

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, December 2nd, 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 – Nels Rodefeld
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nels Rodefeld
5. Introduction of Guests

6. Presentation and recognition of Jason Person, US Army Corps of Engineers Tulsa District Biologist, for his partnership and collaboration with ODWC, to facilitate and assist with shooting range projects and other habitat work on wildlife management areas. – Wade Free, Director

7. Presentation and recognition of \$25,000 from National Rifle Association for public target shooting range grant towards the new construction of Copan WMA shooting range. – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education; Amanda Thomas, shooting range coordinator; and Peter Churchbourne, Director of the NRA's Leadership Forum.

8. Presentation and recognition of Peter Churchbourne, Director of the National Rifle Association's Hunter's Leadership Forum, for his efforts in partnering with the Department to deliver no-cost hunter education programming to Oklahomans, and for his assistance in providing funding for Oklahoma's development of shooting ranges on WMAs – Nels Rodefeld and Lance Meek, Communication and Education Senior Specialist.

9. Presentation of \$1,000 donation from the Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers in support of the construction of the new archery range under development at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area. Nels Rodefeld and Damon Springer, Senior Communication and Education Specialist and Rick Nolan, President of the Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers.
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the October 7th, 2024, regular Commission meeting.
11. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education.

TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

CHAPTER 1. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

SUBCHAPTER 13. HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE DEALERS

800:1-13-11. Wildlife Land Stamp, also known as Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit [REVOKED]

CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES

SUBCHAPTER 5. MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASON

PART 1. DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS, GEESE, MOURNING, WHITE-WINGED AND EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES, WOODCOCK, VIRGINIA AND SORA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN, PURPLE GALLINULE, SNIPE, AND SANDHILL CRANE

800:25-5-2.2 General provisions for migratory game birds [AMENDED]

SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS

PART. 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS

800:25-7-3. General provisions [AMENDED]

PART. 5. UPLAND GAME

800:25-7-19. Wild turkey – general provisions [AMENDED]

PART. 15. FURBEARERS

800:25-7-60. General provisions for furbearers [AMENDED]

SUBCHAPTER 13. COMMERCIAL HUNT AREAS

800:25-13-12. Five-Day Paper Hunting License [NEW]

These permanent rule change proposals are related to and a result of the passage of SB 941 and HB 3856. Delete the section on Wildlife Land Stamp as it is no longer needed, modifies HIP requirements, add license requirements for youth hunters, adjust the license costs for turkey licenses, deletes special license requirements for furbearers, and allow the sales of five-day paper hunting licenses for winged upland game at licensed commercial hunt areas.

12. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the dates for the 2025 Commission meetings as follows: January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, August 4, September 2(Tuesday), October 6, November 3, December 8.
13. Director's Report
 - a. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
 - b. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division.
 - c. Oklahoma Legislative Update

14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the Department's Vehicle Policy. – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
15. Presentation of the September 30th and October 31st, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews
16. Presentation of the FY2024 Actuarial Valuation Report for the Wildlife Defined Benefit Plan – Andrea Crews and David Sawyer, Definiti LLC.
17. Discussion and possible action to pursue certain real properties located in Cleveland, Creek, Garfield, Haskell, Pittsburg, and Woods counties, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.
18. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
19. Announce the January 6th, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
20. 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**

December 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA), Augusta, GA -Dec. 9-13

AGENCY UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION

October Activities

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 546
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$3,633,182

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 197
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 12
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$457,500
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$581,500
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 45
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 792
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 216
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 0
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$290,873
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 33
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 3

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 2
- New Cases Reported: 3

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 67
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 19

Overview:

Accounting continues to work through a backlog of purchasing requisitions with the help of OMES ABS. Accounts payable claims are keyed into PeopleSoft within a day or two of receipt by A/P staff. Accounts receivables continue to be a struggle, but we are

gaining ground slowly. The Finley and Cook audit is wrapping up and we are starting work on the FY26 Indirect Cost Proposal with MGT. Accounting held a PeopleSoft training session with Administrative Assistants. Additional training sessions are scheduled with Wildlife and Fisheries Supervisors.

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,684,873
- Program Income: \$30,659
- In-Kind Contributions: \$30,450
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 3
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 24
- Reviewed 970 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$231,734 charged to grants.
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 4
- Met with Sean McCabe of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation to provide an overview of how federal grant funding works.
- Administrative preparation for 11 new subaward research projects at universities starting in early 2025.
- Federal update to regulations regarding grants (2 CFR 200) effective October 1.
- Noteworthy: Two vacancies. Both positions open.

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 43
- Positions Announced 10
- Applications Screened 320
- Positions Interviewed 18
- Candidates Interviewed 46
- New Hires 3
- Promotions 1
- Transfers 2
- Resignations 1
- Retirements 1
- Temporary Employees Processed 1

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 333
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 29
- DB Plan Members 143
- DC Plan Members 190

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 1

Training:

- # in orientation 3
- Emotional Intelligence/MBTI for Fisheries Division

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 1
- Worker Comp Injuries 0

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the November WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 3 new hires
- Planning for LDP workshop in January
- Completed OMES Certified Payroll Partner training.
- Continue tracking Mandatory Supervisor Training hours.
- Continue tracking Performance Review processes in Workday.
- Game warden physical testing and interviews
- Completed employee open enrollment.
- Brought in a temporary to help with recruitment.

License

- Processed 495 orders, including 383 licenses/permits and 386 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$53,256 in revenue.
- Shipped 314 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$2,510 in revenue.
- Processed over \$599,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1,153 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

October License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 20% for the month compared to October 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+127% (1,563)
Resident Fishing	+39% (4,112)
Resident Hunting	0% (6,468)
Resident Youth Super Hunting	10,117 sold (4th month of sales)
Resident Deer Archery	-22% (10,716)
Nonresident Fishing	+69% (2,155)
Nonresident Hunting	+101% (1,513)
Nonresident 5-Day Youth Super Hunting	184 sold (4th month of sales)
Nonresident Annual Youth Super Hunting	483 sold (4th month of sales)
Nonresident Deer Archery	-41% (1,914)

Revenue shows a 33% increase in this category for the month, with large increases in Resident Combo licenses as well as Nonresident Fishing and Nonresident Hunting licenses. Some of the continued increases in sales volume for base licenses may be

due to the 365-day valid period and renewal periods coming up for license holders. Resident Deer Archery revenue was up 40%, while Nonresident Deer Archery revenue was down 1%.

Lifetime License sales were down 19% for the month compared to October 2023, with revenue down 29% for the category. Over 950 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-48% (202)
Lifetime Fishing	-60% (37)
Senior Citizen Combo	-18% (304)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+38% (217)

We're taking increased calls to explain how the new deer licenses work, mostly about how many deer they cover. Walk-in traffic is mixed.

License interviews are scheduled for December 4. License Section has done well managing hunting season being 50% staffed, so shout out to them for all their extra effort during this busy time.

Information Technology

- Prepped for forthcoming audit in I.T. kick off.
- Worked with Accounting and Andrea to discuss using a sole source to buy out our HP server contract.
- Received and reviewed penetration test results. We have implemented fixes to some of the issue found and will be conducting a follow-up penetration test once it gets scheduled.
- Had Cory's AV out to discuss the best replacement for the current AV system in the Oklahoma Room. They have come back to us with a quote. Due to the cost, I am getting competing quotes for job.
- Worked with Law Enforcement on running trials on new body cam system.
- Fixed issue with order 49 new lease laptops to replace aged-out computers.

Property

- Staff have finished submitting items to surplus auction and will have until the end of November to claim items going to surplus before the auction company completes data collection. Currently have 21 vehicles being prepared for auction with more planned to be turned in before capture day. Began process of remove decals from auction vehicles after removing all equipment.
- Provided setup and teardown for the Oklahoma room for 7 days of internal and external groups.
- Our first FY25 vehicles are being deployed late November. All 25 new law trucks have been received and are waiting for equipment installation.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 750 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of October in the mailroom.

Accounting - September

Accounts Payable:

of Claims Audited and Paid: 249

Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$2,017,708.28

- Purchase Card Program:
- Total # Agency Cardholders: 194
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 12
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$456,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$519,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 41
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 764
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 0
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$226,227.69
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 1
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 0

Risk Management:

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 1

New Cases Reported: 3

Purchasing:

of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 72

IT Acquisitions Processed: 23

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,372,402
- Program Income: \$131,607
- In-Kind Contributions: \$16,385
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 28
- Reviewed 685 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$187,419 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 12
- One Grants Assistant attended Advanced Grants Management training.
- Continued struggles/adjustments to PeopleSoft, working with contractor to find efficiencies and resolve issues
- Noteworthy: Two vacancies

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 51
- Positions Announced 5
- Applications Screened 159
- Positions Interviewed 5

- Candidates Interviewed 19
- New Hires 3
- Promotions 0
- Transfers 0
- Resignations 0
- Retirements 1
- Temporary Employees Processed 5

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 332
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 39
- DB Plan Members 144
- DC Plan Members 188

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 3

Training:

- # in orientation 3
- Leadership Development Program Level 2 Workshop – Reflections on Agency Management (20 attendees)

Miscellaneous

- FMLA Requests 2
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the October WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 3 new hires
- Planning for LDP workshop in January
- Completed OMES Certified Payroll Partner training.
- Continue tracking Mandatory Supervisor Training hours.
- Continue tracking Performance Review processes in Workday.

License

- Processed 500 orders, including 307 licenses/permits and 315 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$49,209 in revenue.
- Shipped 534 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$4,000 in revenue.
- Processed over \$14,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1,068 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

September License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 7% for the month compared to September 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+82% (1,349)
Resident Fishing	+13% (5,870)
Resident 1-Day Fishing	534 sold (3rd month of sales)
Resident Hunting	-8% (3,912)
Resident Deer Archery	-18% (9,145)
Nonresident Fishing	+27% (2,200)
Nonresident 1-Day Fishing	+9% (3,490)
Nonresident Hunting	+101% (1,513)
Nonresident Deer Archery	-52% (679)

Revenue shows a 14% increase in this category for the month, with large increases in Resident Combo licenses as well as Nonresident Fishing and Nonresident Hunting licenses.

Lifetime License sales were down 16% for the month compared to September 2023, with revenue down 12% for the category. Over 826 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-35% (170)
Lifetime Fishing	-15% (34)
Senior Citizen Combo	-25% (255)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+13% (224)

Information calls are continuing to increase in the office, with most calls explaining the new youth licenses and adult deer licenses. We'll continue to monitor sales over time, as well as support trends.

Information Technology

- Took in 47 tickets this month.
- Rescheduled our yearly audit for the first week of December.
- Actively working with HPFS to find a buyer for our contract. Presidio has been coming over our contract and is looking to pick it up.
- Started the first round of third-party penetration tests. The tests went well and we fixed a few flaws they found within 24 hours. Securing the second round of tests and repairing other vulnerabilities.
- Cory's AV came out for the second month in a row to fix audio issues in the Oklahoma Room. Due to ongoing issues. We are going to have Cory's quote us for

revamping the core of the AV system. Preliminary discussions between I.T., C&E, and Cory's will begin Friday.

- Working on the ODWC Assets program in Access. It will import an Excel from PeopleSoft's Inventory System and allow the Property Manager to print off an employee's inventory sheet to a selected directory.
- Worked with Law Enforcement on upgrading their laptops at the end of this year.
- Worked with Law Enforcement on running trials on new body cam system.
- Ordered 49 new lease laptops to replace aged-out computers.

Property

- Started process of collecting information on surplus items for next auction. This included an email to all staff requesting the submission of items, along with the opportunity for staff to review items before going to auction. Currently have 19 vehicles being prepared for auction with more planned to be turned in before capture day.
- Provided setup and teardown for the Oklahoma room for 11 days of internal and external groups.
- All FY24 purchased vehicles have been deployed to the field. Our first FY25 replacement vehicles are expected to arrive in late October.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 980 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of September in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

October highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, October 2024

Species # Fish Size # Locations

- Brown Trout, Wyoming State 5,008 6-8" 1
- Channel Catfish, ODWC 55,946 6-7" 7
- Channel Catfish, ODWC 10,633 12" 33
- Rainbow Trout, USFWS 63,405 10.5-11.2" 3
- Total: 134,992

Statewide Fish Stocking, September 2024

Species # Fish Size # Locations

- Channel Catfish, ODWC 38,484 2-3" 4
- Channel Catfish, Private Suppliers 615 13-15" 3
- Grass Carp, ODWC 6 Mature 1
- Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC 1,500 Fingerling 2
- Rainbow Trout, USFWS 4,809 Mature 1
- Total: 45,414

Meetings

- Went to Farlington, KS, to tour the hatchery system and understand how to propagate SCGN species.
- Staff attended the Aquaponics Conference in Dallas.
- Regional Supervisor gave a presentation to the Careers in Natural Resources class at OSU.
- PNNG Technician gave a presentation to the NSU Fish and Wildlife Club.

- Regional Biologist presented to the OSU Student Subunit of the American Fisheries Society.
- Staff attended the NASPS meeting in Mobile, Alabama. The meeting included a discussion/planning forum on response to sturgeon and paddlefish mass mortality events.
- Staff attended the Fish Division meeting at Beaver's Bend State Park.
- Staff attended OWRB Round #4 Regional water planning meeting.
- Met with Northeastern State University Fish and Wildlife Club to discuss Fisheries internship opportunities and answer any questions.
- Personnel presented Keystone YOY data to the Oklahoma Striped Bass Association.
- Prepared and presented material on the Kiamichi River project at an interim study.

Activities

- Received 30K Rainbow Trout eggs from the USFW hatchery to be incubated and hatched.
- Began soil sampling on ponds.
- Created calculator for lbs. of fish that can be stocked on hatchery trucks.
- Staff completed rip rap placement on hatchery reservoir and refinish project on two 3,000-gallon water storage tanks.
- Staff conducted a tour for a school group of pre-K to 3rd grade at the Durant State fish hatchery.
- Research team created and implemented plankton counting protocol at Durant Hatchery.
- Staff hosted a fishing clinic for the Grant County Outdoor Classroom Resource Day. Approximately 100 students, 3rd through 6th grade from Medford Public Schools participated.
- Staff attended a Canton Lake Advisory Committee meeting with OKC, OWRB, USACE, and the Canton Lake Association. A release of 16,000 ac-ft of water from Canton to Hefner discussed and planned.
- An asphalt approach for the boat ramp at Watonga was planned and completed.
- A pre-construction meeting for the Watonga dam project was attended. CP Integrated plans to mobilize and begin construction in early December. They anticipate completion in May 2025.
- Floating algae was removed from the entire shoreline of Boecher Lake with the Weedoo boat. This will improve angling access for trout season.
- Four creel days were conducted in August on Foss. Pressure was fairly low and black bass accounted for most of 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.
- 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
- Staff attended Moronid Committee Meeting and drafted sections for the Oklahoma Hybrid Striped Bass Management Plan.

- Angler Creel on Sooner Lake continued.
- Staff handled fishing and aquatic education station at the Pawnee Field Day hosted by the conservation district.
- Staff hosted a field trip for 6th graders for McCord Elementary School at Lake Ponca. Students learned the concepts and applications of age and growth data, observed trapnet sampling, and pulled and read their own otoliths.
- Fall sampling began. The following were completed, Trapnet Ponca Lake, Night Electrofishing Skiatook for Smallmouth Bass, Trapnet Shell Lake, Trapnet Boomer Lake, Trapnet Arbuckle Lake,
- Staff finished SSP Lake Reports for all spring electrofishing surveys.
- Staff assisted CAST for kids to conduct a fishing clinic for patients at OU Childrens hospital. A fishing clinic was also conducted with Hughes County NRCS.
- Staff published manuscript in Environmental Biology of Fishes dealing with commercial harvest of native nongame fishes in Lake Erie (partners: University of Vermont, Ohio Department of Natural Resources). Edits for another manuscript for Environmental Biology of Fishes dealing with climate changes effects on Alligator Gar distribution are being done. Staff are currently finalizing two rough drafts regarding long-term bowfishing shoot-and-release mortality (internal) and Smallmouth Bass growth rates across the United States (partners: Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Texas Parks and Wildlife).
- Staff continued mapping close to home ponds for anglers, collecting Striped Bass in the Arkansas River, surveys of habitat structures, along with maintenance of the Central office aquarium and construction of an artificial tree for the aquarium.
- Staff provided technical assistance to 15 constituents covering fish stocking, fish identification, fishing regulations, OKC trout season and area fish kills.
- Staff conducted multiple management samples including crappie surveys at three close to home fishing ponds (Bickam Rudkin, Northeast Lions, Sutton) and four reservoirs (El Reno, Lindsay, Elmore City, Okmulgee), along with shad surveys at Konawa. Along with this, staff attended a catfish management committee meeting and worked on Ictalurid, Percid, and Moronid statewide management plans. Staff also met with the City of Holdenville to discuss Boating Access Improvements.
- Staff worked on research projects including fyke-net throat modification mark-recapture for crappie and PIT tag retention and mortality of crappie. Staff assisted the South-Central region with an ongoing Largemouth Bass telemetry study and assisted the Southeast Region with a trout tagging study on the Lower Mountain Fork River.
- Work on nationwide smallmouth bass growth rates paper continued (partners: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks). Revisions from one SEAFWA manuscript (Sander spp. effects on Crappie growth) were submitted and revisions on another SEAFWA manuscript (Recruitment indexing methods for channel catfish populations) are underway. Staff attended the Friends of Reservoirs conference and presented on ongoing habitat partnerships within the state. Staff met with Oklahoma State professors and students to discuss potential future habitat research and current Skipjack Herring research.
- Collected water quality data from the Lake Texoma tailwater and corresponded with Corp of Engineer's regarding supplemental release methods for changing water conditions.
- Staff continued the Bass Electrofishing Bias project with additional sampling runs.

- Staff constructed and placed 10 Shelbyville cubes into Arbuckle Lake.
- Staff continued edits/progress on Survey 123 tool.
- BR staff worked on roadway maintenance prior to trout season.
- Inspected hydrilla treatment at Ardmore City Lake and collected WQ data and observations.
- Staff completed construction of lean-to at Blue River PFHA.
- Interviewed and hired fisheries intern.
- Worked on species management committee tasks.
- Worked on equipment repairs and infrastructure maintenance at Blue River
- Worked on traffic counter maintenance and functionality at Blue River.
- Collect Water Quality observations and data at Denison Dam regarding low DO season and fish kill potential. Coordinated visits and requests with Corps of Engineers staff.
- Assisted with local kids fishing event at Honor Heights Park Pond in Muskogee, OK, hosted by the Muskogee Breakfast Optimist Club in cooperation with the City of Muskogee and multiple local businesses.
- Participated in SSP Committee meeting via Teams and attended the Fish Division Meeting in Broken Bow, OK.
- Compiled an Oklahoma report for the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species
- Conducted SSP Blue Catfish Sampling on R.S. Kerr Reservoir to evaluate population and condition. Otoliths were pulled from a sub-sample of Blue Catfish to later determine age and growth rates for the population. The sampling data was entered, validated, and uploaded to SharePoint.
- Maintained Barren Fork, Bamberger and Simp and Helen Watts areas through mowing, brush hogging and limb removal.
- 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.
- Conducted SSP trap net sampling on Greenleaf Lake and Ft. Gibson Reservoir to evaluate crappie population and condition. Otoliths were pulled from a sub-sample of white and black crappie to later determine age and growth rates for the population. The sampling data was entered, validated, and uploaded to SharePoint.
- Conducted SSP gill net sampling on Greenleaf Lake to monitor pelagic sportfish populations and condition.
- Participated in Ictalurid Committee meeting at Arcadia CEA to discuss statewide Catfish Management Plan and channel catfish stocking issues across the state.
- Gillnetted on Keystone with NER to collect white perch. Collected 105 white perch and pulled otoliths for age and growth.
- Prepped and shipped 58 bighead carp fin clips for Bighead carp Genotyping by Sequencing (GBS) analysis and population genetic overview
- Created rough draft of ODWC Fish Kill form and sent out to Biologists for review.
- Participated in GRDA's user capacity study findings inaugural committee meeting.
- Attended Leadership Development Program Reflections on Agency Management workshop.
- Assisted SWR w/Jap Beaver renovations and Blue River with road repairs.

- Continued with community stream sampling on Muddy Boggy and Blue River drainages.
- Drafted and submitted comments on proposed Kiamichi River Powerplant
- Conducted joint sampling with OCC, gave streams presentation to Siloam Springs, and attended OWRB comprehensive water plan meeting.
- Personnel continued working on the Grand Lake Creel Survey. October only consisted of 1 creel day, and unfortunately, it was a less than desirable weather day with no angler activity in the assigned section.
- Personnel conducted annual fall SSP sampling. Grand Lake was sampled using both gill nets and trap nets. Otoliths were obtained from White bass, Hybrid white bass, and crappie.
- Personnel attended the Ictalurid and Morone committees. Assistance was given in creating species management plans.
- Personnel continued taking part in Leadership Development, both through the LDP2 course in OKC and through online training.
- Personnel deployed 10 new habitat sites using cedar trees on Oologah Lake.
- Personnel assisted with channel catfish stockings in Tulsa area Close to Home Fishing Program ponds.
- Mowed and weed-eat Medicine Creek trout area.
- Sprayed woodie vegetation in Doc Hollis and Jap Beaver dams.

C&E DIVISION

- Education staff wrapped up another successful season of shotgun shoots in collaboration with the FFA, including shoots at Coweta, Stillwater, Altus, Broken Bow and Fort Supply, culminating with the state Championship at the Oklahoma City Gun Club.
- Blake Podhajsky won two awards in the 2024 Outdoor Writers Association "Excellence in Craft" awards for Urban Wildscaping and Back to Her Roots.
- Through a multi-state grant with the Association for Conservation, Michael Bergin and partners produced a unique video that is being shared across social media channels to encourage hunters to get out this fall. That video can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zmV9rAOAR0>
- Amanda Thomas made multiple visits to monitor and coordinate construction of the new shooting range at the Atoka Wildlife Management Area. Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact was completed for Canton WMA Shooting Range. Kicked off engineering for Lexington shooting range improvements and expansion. Kicked off 7 new Environmental Assessment projects for new and/or renovation and expansion of shooting ranges.
- Nels Rodefild met with Sean McCabe to discuss potential collaborations on the promotion and growth of the Outdoor Adventure Raffles.

- Betsey York finalized the Outdoor Oklahoma magazine subscriber survey and began working on a focus group of viewers for Outdoor Oklahoma TV. Additionally, Betsey has begun developing questions for the upcoming annual Game Harvest Survey.
- Michael Bergin worked with Brandt to increase merchandise promotion. Specifically, two new t-shirt designs will be added soon to the outdoor store.
- Kasie Harriet, Lance Meek, and other agency staff hosted an Open House event at the Kaw Wildlife Management Area.
- Kara Gardner worked to provide a better user experience for people who view wetland reports.
- Education staff hosted hundreds of local school children at the annual Deep Fork Archery Days and worked with OG&E staff to host a special fishing clinic at Sooner Lake.
- Daisy Creager and Jena Donnell accompanied the wildlife diversity team during swift fox surveys to both assist and to document this unique project in the Panhandle.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

WMA Highlights

- Staff were busy assisting area users.
- 25 miles of firebreaks were maintained.
- 1,050 tons of gravel were placed on WMA roads.
- 180 miles of road were maintained.
- Low water crossings were worked on, and drainage pipes installed on roads.
- Signs were installed & maintained.
- 280 acres of invasive species control applied.
- 2,039 acres burned.
- 1,100 acres of food plots planted.
- Shooting ranges maintained and prepped for high use season.
- Numerous parking areas and campgrounds maintained.
- WDU's were pumped and monitored.
- Quail season opener had reports of fair-good success with good hunter use.
- Staff conducted numerous controlled hunts across the state.
- Opening day hunter use surveys were conducted across multiple WMA's.
- WMA quail covey counts were conducted.
- Private land youth hunts were conducted with fair success. More hunts coming in December.
- Staff attended and presented at Ranch Conversation meetings in northwest Oklahoma.
- OLAP is seeing good use after the implementation of land access permit.

- Total harvest for bear season was 77 (74 archery/3 muzzleloader) down from record harvest of 86 last year.
- Staff getting purchases and projects underway for budget add-on items.
- Assisted with STEP program at New Hope Church.
- Assisted with Outdoor Classroom in Beckham County.
- Held a beginning small game hunter day at Kaw WMA.
- Landowner field day held at Lexington WMA
- Career day presentation at Beggs public schools.
- Presentation on ODWC use of prescribed fire at the Three Rivers PBA banquet in Okemah.
- Assisted with Quail Forever youth field day in Noble County.
- Staff coordinated with DMAP cooperators.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted with depredation complaints with landowners.
- The Wildlife Diversity Program team completed annual swift fox track surveys in Cimarron County November 5-6. Of the 18 townships surveyed, swift fox tracks were recorded in 12 townships, and swift fox scat was collected in an additional township. Swift fox presence was confirmed in 13 of 18 townships surveyed which is consistent with the past 30 years of survey results across the 3 panhandle counties included in the survey.
- The Wildlife Research Committee continue to meet with academic researchers as they prepare proposals in response to our annual Request For Proposals. Topics of pending proposals include an eastern elk herd assessment and utilizing aerial imagery data to inform wildlife and habitat management practices.
- Endangered Species Biologist continues to report migrating Whooping Crane confirmed sightings to USFWS partners. ODWC reports all whooping crane sightings to assist our federal partners in tracking the annual fall migration and to protect these federally endangered birds. To date, 14 whooping cranes have been reported present at Great Salt Plains wildlife refuge, and 5 cranes were confirmed just west of Waurika WMA.
- Staff assisted with Prairie Dog relocation from Lawton to WMA's.
- An additional white-tailed deer was detected with CWD in the Panhandle region of the state. The deer was observed in live condition in a rural area west of Felt and just inside the Cimarron County line, showing symptoms consistent with this disease. The deer subsequently expired, had samples collected, and was submitted for testing. Initial and confirmatory testing indicated that the young male was positive for this prion disease. The CWD plan was enacted, and an additional surveillance zone was established with the carcass movement restrictions associated with the plan and sample freezer drop off locations were updated.
- Wildlife staff has been collecting deer genetic samples to fulfill our responsibility to legislative requirements and will continue to do so through deer gun season including collection during the herd health evaluation project. Small samples of tissue are being collected by Division personnel on controlled hunts, WMA check stations, private taxidermy, and processing locations, as well as opportunistically as successful hunters are encountered. Collected samples will be delivered to Ok Dept of Ag, Food, and Forestry for submission to genomic testing after the end of the rifle season. A target of 500 samples is set for this sampling effort.
- CWD testing freezers are beginning to see sample submissions.

- Deer muzzleloader season finished with a rough estimate of 9,800 deer harvested, well below last year's 15,000. Hot and windy weather first weekend and rain the second weekend probably impacted participation.
- Youth Deer Gun harvest increased to just shy of 5,000 deer compared to 3,500 last year.
- Multiple Wetland Development Unit projects wrapping up just in time for duck season.
- WDU and reservoir levels are looking exceptional going into waterfowl season after last week's rain.
- Youth waterfowl hunts set to begin late November.
- Central Flyway online/mobile hunter harvest platform pilot study kicking off.
- Preparation for fur trapping season is underway. Season started December 1, and the fur market is projected to remain the same as last year. Beaver is still in high demand due to the hatter market. River otter and bobcat should also maintain their value on the market.
- Three public land-trapping workshops have been scheduled: January 25-26 @ Ft. Gibson, February 1-2 @ Pushmataha, February 8- 9 @ Packsaddle. Additional training opportunities are possible, but no dates have been scheduled.
- Widespread rainfall just prior to the November 9 quail season led to excellent scenting conditions across the state. Hunter success was reported across multiple areas.
- Continue to interview and fill vacant positions.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- We have assisted with 2 youth hunts on Spavinaw and cooked for the kids, parents & volunteers. (Hank, Kody, Rylee, Riley, Dart, Austin, Monte, Cody, Chris, Joe)
- Partnered with Quail Forever with a Women on the Wing STEP event. (Dart, Rylee, Riley, Austin, Joe)
- 4-State Meeting in Arkansas (Jason, Chris, Hank, Austin, Rylee, Cody, Riley, Joe)
- Dist. Meeting and Lunch at Regatta.
- Farm Pond Inspections (Chris, Austin, Joe)
- Chris is finishing the final stages of FTO.
- I was lucky enough to make a case on a guy Monday for shooting a buck with a pistol/carbine and passing it off as a bow kill.
- Chris caught some spotlighters.
- Kody is working an investigation on a good buck.
- We will cook breakfast for a non-ambulatory hunters Saturday morning at Oologah Special Hunt.
- Monte Reid is in his final weeks of Game Warden life. (I will take him to HQ on Monday, Nov. 25th)
- Jeremy Bersche made a FB case on a bobcat and an untagged camera on Hulah WMA (story below)
- Austin made a great case on an illegal deer with the help of Keith Green (story below)
- Dart assisted the 2nd district on some opening duck season cases (see below)

Warden Bersche

- My cases this last 30 days included two successful investigations. The first was a Facebook case over a bobcat killed out of season. Through social media and site visits, was able to find out who the suspect was and where he lived/moved to. He was cited for harvesting a bobcat out of season. The second was an untagged trail camera over corn on Hulah WMA I worked with the corps. Once again, through Facebook and online investigation, as well as input from several individuals and wardens, I was able to identify the suspect. After the interview, he was cited for placing bait and unmarked equipment.

Warden Jackson

- As I was grilling steaks at home to a delicious medium rare temp, I received a call from retired warden Keith Green. He had heard a gunshot and went to investigate. What he saw was his neighbor loading up a buck onto an UTV. Once I got there, I recognized the kid as the same kid who had shot his uncle twice while squirrel hunting a couple years back. Tickets were issued, all while Keith was in the ditch watching.

I guess you can retire, but the drive never leaves some.

Warden Tilley

- In the last month, I worked a mysterious cow death case where the owner saw a bullet hole. I skinned a cow that had been dead for at least a week and much to my dismay and the amusement of my trainers and investigators, did not find a bullet hole. I did however get covered in a putrid smell that took at least three washings before my nose got adjusted to it or the smell got bearable. We were unable to determine the cause of death due to the decomposition.
- I received a complaint from OKC about a kid that shot a deer with a .22 in Oologah but upon contacting the RP, the RP didn't see the kid shoot and had no information on when or who shot a deer. The RP also did not want me contacting a neighbor for fear of retaliation.
- On duck opener, I went to the McClellan Kerr Lake in Haskell county and worked the red hill ramp. I made 3 cases where hunters had taken grebe and a case of an out of state hunter without an Oklahoma waterfowl license.

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

Public Outreach

- Wardens Bailey, deMontigny, Couch, and Matlock conducted a STEP program at the DeepFork Archery Days in Okmulgee.
- Warden Bailey had a program at OSU Okmulgee over regulation changes and also attended the career day at Beggs schools.
- Warden Couch sponsored an in-person check station in Stigler during the youth season. A Boy scouts program on search and rescue and natural disaster response. 2 STEP programs.
- Wardens Couch and deMontigny sponsored an ATV safety program for Haskell County 4H.
- Warden Rowland and deMontigny participated at the career day at the Checotah schools.

- Warden deMontigny attended the Juco fishing championship in Eufaula.
- Warden Youngblood conducted 5 public outreach programs including “Hero Night” at the local boys and girls club, and fishing clinics with wardens Cramer and Garrett in Tahlequah and Stilwell.
- Special training
- Wardens Morris and Couch Attended a two-day FTO training conference in Denton, Texas
- Wardens Cody Morris and Capt. Robertson attended the 4 State Warden meeting in Springdale, Ark.

Special Emphasis

- Wardens Henry, Morris, Langford, Couch, and Tilley and assisted by 2 federal wardens and a Choctaw tribal warden worked a special emphasis on waterfowl hunters for opening day of waterfowl season on Kerr Reservoir. 240 Total Contacts resulting in 6 ADF, 4 Temporary licenses, and 7 Warnings written.
- Special cases
- Wardens Garrett, Langford, and Youngblood had the deer decoy shot twice in the same night with archery equipment.
- Warden deMontigny made 2 separate illegal deer cases where deer were shot with a rifle in closed season.
- Wardens Rowland and Langford made a baiting case on public land on a repeat offender.
- Warden Youngblood made 2 separate baiting cases.
- Warden Cody Morris is working 2 active trespass complaints.
- Warden deMontigny is working a trespass complaint as well as a baiting case.
- Warden Rowland made an illegal deer case as well as waterfowl hunters hunting in the State Park.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Completed D3 rifle transition, low light, and qualifications. MCPD Firing Range.
- Warden Thomas Gillham issued citations for headlighting and hunting with the aid of motor vehicle; suspects were using a traditional spotlight.
- Wardens Hanson and Penwright issued citations for driving off of designated roadway, and the suspect was burning copper on Eufaula WMA.
- Warden James Williams issued citations for headlighting, hunting with the aid of motor vehicle, suspects were using thermal scopes.
- Wardens Springwater and Kannady issued citations for headlighting, hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle, illegal possession deer parts, the suspects truck bed was covered in deer blood.
- Lt. Polk, Warden Penwright and PGW Lydia Gearhart solved a burglary involving a camper that had been broken into on the Ouachita WMA.
- Warden Fields issued an ADF for hunting after hours and a warning for hunting hogs at night without a permit.
- Wardens Penwright and Hanson issued citations to night-time hog hunters for littering and transporting open container. The suspects were shining a light and using a thermal device from a public roadway on property they claimed to have permission to hunt on but had no firearms in the vehicle.
- Warden Jim Gillham received information relating to three deer that were illegally dumped with only the back straps removed near a public roadway in Atoka County.

Warden Gillham enlisted Warden Shay Loudermilk and Choctaw Nation Tribal Game Warden Jay Harvey to assist with the investigation. Ultimately, three suspects were interviewed and confessed to several violations including, 6 counts of illegal possession of deer not legally taken, 3 counts of aiding and abetting the illegal taking of deer, 3 counts of improper disposal of wildlife/wanton waste, 3 counts of shooting from a public roadway, and 1 count of hunting with the aid of a motorized vehicle.

- Wardens Penwright, Hanson and Fields, investigated a complaint and ultimately filed charges in Choctaw Tribal court on a tribal member who harvested an antlerless deer with a spear without first acquiring a permit through the tribe.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Lt. Cramer investigated a hunter incident in Carter Co. The incident involved a hunter who sustained a hand injury from the unintentional firing of the hunter's muzzleloader. Game Warden Flynn assisted in the investigation as well.
- Game Wardens Hale, Arnold, Beam, and Lt. Cramer assisted with non-ambulatory and youth draw hunts at the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge.
- Game Warden Arnold presented safety programs to hunters participating in the youth and non-ambulatory draw hunts at the Tishomingo NWR. There were 14 youth and 10 non-ambulatory participants.
- Game Wardens Hale and Arnold are investigating a convicted felon for possession of two illegal white-tailed deer.
- Game Warden Jones assisted with a youth draw hunt on Corps. of Engineers property West Burns Run, Lakeside, and OU Bio station areas on Lake Texoma. 11 youth hunters participated in the hunt.
- Game Warden Stites presented a public outreach to 25 students at OSU IT. The outreach covered hunting opportunities in Oklahoma.
- Game Wardens Johnson and Taylor presented a hunter education course in Ada and certified 17 youth.
- Game Warden Johnson made a spotlight case on an individual spotlighting from a public roadway in Seminole Co. The subject was cited for headlighting and the case is pending in district court.
- Game Warden Beam found two subjects hunting in a closed area on the Corps of Engineers property on Lake Texoma. The subjects were also hunting without a valid hunting license, hunting without a valid deer license, and hunting without required orange clothing during an open deer gun season.
- Game Wardens Taylor, Gearhart, Johnson, and Lt. Harley assisted with the Oklahoma Youth Hunting Program in Hughes Co. that provided hunting opportunities for 5 youth hunters.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- The day before muzzleloader opener, D5 GWs polished up on their lifesaving medical skills from a safety meeting Lt. Young taught on Tactical Medical Casualty Load Out and then several tourniquet drills. D5 realizes our skillsets are perishable and we train to keep them sharp.
- On a rainy morning on Nov. 8th, GW Flynn rolled up on a truck parked on the wrong side of a county road with a man in the driver's seat and another man walking in the pasture toward the white belly of a dead deer. The men said they saw the belly of

the deer and stopped to see what was wrong with it but that it was bloated and stiff. GW Flynn had the two men walk with him up to the deer, which coincidentally, was very limp and hot. Upon closer examination, GW Flynn observed a small caliber bullet hole. After a brief interview, the men confessed to shooting it with a .22 long rifle rimfire rifle from the road from their truck. GW Flynn seized the rifle and then looked in the bed of the truck to discover another freshly shot doe. The men confessed they felt bad after shooting the first deer and the other one wouldn't leave so they shot it also. The driver happens to be a habitual violator from that area who has been issued citations several times before for similar violations from three different GWs.

- GW Flynn had a hunting accident involving a man lowering his muzzleloader from his tree stand (muzzle up) with a haul line after his 14-year-old daughter had climbed down. The gun went off after being lowered about 6 feet, shooting the man's pinky finger off and giving him gunpowder burns to the face. The blast was close enough that it knocked him unconscious for several minutes while his daughter watched and then ran to the gate where the mother was waiting in the vehicle to drive them home. Luckily the man didn't fall out of the stand after being knocked out. He could only remember clipping the rope to the trigger guard and starting to lower it.
- GW Flynn caught a guy from Alabama buying his hunting and muzzleloader license after he killed a very nice 6x6 with several kickers. After being issued citations, he asked if he could get his license money back.
- GW Meskimen had two men call and turn themselves in to him for killing deer and realizing they didn't have a muzzleloader tag.
- GW Murray made a deer baiting case at Lexington WMA and he & Lt. Strang caught a guy hunting during muzzleloader season on Lex with a conventional shotgun with slugs. The guy insisted he was just hunting dove.
- Several GWs have been finding Non-Residents buying Resident licenses and tags. One guy had even gotten drew into the elk hunt for Lawton in December.
- Duck season opener was very busy for most of D5 with lots of sportsman participating. Lt. Strang found one hunter who harvested a funny looking duck...also known as a Grebe.
- GW Mesis & Reserve GW Dinkines checked 29 waterfowl hunters opening day with 1 temporary and 1 ADF for an unplugged shotgun. GW Mesis also stopped a car for spotlighting containing 3 guys aged 19 - 24 who had marijuana, an open container and the 19 year old had a pistol.

Dist. 6 - Capt. Mark Walker

- Capt. Walker, Lt. Howser, Warden Pearson and Warden King set up Step equipment and archery equipment for a men's Baptist group at Kingfisher. There were approximately 150 people and attendance.
- We will wrap up Hunter classes for the district this Saturday at the Chisholm Trail Technology Center west of Kingfisher.
- Several cases of nonresidents not having a hunting license to go along with their deer licenses. All of these were treated as educational opportunities and proper licenses were purchased.
- Fishing activity has been good with all of the warm weather we have had.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Wardens have been checking waterfowl and quail hunters on the WMA's.
- 1 Temp and 1 ADF.
- Warden Lehrman worked some calls about duck hunters in the Boydville area that were thought to be on State Park but were not.
- A few investigations are being worked.
- 4 NR temporary licenses
- 4 ADFs for no orange
- 4 ADFs for no deer tag while in field with firearm larger than .22 during open muzzle loader season.
- All above on a call at Canton WMA for Wardens Vaughan and Carpenter. All NR hunters claimed hunting coyotes in full camo with rifles.
- 1 No NR Archery deer license and 1 citation (possibly ADF) for no orange to deer hunter
- 1 illegal bobcat citation and 1 ADF for horses on WMA during closed period.
- 1 no NR Archery Deer License and 1 ADF for no orange.
- All but last paragraph were made during weekdays (Monday-Friday). Weekend was extremely slow with heavy rainfall and bad roads.
- Busy opening day of quail season.
- 135 contacts made (mix of deer, waterfowl, and quail).
- Warden Vaughan had 1 NR Temp License, 1 NR Waterfowl Temp, 1 Res. Waterfowl, and 1 fishing Temp.
- Warden Jones had 2 NR Temps for quail hunters with 5-day NR license. 1 verbal warning for parking in a closed area (oil well location).
- Warden Blackburn said numbers of quail hunters dropped drastically from Saturday to Sunday because many said they expected it to be better than it was.
- Lt. Edwards worked with Warden Jones opening day (51 vehicles documented by us, but 67 indicated by Technician) on Packsaddle. 22 vehicles on Ellis. No count on Black Kettle due to bad roads. Guesstimate of at least 2-3 people per vehicle. Mainly Resident tags. NR tags from LA, CA, KY, NC, TN, AR, MO, KY, TX, IN, & MS.
- Rut activity picking up with decent to good bucks visible in daylight chasing does. So much water from 8-9 inches of rain that waterfowl are spread out. Some hunters having success but limited. Quail hunters having some success, but many said singles, cripples, and dead birds hard to find.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Warden Badley made a good deer case during the opening weekend of Muzzleloader season. Warden Badley observed a trophy buck deer in the back of a pickup at a Café in Freedom Oklahoma. Using his OLETs system he ran the tag of the vehicle and came up with a name. He cross-referenced the name with our license data base and noticed that person in question bought his deer licenses that same morning at 9am. During an interview with the defendant Badley gained a confession that he killed the deer then bought the expensive out of state licenses. He will be soon educated on the real cost of not having licenses thru the Woods County court system.

- Along the same lines of the first deer case mentioned. Warden Grace caught a nonresident hunting deer over bait on the Kaw WMA that flat out told him he wasn't going to buy a license unless he killed something. He obviously received citations for hunting without licenses.
- Capt. Bickerstaff lent a hand with investigating a trespassing case in Woods County as well during the primitive season opener.
- Warden Blake Cottrill documented a real heartwarming contact with a sportsman that is terminally ill with cancer. Blake shared the text exchange that relayed the sportsman's gratitude for his advice and guidance on the WMA. Contacts like these often bring our heads around to right thinking and putting events in perspective.
- A very muddy tale of 2 opening seasons in district 8. Wardens allowed that the duck opener was very eventful throughout the E side of the district with the same being said about the quail opener on the W side of the district. Several license cases where nonresidents bought 5 day hunt licenses were remedied through education of the new license requirements.
- Wardens Blake Cottrill, Marshall Reigh, Lt. Stephen Paul, and Capt. Ben Bickerstaff all assisted with the former Commissioner Groendyke's Grand National Quail Club 5 stand shotgun shoot in Enid.
- Wardens are busy all over the district with investigations and putting in time to catch violations in the field. Especially now that we are in the peak of the rut.
- Wardens Leonard and Wagner are now graduated from CLEET and continuing their Field Training. Although we are sad to say that Warden Wagner is now transferred to the 4th district, we wish him well in his career there.
- Wardens Blake Cottrill, Reigh, Investigator Long, and USFWS special agent Val are investigating a manipulated failed corn crop near Enid that there will be a significant chance of making a waterfowl baiting case on in the future.
- Lt. Baker has been assisting Wildlife division in collecting CWD samples, assisting OSU in recovering GPS tracking collars from the mule deer and antelope studies, attended a recruiting event at OPSU for the LE program, and continue to work with landowners on elk depredation issues.