

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, August 4th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

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 Holder
2. Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation – Ken Cunningham
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Ken Cunningham
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Blake Podhajsky, Communication & Education Specialist – 20 Years
Joe Williams, Fisheries Hatchery Manager – 25 Years (July)
Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement – 30 Years
Mark Walker, District (6) Chief, Law Enforcement– 30 Years
John Davenport, Fisheries Hatchery Supervisor – 35 Years (July)

7. Recognition of the 2025 Landowner Conservationist of the Year, John Sanders – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Paxton Smith, Migratory Game Bird/Wetlands Biologist.
8. Recognition of The Oklahoma Chapter of The Wildlife Society Harold C Stuart Conservation Excellence award, Marcus Thibodeau – Bill Dinkines, Dr. Colter Chitwood, President OKTWS.
9. Recognition of the 2024 Wildlife Division Technician of the Year, Zeke Hawkes, and the Biologist of the Year, John Rempe – Bill Dinkines.
10. Recognition of Amanda Thomas as the recipient of the 2025 ODWC Spirit Award – Wade Free, Director
11. Recognition of Michael Hollie as the recipient of the 2024 Fisheries Division Professional of the Year award – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division.

12. Presentation of the Shikar-Safari Club International Game Warden of the Year Award to Justin Cornett – Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement and Jim Johnson, Shikar-Safari Club International.
13. Presentation on the inaugural year for the Agency Mentorship Program (AMP). Micah Holmes, Chief, Communication and Education Division and Lance Meek, Communication and Education Supervisor.
14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the June 9th, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
15. 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
16. Vote to approve, amend or reject Emergency Rule for T800: 30-1-3 relating to requiring nonresidents hunting on Wildlife Management Areas to possess a valid WMA game bird permit and requiring them to check in via the Department's online license system — Nels Rodefeld, Assistant Director
17. Presentation of the May 31st and June 30th, 2025, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
18. Presentation on the impact of the Wildlife License Modernization Act for the complete FY2025, Andrea Crews
19. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on proposed changes to the ODWC Internal Purchasing and P-Card Policy and Procedure – Andrea Crews
20. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Cleveland and Okmulgee Counties, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines
 - a. Vote to enter Executive Session
 - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S., § 307(B)(3).
 - c. Vote to exit Executive Session
 - d. Possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session

21. Discussion and possible action to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for the purpose of confidential communications between the Commission and counsel from the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General concerning *Nelson v. State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission*, CV-2024-1969 (Oklahoma County), *Janus v. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation*, CJ-2018-6438 (Oklahoma County), and *Barrick v. Warden Mark Hannah, et al.*, Case No. CIV-23-129-JFH-GLJ (U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Oklahoma) where the Commission, with the advice of its attorney, has determined that disclosure of information related to the claim(s) or action(s) will seriously impair the ability of the Commission to conduct litigation in the public interest, provided that any action taken shall be in open session.
 - a. Vote to enter Executive Session.
 - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S.2021, § 307(B)(4).
 - c. Vote to exit Executive Session.
 - d. Possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.
22. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
23. Announce the September 2nd, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
24. 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 Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC**

AUGUST 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

August 12-14	C&E Division Meeting @ Crosspoint Camp in Kingston, OK
August 16th	Oklahoma Hunters & Anglers Deer Conference @ Metro Tech
Sept. 1st	Dove Opener

AGENCY UPDATE

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 393
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$2,974,968

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 208
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$448,500
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$577,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 93
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 987
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 498
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 7
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$445,812
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 59
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 5

Risk Management:

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

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 71
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 10

Highlights:

- FY26 budget uploaded by OMES.
- Extensive work to update internal purchasing policy and procedures.
- Conducted interviews to refill CPO position vacated in June, new hire to start in July.
- Annual audit with Finley & Cook to start in July

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$1,762,185
- Program Income: \$37,607
- In-Kind Contributions: \$4,524
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 9
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 10
- Subrecipient FFATA Reporting: 0
- Reviewed 924 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$382,124 charged to grants.
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 3

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 26
- Positions Announced 0
- Applications Screened 2
- Positions Interviewed 3
- Candidates Interviewed 15
- New Hires 0
- Promotions 0
- Transfers 1
- Resignations 0
- Retirements 1
- Terminations 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 4

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 349
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 49
- DB Plan Members 137
- DC Plan Members 212

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 4

Training:

- # in orientation 0

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 1
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the July WOG.
- Submitted LDP article for the July WOG.
- Planned and coordinated LDP2 workshop - Adaptive Leadership.

- Prepared agency organizational chart for FY2026 budget submission.
- Reconciled FY2025 HR budget and expenditures.
- Monitored completion of Quarterly Safety Training for Admin, CE, and Fisheries divisions.
- Continued monitoring employee acknowledgements for Employee Handbook update.
- Initiated Mid-Year Performance Reviews for agency.
- Finalized FY26 Payroll Budget.
- Payroll is working on a benefit audit from EGID.
- Prepared and submitted purchase order requests for FY2026.
- Prepared and submitted pay increases to OMES for upload.

License

- Processed 690 orders, including 597 licenses/permits and 432 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$54,832 in revenue.
- Shipped 493 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$3,840 in revenue.
- Processed over \$44,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as fines, restitution, oil & gas, etc.

June License Review

- Recreational Licenses were down 21% for the month compared to June 2024, with revenue also down 21%. Note: June 2025 revenue was up about \$300k compared to June 2023.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+18% (1,157)
Resident Fishing	-12% (19,343)
Nonresident Fishing	+5% (5,103)
Lake Texoma	-40% (3,072)

Lifetime License sales were down 79% for the month compared to June 2024, with revenue down 96% for the category and 1,107 sold.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-99% (41)
Lifetime Fishing	-96% (39)
Senior Citizen Combo	-37% (391)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-7% (143)

- The 2024 sales surge before the price increases impact this comparison. A comparison of June 2023 vs. June 2025 shows 300 fewer licenses sold this year with a revenue decrease of about \$80,000.

Information Technology

- IT took in a total of 69 tickets this month. While this is a lower volume than usual, the decrease is expected during the summer months as staff take vacation time.
- Laptop Deployments - Our previous agency-wide laptop deployments are now 100% complete. All leased devices have been collected and returned to OMES/NTT. This wraps up a major refresh effort and positions us well for long-term hardware stability.
- Law Enforcement Laptop Rollout - We collaborated with OMES to develop a deployment strategy for 120 rugged laptops for Law Enforcement. To reduce the workload of a single-day deployment, 35% of the devices have already been delivered ahead of schedule.
- Oklahoma Room AV Upgrade - The Oklahoma Room's AV system has been completely overhauled. We transitioned from a Crestron setup—known for being difficult to manage—to a more streamlined and configurable Q-SYS system. This change significantly reduces the amount of AV hardware in use, simplifying support and troubleshooting.
- Lease Inventory System - Development continues on a new lease inventory system to track computer hardware more efficiently.
- Shotgun in the School Program - A major rewrite of the "Shotgun in the School" program is underway in preparation for the upcoming season. This is a long-term effort aimed at improving functionality and maintainability.

Property

- Received additional outfitted law enforcement trucks, applied decals to prepare for deployment. Deployed additional law enforcement trucks.
- Agency vehicle auction with 22 vehicles, and some surplus items in July.
- Completed daily routine checks of central office building grounds and equipment. Made minor repairs as needed.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 862 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of June in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

Statewide Fish Stocking, June 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Channel Catfish, ODWC	7,861	9-12"	6
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC	6,912	2-4"	2
Hybrid Striped Bass, ODWC	937,916	1.5-2"	14
Northern Largemouth Bass, ODWC	2,770	varies	1
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	7,024	11"	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	6,499	9+"	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	389	14-25"	1
Total:	969,371		

Meetings

- Ashley Nealis coordinated an OFAT training for the Fisheries Division with Professor Dan Shoup. This training was recorded and posted in various locations for staff to access at any time. Fisheries staff attended this training.
- Staff met with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to learn how to build and deploy reef balls, allowing the department to expand its reservoir habitat work further.
- Staff attended the Lake Texoma Boating Access Task Force meeting.
- Staff delivered a talk on stream diversity to a large citizens group in Tulsa.

Activities

- Set up 4 different sunfish ponds and stocked with brooders for fingerling production.
- Heavy rainfall here at BFH has kept us very busy mitigating and managing the effects of runoff on and around the hatchery property and ponds.
- Heavy equipment was used to reshape and contour several ponds as necessary.
- Several ponds were sprayed with herbicide to control cattails and other aquatic vegetation.
- Picked up channel catfish fry from Tishomingo federal hatchery and stocked them into hatchery ponds.
- Feed and check water quality daily in hybrid sunfish and catfish ponds.
- Stocked ~7400 FLMB pellet trainers in the pond for future brood stock.
- Harvested 285 lbs. of forage for FLMB brood stock.
- Checked channel catfish spawning containers for eggs and placed them in hatching jars.
- Harvested and Collected Morphometrics on Blue Suckers and compiled Available Plankton Data from All Hatcheries.
- Collected and stocked brood stock silversides, bluegill, redear, and gizzard shad in Jap Beaver Lake.
- Met with OWRB for Jap Beaver Dam inspection.
- Mowed the lawn, weed wacked, collected trash, and sprayed herbicide at Department lakes.
- Maintained Fire Guards at Jap Beaver Lake.
- Assisted WMNWR with electrofishing survey.
- Bio continued to work on LOAs and scientific collector permits statewide.
- Took the aquarium to Fort Sill kids' fishing event.
- Rain delays caused progress on the Lake Watonga dam to slow in June. Earthwork on the northeast spillway is complete, and half of it has been rip-rapped. Rip-rap on the face of the dam was completed. The concrete discharge structures were poured, and the rip-rap apron in the discharge area was completed.
- All habitat work at Watonga has now been finished. The improvements feature artificial PVC structures, catfish spawning cavities, Shelbyville cubes, gravel spawning beds, rock piles, shaped natural vegetations, and brush piles.
- Bluegill collections continued in preparation to restock Watonga. Approximately 2,100 adult bluegills were obtained.
- Maintenance work on department lakes continues. Activities include mowing at American Horse and Elmer, vegetation removal from American Horse and Elmer

Dams, herbicide applications to maintain fishing access on department lake areas and trash pick-up.

- Staff met with State Parks at Watonga to discuss the failure of the Boecher dam and potential impacts to Lake Watonga. ODWC is in direct communication with State Parks as they work towards a solution.
- The Sooner Creel Survey included 263 in-person interviews conducted from September 1 to June 30, with 24 interviews in June. A total of 55 creel days were completed during this period, including 2 in June. Additionally, 101 surveys were submitted via QR Codes from September 1 to June 30, with 2 surveys in June.
- Threadfin shad production continued in the Skiatook Nursery Pond. Biweekly monitoring has shown reproduction. Fry were 35 mm average length in June 24 sample.
- Staff participated in one Aquatic Education event at Willow Springs Pond in Ponca City. Attendance was low due to rain. Two other scheduled clinics were cancelled that week due to rain.
- NCR staff repaired boat barn doors at the compound.
- Jeremy Duck did an episode of Reel Talk Real Tips on the subject of juglines and catfish angling.
- The PNNG crew continued the fabrication of a new electrofishing boat for nongame collections. This is an old boat that the crew has resourcefully repurposed to serve as an electrofishing boat. Efforts are nearing completion.
- NCR staff attended a meeting of the Oklahoma Striped Bass Association and gave a presentation on the status of hybrid striped bass in Skiatook Lake.
- Staff read otoliths, entered and analyzed data and completed reports for all spring electrofishing sampling in the NCR.
- The PNNG crew returned to Shell Lake to do two more mark and recapture events for buffalo fishes and gars. Results pending.
- Staff sampled Blue Catfish at Paul's Valley (with C&E) and El Reno Lakes.
- Fiberglass repair training for staff to perform in-house maintenance, helping reduce external repair costs and significantly extend the service life of our boats.
- Staff taught attendees of Wildlife Youth Camp about the importance of fisheries habitat and how to build artificial cubes.
- Staff built 37 Shelbyville Cubes through the statewide habitat donation initiative.
- Staff prepared talks and posters for the upcoming National AFS meeting in San Antonio, Texas.
- Staff assisted other regions with the analysis and preparation of materials for the National AFS meeting.
- Continued Channel Catfish Spawning box checks spawning box and recruitment study, Striped Bass microchemistry, Freshwater Drum for statewide growth, and fish protein allergen study (University of Oklahoma).
- Work on Catfish tag retention and gear bias estimates continues (Oklahoma State University, University of Vermont).
- Analysis and writing for Moronid gape overlap, gar daily age assessment, and country wide Smallmouth growth rates (Texas Parks and Wildlife) continues.
- More investigation into large variance estimates from creel data was conducted with the help of the Northeast Fisheries Region; however, a concrete solution has not been established.
- Bowfishing shoot-and-release rough draft being finalized for submission.

- Began prep for Flathead Catfish power threshold assessment at OFRL in conjunction with ETS Electrofishing Systems, LLC.
- Staff assisted tournament directors w/ reports and permits and reviewed applicable data.
- Monitored Lake Texoma flooding situation, angler and fishing impacts, and tailwater conditions.
- Worked on BRPFHA culverts, roads, and debris clearing from heavy rain/wind events.
- Worked with contractors on guttering and cement flooring repair/installation.
- Inspected the potential BA site development site with the contractor.
- Reviewed bass DNA data and coordination with the CAT lab.
- Staff assisted Boy Scout Troop with spider block build for Eagle Scout Project
- Assisted Choctaw Wildlife Conservation with fish collections and visual displays for a public outreach event.
- Provided rods and handouts for individuals/groups hosting fishing events.
- Assisted with the fishing clinic at Madill
- Prepared for and assisted with Fisheries Techniques Demo at ODWC Youth Camp
- Interview with KXII for Youth Camp segment.
- Staff completed year 4 of a 10-year project of stocking F1 LMB from American Sport Fish Hatchery into Grand Lake. Approximately 93,000 advanced fingerlings were stocked into the lake. There were 31,000 placed in three arms of the lake: Duck, Horse, and Honey Creek arms.



- Personnel built Shelbyville cubes to be placed in NER waters in July.
- Personnel worked on creel analysis and reports, as well as a CTHFP MOU for adding additional ponds to the program in the NER.
- Personnel worked on installing signage at snagging areas for the LDP final project..
- Staff continued the creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting 25 additional interviews and six pressure counts over three days in June, for a total of 202 interviews for the survey to date.
- Reviewed environmental review requests and then drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fish and wildlife resources across the state.

- Staff assisted with the annual Aquatic Education Program event in Tahlequah for area school children.
- Staff provided fishing rods to the City of Haskell for the annual 4th of July fishing event.
- Collected and transferred sunfish to area ponds for local Aquatic Education events.
- Staff continued collecting Skipjack in the Lower Arkansas basin for ongoing research.
- Staff built multiple Shelbyville Cube habitat structures to be placed in area lakes.
- Staff investigated bass tournament-related fish kill on Tenkiller Lake and drafted a response letter to BASS
- Staff attended the BASS Elite Series tournament on Tenkiller to gain information on the oxygenation system and possible utility for ODWC
- Staff participated in several training sessions, including the Q2 safety meeting, bighead carp project meeting, mandatory supervisor training, and OFAT data input and analysis training.
- Staff assisted OSU graduate student with trout tagging on the Lower Illinois, approximately 800 trout were tagged.
- iCarp staff prepared, set, and ran larval light traps in the Elk River arm of Grand Lake. Samples were collected and preserved in ethanol for future genetic analysis.
- Staff completed four trout stocking trips from the Norfolk National Fish Hatchery to the Lower Illinois River
- Upkeep of grounds and areas includes the following properties: Bamberger PFHA, Porter field office, Watts PFHA, Echota PFA, Stunkard PFA
- Work on updating signage at the Lower Mountain Fork River is ongoing.
- Collected Zebra Mussel veliger samples at 48 lakes scattered across Oklahoma. Formatted and processed sample data, shipped samples to the Bureau of Reclamation lab in Colorado.
- Staff assisted with fish kill investigations, including those at Skeleton Creek and Lake Hudson. They processed the Skeleton Creek claim and are awaiting final totals to submit the restitution claim.
- Staff responded to exotic species import inquiry for piranha spp, freshwater stringray spp, and electric eels. The response included 56 USFWS risk assessments and NAS database information as justification for the denial.
- Conducted community sampling in the Poteau and Red River drainages. Poteau River tributaries had assemblages similar to Ozark streams, and those nearest Red River had assemblages typical of the Gulf Coastal Plain.
- Assisted with flathead catfish sampling and otolith reading.
- Staff attended reef ball construction training and worked on habitat construction projects.
- Conducted habitat restoration and maintenance on department fishing areas.

C&E DIVISION

- Damon Springer oversaw the nearly completed Arcadia Conservation Education Area's parking lot and drainage project. All three parking lots are now poured, and work has begun on the drainage portion of the project.
- Jacob Tison organized and held The Forecast Calls for Fishing with David Payne and Lacey Swope. More than 200 people register for this event, held at Scissortail Park.

Attendee heard from Jacob and the News 9 team about how weather affects fishing and how to be safe in the case of severe weather.

- Optima WMA renovation ongoing, completion anticipated late summer. Kicked off new construction at Copan WMA on July 14, completion scheduled for December. Canton WMA renovation and expansion is currently posted for bid solicitations and will close August 5. There are currently nine projects ongoing in the environmental assessment process, six projects currently in various stages of engineering phase with four of those nearing the construction bid phase, two projects under construction, and one 3rd party project with the City of Altus pending the construction bidding phase.
- The 2025-26 Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing regulations were approved and sent to the printer with anticipated delivery date in mid-August.
- Colby Cook completed repairs on the boardwalk at the wetland at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area.
- Pake Wise completed edits on the updated Oklahoma Hunter Education Manual.
- Plans were and executed to update the studio space in the file room.
- Several communication section employees attended the Association of Conservation Information conference in Atlantic City, NJ. Oklahoma will host the 2026 conference.
- The R3 committee is working to update the 2019 R3 plan. New for the updated plan is the addition of trapping and shooting sports. Several new goals and objectives have been identified, and the next steps are to begin working representatives from fish, wildlife and law enforcement divisions.
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee visited the new Bennett center at OKC Fairgrounds to determine if the East and West OKNASP shoots could be combined into a single two- or three-day shoot.
- Communication plans for the new WMA check-in requirement were developed. Communication section is currently exploring options to use Google Business profiles to expand our reach.
- Outdoor Oklahoma television program began its 50th season on OETA.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Area Highlights

- 320 acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated.
- 238 miles of roads maintained – Heavy rains created many repair needs.
- 7,080 tons of gravel spread.
- 1,900 acres invasive species control (sericea, musk thistle, and johnsongrass).
- 15 acres burned.
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 24 Signs installed or maintained.
- Multiple Miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 88 acres brush-hogged/mowed.
- Multiple WDU's had water manipulations (many are flooded still).
- Shooting ranges maintained.
- Ag & Grazing lease activities ongoing – work on windmills, water wells & fences.
- NWTF roost enhancement work at Waurika.
- 4 grassland bird surveys were conducted.
- Diversity Staff completed draft chapters of the Oklahoma State Wildlife Action Plan.

- Monitoring pass-through research grants and reporting.
- Prairie dog control inquiries are increasing.
- Acoustic Bat Survey Conducted
- Monitoring Species of Greatest Conservation Need on multiple WMA's continues.
- Updating Division procedures manual.
- Work continues on several land acquisition projects that are in different stages.
- Monthly bird survey conducted at Drummond Flats.
- Staff assisted with OSU mule deer research project.
- Monitoring eastern red cedar cutting projects continues.
- Met with Ducks Unlimited engineers to discuss Drummond Flats wetland development.
- Staff attended Optima & Waurika shooting range meeting.
- Staff attended several Joint Venture summer board meetings.
- WHIP review committee reviewed 124 applications for funding.
- OLAP program potentially increasing acreage.
- Several staff assisted with goose banding.
- Staff to attend Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters Expo on July 25th to 27th.
- Mourning Dove banding wrapping up.
- Millet seeding planning underway will begin on WDU's soon.
- Central Flyway technical council meeting in early September.
- Mt. Lion sighting submissions continue at elevated level since Department's news release.
- Falconry permit applications continue at an increased level.
- Completed pheasant crow surveys. 16.7% increase over last year.
- Conservation program given to cedar control course hosted by OSU Extension; Logan
- County Conservation District, Tulsa Native Plant Society.
- Assisted with Fishing Clinic – Tahlequah Middle School.
- Gave Skins & Skulls presentation to Tahlequah Summer School (30 students).
- Southeast Association deer study group summer meeting was attended.
- Work continues on coordination with ODAFF on deer genomic collection and CWD.
- Bear scent station survey for population distribution and density estimate ongoing.
- Turkey survey ongoing through August 31st.
- Traditional Archery Shoot at MCAAP was held.
- Attended New World Screwworm task force meetings with Dept of Ag.
- Timber lease agreements were signed.
- Nuisance Bear Coordinator refresher training has been conducted.
- Turkey data entered and submitted to Western and Eastern turkey working groups.
- Red Cockaded Woodpecker fledgling season is complete – fledged 23.
- First Red Cockaded Woodpecker nest located in LeFlore County Ouachita National Forest.
- Completed water crossing work at Sandy Sanders.
- Monitoring research efforts on current bobwhite projects.
- Staff assisted with review of 2025 Hunting Guide.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- WMA planning app committee is meeting and continuing to fine-tune the planning app.
- GIS shop completing final edits on maps for WMA Atlas.
- Attended trainings on Survey 123 app.

- Review, approval, submission of numerous federal aid grants.
- Programs Supervisor, Jerry Shaw, retiring July 31. Retirement Party Aug 7th 1pm- Arcadia.

Pictures of Lexington bridge/road repair (before & after):



LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- In Person District Meeting in Grove - Make-up firearms qualification. We also caught up on our district training schedule and discussed some upcoming firearms dates.
- Warden Adair assisted with a Hunter Education as part of the Tar Creek Apprentice Program in conjunction with the Quapaw Nation Tribal Marshals at NEO College.
- Members of the district Wildlife Investigation Team attended a Search Warrant class at Arcadia, taught by the OSBI.
- Warden Morris investigated a complaint of snagging below Pensacola Dam, which resulted in the subject being caught with 15 blue catfish over the limit.

- Warden Wilman reported 121 contacts during his 21 hours of boat patrol over the 4th of July weekend on Grand Lake. Many Wardens throughout the district have worked with Warden Willman during this past period, resulting in over 300 contacts on the water.
- Lt. Alexander attended the pre-construction meeting for the Copan WMA shooting range. The meeting was a success and a good opportunity for contractors, adjacent landowners, and department staff to meet on-site to discuss the start of the project.
- The district has swapped computer systems to the new Dell laptops.
- Mid-Year PMPs are complete.
- Axon body cameras have been rolled out. Training was completed at HQ.
- Wardens Jackson, Jenks and Arnold ran off to NAWEOA to have a good time... but ended up working and attending courses. There were over 600 attendees, and many great courses and training opportunities were offered.
- Warden Rolling worked 2 different cases of taking baby animals from the wild, she's had to seize a baby skunk and a baby opossum. Jackson helped with the possum case.
- Wardens Fulton, T Garrett and Rolling worked on a case where someone was selling an elk mount. The information came from a husband involved in a divorce - the wife was trying to sell the mount out from underneath the husband.
- Wardens Grace and Welch responded to a report of overlimit of stripers behind Kaw Dam. The fish turned out to be white bass but while working behind the dam wardens found four different illegal paddlefish and citations and ADFs were issued to residents of Kansas, Nebraska, California, Texas and Guatemala.
- Wardens in every county have been taking our annual calls on baby critters being found "abandoned".
- High water continues to plague much of our district, but the rains seem to finally have slowed for a few days!

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

- Public Outreach Events
- Wardens C. Youngblood and C. Fields provided a fishing clinic for Tahlequah Public Schools.
- Wardens C. Youngblood and C. Fields attended the BASS Elite Series weigh-in on Tenkiller Lake. They provided information to the public and tournament officials, as well as providing photo-ops with attendees.
- Wardens D. Garrett, C. Youngblood, and C. Fields attended the "Back the Blue" fishing tournament weigh-in at Keyes. They provided information and interaction with the public.
- Warden D. Garrett, C. Fields, and Lt. J. Cramer provided a presentation to the Adair County 4-H in Stilwell, regarding conservation law enforcement and Oklahoma game warden duties and responsibilities.
- Warden C. Youngblood attended a career fair at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah for the TRIO education talent search program.
- Wardens C. Fields, D. deMontigny, D. Langford, J. Rowland, and Lt. P. Matlock provided a STEP program to the Eufaula 4-H group.
- Wardens C. Fields, D. deMontigny, J. Rowland, and J. Pixley attended the National Fishing League tournament weigh-in on Lake Eufaula providing an opportunity to engage with the public and answer questions.

- Warden Couch attended the Stigler reunion Days event and answered wildlife law enforcement questions.
- Warden D. deMontigny assisted with the ODWC youth camp.
- Wardens K. Bailey provided a presentation at a faith based mens event regarding wildlife law enforcement.
- Warden K. Bailey assisted with a senior citizens fishing clinic.
- Warden D. Langford gave a presentation to the “Callin Men” event in Muskogee.

Training

- Lt. J. Cramer completed his mandatory supervisor HRDS training.
- All D2 wardens completed Waterfowl Enforcement Technics training.

Special Cases

- An Adair County bear case disposed of in the Cherokee Nation Court.
 - The subject was convicted of:
 - Violation of the Oklahoma Computer Crimes Act (Felony)
 - Illegal taking of bear in closed season (29: 5-411)
 - Illegal taking of deer in closed season (29: 5-411)
 - Unlawful Capture/Mutilation of Protected Wildlife (29: 7-205)
 - Sentenced to:
 - \$3500.00 Restitution to ODWC
 - \$5950.00 Fines and Costs (to Cherokee Nation)
 - 40 hours of community service
- Wardens Rowland, Langford, and Pixley worked special emphasis below area dams to curtail illegal fishing activity resulting in 2 Administrative Fines and 1 Temporary Fishing license.
- Warden Couch observed a group of individuals putting out noodling barrels and tractor tires in Kerr Lake resulting in 8 Administrative Fines and 2 Citations
- Warden David Garrett responded to a complaint of speargun fishermen on the Upper Illinois River in Cherokee County. Warden Garrett apprehended the suspects and issued citations to two individuals who illegally spearfished 9 bass (including white, smallmouth, and largemouth) with Hawaiian slings.
- Notable events:
- Warden C. Youngblood responded to a call of an injured elderly man near Horseshoe Bend on the Upper Illinois River/Tenkiller Lake. He assisted the local fire department and the Oklahoma Lake Patrol with getting the man to the OHP boat to facilitate transporting him to the ambulance. Utilizing our GoLaw database, Warden Youngblood was able to contact the man's family to notify them of the incident and where he was being transported.
- Wardens D. Langford, J. Rowland, and J. Pixley rescued two individuals who had capsized their boat while running jug lines and assisted them with retrieval of their boat back to shore. If they had not been close by, the situation could have resulted in a much worse outcome.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- District 3 wardens presented a STEP program at the Choctaw Nation Youth camp at Tuskahoma with approx. 250 kids total attending. The youth camp activities also included archery shooting and lasted 4 days.
- Warden Phillips and Warden Hannah initiated several investigations including a man selling raccoons in and around Idabel. They also located at least 2 suspected illegal marijuana grows and gave that info to OBN.

- Warden Phillips and Warden Hannah contacted an individual with a Whitetail fawn; they seized the deer and issued the man a citation for illegal possession.
- Warden Penwright completed the Defensive Tactics Instructors course in June and assisted Warden Loudermilk with presenting our D3 defensive tactics refresher course on June 20, 2025.
- D3 wardens conducted 452 compliance checks, issuing 24 citations, 7 Field licenses, 43 written warnings and 1 administrative fine during this 28-day period.
- D3 wardens participated in 93 programs other than hunter safety and 35 public outreach events during this 28-day period.
- D3 wardens logged 128.5 hours assisting the public, other agencies, and other divisions within ODWC during this period.
- D3 wardens participated in 119 hours of law enforcement training during the period.
- D3 wardens logged 49 hours conducting investigations during the 28-day period.
- D3 wardens logged 761 patrol hours during the period.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- All District 4 Game Wardens completed a Law Enforcement Driving Training, precision driving course, at the CLEET facility in Ada.
- Warden Trey Hale assisted at this year's Department of Wildlife Conservation Youth Camp at Arbuckle Lake. Warden Hale participated in the water enforcement scenarios with the campers.
- Warden Billy Walker rehired back to a warden position on June 16. Warden Walker is stationed in Bryan County.
- Warden Zane Arnold represented Oklahoma Game Wardens at the 2025 North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania. Warden Arnold attended the conference as runner-up 2025 Oklahoma Game Warden of the Year.
- Warden Zane Arnold was requested by the Johnston County Sheriff's Office to assist in a manhunt for a subject who escaped custody from Sheriff's deputies near the town of Ravia. The suspect at large had shot his girlfriend in a domestic dispute earlier in the day. The suspect was later located by Law Enforcement and transported to the county jail.
- Lt. Bud Cramer presented a public outreach program to members of the Johnston County Historical Society in Tishomingo. The program topic focused on fishing opportunities, local game fish species, and the history of the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area.
- Wardens Tracer Wagner and Bailey Johnson completed a trash dumping investigation on Heyburn WMA where they found mail with the individual's name and address on it. They contacted the individual and issued citations for dumping trash on a WMA.
- Wardens Trae Taylor, Clayton Johnson, and Lt. Garret Harley attended the National Wild Turkey Federation annual banquet in Seminole where they met and visited with multiple landowners and individuals and answered questions.
- Wardens Clayton Johnson and Trae Taylor held a Hunter Education Class at Vanoss School.

- Wardens Lt. Garret Harley and Dale Stites held a public outreach program at Sportsman Lake for multiple kids and adults for the Casting for a Cause Fishing Clinic Program.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- D5 Wardens were busy with many last-minute Wildlife Breeder, Commercial Hunting Areas and Rehabilitation license inspections across the district. Numerous Lifetime License applications were verified and signed as well.
- Lt.s Strang & Young and GWs Murray & Buley were camp counselors at the Wildlife Department's annual Youth Camp held this year on Arbuckle Lake. Capt. Emmons and GWs Meskimen and Averitt assisted on various days as well.
- While on boat patrol on Lake Thunderbird, Wardens Harriet, Campbell and Hanson observed a group with a generator and air pump noodling and catch a 30 lb flathead. After making contact with the noodlers, the Wardens discovered they were using a live scope to locate and noodle barrels. Citations for a non-resident fishing without a license and noodling barrels were issued. Upon some further investigation, possible hunting violations involving falsifying residency and illegal taking of whitetail and mule deer were discovered as well.
- Warden Harriet observed a man who at first, he thought was noodling. He made several failed attempts to cross the river and was not looking good. He was in his underwear, holding his shoes and phone. GW Harriet made contact with the man to discover that he was lost and severely dehydrated. The man had left Midwest City Friday or Saturday and started walking down the railroad tracks. A large rainstorm came in, and he got lost. His clothes were too heavy to carry, so he left them. He had not slept in two days and had not had water in 3. His body was covered in scratches and ticks. He had no warrants in OK or Lincoln County and did not match the description for any suspects of recent crimes in the area. GW Harriet gave him water, clothes, charged his phone, and took him to Dollar General to buy his own clothes. The man called for an Uber to take him home.
- Warden Murray made contact with a known fishing guide actively fishing without a valid fishing license. His Oklahoma fishing guide license expired on December 31, 2024. Based on current evidence, GW Murray believes he has guided multiple clients on the upper Illinois River and possibly the Blue River during the 2025 season. He is continuing to investigate and attempting to identify and interview clients who may have participated in paid trips during the past several months.
- Warden Mesis responded to a call of a guy fishing with consent which resulted in citations for that as well as no fishing license. A Logan County deputy arrested the guy for trespassing and when booking him into jail discovered his hidden stash of methamphetamine which resulted in Felony charge of bringing contraband into a detention facility.
- Wardens Hanson, Harriet, France, and Campbel presented an archery program for a large church camp in Norman.
- Wardens Meskimen, Harriet, and Campbell worked a Touch-A-Truck event at Purcell Lake in McClain County.
- On July 10th, Lt. Young received a call from the Lexington WMA technician stating he was box-blading when he unearthed what appeared to be a large mortar round. Lt. Young called Ft. Sill and the Army eventually sent an EOD unit to dispose of it while he baby sat it. It turned out to be live ordinance.

- Wardens France, Buley, Mesis, Harriet, Meskimen, Campbell assisted with various fishing clinics in Shawnee, Choctaw, Tecumseh, Blanchard and our Arcadia Conservation Education Area and Warden Harriet presented a Skins & Skulls program at the Wellston 4th of July celebration.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- D6 wardens conducted 890 compliance checks for the 28-day cycle, issued 18 citations, 7 field licenses, 16 warnings and 25 administrative fines. Fishing activity has been steady when it hasn't been raining. Fishermen are having good success.
- D6 wardens participated in 13 public outreach events and conducted 15 programs for the public.
- D6 wardens participated in all aspects of the annual Canton Lake Walleye Rodeo including tagging fish, participating as judges and drivers in the parade, putting on one of the largest kids fishing derbies in the state, to patrolling Canton Lake during the 4 day event. Wardens involved were Blake Pearson, Jaylen Flynn, Dylan King, Capt. Mark Walker.
- D6 employees participated in Korn Ferry pay study meetings
- D6 employees have been taking lots of calls on "abandoned" young wildlife.
- D6 wardens have been busy with license renewal inspections of rehabilitator, wildlife breeders, and commercial hunt area licenses.
- Warden Clem completed the defensive tactics instructor school. It will be nice to finally have a DT instructor in D6.
- Wardens Pearson and Flynn conducted an investigation into two individuals guiding fishing trips on Canton Lake. These individuals possessed guide licenses a few years ago but at some point decided to quit buying the license and had been guiding for the past 3 years without licenses. Multiple citations and administrative fines were issued.
- Warden King and Lt. Howser issued citations to two individuals for hunting without landowner consent.
- Warden King taught 2 days of water survival to one of the new game wardens.
- Warden King and Lt. Howser assisted with a funeral at Lookeba Cemetery.
- Warden King participated in a "touch a truck" and safety day event at Surrey Hills Baptist Church.
- Warden Zimmerman contacted a California resident that was hunting on Grady Co. WMA and was in possession of a resident hunting license. Citations were issued.
- Warden Cornett issued citations to a resident of Alabama who killed a turkey in Oklahoma without any licenses. Warden Cornett coordinated with Alabama wardens to complete this case.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Wardens responded twice to an escaped dragon lizard near Blair.
- Numerous lifetime application approvals.
- Numerous citations (15) were issued for fishing license violations.
- GW T. Blackburn and PGW W. Slade have done several inspections and approvals for commercial hunt areas, non-commercial breeders, and minnow dealers licenses. They also worked the OKC metro area on 07/06/2025 with GW D. King and another PGW checking 89 fishermen and writing 31 citations.

- Warden C. Carpenter has dealt with injured wildlife calls and rehabber/non-commercial breeder renewals. He and Warden A. Vaughan assisted Dewey County SO with a search for a suicidal subject after her vehicle was found abandoned. Fortunately, the woman was found alive and okay. GW C. Carpenter assisted GW J. Cornett on a case of fraudulent license purchases after it was discovered the suspects were using a 911 address for their hunting lease where there was an outhouse and a shipping container on the property for living quarters.
- Wardens C. Carpenter and A. Vaughan gave Skins and Skulls programs to 70 4H students at Vici.
- Warden A. Vaughan assisted M. Thibodeau with a sick turkey in northern Roger Mills county. The turkey is being sent off for testing.
- Warden A. Vaughan was working fishermen in the early hours of July 1st and made an arrest on a man that had a warrant out of Alfalfa County. Warden A. Vaughan worked fishermen below Canton Lake Dam reportedly keeping undersized fish, no luck that time.
- Wardens A. Vaughan assisted D. Jones with a Hunter Ed class in Shattuck.
- Warden D. Jones investigated possible noodlers using sticks with hooks at Ft. Supply but was busted by a separate vehicle going to the noodlers. He did make a license case on one of the noodlers though.
- Warden D. Jones assisted a homeowner with a nuisance raccoon problem. He also assisted another landowner with a coyote problem.
- Warden D. Jones assisted Ellis County SO with a combative subject when deputies requested assistance at Gage Beach. He also assisted Ellis County SO deputies look for a possible drunk driver coming out of Texas into Ellis County.
- Lt. Edwards signed several non-commercial breeder applications. He also worked areas SE of Erick for illegal hog hunting/trespassing complaints.
- Lt. Edwards worked turkey season suspicious check-in vs license purchase times. He also investigated complaints on deer depredation issues.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Wardens have been busy with several public outreach activities. Fishing is slow throughout most of the district with the exception of Kaw, especially below the dam as lots of water is being let out. Recent rains have pushed lake levels much higher than normal.
- Bear sightings in Cimarron County are on the rise as young males are in search of new territories, Lt. Baker reports.
- Elk depredation complaints are starting to sound off in the panhandle also. Irrigated crop circles are a favorite place for elk to settle during the summer months as they leave the dry river bottoms in search of more favorable conditions.
- Wardens Badley, Gearhart, and Menefee assisted with a STEP program for several boy scouts from New York City. Every year a landowner in Beaver County invites this particular scout troop from urban New York City to come and camp on his property. Many of these young people have never even seen a shotgun let alone had the opportunity to shoot a clay pigeon.
- Woodward area 4th of July Fishing Derbys was attended by Wardens Menefee, Badley and Lt. Baker.

- Warden Grace and Lt. Baker had a banner day around the Kaw lake area July 4th weekend. The duo wrote 24 violations including no license, several paddlefish violations, and stringer identification violations.
- Wardens Leonard, League, P. Cottrill, and Badley assisted with a July 4th Cops and bobbies fishing clinic in Alva.
- Warden Reigh and B. Cottrill put on an archery presentation at the Autry Vo Tech in Enid for several area students of their outdoor education program.
- Warden B. Cottrill organized Wardens Reigh, P. Cottrill, Leonard, and Lt. Paul to assist with a fishing clinic in Enid.
- Warden Grace assisted with the Standing Bear community outreach fishing derby and fish fry.
- Wardens B. Cottrill, P. Cottrill, Reigh, League, and Badley assisted with a car show/ fishing clinic public outreach near Lahoma.

Investigations/Training – Capt. Loftis

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)

- During the month of June WIT Team members have been steadily working on existing cases, with a few new license fraud cases added. Several WIT members have been assisting other Game Wardens with cases. These assists have come in the form of advice on approaches to issues they are running into on their cases, preparing search warrants, and assisting in deciphering data received from electronic search warrants. WIT members attended a search warrant class conducted by the OSBI at the Arcadia Educational Building.

FTO Program

- The FTO program is moving along well. Last years' 2024 cohorts are starting to graduate the program and this years' 2025 cohorts have moved steadily into phase 3. Only one PGW has not surpassed phase 2 and is in a remedial training phase fine tuning his skills.