

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

Motion was made by Commissioner Diehl, seconded by Commissioner Zelbst to promote and appoint Wade Free from Interim Director to Director of ODWC. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane and Barwick voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Diehl, seconded by Commissioner Gaddis confirming Assistant Chief of Wildlife, Scott Parry, has commuting privileges under the current vehicle policy. Motion carried with Commissioners Gaddis, Diehl, Holder, Mabrey, Zelbst, Kane, and Barwick voting “Yes”.

Commissioner Barwick announced Sean McCabe as the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation’s (OWCF) new Executive Director.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

James V. Barwick, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Mark H. Mabrey, SECRETARY

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Financial Reports



For the Period July 1, 2024 Through August 31, 2024

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
Revolving Funds
For the Period July 1, 2024 Through August 31, 2024

| Revenues: | FY25 Collected | FY24 Collected | % of Inc. or Dec |
|--|------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Motor Vehicle Collection & Diversity Tags | 55,331 | 50,654 | 9% |
| Fishing Licenses | 231,590 | 1,556,487 | -85% |
| Combo Hunt/Fish Licenses | 1,223,712 | 337,959 | 262% |
| Land Access Permits and Other Permits | 101,067 | 410,320 | -75% |
| Hunting Licenses | 359,912 | 253,510 | 42% |
| Fish & Game Law Fines | 2,000 | 27,887 | -93% |
| *Interest on Investments | 124,481 | 1,091,469 | -89% |
| Oil and Gas Production | 31,103 | 83,388 | 0% |
| Oil and Gas Surface Damage | 480 | 103,660 | -100% |
| Insurance Reimbursements | - | 3,170 | -100% |
| Federal Reimbursements | 5,033,328 | 4,620,233 | 9% |
| Refunded Money | 13 | 378 | -97% |
| Magazine Sales & Duck Art Fees | 295 | 7,042 | -96% |
| Agriculture, Misc. Income, Contributions, etc. | 120,161 | 222,055 | -46% |
| Sale of Surplus Property | - | - | 0% |
| Sale of Motor Vehicles, Equipment, Machinery | - | - | 0% |
| Senior Lifetime Sales and Habitat Permits | 17,730 | 105,831 | -83% |
| Non-Game Contribution | 550 | 1,907 | -71% |
| Totals | 7,301,752 | 8,875,948 | -18% |

| Expenditures: | FY 25 Expenditures | FY 24 Expenditures | % of Inc. or Dec |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Administration | 3,949,492 | 1,705,633 | 132% |
| Wildlife | 3,545,326 | 2,504,391 | 42% |
| Fisheries | 1,828,907 | 1,693,879 | 8% |
| Law Enforcement | 2,712,907 | 2,447,000 | 11% |
| Communication & Education | 533,467 | 652,220 | -18% |
| Capital Expenditures | 2,487,338 | 1,548,278 | 61% |
| Land Acquisitions | 133,259 | - | 0% |
| Totals | 15,190,695 | 10,551,402 | 44% |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures | (7,888,943) | (1,675,454) | 371% |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|

**Includes transfers from lifetime trust to operations when applicable*

Cash Balance Revolving Funds
As of August 31, 2024

| Fund | Name | Cash Balance |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 200 | Wildlife General Fund | 3,605,838 |
| 205 | Wildlife Diversity Fund | 1,375,973 |
| 210 | Wildlife Land Acquisition Fund | 6,068,847 |
| 215 | Wildlife Heritage Fund | 4,736,185 |
| 220 | Wildlife Land Fund | 3,193,260 |
| Total Balance of Revolving Funds | | 18,980,103 |

**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Trust Funds
Combining Balance Sheet
Period Ending August 31, 2024**

| | Expendable Trust | Nonexpendable Trust | Pension Trust | Defined Contribution Trust | Totals 8/31/2024 | Totals 8/31/2023 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Assets: | | | | | | |
| Cash (Wildlife Heritage) | 650,838 | 4,085,348 | - | - | 4,736,185 | 4,418,033 |
| Investment Accounts | | | | | | |
| Lifetime License Sales | 49,792,150 | 104,972,015 | - | - | 154,764,165 | 132,960,241 |
| Defined Benefits | - | - | 144,836,000 | - | 144,836,000 | 128,283,963 |
| Defined Contribution* | - | - | - | 8,927,441 | 8,927,441 | 7,553,630 |
| Due From Other Funds | - | 491,755 | - | - | 491,755 | 172,925 |
| Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief) | - | 7,000 | - | - | 7,000 | 7,000 |
| | 50,442,988 | 109,556,118 | 144,836,000 | 8,927,441 | 313,762,546 | 273,395,792 |
| Fund Balance: | | | | | | |
| Reserved for Employee | | | | | | |
| Retirement Benefits | - | - | 144,836,000 | 8,927,441 | 153,763,441 | 135,837,593 |
| Total Fund Balance | 50,442,988 | 144,836,000 | 144,836,000 | 8,927,441 | 313,762,546 | 273,395,792 |

*Balance as of 6/30/2024. Bank of Oklahoma changed statement frequency to Quarterly and Annual.

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Lifetime License Trust
For the Period July 1, 2024 August 31, 2024

| | Fund Performance | Contributions & Expenditures | Market Value |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | | | 148,788,223 |
| Cash Received | - | | |
| Receipts: | - | <u>3,245,775</u> | |
| <i>May and June License Sales</i> | | | |
| Total Receipts | | | 3,245,775 |
| Income: | | | |
| Dividend | 86,724 | | |
| Interest | 118,205 | | |
| Accrued Interest | - | | |
| Foreign Tax | - | | |
| Other | 1,717 | | |
| Class Action Proceeds | <u>-</u> | | |
| Total Income | | | 206,646 |
| Disbursements: | | | |
| Professional Service Fee | | - | |
| Other Payments | | <u>-</u> | |
| Total Disbursements | | | - |
| Realized Gains/Loss | <u>-</u> | | |
| Total Realized Gains/Loss | | | - |
| Non-Cash Asset Changes | <u>-</u> | | |
| Total Non-Cash Asset Changes | | | - |
| Accrued Income | <u>-</u> | | |
| Total Accrued Income | | | - |
| Market Appreciation/Depreciation | <u>2,523,521</u> | | |
| Total Market App/Dep | | | 2,523,521 |
| Fund Balance, August 31, 2024 | 2,730,167 | 3,245,775 | 154,764,165 |

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance
Pension Trust
For the Period July 1, 2024 Through August 31, 2024

| | Previous Balance | Current Month | Ending Balance |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Revenue: | | | |
| Interest Income | 2,860,781 | 2,870,914 | 5,731,694 |
| Employer Contribution | 206,137 | 207,129 | 413,266 |
| Employee Contribution | 46,765 | 46,990 | 93,755 |
| Total Operating Revenue | 3,113,683 | 3,125,032 | 6,238,715 |
| Operating Expenses: | | | |
| Administration | (58,331) | (5,354) | (63,686) |
| Benefits & Refunds | (7,479) | (821,926) | (829,405) |
| Total Operating Expenses | (65,810) | (827,281) | (893,091) |
| Operating Income | 3,047,873 | 2,297,751 | 5,345,624 |
| Non-Operating Expenses | | | |
| Transfers Out | - | - | - |
| Total Non-Operating Expenses | - | - | - |
| Net Income | 3,047,873 | 2,297,751 | 5,345,624 |
| Beginning Fund Balance | 139,490,376 | | 139,490,376 |
| Ending Balance | 142,538,249 | | 144,836,000 |



Wildlife Contributions Report

August 2024

| Total Payment Amount | Name Of Individual Or Business | Description Of Contribution |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| \$0.00 | None | |
| \$0.00 | Total | |

October 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| October 9 th | FFA Sporting Clays NW District – Fort Supply |
| October 11 th | FFA Sporting Clays SW District – Altus |
| October 16 th | FFA Sporting Clays NE District – Coweta |
| October 30 th | FFA Sporting Clays Central District – Stillwater |
| November 6 th | FFA Sporting Clays SE District – Broken Bow |
| November 7 th | Public Hearing @ HQ 7:00 |
| November 13 th | FFA Sporting Clays State Event – OKC Gun Club Arcadia |

AGENCY UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 391
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$5,979,256.70

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 192
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$454,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$583,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 53
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 898
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 0
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$313,288.98
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 9
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 1

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 0
- New Cases Reported: 3

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 53
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 34
- Construction Site Visits: 1

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$3,009,002.91
- Program Income: \$11,280.32
- In-Kind Contributions: \$5278
- Reviewed 784 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$248,353.28 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 12
- One Grants Assistant attended Basic Grants Management training
- Ongoing support for annual audit (Finley & Cook) - providing documents, answering questions, etc.
- Continued struggles/adjustments to PeopleSoft
- Noteworthy: Two vacancies

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 43
- Positions Announced 2
- Applications Screened 365
- Positions Interviewed 4
- Candidates Interviewed 17
- New Hires 4
- Promotions 1
- Transfers 1
- Resignations 0
- Retirements 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 1

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 329
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 39
- DB Plan Members 144
- DC Plan Members 185

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 0

Training:

- # in orientation 5
- Emotional Intelligence/MBTI for Fisheries Division 70

Miscellaneous

- FMLA Requests 4
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the September WOG
- Submitted LDP article for the September WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 5 new hires
- Continue planning for LDP workshop in October
- Continue working on GPC/Timekeeping transition

- Continue tracking Mandatory Supervisor Training hours
- Continue tracking Performance Review processes in Workday
- State job description project - prepare EIB upload to change job codes
- Resolve compensatory time issues on the 28 day cycle with OMES
- CBMA Conference, Boise ID
- Attended Payroll / Benefits Webinar
- Represented ODWC at OSU Career Fair

License

- Processed 519 orders, including 425 licenses/permits and 354 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$68,176 in revenue
- Shipped 379 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling almost \$3,000 in revenue.
- Processed over \$28,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 794 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

August License Review

Recreational Licenses were up 22% for the month compared to August 2023.

Notables include:

| License Type | Pct Change MTD (# Sold) |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Resident Combo | +102% (1,005) |
| Resident Fishing | +40% (7,040) |
| Resident 1-Day Fishing | 690 sold (2nd month of sales) |
| Resident Hunting | +49% (1,690) |
| Resident Deer Archery | -9% (279) |
| Nonresident Fishing | +57% (2,389) |
| Nonresident 1-Day Fishing | +57% (4,126) |
| Nonresident Hunting | +65% (589) |
| Nonresident Deer Archery | -31% (120) |

Continuing a trend from last month are jumps in fishing license sales, especially the annual fishing licenses for residents and nonresidents. Revenue shows a 51% increase in this category for the month as well. So the larger volume increases with the new price points are helping monthly revenue comparisons. A more long-term study compared to projections is being worked for Q1 to evaluate where we stand with the new licenses.

Lifetime License sales were down 24% for the month compared to August 2023, with revenue down 9% for the category. Over 740 sold.

Notables include:

| License Type | Pct Change MTD (# Sold) |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Lifetime Combo | -36% (126) |
| Lifetime Fishing | -6% (51) |
| Senior Citizen Combo | -47% (195) |
| Senior Citizen Fishing | +3% (242) |

Information calls are increasing in the office, as is walk-in traffic. We expect this to increase as archery season starts, followed by youth deer gun season. We'll be monitoring the Youth Super Hunting license questions as well in the weeks to come.

Information Technology

- Took in 62 tickets this month. This is lower than the previous 67 from last month.
- Worked with OMES to whitelist software so that our end users can install approved software without OMES approval each time.
- Worked with Law Enforcement on upgrading their laptops at the end of this year.
- Working on the Installments program to help Accounting balance the Brandt transfer.
 - The program allows Lindsey to see all the installment payments made at the license window. In addition, it allows her to download the installment payments into an Excel spreadsheet. The program lets her know if a credit exists in the transfer.
- We have continued to build and revise a new inventory system for leased equipment.
- Scheduled our yearly audit with True Digital.
- Scheduled our first penetration test with True Digital.
- Conferenced with Arctic Wolf and OMES cyber command to discuss EDR and SIEM solutions to harden our defensive posture.
- Finished paperwork to fix issues paying Midcon Recovery Solutions for our disaster recovery site.
- Actively working with HPFS to find a buyer for our contract.
- Pure Storage Array upgraded, and old equipment has been scheduled for pickup.
- Met with the Director of End User Services with OMES to discuss easier deployments through a golden image and no touch deployments.
- Cory's AV was onsite to repair a crackling issue with the AV system in the Oklahoma Room.

Property

- Completed vehicle auction. 20 vehicles, one trailer, one boat and seven pallets of miscellaneous items sold for a total of \$324,950.00.
- Two FY24 Law Vehicles remain to be deployed with plans to finish deployment by the end of September.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 837 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of August.

FISHERIES

| Statewide Fish Stocking, August 2024 | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Species | # Fish | Size | # Locations |
| Rainbow Trout, USFWS | 9,588 | 11" | 2 |
| Channel Catfish, ODWC | 6,671 | 7" | 1 |
| Total: | 16,259 | | |

Meetings

- Meetings were held with regional staff from DEQ to discuss fish kill procedures and areas of improvement for cooperative efforts in investigations.
- Personnel presented Keystone YOY data to the Oklahoma Striped Bass Association
- A pre-bid meeting for the Watonga dam renovation was held. Four bids were received for the project. ODWC accepted a bid of \$3.6 million with CP Integrated Services.
- ANS personnel represented ODWC in several meetings/forums including Department of Ag. Import meetings, SDAFS pollution committee, LMR/ARW iCarp meeting and two regional ODEQ meetings concerning fish kill response and communication.

Activities

- Staff cleared trees along the perimeter of the hatchery to protect fences.
- Staff started moving buried rock to reservoirs for riprap.
- Harvested sunfish pond and transported fish to Elk City for fishing derby.
- Picked up Channel Catfish fry from Tishomingo, stocked into production pond, and installed aerators into ponds.
- Brooke W., Raylee M., Clint B., and Evelyn M. completed a trailer backing practice course.
- Fixed a rub rail on one of the hauling trucks that had sprung loose on the last trout trip.
- Tried out the hatchery management software from Arizona to see if it would work for DSFH
- Repaired water line leaks and replaced valves in several locations
- Removed and replaced sump pump and water return structure.
- Cleaned aquatic vegetation out of production ponds with the Weedoo
- Programmed and set up iPads for each of the hatcheries.
- Picked up and quarantined blue suckers and shovelnose sturgeon.
- Created datasheet for hatchery calculations (number of farm pond fish and a treatment calculator for flow-through or static).
- Had meetings about biochar and bird laser research.
- Continued blue sucker research including creating otolith mounting protocols.
- Continued working on the Grand Lake Creel Survey completing the 2nd quarter. August consisted of 3 creel days, 2 weekend and 1 weekday creels. 146 angler creel surveys have been completed through the first half of the Creel Survey.
- Personnel conducted the annual striped bass YOY seining collection on Keystone Lake. The most YOY striped bass since this survey was started were collected in 2024. We encountered 2,609 YOY with a subsample of 300 (25 per site) kept for calculating daily growth to back calculate to spawn and hatch.

- Personnel completed the Flathead Catfish age/growth and tagging project on Grand Lake. Encountered 166 flathead, of which 18 were kept to supplement length groups for age and growth data. Tags weren't obtained until the end of June (half way through the season), but were able to tag 73 fish. Of those 73 fish 11 were recaptured, and 10 of the recaptures came from the same cavity the fish was in when it was tagged. The other recaptured fish moved 1/3 of a mile across a cove when it was recaptured.
- Staff picked up angler shot fish from the Fort Gibson Little 20 Bowfishing Tournament and processed carcasses for a multitude of data including: age, length, weight, and DNA.
- Meetings were held with regional staff from DEQ to discuss fish kill procedures and areas of improvement for cooperative efforts in investigations.
- The Native-Nongame crew partnered with the Oklahoma Fish Stickers to conduct a simulated bowfishing tournament experiment on Shell Lake to examine population level impacts of bowfishing on a small impoundment.
- Staff completed Boating and Fishing Access inspections, finished creel survey at Bickham-Rudkin Park, provided technical assistance to 12 landowners, mowing and maintenance at Lexington lakes, maintained ODWC central office aquarium, met with Career tech to discuss artificial habitat structures, and began creating artificial trees for Central Office Aquarium.
- Staff finished Channel Catfish artificial spawning box surveys, completed aging of LMB otoliths from spring surveys, continued habitat surveys on Okmulgee and Thunderbird Lakes, and began preparing management reports from survey data.
- Staff finalized three papers for the Oklahoma Academy of Science, worked on edits for one paper for the Environmental Biology of Fishes, got one paper accepted in Environmental Biology of Fishes, produced one rough draft for North American Journal of Fisheries Management, and work continued on three manuscripts and one book chapter.
- Staff process and aged Lake Texoma blue catfish otoliths.
- Staff continued progress on Survey 123 Connect template and assisted NCR with unique creel build.
- Staff completed paperwork to purchase radio transmitters for bass project this fall.
- Staff poured concrete anchors used for fishing habitat buoys.
- Staff continued technical assistance to City of Ardmore relative to hydrilla management.
- Blue River staff completed annual deer spotlight survey on the area. Statistics and trend data were provided to Wildlife Division.
- Boating access expiration letters were sent to cooperators with projects over 20 years old.
- Continued conducting habitat assessments on Tenkiller Lake as an ongoing project to determine fish use of various artificial and natural habitat structures over time. Entered and organized data and uploaded and organized videos of scans to ensure data integrity.
- Continued to investigate extent of ANS hydrilla infestation within R.S. Kerr Reservoir, identifying and mapping areas of infestation in upper end of the reservoir.
- Investigated potential fish kill on upper end of Webber's Falls Reservoir.

- Participated in scoping meeting for SEOK Pushmataha Power Project and reviewed relevant documents associated with the project to try to assess potential ecological impacts to Kiamichi and Little River watersheds.
- Communicating with the Center for Aquaculture Technology in CA regarding bighead carp genetic analysis, specifically looking into the relatedness of fish captured in 2023.
- ANS personnel finished up gathering known positive and negative samples for our summer round of eDNA sampling. Samples were sent off for analysis on August 19.
- Assisted with Jap Beaver Lake renovations.
- Conducted young-of-year sampling for rainbow trout at LMFR and continued tagging trout and evaluating movement.
- Gave importance of stream presentations at OWRB and LE District 2 meetings.
- Attended Kiamichi River powerplant meeting in Antlers, DEQ fish kill meeting in McAlester, Raymond Gary Lake Association meeting in Fort Townson, and met with landowners to discuss water issues in SE OK.
- Conducted a community streams survey of Muddy Boggy and Blue River drainages.
- Identified stream vouchers, aged catfish otoliths, and entered catfish sampling data.
- Four creel days were conducted in August on Foss. The pressure was fairly low, and black bass played the most part in the catch.
- Trees were trimmed, boating and fishing access areas were mowed, and trash was picked up at Elmer, American Horse, Watonga, and Vincent.
- Staff responded to four fish kills on public waters in the region. They were due to excessive heat and low dissolved oxygen. Staff also assisted several pond owners with dissolved oxygen kills.
- Channel catfish hoop netting at Elmer Thomas for Channel Catfish.
- SWR Staff attended Farm Field Days at Great Plains Coliseum-Introducing 1300 kids to ODWC and Fisheries Management.
- Continued Jettie construction and rip rap placement at Jap Beaver Lake.

C&E DIVISION

- Shooting Ranges: Shooting range coordinator met with engineers, contractors, and agency staff at Atoka shooting range several times to oversee and document construction progress. Several meetings with environmental contractors, engineers, and agency staff were held for progress and updates on environmental assessments, engineering plans, and construction projects. Worked with the city of Altus on the Bitter Creek Shooting Sports Complex environmental assessment, engineering plans, and preparation for construction grant.
- With hunting season underway, several efforts have been made to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters. Efforts include email marketing, push notifications, social media posts, articles and video all related to hunting.
- Blake Podhajsky produced an excellent show for Outdoor Oklahoma TV featuring Caleb Flies, a traditional archer who was able to harvest a black bear using a self bow and stone point.
- Kasie Harriet followed up the Deer Conference with several Learn-to-Hunt virtual courses, sent out hunter education reminders and bulletins about the opening of the different hunting seasons. She also launched the Agency Mentorship Program, with

all 20 spots filled within a week and a half. Worked with Wildlife Division staff on the dove fields, as well.

- Darrin Hill met up with long-retired Game Warden Delbert Foltz for a dove hunt. Heather Del Moral features Delbert in a story produced for the September WOG.
- Betsey York is managing several survey projects including Outdoor Oklahoma magazine, Outdoor Oklahoma video, Close to Home Fishing and feedback for the Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee conducted several new teacher training courses and distributed equipment kits to new schools and community organizations that will be offering ODWC outdoor education programming. Kelly also implemented the requirement that all archers will be required to have their hunter education and customer ID to participate in the OKNASP state shoots along with Varsity Archery which was already required.
- Kara Gardner continues to make progress on an updated Cy Curtis database.
- Michael Bergin coordinated efforts to remind nonresident deer hunters who purchased a base license prior to July that they will still need to purchase deer licenses.
- Kelly Boyer provided information to our peers in Wisconsin regarding the Oklahoma Varsity Archery Program. They were interested in learning how we implemented the program and how we promoted it to existing schools engaged with our other programs. They have subsequently signed up to begin Varsity Archery in Wisconsin.
- Don Brown is working to secure a new vendor magazine subscriber fulfillment after the previous vendor retired.
- Smokey Solis coordinated regulation booklet delivery and pick up, along with season date posters.
- Jennifer Benge compiled and distributed the weekly fishing reports. She also worked on hunter education certification information and assisted staff with material needs for hunter education courses. She also handled a large number of class setup requests from volunteer instructors at schools and other community organizations.
- Lance Meek handled requests and assisted organizations and staff with several meetings that took place at the Arcadia Conservation Education center. Also, compiled grant reports for three C&E OCI grants. Staff met with the engineers regarding the Arcadia parking lots which should be in the construction phase late this fall.
- Damon Springer helped maintain the Arcadia Conservation Education Area, worked on purchases for the shooting sports programs and engaged new schools with grant agreements. He also worked with HR to conduct interviews for the vacant C&E specialist position that he supervises.
- Damon held a pre-season dove refresher course for around 20 agency staff and others. Damon also partnered with OKC Gun Club for a Women on Target/STEP event where approximately 350 women were onsite shooting pistols, rifles, ARs and shotguns. ODWC provided equipment and the gun club provided the ammunition and targets.
- Colin Berg, Shawn Gee and Lance Meek worked with OG&E staff to get the Sooner plant fishing clinic scheduled for the end of September. This year they are working with some of the local schools to have a known group of attendees.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

WMA Highlights

- Fall food plot plantings wrapping up.
- 8,824 acres were burned with prescribed fire.
- 315 tons of gravel delivered and distributed on WMA roads.
- 259 acres treated with herbicide for habitat enhancement.
- 850 acres mowed for dove fields and habitat enhancement.
- 35.5 miles of firebreak were maintained.
- 7 miles of WMA roads were graded, and numerous other miles were maintained/repaired.
- 4 acres of woody vegetation mulched with skid steer.
- Numerous gates and fence were replaced/maintained in anticipation of upcoming heavy use.
- Roads, camping and parking areas were maintained/mowed for upcoming seasonal use.
- Grazing season has ended, cattle removed.
- Maintained WDU's for upcoming waterfowl seasons. Worked on water control structures to prepare for fall water storage in WDU's. 1,100 acres of mudflat were seeded with Japanese millet between Kaw, Texoma, Hulah, and Copan.
- Duck blind drawings were conducted at Porter Office.
- WMA staff reported dove opener hunter activity was moderate to heavy. Some areas saw good success.
- Have been busy assisting hunters and fielding area user inquiries.
- Staff preparing for upcoming controlled hunts.
- New equipment starting to arrive on some WMA's.
- NW & SW region staff attended and CPR and first aid training, conducted by LE.
- Management coordination meeting planned with ODWC staff, Vance AFB & NRCS at Drummond Flats WMA.
- Several days spent on shooting range maintenance and preparation for heavier use season.
- Archery deer, elk, bear, pronghorn seasons kicked off October 1.
- Controlled elk hunt applicant was successful harvesting a 6X6 bull on Cookson WMA
- Bear research report compiled and working with researchers to compile final report.
- Bear surveys were conducted. Bait station visits in SE are lower than 2023 but may be related to natural food availability. NE surveys were up slightly.
- Staff responded to nuisance bear reports.
- Staff responded to deer depredation complaints.
- Numerous staff assisting with conducting quail roadside surveys & pheasant surveys.
- Private Land Youth Deer Hunts starting.
- Several deer heads were measured for Cy Curtis eligibility/entry.
- WHIP application period open (on track for more than 100 applications total).
- Staff participated with Ranch Conversations meeting at Beaver.
- Wildlife Diversity continues to plan, and coordinate fall outdoor classroom field events at the Bill Crawford Hackberry Flat Center.

- Annual Monarch tagging event scheduled for October 3-6.
- Prairie Dog control permit applications were processed.
- Staff continue to respond to federal register public notices regarding proposed ESA listings.
- Oklahoma will host the WAFWA Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group meeting near Buffalo, October 21-25.
- Staff continue working on the WMA planning application to refine data entry and publication.
- Staff attended a Juniper Evaluation Tool (JET) meeting to get overview and provide feedback on the product.
- Staff assisted USFWS in banding ducks in North Dakota, in the 3rd year of a new model to have staff from southern flyway states assist with banding in the breeding grounds. Travel and lodging funded by the Central Flyway.
- Staff attended the Central Flyway Waterfowl and Webless technical committee and the Central Flyway Council meetings. Possible changes coming next year:
- Updated Northern Pintail management plan (could result in increase in limit).
- September Teal season shortened from 16 days to 9 days, based on results from recent surveys.
- The USFWS Multi-Factor Authentication for falconry database is up and going, so falconry license renewal will be available electronically through GoOutdoorsOklahoma.
- Three ODWC Trapping Workshops are planned for this fall. Dates and locations TBD.
- Scheduling 3 presentations at high schools and colleges for Trapping and Furbearer Management.
- Oklahoma Fall Furbearers Alliance convention October 11-12. Staff will attend for Q&A.
- CWD collection freezers were prepped and placed in respective drop off locations.
- CWD genomic sampling meetings were held with ODAFF to coordinate sampling ~500 deer. Sample kits were delivered.
- Staff attended CWD Summit hosted by the National Deer Association (formerly the QDMA) to discuss the status of CWD in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas.
- Statewide elk survey planning is well underway.
- SW WMA staff met with Greer County EMS to discuss emergency response strategy in remote areas.
- Staff assisted volunteer fire department and emergency management coordination with wildfires at 2 WMA's.
- SW region staff worked with LE to provide information on Black Vultures to Beckham County producers.
- Deer spotlight surveys for DMAP cooperators wrapped up and recommend tag allocations were sent out.
- Staff planning to attend Ft Sill Conservation Day for discussion about waterfowl management and tour October 15.
- Attended meeting with GRDA to discuss mitigation ideas.
- Staff assisted with OK Sportsmen Caucus area tour of southeast Oklahoma.
- Several staff involved with conducting interviews to replace job openings/new FTE openings.

- Staff attended retirement party for Assistant Chief, Russ Horton-36 years.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- Wardens from the east side of District One made 194 hunter contacts on the opening morning of dove season.
- Warden Jackson gave a skins and skulls presentation during conservation days at the Vinita Schools and in the classroom in Ketchum.
- Several Wardens assisted with the Veterans Dove Hunt held at Trails End Lodge in Craig County.
- Several Wardens assisted with a manhunt in Nowata County for a man who had kidnapped a boy. The suspect was found and arrested in Tulsa County.
- District One transitioned to the new Sig Rifles.
- Wardens Stauffer and Moore helped District 8 with the early antelope season.
- Opening of dove season was busy with lots of contacts, multiple citations for over limit and unplugged shotguns.
- Wardens Rolling, Fulton and Garrett conducted a program for the Rotary Club of Sand Springs talking about what Game Wardens do.
- Warden Jake Bersche helped the Cleveland WalMart with a fishing derby in Feyoti Park.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche helped Wildlife Division get a group of cattle off of the Western Wall.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche helped the Cast For Kids organization by taking 2 different handicapped kids and their families fishing on Skiatook Lake.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche and Welch helped at the Pioneer Day Festival fishing derby in Skiatook. The derby had 40 kids fishing.

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

- Wardens were busy with Dove season opener and Waterfowl season.
- Public outreach events including career fairs, skins and skulls programs, first responder programs.
- Conducted 3 Hunter Safety classes.

- Wardens Stanley, Cramer and deMontigny attended rifle armor training
- District wardens attended the duck blind drawing at the Porter office.
- Warden Jared Cramer graduated from the Texas Game Warden Leadership Academy
- Warden Garrett assisted Wildlife division with spotlight survey on Cookson WMA
- Wardens Langford and Rowland investigated an illegal turtle possession complaint
- Warden Stanley investigated an illegal deer with head removed
- Warden Garrett investigated an illegal bear harvest case.
- Warden Couch investigated trespass complaint.
- Wardens Rowland and Lt. Matlock assisted OHP with hit and run investigation.
- Wardens investigated numerous baiting complaints.
- Wardens Rowland, DeMontigny, Langford, Bailey, and Lt. Matlock worked a special emphasis on illegal ATV use on Eufaula WMA

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Wardens Barnes, J. Gillham, T. Gillham and Loudermilk completed hunter safety course in Antlers, 9-7-2024. 20 students certified.
- Warden Barnes made night hunting case issued 6 citations, 3x headlighting and 3x hunting motor vehicle. Suspects using both thermal devices and red lens on spotlight.
- Wardens T. Gillham and J. Gillham issued numerous citations for Running Bears with Dogs, Hunting Bears in Closed Season, Baiting on WMA, and Failure to attach Customer ID to Hunting Equipment on a WMA to several individuals in McCurtain and Pushmataha Counties, the arrests were the culmination of a long-term investigation into reports of illegal bear hunting. Several Wardens in D3 assisted with the investigation by locating bait sites and placing and maintaining trail cameras on those bait sites including Thomas Gillham, Zach Hanson, Jim Gillham, Mark Hannah.
- Warden Mark Hannah had a very busy weekend, starting on Friday 9-20-24 thru Sunday 9-22-24 he assisted McCurtain County with a domestic dispute involving a gun, a suspect was taken into custody. He made a night hunting case involving thermal devices and a suppressed rifle and issued citations for Headlighting and Hunting with the aid of a motorized vehicle. He also assisted with locating two men in distress, one individual was apparently suicidal and the other was individual suffering from dementia who had become lost. He also followed a pursuit involving

shooting suspects. An OHP trooper performed a Tactical Vehicle Intervention, and the suspect vehicle crashed injuring four occupants, Warden Hannah assisted with extricating the 4 injured occupants and assisted the paramedics by administering first aid to the injured. Non-wildlife activity reports are on the way.

- On Friday 9-20-24, I conducted a District meeting, the 3rd quarter safety meeting, and the 4hrs CLEET class rifle transition, rifle qualification and the rifle and pistol low light orientation at the MCPD firing range in McAlester Oklahoma. Wardens Loudermilk, Barnes, J. Gillham, Williams, Lt. Polk, Lt. Lawson and I, completed the training. I have the MCPD reserved Friday 9-27-2024 for the remaining D3 Wardens.
- Warden Loudermilk assisted the ABLE commission with the service of a search warrant on an individual in Choctaw county who was operating an illegal alcohol distillery. The suspect had been arrested in the past for electro-fishing violations.
- D3 wardens put together and interesting Thermal Operations Decoy Deer using a Flambeau Decoy and an internal heating system.
- Lt. Lawson made an interesting license fraud on a resident of Texas.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Game Warden Garret Harley was promoted to Lt. Garret Harley and will supervise the North end of District 4.
- Lt. Bud Cramer and Game Warden Trey Hale presented a Hunter Incident Investigation program to the ODWC Communication and Education Division employees.
- Game Warden Lydia Gearhart completed phase 2 and has begun phase 3 of her field training program. Game Warden Trey Hale served as the field training officer in phase 2 with Game Warden Matt Penwright taking over in phase 3.
- Game Wardens T. Hale, G. Beam, Z. Arnold, Lt. B. Cramer, C. Jones, and C. Johnson presented a Hunter Education Course certifying 34 students at the Tishomingo NWR Headquarters.
- Game Wardens Lt. G. Harley, T. Taylor, and L. Gearhart presented a Hunter Education Course hosted by the Seminole NWTF chapter at the Immanuel Fellowship Church in Seminole. 13 students achieved their hunter education certification.
- Game Wardens Bailey Johnson and Dale Stites attended a public outreach in Bristow. The Bristow Chamber of Commerce hosted the community event for the public to interact with law enforcement and get a closer look at the officer's patrol vehicles and equipment.
- Game Warden Bailey Johnson attended a forty-hour Basic Instructor Development Course in Drumwright where he earned his basic CLEET instructor certification.

- Game Warden Zane Arnold attended a Level 3 Peer Support Training held at the CLEET headquarters in Ada.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- D5 had 320 sportsman contacts for the opening of dove season. There were 73 vehicles at Lexington WMA alone.
- All GWs were busy assisting C&E delivering the new regulations to license dealers. Lt. Strang assisted Wildlife division with inspecting & issuing 3 separate deer depredation permits & GW Runyan inspected & issued 1 deer depredation permit. GW Flynn developed & presented to C&E the QR code poster idea. GW France assisted Wildlife division with collecting a sick deer near Pink Oklahoma for CWD testing. Turkey brood surveys were sent in to assist Wildlife division.
- We had 9 different Hunter Education classes, 3 of those were set up by GW Meskimen with the Cole First Baptist Church providing breakfast, lunch & safety orange vests for all the students. The students at the Dickson HE were also taught Stop the Bleed by GWs Flynn & Lt. Young. GW Harriet taught 2 Adult Hunter Eds.
- GWs Meskimen & Murray taught a STEP program for the Cole First Baptist Church.
- Had a bull elk get hit north of Guthrie on I-35 on Sep 14th, GWs Mesis & Branch cleaned it the best they could and gave part of it to the driver and donated the rest of it to Hunters Against Hunger which GW Mesis paid for (approximately 176 lbs).
- GW Meskimen assisted the Lexington WMA biologist & technician on a complaint of 4 wheelers tearing up Lexington WMA. He was able to locate and cited the group.
- Lt. Strang assisted State Parks by being first on scene at Thunderbird Lake to a reported domestic with a male stabbing a female. Fortunately, no one was stabbed. Lt. Strang was able to separate the people until a Park Ranger came on duty and was able to respond. The male had an outstanding warrant and was arrested by Parks.
- GW France assisted Pott. County deputies with identifying two 55 gal drums full of animal parts which were dumped. Turned out to be cow parts. He also came upon a multi-vehicle accident which he assisted OHP & the Pott. Co S.O. with.
- GW Gillham attended specialized training for cell phones called Lexis Nexis Trax training which should greatly assist GWs with finding suspects for crimes where we have no witnesses. He was requested by the Love County Sheriff to assist in a homicide investigation due to his specialized training. GW Gillham showed them how to create search warrants for electronic devices and internet sources that were able to gain information on the suspect.
- GW Gillham also assisted Wildlife Division & the Love Co S.O. in the investigation of multiple brush fires in and around his WMAs.

- Lt.s Strang, Young & Capt. Emmons attended the AR-15 Armorer class presented by Sig Sauer.
- Most of D5 attended rifle training and qualifications in 106 degrees on September 20th. The new rifles with improved weapon lights were very well received by everyone and much appreciated.
- Lt. Young & GWs Gillham, Meskimen, Buley & France taught a water safety course at Arbuckle Lake for 150 Sulphur 5th grade students.
- GWs France & Buley presented a Skins & Skulls program at the Shawnee Free Fair & GW Harriet presented one to the Stroud Alternative Education class. GWs Harriet, Buley & Branch also worked several career day type programs and GW Branch spoke to the OSU Wrestling Club and Oklahoma Natural Gas employees about our new licenses & laws. GW Harriet taught a Learn to Hunt online class for dove and one for teal & geese as well as assisted with an Adult mentored hunt with OHA. GW Runyan attended a Donuts with Dads at Oak Hall Elementary School.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- Michael Zimmerman got a conviction on a convicted felon for hunting with the aid of a motorized conveyance after he shot a deer from his truck. His sentence included 1 year in county jail for wildlife charges and 3 years in prison for felon in possession of a firearm after a previous felony conviction.
- Wardens Pearson, King and Vaughn conducted a skins and skulls program at Roman Nose State Park. After the program concluded Wardens Pearson and King were walking out to their trucks when they heard a commotion at the paddleboat dock. A lady had tried to step from a paddleboat onto the dock and fell in the water. At the same time a child was left in the paddleboat. Wardens Pearson and King were able to pull the woman from the water up onto the dock and get a hold of the paddleboat and bring it to the dock and get the panicked child out of it. This was not a life-or-death situation since the water was only a couple of feet deep. The lady just didn't know it. She could have stood up and walked to shore but instead she clung to the side of the dock until the wardens pulled her up onto the dock. Her biggest concern was that her phone and her vape got wet.
- D6 wardens continue to teach hunter education classes, conduct fishing clinics and other public outreach events.
 - D6 wardens had a busy first week of dove season. Citations issued include:
 - Hunting migratory birds over bait
 - Shooting across a public roadway
 - license fraud
 - unplugged shotguns
 - killing non-game birds (scissor-tailed flycatcher)

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- District 7 had a busy dove season opener with a few hundred hunters checked and numerous citations written. Everything from unplugged shotguns to hunting over a baited area. D7 GW's have been busy

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Lt. Baker assisted OSBI, OHP, & Balko schools with a credible threat of school shooting. He worked closely with the principal and other officials in the aftermath to make several unexpected and lengthy visits to the school during this time. He coordinated other Law Enforcement to do the same to make the students, parents, and school staff feel safer. The local Sheriff's office all quit their posts on the arrival of the newly elected Sheriff taking his position. This void in Beaver County Law Enforcement made Baker's assistance so vital. Preserving human life is of the utmost importance in our mission as LEOs.
- Warden Grace and Lt. Paul made several shootings across the road and over-limit of dove cases while hunting on OLAP land parcel undercover. Five hunters that Grace checked in the morning very close to a daily limit did not recognize him watching posed as a hunter next to them the same evening as they shot dove overlimit and shot dangerously across a public roadway. Lt. Paul was called in to make the contacts and issue citations.
- Warden's Menefee, Badley, Grace, Reigh, P. Cottrill, B. Cottrill, Lt. Baker, Lt. Paul, Capt. Bickerstaff, and Warden Pearson from the 6th district all assisted with a 3 day "Racks and Rods" outdoor expo in Woodward. Officers manned the Operation Game Thief trailer. Wardens answered many questions, signed license applications, gave farm pond management advise, hunting strategy and food plot advise, and listened to mountain lion stories. As the face of the Agency we were highly visible, professional, and approachable to the public.
- Wardens Badley, Lt. Paul, Lt. Baker, and Capt Bickerstaff were assisted by Wardens Moore, and Stauffer from the 1st district and Wardens Brothers and Jones from the 7th district to work the Antelope season. I believe most of the draw permits were filled, but with population of antelope down a lot of the landowner permit hunters did not harvest or even show up to hunt. Estimated 60% hunter success on the Either sex hunt (buck antelope) and 56% success on the doe only hunt. 27 tagged out of 45 permits given for the buck hunt and 13 does harvested out of the 25 tags offered. Several hunter contacts were logged, and 2 Administrative fines were issued for Hunting off Permitted land.
- Lt. Baker is dealing closely with Wildlife Division investigating a nuisance bear in Cimarron County and verified a mountain lion sighting in southern Woods County.
- Wardens Badley and Menefee are assisting area FFA shooting sports as safety officers on the range at the Buffalo and Ft. Supply shoots.
- Wardens Reigh, B. Cottrill, P. Cottrill, Grace, and Lt. Paul all assisted in the "Sportsman's Week" public outreach at the Autry Tech in Enid.

- Lt. Paul and B. Cottrill worked a hunter incident where a 15 y/o victim was shot in Garfield County opening of dove season. The victim survived with several minor shotgun pellet wounds. No charges are being filed, and a very remorseful youth shooter has a renewed respect for firearms and was taught the rules of safe gun handling again.
- All Wardens are busy teaching Hunter education around the district in hopes of keeping the above-mentioned incident from happening.

Investigative Teams –TFO Long

- GW Lt. Baker and Inv Long are working a Lacey Act deer case out of Florida with State Charges for illegal deer
- Inv Long and GW Barnes met with USACE, BIA and Choctaw Nation at Hugo Lake on a possible ARPA violation case.
- Inv Long attended the Rifle Transition Training with District 1
- Several WIT members have been working covert intel gathering investigations across the state.
- GW Gillham assisted Love County with a homicide investigation utilizing digital investigative tools that county does not have access to
- GW Hale assisted GW Lt. Baker with issuing citations for CWD violation investigation.
- License Fraud Team has continued to review license fraud cases across the state.