

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, January 6th, 2025, 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 – Micah Holmes
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Micah Holmes
5. Introduction of Guests

6. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the December 2, 2024, regular Commission meeting.

7. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on (29 O.S. Section 3-103a) authorization of special permits for certain designated species by order of the Commission. – Director Wade Free

8. 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

9. Presentation on the impact of the Wildlife License Modernization Act (SB 941) – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.

10. Presentation of the November 30th Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews.

11. Presentation of the FY 2024 Annual Financial Audit – Andrea Crews and Chance Allison, Finley & Cook PLLC.

12. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the Department’s Vehicle Policy. – Andrea Crews.

13. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
14. Announce the February 3rd, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
15. Adjourn

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January 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

January 16, 2025 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Atoka WMA Shooting Range @ 10:30a.m.
February 3, 2025 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission Meeting
February 3, 2025 Opening of 2025 State Legislative Session & Foundation Legislative Reception

AGENCY UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION

November Activities

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 353
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$3,054,357

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 197
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 12
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$454,500
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$554,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 31
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 596
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 193
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 29
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$196,474
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 9
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 2

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 2
- New Cases Reported: 4

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 44
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 25

Overview:

Accounting held interviews for our open CPO positions and found 2 candidates that start in early December. Wrapped up the annual audit from Finley and Cook. Attended the November 7th Wildlife Supervisor's meeting to provide PeopleSoft Financials training. Met with other ODWC staff and the Director of OMES, DCAM to discuss timing delays and increases to insurance requirements for contracts for projects under \$10K.

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,004,228
- Program Income: \$75,084
- In-Kind Contributions: \$50,808
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 0
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 0
- Reviewed 503 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$147,096.82 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 11
- Met with OSU regarding invoicing.
- Attended the annual meeting of the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at OSU.
- Worked on preparing the FY26 indirect cost proposal.
- Interviewed for and filled the Grants Specialist position effective 12/1.

Human Resources

- Recruitment:
- Open Positions 43
- Positions Announced 3
- Applications Screened 345
- Positions Interviewed 14
- Candidates Interviewed 65
- New Hires 4
- Promotions 4
- Transfers 0
- Resignations 0
- Retirements 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 2

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 331
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 25
- DB Plan Members 140
- DC Plan Members 191

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 3

Training:

- # in orientation 2

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 2
- Worker Comp Injuries 0

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the December WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 2 new hires
- Planning for LDP workshop in January
- Records management on PMPs; inactive Personnel Files
- Continue tracking Mandatory Supervisor Training hours.
- Game Warden physicals and MMPI

License

- Processed 375 orders, including 308 licenses/permits and 275 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$27,891 in revenue.
- Shipped 481 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$9,000 in revenue.
- Processed over \$58,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 958 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

November License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 22% for the month compared to November 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+94% (2,574)
Resident Fishing	+17% (1,954)
Resident Hunting	-3% (15,258)
Resident Youth Super Hunting	6,682 sold
Resident Deer Gun	-42% (26,422)*
Nonresident Fishing	+49% (1,536)
Nonresident Hunting	+288% (7,626)
Nonresident 5-Day Youth Super Hunting	698 sold
Nonresident Annual Youth Super Hunting	625 sold
Nonresident Deer Gun	-46% (3,545)*

Combo renewal spikes indicate the pattern we're seeing with 365 day renewals spreading out over the course of the year. As for Deer Gun revenue, resident revenue was up 5% during the month of November (\$50,000 increase) while nonresident revenue for the month was down about 9% (\$180,000 decrease).

Lifetime License sales were down 38% for the month compared to November 2023, with revenue down 47% for the category and 730 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-61% (175)
Lifetime Fishing	-55% (27)
Senior Citizen Combo	-26% (267)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+3% (90)

Walk-in traffic and calls were up throughout November but slowed after Deer Gun season ended. We'll be evaluating license sales through Q2 of the fiscal year beginning in January.

Information Technology

- Our yearly audit has been scheduled for mid-January.
- Worked with property to take in old equipment to get off inventory and sell at auction.
- Rescheduling follow-up penetration test to improve our vulnerability scores.
- Quotes from Corey's AV and ImageNet have both come in and we are reviewing both proposals for renovating the AV system in the Oklahoma Room.
- Reviewing the code for the employee contact list to fix ongoing bugs and issues.
- Worked with Law Enforcement on upgrading their laptops at the end of this year.
- Assisted OMES in recovering from MS 365 outage on 11/15/2024.

Property

- Began to capture data for January 2025 Auction. 22 vehicles prepared and ready for capture along with numerous surplus items.
- Provided setup and teardown for the Oklahoma room for 6 days of internal and external groups.
- Deployed four new FY25 vehicles. We received seven more FY25 vehicles and began to prepare deployment.

Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities.

FISHERIES

Director Highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, October 2024			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Channel Catfish, ODWC	6,458	7"	1
Channel Catfish, ODWC	4,800	12"	11
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	27,348	Mature	5
Total:	38,606		

Meetings

- SGCN bloodwork meeting with Ben Thomas focused on blood collection protocols for SGCN hatchery and wild fish, specifically blue suckers, as no baseline currently exists. We discussed running samples as pooled vs individual and began establishing collection protocols, referencing paddlefish plans and relevant literature. The goal is to periodically sample hatchery fish to compare blood chemistry and nutrient levels with wild fish to ensure their basic needs are met in a controlled setting.
- Trout stockings began at the newly established North Central Region trout fishery, the Turtle Pond at Lake Carl Blackwell. A meeting was held with a representative of interested trout anglers to discuss concerns with the relocation of the trout stocking.
- Staff attended the SEAFWA conference in Augusta, Georgia. Staff gave one oral presentation and one poster presentation.
- Represented ODWC by attending the field day, technical presentations, awards banquet, and business meeting at the Friends of Reservoirs Annual meeting held in Phoenix, AZ
- Met with Tinker AFB Leadership and Natural Resources and Water Quality teams to discuss ongoing fish kills and brainstorm possible mitigation strategies.
- Prepared for and attended LMR/ARW Invasive Carp Meeting and provided ranking and review for FY25 proposals within the basin.

Activities

- BFH Staff continues daily rainbow trout culture activities (cleaning, feeding, sampling, water quality) in the fish house. We have established a new plankton feeding system where we filter out and collect plankton every 24 hours to supplement feed these juvenile fishes.
- Performed predator control on ponds.
- Worked fire guards and removed debris, repaired the front gate, winterized building and equipment, rewired and installed a new overflow box in the trout basin, and replaced multiple valves on the hatchery.
- Collected soil samples at two hatcheries.
- Aged blue sucker otoliths.
- Beta release of ODWC shiny app for Creel Planning.
- Tested valve at Raymond Gary and met w/park and lake association to coordinate/plan for drawdown.

- Tagged and released approximately 300 RBT in LMFR as part of an ongoing trout movement and harvest project to determine how far trout move (if at all), how long they stay in the system, and how often they are caught or released.
- We conducted gillnetting and trap netting on Carl Albert and Wayne Wallace. Catch rates were relatively low, but this is what we expected as these are small reservoirs and "bass lakes" not known (or suited) for good white bass, crappie, or channel catfish numbers.
- Collected approximately 55 smallmouth bass from Lee and Little Lee Creeks on the southern edge of the Ozarks. Catch rates were lower than on other Ozark streams, though spotted bass were abundant, which was expected. Sizes ranged from 3 to 13 inches, and most fish were less than 3 years old. Genetic samples were also collected and will be compared to other Oklahoma streams.
- Set up and evaluated canoe electrofishing vs tow barge. The canoe is lighter, faster, and easier to use and should work better on small streams. Assisted USFWS with carp netting and tagging.
- Staff prepared for paddlefish netting season to commence in December.
- Angler Creel on Sooner Lake continued.
- Filled vacant Paddlefish/Native Non-Game biologist position.
- Fall sampling continued. The following were completed: Trapnet Kaw Lake, Gillnet Kaw Lake, and Gillnet Shell Lake.
- Revisions for one SEAFWA manuscript were finalized. Revisions for a second are underway.
- Work on nationwide smallmouth bass growth rates paper continued (partners: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks).
- Staff processed Striped Bass otoliths and sent to Missouri State for microchemistry analysis.
- Staff surveyed Jim Hall Lake using trap nets for Crappie. Staff ran gill nets on Okmulgee, Chandler, Pauls Valley, and Arcadia Lakes
- Staff assisted the Southeast region with the trout tagging study on the Lower Mt. Fork River. Staff assisted the Southwest region with habitat structure work at Jap Beaver.

- 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 Ft. Gibson Reservoir to evaluate crappie population and condition. Otoliths were pulled from a sub-sample of white and black crappie later to determine age and growth rates for the population. The sampling data was entered, validated, and uploaded to SharePoint.
- Conducted SSP gill net sampling on Ft. Gibson Lake to monitor pelagic sportfish populations and conditions. The sampling data was entered, validated, and uploaded to SharePoint.
- Reviewed environmental review requests and drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fisheries across the state.
- Created a draft Percid management plan and submitted for committee and administrative review.
- Procured, outfitted and broke in new ANS netting boat & motor in preparation for sampling season.
- NER Personnel continued working on the Grand Lake Creel Survey. November wrapped up the third quarter of the Survey. After nine months of creeping Grand Lake anglers, 157 interviews have occurred.
- NER Personnel conducted annual fall SSP sampling. Grand and Keystone Lakes were sampled using trap nets. Otoliths were obtained from a subset of crappie, and aged. Copan Lake was also sampled with gill nets.
- NER Personnel started stocking Veterans Pond with trout in anticipation of the December 1st opener for the seasonal trout fishery.
- NER Personnel analyzed data and started the report-writing process for each reservoir sampled in 2024.
- Fall gill net sampling was conducted at Ft. Supply, Canton, and Foss. Fish were aged, and data analysis is ongoing. Overall, samples appear similar to those of previous years.
- Five creel surveys were conducted at Foss. Observed fishing pressure has declined, likely due to the cooler weather, but the catch has remained steady.
- Rainbow trout were stocked at Boecher and Sunset Lakes in anticipation of the December 1st wintertime trout season.

- Staff attended a career fair in Woodward to provide information about ODWC and the fisheries division.
- Stocked trout in Medicine Creek and maintenance and upkeep of trout area.
- Installed various types of fish attractors in Jap beaver lakebed-Spider blocks, stump beds, earthen humps, and Channel Cat spawning cavities.
- Gill netted Fort Cobb Lake.
- Assisted hatchery with pond harvest and Channel Cat stockings at Elgin, Fletcher, and Skyline ponds.
- Installed boat dock at Collier's Landing, Lake Ellsworth.
- Courtesy dock installations for Boating Access projects on the Lake Ellsworth - Collier's Landing and Stroud Lake
- Completed ADA self-assessment inspections for Boating Access areas on Eagle Lake, Lake Elmer, & Pawnee Lake
- Submitted Medford Outdoor Classroom Fishing Access Project grant application to Federal Aid
- Stage CTH Fishing Access grant applications for Eagle Lake, Veterans Park Pond (Newcastle), & Ten Acre Lake
- Reviewed Boating Access grant application for R.C. Longmire Lake with the City of Pauls Valley.
- Staff completed SSP trap net survey on Ardmore City Lake with focus on crappie population.
- Staff completed SSP gillnet survey on Jean Neustadt with focus on crappie and saugeye populations.
- Staff continued to work on special project evaluating potential EF bias. Transmitters were implanted, fish were tracked, and sampling events were completed.
- Staff worked on draft Hybrid Striped Bass management plan document.
- Staff completed annual mandatory supervisor credits.
- Site visit in Bryan County to assist landowner with crappie management.

- Provided Temp/DO data from Texoma to OU professor as well as relative weight tables from previous years.
- BR staff installed new signs and worked on roadways.
- We also explored future thiamine testing, as deficiencies have been noted in sucker culture with some observed symptoms at Durant State Fish Hatchery. This would require high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) to analyze thiamine levels. Ben offered to assist with blood collection and provide training on proper techniques and analysis steps.

C&E DIVISION

- Several communications were sent to hunters, anglers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Special emphasis was placed on new license requirements for the Holiday antlerless season as well as importance of antlerless harvest.
- Betsey York began finalizing the final report for the Outdoor Oklahoma viewership survey. She also finalized the Game Harvest survey and began recruiting telephone interviewers.
- The ribbon cutting for the new shooting range at the Atoka Wildlife Management Area is scheduled for Jan. 16.
- Staff worked with Wildlife Division to produce the winter edition of Your Side of the Fence as well the annual Landowner Calendar.
- Bidding closed on Dec. 31 for the paving of the parking lots at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area. Additionally, staff reviewed bids for the airtime for broadcast television commercials to promote hunting in Oklahoma.
- Learn to Hunt and Ask and Angler videos can now be recorded in a dedicated studio. Darrin Hill worked to secure equipment, studio location, designed the set and offered training to anyone who wants to use the space. This new studio space will improve the production quality which would result in increased viewer engagement, subscriber growth, and community building.
- Kelly Boyer is presenting at the upcoming Archery Trade Association annual summit.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

WMA Highlights

- 31.5 Miles of area roads Maintained.
- 100 Tons of gravel spread.
- 1 Miles of firebreaks maintained.
- 5 tin horns replaced – 2 in NE & 3 in SE
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 54 Signs installed or maintained.

- WDUs maintained & pumped.
- 10 acres of invasive species controlled by herbicide application and mechanical control.
- 17 acres burned.
- 64 acres of food plots planted/worked.
- Shooting range maintenance.
- Staff prepping Ag and Grazing leases & starting Ag inspections.
- Hunter use surveys.
- Staff worked many controlled hunts.
- Waterfowl reports completed.
- Staff assisted WMA users.
- Point counts for quail were conducted.
- Christmas bird surveys conducted at Hackberry Flat.
- Deer harvest running about the same as last year.
- Coordination with Choctaw tribe and others for deer harvest data.
- “Age My Deer” online link has been popular and provided helpful information to us. Unique effort that assists in gathering age data and provides a service to hunters.
- Private land youth hunts were conducted with fair success. More hunts coming in December.
- Staff attended and presented at Ranch Conservation meetings.
- Assisted with deer & turkey research projects.
- Staff getting purchases and projects underway.
- Staff coordinated with DMAP cooperators.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- Increased interest in WHIP (109 applications from Sep1-Dec31).
- Whooping crane near Beaver County OLAP (temporary crane hunting closure).
- Seeing good use of OLAP properties.
- The Wildlife Research Committee continue to meet with academic researchers as they prepare proposals in response to our annual Request for Proposals which was shared in August. Topics of pending proposals include an eastern elk herd assessment and utilizing aerial imagery data to inform wildlife and habitat management practices. 14 research proposals have been submitted since August 2024.
- Annual Christmas bird counts surveys in Cleveland, Tillman & Cherokee counties have been conducted.
- State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) revision in progress. Updating list of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.
- CWD sample drop off freezers were monitored and were seeing good numbers of sample submissions.
- 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 and we have over 300 turned in with numerous more yet to be turned in.

- Standardized elk survey to beginning in January. Coordinating efforts with Law Enforcement Division & USDA Wildlife Services.
- Preparations to attend the Southeast Deer Study Group meeting are ongoing.
- Planning for March rack madness underway.
- Hosted the National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee Meeting in Enid.
- Northern bobwhite wing collection boxes on select WMAs were monitored and wing ages compiled.
- Duck numbers lower than ideal, unseasonably warm weather in the northern states haven't pushed waterfowl south.
- WDU and reservoir levels are looking exceptional going into waterfowl season after last week's rain.
- Few staff attended the SEAFWA conference in Georgia.
- Central Flyway online/mobile hunter harvest platform pilot study kicking off.
- Fur trapping season is underway. Season starts 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.
- Staff presented at SOSU-Career path and opportunities at ODWC-12 Students & SOSU-Oklahoma Black Bears-10 Students
- Re-establish Black Tailed Prairie Dogs on Sandy Sanders WMA with relocated animals from City of Lawton property.
- GIS working with C&E to update WMA atlas.
- Falconry duties are ongoing.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- Warden Jackson had two very notable cases made in Craig County with the help of several other D1 members. His community policing and intel work in his county were a large part of what brought these cases to fruition. Warden Jackson had several reports of illegal hunting with a thermal camera and fence cutting taking place around the Afton/Ketchum area on the Craig/Delaware County line. The night before deer season Wardens Jackson, Stauffer, Willman, Rolling and Capt. Jenks were sitting on one of the locations when a subject was noted spotlighting from a loud vehicle in that area. Eventually the subject came out to the road and a stop was attempted but he ran. The driver was on an old HD motorcycle with a rifle slung over his shoulder and a handheld spotlight. The driver fled to a house and barricaded himself inside and was eventually able to escape. His identity was verified, and several charges have been added. The case has been turned over to the Cherokee Nation as the driver was Tribal.

- A few nights later, Warden Willman was sitting in another field nearby and had a subject come by completely blacked out in a UTV and shoot into the field he was in. Wardens Willman, Jackson, and Stauffer were nearby and caught the driver (who was the subject most mentioned in the allegations) who had 2 thermal cameras. The Cherokee Nation was called to use a thermal drone and a freshly killed deer was found in the field. Several violations were made and the case has been turned over to the Cherokee Nation as the subject was Tribal.
- D1 had one decoy shooter with an illegal 22 cal rifle in Delaware County.
- Lt Alexander had a busy season and made some great cases. Joe made a case involving two subjects who trespassed across one landowner to get to another, only to trespass and hunt without permission on the second landowner. Shot a deer, stashed it, and tried to run. They were apprehended on the initial landowner's property where they were in possession of a stolen gun and 2 grams of methamphetamine.
- Lt. Alexander another case a couple of days before rifle season where an archery hunter used a pistol brace (shoulder mounted rifle stock with a pistol inside) to kill a buck during archery season—no license of any kind.
- Lt. Alexander made yet another case on a pair of waterfowl hunters hunting ducks during the closed waterfowl split on Copan Lake.
- Warden Rolling graduated this past week and has obtained her master's degree in Parks and Rec Management!
- We had a Christmas party on December 7th which was hosted by the Stauffers.
- Several members of D1 were involved in the FILL A BOAT toy drive Dec 14th, and Capt Jenks was interviewed on Channel 6 for a story on the drive which took place at 7 locations around the state. It was a huge success.

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

- Warden Langford was extremely busy this deer season. His arrests include 4 headlighting, 8 illegal possession of whitetail deer, 3 illegal means of take, 7 failure to check deer, 4 hunting without landowner consent, 3 hunting without license, 2 failures to wear orange, 2 hunting with the aid of motorized vehicle, 1 shooting from public roadway and a larceny case wear trail camera was stolen.
- Warden Bailey had 2 baiting cases, 2 failures to wear orange, 1 no license, 1 hunting in closed season, 1 hunting in closed area, and a felon in possession of firearm.

- Warden Cramer completed Tristian Leonard's phase 2 FTO assignment for D8. He also made hunting in closed area, driving off-road, and hunting without license cases. He is currently investigating a deer case where a 300-inch whitetail was illegally shot in a commercial hunt area.
- Warden Henry worked a special emphasis on waterfowl hunting where hunters were issued 25 citations. He also made cases on driving off-road and baiting on WMA.
- Warden Rowland had 2 headlighting cases, 1 illegal dumping, 1 no license, 2 illegal possession of whitetail deer. He also responded to a rescue effort on Lake Eufaula where a boat capsized with 6 duck hunters, another hunter picked them up and transported them to the shore to law enforcement and first responders.
- Warden Garrett had no license cases and failure to wear orange, illegal camping on WMA.
- Warden deMontigny had 2 illegal possession of whitetail deer cases and investigating report of cows being shot from roadway.
- Warden Couch had 2 failure to check deer cases as well as several waterfowl cases.
- Warden Youngblood had 2 no license cases, a baiting case, and taking antlerless deer in a closed area.
- Lt. Matlock made 4 illegal baiting cases and hunting in closed area.
- All wardens were busy with the normal deer hunting activity calls.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Wardens J. Gillham and Barnes worked deer doggers on Three Rivers and Honobia Creek WMA's and wrote several dogging cases, no land access permits, and alcohol-related cases.
- Wardens Penwright and Fields worked several illegal deer cases. One case involving a buck that was shot off the highway and the suspect came back to look for the deer and the witness was able to get a tag number and gave it to Shane and Matt and they were able to contact the suspect and gain a confession. Suspect used a .17 HMR rifle to kill the deer with.
- Wardens Penwright and Fields worked another case where some duck hunters/repeat offenders called for help to get unstuck. Turns out they were driving off-road on the WMA and received tickets for that.
- Wardens Penwright and Fields worked another case where Shane waited on a hunter who was seen entering the woods with no orange on. Shane saw 2 hunters dragging a deer out of the woods that one of the hunters killed with a rifle in a shotgun/archery only area on USCOE property near Arrowhead State Park.

- Another case made by Wardens Penwright and Fields was a landowner had a pic of a nice buck on his place then got a pic of a guy with the buck dead on his flatbed truck leaving the man's property.
- Wardens J. Gillham and Loudermilk made a case in Antlers where a suspect they had been receiving poaching complaints on for the last 5 years finally slipped up and left a buck head laying in his yard where they could see it. The suspect had been reportedly killing bucks and cutting their heads off. Jim got a complaint on him last year and had a pic of a buck he had killed and not checked in. After a knock-and-talk they got a confession that included the buck from last year and the buck in the front yard plus he had checked in 3 does during this gun season so they were able to write him 5-411 x4
- Wardens T. Gillham and Barnes had been having problems with someone driving a side-by-side around a gate on the WMA but couldn't catch the person doing it. They got a call from a landowner adjoining the WMA about someone poaching. They caught the 16-year-old who admitted to poaching and driving the side-by-side around the gate to access the landowner's property. They confiscated a buck from him.
- Lt. Lawson caught one guy trespassing on a Weyco lease and issued several tickets including no licenses, no orange and trespassing.
- Lt. Lawson caught 2 guys late shooting ducks and trespassing last Saturday night and issued 8 tickets.
- Lt. Lawson investigated illegal recreational trespassing on private property after a lease hunter complained about ATV's and side-by-sides trespassing. The area had been used for years as an off-road riding destination but without the landowner's permission, issued written warnings.
- Wardens Fields and Penwright investigated a complaint of poaching in the town of Kiowa. The result of the investigation lead to charges of illegal taking of deer, failure to wear orange, no hunting license and failure to check.
- Warden Hanson caught a tribal member baiting on Yourman WMA.
- Warden Hanson caught several people off roading on Yourman WMA.
- Warden Hanson worked baited areas for waterfowl hunters on Sardis Lake.
- Warden Hanson investigated reports of spotlighting on Yourman WMA and in the Tuskahoma area.
- Warden Hanson issued citations for hunting w/o landowner permission and for hunting w/o license.

- Warden Springwater caught three different groups of Spotlighters and issued several citations for trespassing.
- Lt. Polk caught two illegal doggers on Three Rivers WMA and is investigating trail camera videos of habitual wildlife violators shooting deer on Red Slough WMA. The trail camera caught two men who were arrested for headlighting with a thermal device back in August illegal shooting a deer with a suppressed rifle. The investigation is ongoing.
- Warden Williams attended career day at Kiamchi Vo Tech.
- Warden Williams made an illegal possession of deer parts case (cut off head) involving a habitual violator.
- Warden Williams caught 4 men trespassing, failing to wear required amount of orange and hunting deer with buckshot on opening day of gun season.
- Wardens in D3 are currently participating in the Axon Body Camera 90-day trial.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Warden Hale, Jones, Arnold, Beam, and Lt. Cramer assisted with an in-person deer check station at Barrett Outdoors in Mead. Wardens assisted hunters with E-checking deer and scored a rack for a hunter.
- Warden Hale, Arnold, and Lt. Cramer received information from a hunter regarding individuals hunting without permission on leased property. The hunter provided trail camera pictures of two men carrying a rifle and dragging a white-tailed doe. Wardens interviewed the subjects who gave full confessions. The individuals were cited for Hunting without Landowner Consent, Illegal Possession of a White-tailed Deer not Legally Taken.
- Warden Arnold received a call from a camper at Blue River PFHA regarding a domestic dispute in the campground. Warden Arnold and Johnston Co. Deputies located and separated a male and female arguing at their campsite. The subjects admitted that they had been screaming at each other but nothing physical. Warden Arnold issued each a Title 800 citation for Disturbing the Peace.
- Warden Arnold, Hale, and Lt. Cramer received a report from Lt. Young regarding three individuals who may be hunting without permission on property in the Mill Creek area. Warden Arnold and Lt. Young located a dumped deer carcass on the property and were informed by the lease hunters that their hunting equipment missing. The suspects were identified, interviewed, and issued citations for Illegal Take of a White-Tailed Deer, Obstruction of a Legal Hunting Activity, and Failure to Check Game. The Johnston Co. Assistant District Attorney filed charges on both subjects for Petit Larceny and Receiving Stolen Property.

- Warden Beam will be the acting Field Training Officer in Phase 3 of the FTO program with PGW Wagnor assigned to Creek Co.
- Warden Beam received information regarding a baited site of Corp of Engineers property on Lake Texoma. Warden Beam patrolled the area and located a feeder filled with corn near a deer stand. Warden Beam continued to patrol the area eventually finding an individual hunting at the baited site. The subject was issued a citation for placing bait on Corp of Engineers property.
- Warden Jones assisted the Bryan Co. Sheriff's Office in investigating a window in a home being shot and the homeowner located a large caliber bullet lying on the restroom floor. Warden Jones located an adult and minor outside a house directly in line with the home that was shot. The adult admitted that she and the minor had been target practicing in their yard and were shooting into a cardboard box with no backstop. A Bryan Co. Sheriff's Deputy turned the case to the District Attorney's Office for possible charges.
- Wardens Lt. Harley, Stites, Johnson, Taylor, Johnson, and Gearhart did STEP program at Last Chance Baptist Church for their Sportsmans Sunday where they had approximately 40 kids and adults participate.
- Wardens Lt. Harley and Taylor held an in person deer check station in Seminole at Clausings Feed Center
- Wardens Taylor, Lt. Harley, Gearhart, and Johnson held an in person deer check station at Lees Travel Stop in Horntown.
- Wardens Johnson, Taylor, Stites, Gearhart, Wagner, and Lt. Harley had a special emphasis at Cottonwood Waterfowl Management Area in Mannford to check compliance on waterfowl hunters checking for early shooters, compliance on bag limits, unplugged shotguns, and license requirements. Wardens checked 6 waterfowl hunters.
- Warden Johnson made another spotlighting case with individual who was using a night vision scope on his suppressed AR-15. Individual got citations for spotlighting and hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle.
- Wardens Lt. Harley and Taylor made a case on individual who had killed a deer and a turkey outside of the appropriate seasons. Wardens issued citations for Illegal possession of wildlife for the deer and the turkey, hunting in closed season for the deer and turkey, and failure to check.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- Most Wardens experienced a large increase in their calls about the new licenses. Numerous arrests & ADFs were issued as well as numerous active investigations. Hunting without landowner consent & no Hunter Orange seemed higher than normal. Over 400 actual Sportsman Compliance checks were made across D5.

- Lt. Strang said there was an unusual amount of people attempting to hunt on Lexington WMA this year during the closed portion which was until December 2nd. He had several people call and confess to him about exceeding the bag limit on gun antlerless deer. He is currently assisting Alaska Wildlife Troopers and Montana G&F on some investigations involving Oklahoma residents. Lt. Strang & GW Meskimen dedicated about 30 hours to working the deer decoy in areas they've received numerous road hunting complaints, but no one took the bait. Although they did get a little excitement after one vehicle drove down the road from the decoy and executed a 9mm magazine dump from his vehicle and road.
- GW Meskimen wrote 7 people hunting on Lex WMA during the closed portion. One group were Guatemalans hunting armadillos with .22s & 30-30s. He also had several trespass issues but the landowners just wanted the hunters ran off and didn't want to press charges.
- GW Murray caught a subject hunting Stinchcomb with a rifle which is archery only for deer. He also caught a subject who didn't check in his buck because the hunter thought it was too small for him and wanted a bigger one. GW Murray also caught a couple duck hunters at Lex WMA who decided to ignore the Road Closed Signs and closed gates, so they didn't have to walk as far. He wrote 3 hunting without landowner consent as well shooting from the roadway for a coyote greyhound hunter. Seems the coyotes weren't moving very well that day so the driver decided it would be a good idea to randomly perform a mag dump from the road with his 22 Magnum into a creek which just so happened to have a deer hunter in it. The furious deer hunter stopped the truck while his smart phone recorded the contact and confession of the shooter.
- GW Gillham issued citations for a guy hunting from the roadway and hunting by the aid. Later he wrote the same guy for illegal disposal for dumping a poached deer off a bridge. He also made a case on 2 deer killed by spotlighting.
- GW Flynn caught a juvenile shooting a doe from the road. He then interviewed the dad and sister of the juvenile road hunter and found 2 deer they had killed which they didn't have licenses for, nor did they check them in.
- Lt. Young received a tip about some suspects trespassing and stealing hunting equipment. The investigation led him into the 4th District so after enlisting some help from the adjoining Wardens their investigation uncovered 2 dumped deer carcasses. Following the interviews, they filed 3 interfering with a lawful hunt, 1 taking deer in closed season, 3 petty larceny, three 5.411s and 1 failure to check. One member of the poaching crew had a Chickasaw lifetime license and was handled thru the tribe.

- GW Harriet received a call at 07:00 a.m. one morning from an RP who had some trespassers on his game cam at 05:00 a.m. GW Harriet found footprints that led to golden pile of corn and a metal pail. The suspects were chopping up a doe on the back side of the 80-acre property. They received citations for no licenses, no orange and illegal possession of whitetail deer as well as having their model 1917, 30-06 rifle that was held together with Bondo seized as evidence.
- GW Harriet taught a Learn to Hunt -Trapping Class and conducted interviews for 10 applicants for his new Adult Mentored Hunt Program partnered with OHA.
- He is also working an investigation on a guy who shot a cow with a crossbow. He has caught a man trespassing matching the description several times on a property, but the landowner doesn't want to press charges due to fear of his cows getting shot in retaliation.
- GW Harriet received a "Feel Good Story" from a man he found 4 years ago lying in the road in distress. He called dispatch to send a helicopter while he stabilized the man. The man told GW Harriet he had broken his C6-C4 vertebrae as long as several other bones. The Dr. said if Harriet would have handled the situation wrong, he could have paralyzed him or worse. The man's son had shot his first deer, and he found Jacob's phone number so he could thank him for saving his life so that he could have that experience with his son.
- GW Harriet & France have an ongoing case for a guy hunting Shawnee Lake property illegally. They discovered several deer feeders, stands, cameras and a mowed trail leading back to the guy's house.
- GW Branch worked the decoy deer several times but no took his bait either. He did have a young man turn himself in for shooting 2 bucks with a rifle.
- GW Mesis found some duck hunters without their Oklahoma waterfowl stamps and using unplugged guns.
- GW Buley is still receiving calls and finding deer shot with a crossbow in an Edmond neighborhood. He made case on some roost shooting after hours on Stinchcomb and 2 hunting without landowner consent cases.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- Hunter education class conducted in the north end of D6 saw the largest number of students that we've seen in a long time with @50 students in attendance. A few from Kansas. I think the timing of this class being the weekend before the deer gun season opener has a lot to do with it.
- Lt. Carroll had an interesting case. Deputies contacted t. Carroll late one night stating that they had stopped a vehicle and had a suspect in custody for DUI but the suspect had a dead deer and dead feral hog in the back of his truck

but no gun or other obvious weapon that might have been used to kill the animals. Lt. Carroll arrived and interviewed the suspect. The suspect described to Lt. Carroll how he would drive around fields until he spotted animals and then chase them down with his truck and run over them and then jump out and stab them with a knife to finish them off. The suspect told Lt. Carroll where the knife was in the truck and Lt. Carroll retrieved the bloody knife that had deer hair, hog hair and blood all over it. The suspect was cited for illegal means of take and illegal possession of whitetail deer.

- Wardens Stover and Zimmerman also had an interesting case involving a deer that was shot in a field and left. A landowner contacted Warden Stover about a dead deer laying in one of his fields adjacent to a county road. The landowner advised that the deer had just been shot because it wasn't there when he passed by just shortly before. Wardens Stover and Zimmerman arrived and determined the deer was recently shot and decided to hide and see if someone returned to retrieve it. About dark a person drove by slowly poking a gun out the window and looking at the dead deer through his rifle scope. The wardens contacted the individual and he admitted that he shot the deer earlier. The individual was from Broken Bow and was in town for a funeral and decided to do a little road hunting while he was in town. Some people deal with grief in different ways!!
- Several cases of non-residents not possessing a non-resident hunting license while hunting deer. These individuals were not cited but rather educated on the new law requiring them to have a hunting license.
- Warden Clem wrote a guy from Dallas that had manipulated harvest records to make it appear that he harvested a deer after buying a license when in reality he had purchased his licenses after killing the deer.
- Warden Cornett had two separate cases of individuals hunting waterfowl during closed season.
- Warden Cornett, while working night hunters, came upon a vehicle parked in the middle of a county road. Warden Cornett contacted the vehicle and found the driver with cocaine in his lap that he was in the process of using. The individual was jailed on drug charges.
- Warden Zimmerman had two separate cases of people hunting coyotes with greyhounds and shooting from the road to get the coyotes up and running. Both groups were cited for shooting from a public roadway.
- Warden Pearson had a case of a Texas non-resident hunting deer with resident licenses. The individual purchased his licenses online. He used his personal information but used a friend's address that lived in Oklahoma. The individual was cited for this year's violation as well as for doing the same thing last year.

- Lt. Howser and Warden Zimmerman wrote a guy for killing 2 bucks with no licenses at all.
- Warden King assisted SWOSU with mock interviews for students.
- Decoy deer has been run quite a bit with no takers.
- Many pending investigations from deer gun season as well as lots of e-check and license system poking around to do to find violations after deer season wraps up.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Above normal call on licensing questions.
- Investigating calls on road hunters and trespassing.
- Hunting quail on the WMA during the closure as well as no licenses citations
- Hunting waterfowl on WMA's during the closure, driving on closed roads
- Several no orange cases made.
- Several no license cases made as well as for purchasing licenses after harvest.
- Working a horse shot and killed on private property adjoining BK Unit #3
- Working spotlighting/illegal night hunting in the Fay and North of Taloga area
- Shooting from a public road at a deer with no license cases
- Special Emphasis on North end of the district working night hunters.
- Answering above normal calls on license questions
- Investigating problems, checking hunters assisting landowners
- Failure to wear required orange citations.
- Failure to check in deer, hunting without a valid license citations
- Hunting with illegal ammunition on WMA
- Special Emphasis on South end of the district working night hunters.
- Several calls on road hunters, set up to see if someone would come back to pick up a deer that was shot and left.
- Warden Jones worked a hunting without consent case just off Packsaddle, along with Warden Blackburn and they made an overlimit on does on Packsaddle.
- Illegal case of a father and son duck hunting during the closed split
- No license case of hunting waterfowl without a license
- Decoy deer operation targeting some 18–22-year-olds shooting deer and leaving them lay, no success.
- NR license and waterfowl stamp citations, temps purchase
- Five ADF's for various deer and waterfowl violations
- Five arrests for various deer violations including hunting with the aid, shooting from a public roadway, and attempted 5-411, suspect was also driving while suspended.
- Several other 5-411 investigations, hunting by the aid.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Warden B. Cottrill and Warden Reigh taught another wildly popular deer cleaning, butchering, and cooking class at the Autry Vo tech in Enid. The

class went from the tailgate to the table for the students in the class. Everyone enjoyed the experience.

- Warden Reigh teamed up with the USFWS refuge officer to respond to a couple of duck hunters that forgot about the split during duck season on the SPNWR.
- Capt. Bickerstaff educated 3 Louisiana residents about possession limits and proper transportation of ducks upon a compliance check where duck breasts were observed while the 3 were hunting on SPNWR and subsequently transporting from the area. 66 ducks with 96 breast halves were seized as evidence and given to needy families.
- Warden P. Cottrill made a great case against a frequent flyer in the Woods County area. The 18y/o shot the trophy buck with a rifle (not in rifle season) and posed with the deer with an arrow staged as the kill shot postmortem. He was able to find the suspect quickly with knowledge of the hunters stomping grounds and make the case.
- Warden Badley is diligently working an investigation that will net several trespassing, shooting from the road, and illegal deer charges. The neighboring landowner finally had his fill of the line crossing hunters next door. The straw that broke the camel's back was a road shot killing the biggest buck on the farm right in front of the landowner's son-in-law stand. I mean literally in front of the stand with the son-in-law in the stand.
- Warden B. Cottrill caught 2 Louisiana residents shooting pheasants off the road and with the aid of a motor vehicle on Drummond Flats.
- Warden Grace did a routine deer camp drop in and uncovered 5 untagged deer complexing into several non-resident license issues. Even a possession of Badger in a closed season case. Did I mention the group was also from Louisiana.
- A South Carolina resident was happy to learn that there are still some good people in this world. He left his shotgun behind while hunting ducks on the SPNWR. After the 18hr drive home, he discovered his folly. In a panic the hunter called Capt Bickerstaff who responded to the area and found a good Samaritan hunter secured the gun for a reunion with the owner later.
- Lt Baker is investigating a hunting incident where a woman was shot while attempting to run off trespassing pheasant hunters in Texas county. The woman contacted the trespasser and motioned them over to the road to tell them they were not welcome. One of the hunters shot at a rising pheasant approximately 20 yds between them and the woman killing the pheasant and injuring the woman. Trespass and shooting across roadway charges are very likely.

- Warden Badley found a drone recovery operator attempting to guide in a hunter in the field to a wounded deer. All parties were educated on proper and ethical recoveries not violating the Federal Airborne Hunting Act.
- Upland bird numbers are reported up substantially in the District, but hunter numbers remain low.
- Lt. Baker reports that OLAP hunters are surprisingly complaint with the new Land Access Permit requirements.
- Lt. Paul is working an investigation where a hunter is reported to have been at full draw from the side of Interstate 35 with a bow. He responded to the area to find that the suspect saw a deer from the Interstate and allegedly obtained permission from the landowner and commenced the archery hunt. Details are still being investigated, but that is a call you don't get every day.
- Wardens in the district are working tirelessly on reports of spotlighting, trespassing, drone trespassing, drones used for hunter harassment, road hunting, and fielding generally every conceivable call related and not related to the outdoors.

Investigations – Capt. Loftis

- WIT GW King assisted GW Murray on a license fraud case. On the 11th day of November 2024, GW Murray checked a group of duck hunters at Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge. During this encounter with the hunters, it was discovered that one of the hunters had a current Arkansas driver's license and he had resident licenses. After further investigation, it was found that this hunter had purchased resident licenses for the past 5 years. The hunter had entered his Arkansas driver's license number, but the state selected was Oklahoma. The hunter was issued a citation for providing false information to obtain licenses and awaiting court date in Oklahoma County.
- GW Cornett assisted Ft. Sill on a possible license fraud/check station case. GW Cornett interviewed a subject and ascertained that the hunter was not hunting on Ft. Sill and made an error by checking the deer in on Ft. Sill. The subject was educated on how to check the deer online properly.
- GW Willman assisted Ft. Sill on two (2) possible license fraud cases interviewing both subjects via phone. GW Willman ascertained that one (1) subject failed to check their deer in at Ft. Sill per requirements and the other subject had no violations.
- GW Jackson was called about a bear carcass dumped in the roadway. GW Jackson gathered evidence and utilized the OK Game Warden Facebook page to ask for any information associated with the illegal dumping. Two (2) individuals called GW Jackson and explained that the bear had been legally harvested and then given to a friend. That friend confessed to dumping the carcass in the roadway. GW Jackson charged the individual and the subject was found guilty in court with fines and costs associated.

- GW Lt. Baker has continued to work with New Mexico Fish & Game on a NM subject in illegal possession of two (2) Oklahoma Mule Deer. NM Fish & Game recently served a search warrant on the subject's residence in New Mexico. This case is ongoing.
- GW Hale responded to a dumping complaint on Fobb Bottom WMA that included domestic and exotic live wildlife that was abandoned. GW Hale located other litter including credit cards that led back to the subject. GW Hale located the subject and received a confession. After all evidence was presented to the district attorney's office, the district attorney chose not to file charges.
- Investigator Long taught a women's self-defense course to the Human Resources Division at the Oklahoma Tax Commission office.
- Investigator Long received information about a potential license fraud lifetime license case from the license division. After a thorough investigation speaking with the Department of Defense/Office of Inspector General, Texas Parks and Wildlife Service, and the local Game Warden, Inv. Long determined that there was no fraud, and the individual is eligible to purchase a lifetime license in Oklahoma.
- Inv. Long and USFWS SA Vowell spoke with an energy company concerning the location of an active Bald Eagle's nest in the path of the construction zone. Inv. Long and SA Vowell will continue open communication with the company as plans for development continue.
- GW Clem is assisting GW Blackburn with a digital evidence warrant concerning a horse that was shot and killed by an unknown subject who allegedly was hunting on the Black Kettle Wildlife Management Area. This case is ongoing.