

JULY 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

AGENCY UPDATE

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 319
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$2,308,491

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 206
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$447,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$599,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 58
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 915
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 286
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 3
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$321,325
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 40
- New Approver Training at OMES: 1
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 3

Risk Management:

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

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 43
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 20

Highlights:

- Accounting staff represented ODWC at 2025 SE Oklahoma Procurement Outreach Event at Kiamichi Tech in McAlester
- Cameron Thornton passed CPO exam – he is currently learning the p/card program and set-up the agency for Home Depot SW contract use.
- CPO's busy getting all the FY26 PO's set-up including regular authority orders and p/card authority orders
- Budget prep done and books created for Commission. Work on the BWP has started to have budget uploaded to PeopleSoft by OMES.

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$3,467,598
- Program Income: \$126,282
- In-Kind Contributions: \$6,293

- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 13
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 0
- Subrecipient FFATA Reporting: 0
- Reviewed 694 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$283,299 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 12
- Attended webinar on National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- Attended webinar on new “justification” requirement for US Treasury system for grant reimbursement

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 24
- Positions Announced 3
- Applications Screened 164
- Positions Interviewed 2
- Candidates Interviewed 10
- New Hires 4
- Promotions 2
- Transfers 1
- Resignations 1
- Retirements 0
- Terminations 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 5

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 350
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 48
- DB Plan Members 138
- DC Plan Members 215

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 0

Training:

- # in orientation 4

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 1
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the June WOG
- Submitted LDP article for the June WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 4 new hires
- Facilitated 2-day New Supervisor Training
- Assisted with Administrative Assistant training
- Prepared and assigned Quarterly Safety Training for Admin, CE, and Fisheries divisions
- Continued monitoring employee acknowledgements for Employee Handbook update
- Completed OMES Certified Benefits Partner training
- Finalized FY26 Payroll Budget
- Payroll is working on a benefit audit from EGID

- Planning for Korn Ferry pay study focus groups

License

- Processed 639 orders, including 548 licenses/permits and 506 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$60,755 in revenue
- Shipped 158 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$2,715 in revenue.
- Processed over \$55,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as fines, restitution, oil & gas, etc.

May License Review

- Recreational Licenses were down 10% for the month compared to May 2024, with revenue up 9% for May.
- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+11% (1,561)
Resident Fishing	+1% (29,720)
Resident Hunting	+8% (587)
Nonresident Fishing	-6% (6,328)
Lake Texoma	-57% (2,762)

Lifetime License sales were down 57% for the month compared to May 2024, with revenue down 88% for the category and 1,174 sold.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-95% (51)
Lifetime Fishing	-90% (42)
Senior Citizen Combo	-32% (395)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+9% (618)

- Lifetime sales volume is down due to the pre-buys before SB941 took effect, but interesting to see Senior Fishing bump up for the month.

Information Technology

- IT took in a total of 86 tickets this month. There was an increase month over month. Largely due to printer setup needing to be done once our employees who received new laptops got back to their respective offices.
- We are 90 percent done with laptop deployments with everyone left scheduled. The old, leased laptops have been returned to OMES/NTT.
- Received first batch of LE laptops. Testing has begun to make sure everything is working before we do mass deployments.
- The new Genetec Security System is installed, configured, and operational.

- Oklahoma Room revamp starts June 25-27 for hardware installation. The following week will have engineers programming the system and if everything goes well. We will have training for IT and the AV team July 2nd.

Property

- Received additional outfitted law enforcement trucks, applied decals to prepare for deployment. Deployed additional law enforcement trucks.
- New Property Technician started.
- Began preparation for next vehicle auction. Remove decals, plates, equipment, ComData cards, PikePass, etc. from turn in vehicles that will be sold in July auction.
- Completed daily routine checks of central office building grounds and equipment. Made minor repairs as needed.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 1,008 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of May in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

May 2025 Highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, May 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	4,371	9+"	2
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	309	14-24"	2
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	6,852	11"	1
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC	705,895	Fingerling	11
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC	143,472	Fry	3
Hybrid Striped Bass, ODWC	540,800	Fry	1
Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC	2,515	7-8"	8
Northern Largemouth Bass, Lake to Lake	92	Mature	6
Saugeye, ODWC	893,516	Fingerling	18
Walleye, ODWC	603,852	Fingerling	5
White Bass, Lake to Lake	463	Brood	1
Total:	2,902,137		

Meetings:

- Staff met with Garver Engineering to go over the 100% plans for the Manning reservoir construction and the bidding process.
- Staff met with Will Sims from OSU to discuss the upcoming trout tagging project set to start in June.
- Met with Senator Bullard and Representative Maynard at the Capitol to discuss opportunities for boating access on Lake Texoma. Assisted Senator Bullard in selecting members for the Texoma boat ramp task force.

- Meeting with TPWD to discuss our joint Lake Texoma sampling and planning efforts.
- Attended the SDAFS STB Technical Committee Meeting with the Executive Committee and the CAT genetics lab to discuss the pending Morone panel.

Activities

- Completed Hybrid Striped Bass fry production this season with a 58% hatch rate producing 5.5 million fry. Fry were feed to reach 11 days old and then transported to other hatcheries for stocking into fingerling production ponds. Nebraska also received 2 million fry and were shipped and received without any problems.
- Harvested and stocked saugeye fingerlings with a return of 61%. Total saugeye stocked into receiving lakes was 421,000 fish.
- Handed out Farm Pond Bass to applicants.
- Harvested and stocked walleye fingerlings with a return of 68%. Total walleye stocked into receiving lakes was 270,000 fish.
- Moved 1.2 million FLMB fry to grow-out ponds and harvested 700,000 FLMB fingerlings to stock in regional lakes.
- Removed fish from the hatchery ponds for disease testing with federal authorities.
- A training was done for hatchery staff on microscope use and plankton ID.
- Finished the SSP for Fuqua, Lawtonka, and Elmer, then processed and analyzed the data. Also helped with the Black Bass electrofishing at Lake Ozzie Cobb. Aged black bass otoliths from the spring SSP sampling. Stocked FLMB in Weleetka, Holdenville, Wetumka, Sportsmans, Sardis, and Broken Bow lakes.
- Began clearing trees for the access project at Gondola Lake in Medicine Park.
- Department lake maintenance on all properties, including mowing, weed eating, and trash pick-up.
- Collected brood stock bluegill, redear, silversides for Jap Beaver Lake.
- Final close out meeting with contractor, OMES, Garver for the Jap Beaver dam structure project.
- Sooner Creel Survey Update: 239 in-person interviews have taken place from Sept 1 to May 31. (32 the month of May), 53 creel days have been completed from Sept 1 - May 31. (5 Creels in May), 99 surveys were turned in from QR Codes from Sept 1 - May 31. (11 surveys in the month of May).
- Jason Schooley facilitated the preparation and review of a dozen fisheries rule change proposals for 2026.
- The PNNG crew continued the fabrication of a new electrofishing boat for nongame collections. This is actually an old boat that the crew has resourcefully repurposed to serve as an electrofishing boat.
- Staff collected >80 angler surveys in an exploratory paddlefish creel survey at Kaw Dam and various access points on the Arkansas and Salt Fork rivers above Keystone Lake.
- Fisheries crew collected and stocked approximately 18,000 brooder threadfin shad into regional waters and the Skiatook Nursery Pond.
- In May, the fisheries crews around the state actively participated in four Aquatic Education events, two CAST for Kids hospital fishing clinics and several municipal fishing clinics. An educational fishing clinic at Maple Park Pond in Wagoner, where participants learned about fish identification, casting techniques, and water safety

before fishing. Staff also supported the annual interagency Aquatic Education Program at Gentry Creek, which served local school children. Additionally, they contributed to the “Casting Beyond Sight” event at Honor Heights Park in Muskogee, assisting visually impaired students from the Muskogee School of the Blind with fishing activities at the park pond.

- Mowed and prepped Lexington WMA lakes in preparation for Memorial Day weekend.
- Completed the second-ever Oklahoma Habitat Enhancement Partnership, habitat build and install with the City of Enid.
- Continued checking channel catfish spawning boxes for the catfish spawning box and recruitment study.
- Collected Striped Bass in Kaw Lake tailwater for the Arkansas River Striped Bass Natal Origin project.
- Collected Freshwater Drum otoliths for statewide growth assessment project.
- Modeling and writing work continued on catfish tag retention and gear bias estimates (with Oklahoma State University and the University of Vermont), and writing on Bowfishing shoot and release.
- Personnel collected approximately 14,000 adult Threadfin and Gizzard shad from Eucha Lake and supplemented them into Bixhoma Lake to help increase the forage.
- Fish from the Spring and Neosho Rivers for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and the Peoria Tribe. These fish are for the tribe’s annual contaminant testing.
- Staff constructed catfish spawning/habitat structures. These structures will be placed in some small impoundments that lack suitable spawning habitat for channel catfish and will also be utilized in Grand Lake to boost numbers of Flathead catfish for the tagging effort that will be used to look at harvest and spawning site fidelity.
- Staff continued creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting 55 additional interviews and eight pressure counts over four days in May, for a total of 173 interviews for the survey to date.
- Staff reviewed environmental review requests and then drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fish and wildlife resources across the state.
- Staff updated statewide Fish Attractor Map with new and refurbished habitat structures that have been placed in public waters across the state. Also updated master spreadsheet and submitted to ODWC Web Developer to include on webpage for public download.
- Staff hauled and stocked Rainbow trout from the Norfork National Fish Hatchery 4 times in the Lower Illinois
- Staff worked on poster presentations for the upcoming National AFS meeting.
- Staff used livescope in the Neosho River to facilitate carp removal.
- Staff worked on invasive carp larval light trap protocol and lit review.
- Staff maintained several river and creek areas: Bamberger, Barren Fork, Echota, Stunkard and Lower Illinois Watts.
- Staff processed several aquatic import/export permits and filed grass carp certifications.
- Monitored Texoma flooding conditions, fishing related impacts, and access impacts.
- Airboat exploration upper Red River arm of Texoma to look for spawning alligator gar.
- Assisted with fishing guide review and edits.

- Roadwork and culvert maintenance at BR
- Progress on the Lake Watonga dam continues. During a progress meeting ODWC learned the project is about 85% complete. The concrete intake tower was poured and earthwork on the back side of the dam was completed.
- Staff tagged 500 fish for the Walleye Rodeo and provided technical assistance during the event. Staff also worked the Walleye Rodeo Kid's Derby that had approximately 500 kids register.
- A fish kill on Skeleton Creek was investigated. The City of Enid Water Reclamation Facility discharged water into Skeleton Creek with high levels of ammonia. Consequently, approximately 52,000 fish were impacted. They consisted mostly of minnows and shiners.
- Three creel surveys were completed on Foss. This concludes a year-long survey. Data analysis is ongoing.
- Staff recorded a Reel Talk, Reel Tips podcast discussing walleye fishing in Oklahoma.
- Conducted upkeep and mowing at Higgins Office and ODWC department fishing areas (Nanih Waiya and Ozzie Cobb).
- Removed concrete spillway overhang at Schooler Lake, repaired holes in siphon, and met with local residents to explain the project and ODWC's stance on spillway erosion and lake level.
- Prepared for and began creel survey on Wister Lake.
- Assisted other regions and programs with habitat and ANS projects.
- Met with/ 3rd District wardens to discuss fisheries-related issues in the SE and drafted three new rule change proposals.
- Scouted sampling sites, met with landowners and began summer stream sampling in the Poteau and Red River drainages.
- Prepared for and conducted catfish sampling on the Neosho River. Catch rates for channel catfish were fair.
- Stocked COE Pond in Hugo and coordinated with landowners on Raymond Gary.

C&E DIVISION

- More than 1 million people saw the Facebook post announcing the confirmed mountain lion kitten sighting. Sharing information through social media outlets allows the agency to reach a broader audience and to continue to reinforce our agency biologists as subject matter experts.
- "Outdoor Oklahoma" is celebrating its 50th season on OETA. The program's longevity stands as a testament to the enduring appeal of Oklahoma's rich outdoor heritage. Over the years, the show's core mission has remained: to connect people with the outdoors.
- Three shooting ranges have been collecting daily traffic data through car counters including nearly 50 people per day at Lexington Wildlife Management Area. You can see the annual activity trend for each range in Figure 1.

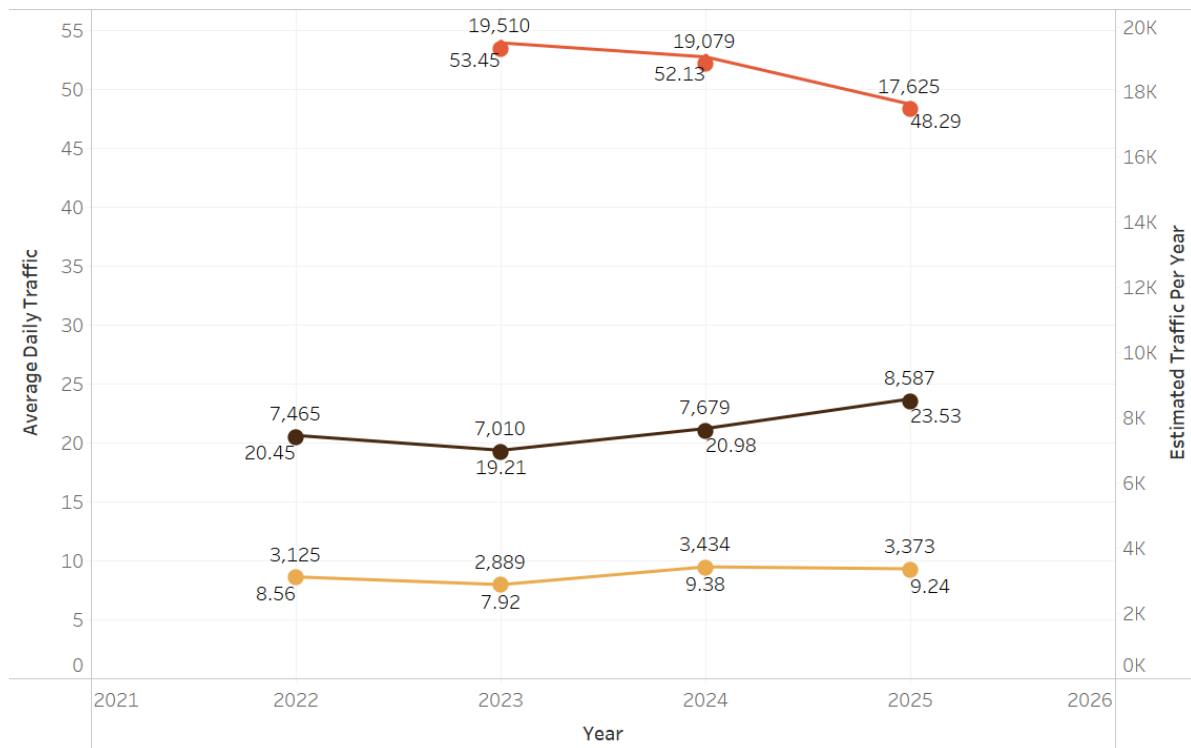


Figure 1: Depiction of the average daily traffic per year and the estimated yearly traffic by Lexington WMA (orange line), Okmulgee WMA (brown line) and Canton WMA (yellow line).

- Megan Moore organized and ran a very successful Administrative Assistants training along with Human Resources and Accounting to improve internal communications, streamline processes and facilitate collaboration among the Divisions.
- Jacob Tison, Heather Del Moral, and several game wardens hosted a Father's Day fishing clinic for families called Burgers and Bobbers. Event was targeted at Fathers and their families and filled up within 24 hours of being posted on the Go Outdoors calendar. Event was sponsored by the Warden's Association who provided the burgers.
- Colby Cook and Damon Springer completed repairs on the boardwalk at the Arcadia Conservation Education Center. This will give the boardwalk, which is an important feature of the ACEA, many more years of useful life.
- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee set up the Outdoor Education training schedule to get teacher's trained in Oklahoma National Archery in the Schools Program, Oklahoma Fishing in the Schools, Explore Bowhunting and Explore Bowfishing.
- Damon Springer set up the fall dates for the Shotgun Training Education Program FFA shoots.

- Pake Wise completed edits including updating photos, adjusting text to incorporate new hunter education standards, and updating agency information for the 2026 Oklahoma Hunter Education Manual.
- Lance, Kelly, and Michael met to discuss updates the 2019 R3 strategic plan. Key categories and contributing members were chosen.
- Several edits were made to the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations guidebook. The final proof will be approved mid-July with shipments arriving in mid-August.
- Progress continues on the paving of the three parking lots at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area.
- The Department's annual Gar Week campaign has become a celebrated event among the Department's online followers and beyond. This year, Gar Week is tentatively planned for November. Planning is underway to share and cross-promote content in a campaign to champion gar and other species, dispel myths and encourage respect for native fish species.
- C&E staff assisted with presentations and Amanda Thomas served as a counselor at the Oklahoma Wildlife Youth Camp.
- C&E staff made preparations to host a booth at the upcoming Delta Waterfowl Expo in Oklahoma City.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

- 100 Acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated.
- 150 Miles of roads maintained – Heavy rains created many repair needs.
- 2,500 Tons of gravel spread.
- 775 acres invasive species control (sericea, musk thistle, and johnsongrass)
- 10 Gates repaired.
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 24 Signs installed or maintained.
- Multiple Miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 50 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
- 2 grassland bird surveys were conducted.
- Chief and Diversity Staff attend WAFWA in Utah.
- Monitoring Species of Greatest Conservation Need on multiple WMA's continues.
- Work continues on several land acquisition projects that are in different stages.
- Monthly bird survey conducted at Drummond Flats.
- Assisted with fishing clinic.
- Staff assisted with OSU mule deer research project.
- Monitoring eastern red cedar cutting projects continues.
- Several outdoor classrooms were conducted.

- WHIP review committee reviewed 124 applications for funding.
- OLAP program potentially increasing acreage.
- Represented Oklahoma and the Central Flyway at Dove Task Force meeting in Ft. Collins CO.
- Goose banding underway. Will be completed early July.
- Preparations for Delta Waterfowl Duck Hunters Expo on July 25th to 27th.
- Mourning Dove banding stations being prepared statewide.
- Nuisance goose mitigation and monitoring occurring statewide.
- Millet seeding planning underway.
- Completed pheasant crow surveys. 16.7% increase over last year.
- Program presented to Alva Schools Ag programs on connecting agriculture and wildlife management to better manage the landscape.
- Completed assigned Greater Prairie chicken survey, results pending.
- Finalized wing data entry for the 24-25 quail wing envelopes.
- Attended New World Screwworm task force meetings with Dept of Ag.
- Trapping 101 class was presented at the ODWC Youth Camp.
- Multiple interviews were conducted regarding mountain lion kitten news release.
- Assisted with North American Falconer's Association planning for annual meeting.
- Staff worked on getting timber lease agreements finalized and 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 winding down, full report in progress.
- One Red Cockaded Woodpecker nest located in Ouachita National Forest.
- Completed water crossing work at Sandy Sanders.
- Monitoring research efforts on current bobwhite projects.
- Worked on the new WMA atlas.
- Staff attended State NRCS technical committee meeting.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- WMA planning app committee is meeting and continuing to fine-tune the planning app.
- Review, approval, submission of numerous federal aid grants.
- Staff met with Korn Ferry.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- Warden Rolling helped GW Dylan Jones locate and cite a subject in Tulsa in an ongoing investigation in Ellis County.
- Wardens Stauffer and Rolling put on a program at the Bass Pro Shops in Broken Arrow for the Union Elementary Schools about hunting and fishing experiences
- Warden Rolling got some information about a possible deer poaching case in McCurtain County, passed along the information to LT Kenny Lawson who was going to interview the suspect.
- Wardens Stauffer and Rolling worked an investigation on a subject that has a pet red fox without having any permits for it.

- Warden Jake Bersche took his boat to HQ to have a new motor put on it. We also outfitted his boat with a new jack plate that should help with his ability to patrol the shallow rivers in Osage and Pawnee Co.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche and LT Paul Welch met with the Corps of Engineers and Osage County Deputies to discuss the area closures on Skiatook Lake due to budget cuts.
- Warden Fulton helped with a Hunter Education class in Owasso.
- Warden Stauffer continues to work on his Leadership Development Programs final project.
- Warden Newkirk started extended military leave and will be off for several months.
- D1 has been working with Wild Heart Ranch – one of our biggest rehab facilities – on an ongoing issue with Avian Flu issues.
- District 1 held a firearms qualification training, district meeting and cookout at the Owasso Range on May 30. They qualified with all three weapons, shot drills, off duty weapons, and then completed a firearms cleaning and maintenance course. Lt Col Farrar joined us for the training and updated our district on pertinent issues.
- Several D1 wardens have dealt with multiple bear reports and encounters and forwarded the information on to the Wildlife Division.
- D1 Wardens have been working boat patrol as often as the rain will let us! Most all of the creeks and lakes are currently littered with debris and fishing has been slow during this period.
- Warden Jackson assisted a landowner on a complaint of deer eating his garden!
- Pensacola Dam has been busy and most of the east side wardens have been busy working that area. Currently is reopened for flood control and activity has slowed again.
- Wardens Willman and Adair completed the Swift Water Boating Course and gave the course raving reviews. They both recommended the course be more readily available to all Wardens in the future if possible.
- Warden Moore instructed a Water Survival Course in OKC for makeup to Wardens. It was also attended by several outside agencies.
- The WIT Team had several meetings during the period and is continuing various investigations.
- Tilley gave a presentation to the OSU Extension office in Nowata
- Tilley finished his last week of FTO by riding with Lt Alexander and is now out on his own officially!

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

- Public Outreach Events
- Warden J. Henry and K. Bailey assisted with a fishing clinic in Vian.
- Wardens C. Youngblood and David Garrett participated in the multi-agency event “Key’s Memorial Day Community Safety Event” in Keys.
- Wardens D. Garrett and Lt. J. Cramer provided a STEP program for the King’s Outpost Camp (youth boys ages 13 to 17) near the community of Baron.
- Wardens Couch and J. Pixley attended a meeting for retired law enforcement personnel, introduced warden J. Pixley and answered wildlife law questions.
- Wardens D. Langford and Lt. Matlock assisted with a fishing clinic at the Deep Fork National Refuge.

- Wardens D. deMontigny attended the bobbers and burgers fishing event at Lake Arcadia.

Training

- Warden J. Rowland completed Defensive Tactic Instructor training.
- Warden D. Langford attended Standardized Field Sobriety Test breath-alcohol operator certification course.
- Warden D. Garrett attended SCUBA rescue diver training course.
- Warden D. Garrett assisted with the WET school academy make up training as a rescue diver.
- Warden D. Garrett attended a Standard Field Sobriety Test refresher course.

Special Cases

- Warden J. Henry has made several overlimit trout cases on the lower Illinois River.
- Wardens J. Pixley, J. Rowland, and D. Langford arrested a felon on a warrant while investigating an illegal fawn possession complaint.
- All D2 wardens have been involved in high water monitoring and availability during the recent heavy rainfall amounts.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Hancock Timber requested extra patrols on Honobia WMA due to illegal ATV/UTV activities.
- 6 Wardens and 2 Supervisors patrolled high traffic areas within the WMA during Memorial Day Weekend
- Wardens located numerous illegal ATV/UTV's and issued citations and educated all contacts with an explanation of why this is a law.
- 65 contacts and 40 citations were issued to residents and non-residents for Failure to have Land Access Permits, Illegal Operation of ATV on Honobia WMA, Transporting Open Container, and No Fishing License.
- Very successful operation for compliance and educational purposes, as well as reassuring John Hancock Timber that we are focused on protecting their properties and enforcing our contractual agreement.
- On May 19 Lt. Lawson received information on a velvet buck deer being killed near Idabel by a resident of Louisiana. Lt. Lawson's BWC was not working then, so he was able to delegate that investigation to Eric and Chance and with Mark's assistance, they confirmed the information and made an arrest the next day.
- On May 21 Lt. Lawson participated in a new TV podcast with C&E division's Darrin Hill highlighting interesting or high-profile poaching cases called "Warden Stories". Lt. Lawson watched a similar TV show from Virginia in March and sent a link to that show to Darrin and asked if they would be interested in doing a similar show and they liked it so "Warden Stories" was born.
- Our newest district warden Chance Phillips is progressing well in FTO with Eric and now with Mark. He's been exposed to a lot more situations than what he had been as a reserve warden in the wildlife division, and we are certainly proud to have him here as a full-time warden.
- D3 Wardens participated in 16 public outreach events and presented 20 programs over the 28-day period.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Wardens Zane Arnold and Trey Hale presented a Snake Identification course to twenty-five home schooled children, and fifteen adults at the Durant Public Library.
- All District 4 Wardens completed their annual CLEET Defensive Tactics Refresher course. Wardens received valuable instruction on use of force techniques, and the agencies policies and procedures on the use of force.
- All District 4 Wardens completed a CLEET Firearms Maintenance course. Wardens disassemble, cleaned, and reassemble their issued firearms to ensure correct functionality.
- Wardens Trey Hale and Zane Arnold attended training as investigators for the Wildlife Investigation Taskforce. The training presented by the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigations. The training focused on Search Warrant Techniques and Grand Jury Subpoenas.
- Game Warden Zane Arnold assisted with a search and rescue at the Blue River PFHA. A missing 58- year-old female with a lengthy medical history was tubing in flood waters causing her to become separated from her party at a fork in the river. The female was located in the water, and alive within hours into the search. The victim was exhibiting signs of hyperthermia and was examined by medical personnel on the scene. She was later transported by EMS to the local hospital, where she was treated and released.
- Game Warden Zane Arnold participated in a Swift Water Boat Operation Course on Grand Lake and the Grand River below the Pensacola Dam. This training focused on operating a vessel in swift water rescue operations.
- Game Warden Trae Taylor attended the GRDA Grappling training in Pryor, an Officer Water Survival training in Edmond, where he assisted in training newly hired Game Wardens, and he attended a Rescue Dive School at Tenkiller Lake.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- The rains and stormy weather continued on for a lot of May and early June in D5 which hampered quite a lot of fishing activity. All GWs were busy conducting wildlife breeder/ rehabber license facility inspections, pond inspections deer depredation permits.
- Lt.s Young and Strang and GWs France, Campbell, Buley, Murray, Averitt and Hanson took shifts working the Operation Game Thief trailer at the annual Okie Noodling tournament in Pauls Valley talking to a total of 1,134 people!
- GW Murray and PGW Averitt filed charges on a man for shooting a deer in his yard.
- GW Harriet is working a case on a guy shooting a doe on Chandler Lake property who was sighting in his AR-15 illegally.
- GW Harriet also finished a deer and turkey investigation stemming from a domestic call in Meeker that resulted in four 5-411's for antlered deer and one 5-411 for a turkey with restitution as well as failure to check and hunting without a license.
- GW Mesis had 1 unlawful possession of a wild turkey case.
- GWs Campbell and Hanson finished their investigation which started from a tip about a convicted felon unlawfully shooting a Cy Curtis deer with a rifle in Custer County and checking it in as an archery harvest. Their investigation led to two more men being interviewed which resulted in 9 charges for the 2 new suspects and 5 charges for the original suspect who was taken into custody after his initial court appearance. Their investigation found 6 deer were harvested unlawfully.

- GW Harriet and France took the U.S.S. Minnow on its maiden voyage on Meeker Lake and survived. GW Harriet also caught a group running juglines unlawfully.
- GWs Meskimen and France and Lt. Strang worked a fishing clinic in Blanchard and GW Mesis worked a Cops N Bobbers in McLoud and a family fishing clinic at ACEA.
- GW Buley worked the Canton Walley Rodeo and a fishing clinic at Arcadia.

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.
- Warden Stover investigated a case involving a dad and his 13 year old son that shot a turkey from the road and out of season. Citations were issued to the dad who was driving. Warden Stover used the contact as an opportunity to educate the dad and teenage son (the shooter) on the importance of sportsmanship and fair chase as well as how to properly clean a turkey.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Warden D. Jones working turkey guides known for putting out bait.
- Warden D. Jones assisted worked incident of a fisherman being harassed at Gage beach.
- Warden D. Jones assisted Ellis Co. SO with an uncooperative arrested individual at the jail per the SO's request.
- Warden A. Vaughan finished up Phase 4 of FTO with T. Blackburn.
- Warden A. Vaughan wrote two hunters that he ran across at the gas station in Cheyenne for failure to report harvest.
- Warden C. Carpenter continues to work some illegal deer kills.
- Wardens C. Carpenter, A. Vaughan, and Lt. J. Edwards worked the boat at the Canton Walleye Rodeo checking 79 fishermen, writing two no licenses cases and one no info on jug lines.
- Warden T. Blackburn has been busy with FTO duties for two different GW's.
- Lt. J. Edwards has been working focusing on turkey road hunters and hunters hunting turkeys over bait.
- Warden A. Vaughan worked the Kids Fishing Derby, 600 plus kids participated, the Walleye Rodeo Association gave away 40 Lifetime Fishing Licenses.
- Warden D. Jones assisted with storm spotting when the tornado came into SW Ellis County that passed just on the west side of Arnett.
- Warden J. Brothers has been busy with FTO duties for GW W. Slade
- Warden T. Raasch, B. Lehrman, and Lt. D. Smith has all been inspecting several farm pond applications for fish.
- Warden T. Raasch assisted a stranded motorist at Mt. Park WMA.
- Lt. J. Edwards recovered a stolen semi-trailer on private property near Clinton Lake. He turned all the info over to Washita Co. SO.
- Warden A. Vaughan and Lt. J. Edwards assisted working a horse that had been possibly shot in Dewey County. It was determined that the horse had most likely been struck by lightning. The exit wound of the lightning strike had the appearance of a gunshot wound. This occurred in a high elk activity area where there had been several elk illegally shot over the last few years.
- Warden J. Brothers finished up Phase 1 FTO training for GW W. Slade. Several fishing citations were written at Frederick Lake.
- Warden T. Blackburn continued with FTO training for GW W. Slade, part of that training being assisting with a new Commercial Hunt Area drive in Roger Mills Co.
- Wardens C. Carpenter worked with T. Campbell on finalizing all charges on suspects from last fall illegal deer hunting kills and a felon in possession of a firearm charge. The investigation began when one of the suspects took his 160" buck to Rack Madness at HQ, then bragged about his kill on social media.
- Lt. J. Edwards assisted Washita Co. SO with a wanted felon incident in Canute.
- Several GW's worked several Farm Pond Fish Application inspections.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Warden League is continuing to work with Capt Bickerstaff on a long form turkey season investigation on several persons hunting turkeys over bait. The 10 or so individuals involved were caught with a cell phone camera that was placed watching the entrance to a permanent blind within 30 yards of active feeders with the landowner's permission. The experiment ran nearly all season long. It ended with

our camera being stolen and SD card being wiped by the main violator. Most violators have been identified, but we are now waiting for the results of the main violator's own cell phone camera contents requested to be searched in a search warrant to look for additional charges of illegal turkeys that haven't been checked and overlimit cases.

- Several D8 Wardens are working area Public Outreach fishing clinics. Wardens Leage, Badley, Reigh, and P. Cottrill worked a youth fishing clinic in conjunction with the Refuge at the SPNWR Bonham pond. Wardens Reigh, B. Cottrill, League, Badley, Leonard, and Lt. Paul worked an underprivileged youth fishing clinic in Enid at Meadow Lake. Several first fish were caught by the newest generation of fishermen and even more lines untangled by smiling GWs.
- D8 welcomes the transfer of Warden Gearhart to Texas county as of June 1st. She has some big shoes to fill, but we are sure she will do a fine job. She will also be busy protecting the remaining antelope population in the panhandle.
- Several D8 Wardens traveled to the eastern part of the district during the past Memorial Day weekend to find fishermen and water to fish. Hundreds of contacts were made, and some violations were observed and atoned for.
- Warden Leage is entered into phase 2 of the FTO program, Warden Leonard is entering phase 4, and Warden Gearhart has finished phase 5 of the program. All are well on their way to a very productive career in wildlife law enforcement.
- Heavy rains, sometimes of 6" plus, have blown up area lakes on the eastern part of the district and slowed fishing, but it has also allowed for the movement of fish from down streams to enter the district for future fishing success. Always got to look at the bright side of things.
- Warden B. Cottrill investigated a fish kill with the City of Enid as the main culprit dumping sewage into Skeleton creek. Several dead fish were documented for later restitution.
- Warden P. Cottrill attended court for a successful prosecution of an illegal deer from last season. He and Warden Leonard assisted with the Walleye rodeo fishing event at Canton Lake.
- Warden Grace represented the ODWC in the Special Olympics escort from Ponca City. He also assisted with investigating an illegal turkey case and an illegal deer poaching incident recently in Osage county.
- Warden Reigh continues to work with Autry Vo tech in their outdoor related curriculum. He is continuing work with other agencies and grants for his local Medford kids fishing pond project.

Investigations/Training – Capt. Loftis

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)

- Inv Long and Warden Jackson assisted USFWS Special Agents with a multi-state/jurisdictional smuggling case with ties to Oklahoma. This is an ongoing investigation.
- Wardens Clem and Rolling successfully graduated from a highly selective Wildlife Investigation School located in Texas. This nationally competitive program admits only a limited number of exceptionally qualified applicants and provides comprehensive training in wildlife investigation.

- Wardens Jackson and Gillham have been assisting GW Tilley with a complex investigation, which has required the writing and execution of multiple search warrants across two (2) different jurisdictions. This is an ongoing investigation.

FTO Program

- All PGWs are moving into Phase 2, and everything is going well.
- The Career Development Program is continuing to be organized.
- Next year's Game Warden Academy is being reorganized and expanded slightly to include classes that were removed from the FTO program.