

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, September 8th, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**
Roman Nose State Park – Roman Nose Hall
3236 S. HWY 8A
Watonga, OK 73772

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 – Richard Snow
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Richard Snow
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Darrin Hill, Communication & Education Specialist – 20 Years
David Robertson, District (2) Chief Law Enforcement – 35 Years

7. Presentation on the State Wildlife Action Plan Revision and Update – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Kurt Kuklinski, Wildlife Diversity Supervisor
8. Presentation on the Northwest Region Wildlife Management Activities – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Weston Storer, Northwest Region Supervisor
9. Presentation and overview of Fisheries Division's Department Lakes Program and update on the Lake Watonga Dam renovation project – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division, Cole Niblett, Garver Engineering, and Chas Patterson, Northwest Regional Fisheries Supervisor.
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the August 4, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
11. 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

12. Presentation of the July 31st, 2025, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
13. Discussion and action, if necessary, concerning the general process and procedures involving approval of the leasing, acquisition and disposal of real property, including authority of the Director or his designee to execute any real estate documents deemed appropriate to facilitate and complete the transaction – Commissioner Barwick
14. Discussion and action, if necessary, concerning the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, including a status update, approval of appointments of new members for the Foundation's Board of Directors, fundraising and other matters involving the Foundation — Commissioner Barwick
15. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
16. Announce the October 6th, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
17. Adjourn*

*The Wildlife Commission and Department Staff will have lunch and tour the Watonga Lake dam renovation project immediately following adjournment. A quorum may or may not be present. No business will be discussed, nor will any action be taken following adjournment of the regular meeting of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

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**

SEPTEMBER 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

September 1	ODWC TV Commercials begin airing
September 6	Kaw WMA Field Day
September 18	Foundation's Annual Clay Shooting Fundraiser, Cedar Gate

AGENCY UPDATE:

ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 467
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$3,035,823

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 209
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$469,500
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$612,500
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 56
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 946
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 104
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 11
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$266,415
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 0
- New Approver Training at OMES: 1
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 0

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 1
- New Cases Reported: 3

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 63
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 26

Highlights:

- All four CPO positions with new hire starting in July
- Annual audit with Finley & Cook underway
- Accounting supervisor moving to another state agency in August

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$4,171,240.20
- Program Income: \$32,094.00
- In-Kind Contributions: \$3,654.00
- New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 13
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 8
- Subrecipient FFATA Reporting: 0
- Reviewed 800 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$189,619 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 4

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 28
- Positions Announced 4
- Applications Screened 60
- Positions Interviewed 3
- Candidates Interviewed 10
- New Hires 0
- Promotions 0
- Transfers 1
- Resignations 2
- Retirements 1
- Terminations 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 6

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 350
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 49
- DB Plan Members 137
- DC Plan Members 212

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 2

Training:

- # in orientation 1

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 4
- Worker Comp Injuries 0

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the Aug WOG.
- Presented program for Fisheries Supervisor Meeting
- Attended Workday@OK Agency Learning Admin webinar
- Finalized completion of Quarterly Safety Training for Admin, CE, and Fisheries Division
- Processing data for Finley & Cook Audit

- Processing data for Korn Ferry pay study
- Processed invoices for payment
- Working on census data

License

- Processed 550 orders, including 471 licenses/permits and 365 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$50,687 in revenue.
- Shipped 282 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$1,948 in revenue.
- Processed over \$54,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as fines, restitution, oil & gas, etc.

July License Review

- Recreational Licenses were up 4% for the month compared to July 2025, with revenue up 8%.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+4% (972)
Resident Fishing	+7% (13,992)
Nonresident Fishing	+11% (3,934)
Lake Texoma	-10% (3,005)

Lifetime License sales were down 36% for the month compared to July 2024, with revenue down 70% for the category and 778 sold.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-84% (49)
Lifetime Fishing	-76% (31)
Senior Citizen Combo	-12% (248)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+12% (372)

- 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 38 tickets this month. This is a record low.
- Laptop Deployments: ODWC has roughly 120 laptops whose leases will lapse by the end of the year. We have identified the users and have scheduled replacements for them in 4 groups.
- Oklahoma Room AV Workflow Modifications: After our first commission meeting with the new AV system, the AV team identified a few pain points and found ways to mitigate them going forward.
- Axon Body Cam Roll Out: We worked with Law Enforcement to assist in switching from their old body cams to the new Axon System.

- Cellphone Roll Out: We are working with Law Enforcement to schedule cellphone deployments for 78 new phones.
- 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

- Deployed final FY25 Warden truck, and started process of preparing turn-in Warden trucks for next vehicle auction.
- Concluded July 2025 Vehicle Auction, all vehicles have been picked up by buyers.
- Completed daily routine checks of central office building grounds and equipment. Made minor repairs as needed.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 814 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of July in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

August 2025

Director Highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, July 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	15,250	11"	2
Total:	15,250		

Meeting

- Meeting with FlowCam for plankton identification and algae counting.
- All fisheries technicians attended the fisheries division technician meeting at Murray Lake State Park.

Activity

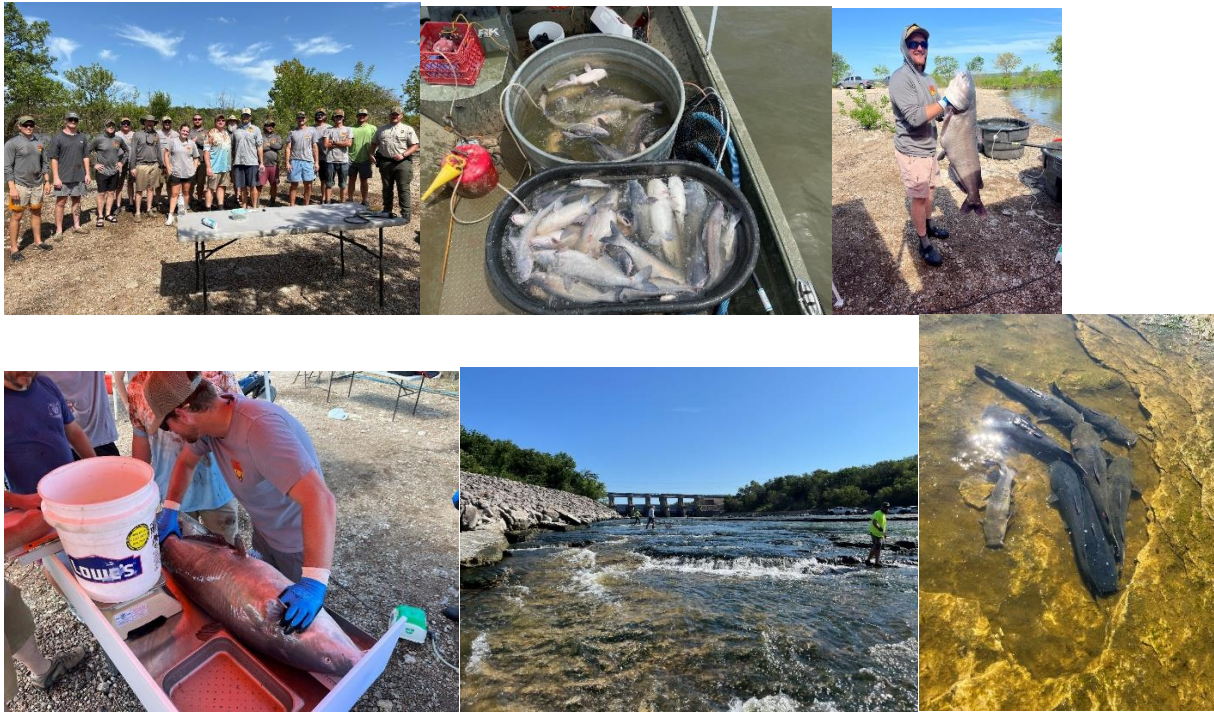
- Began writing up bird predation and soil/water quality studies.
- Helped with dam draining at Sardis Lake and the moving of fish and collection of drum for mussel propagation.
- Pond bank reshaping and erosion control were completed on two ponds. A washed-out water drain culvert was repaired following excessive rainfall. A new dishwasher was installed, and office renovations were completed. Additionally, residence #2's HVAC unit was serviced and repaired.
- At the Durant Hatchery, a rotted tree in the park area was felled. Ponds in phases 0, 1, and 2 were rotovated, and Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) were installed in the river pump station. At the Holdenville Hatchery, the fish hatching building was repaired, and the wood shop was cleaned out in preparation for painting.
- A goldfish forage pond was set up, cleaned, sprayed, and stocked with broodstock. At the Durant Hatchery, 1,200 lbs of forage were added to the brood Florida

Largemouth Bass (FLMB). Technicians picked up channel catfish fry from the Tishomingo Federal Hatchery and transported sunfish to Elk City for a fishing derby.

- At Holdenville Hatchery, two loads of Rainbow Trout were transported and distributed to the Lower Mountain Fork River, and staff assisted with fish habitat projects. Fish were fed daily and as needed across all hatcheries, and water quality was regularly monitored.
- Progress on the Lake Watonga dam was slow in July. Final grade on the dam was completed with topsoil. Riprap and gravel were hauled to the site.
- Maintenance work on department lakes continues. Activities include mowing at American Horse and twice at Elmer, and herbicide applications to maintain fishing access on department lake areas and trash pick-up.
- Staff met with State Parks at Watonga to discuss potential repairs for the Boecher dam. State Parks has hired an engineer to investigate options. It is unknown at this time what the impacts on Lake Watonga will be.
- Staff scouted the Canadian drainage for plains minnows in attempt to provide Colorado with broodstock. No Plains Minnows were found.
- Broodstock silversides, bluegill, redear sunfish, and gizzard shad were collected and stocked into Jap Beaver Lake to support forage base enhancement. Fire guards at Jap Beaver Lake were maintained, and general upkeep at department-managed lakes was completed, including mowing, weed-eating, trash pickup, and herbicide application.
- A meeting was held with the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) for the inspection of Jap Beaver Dam.
- Staff assisted the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge (WMNWR) with an electrofishing survey to assess local fish populations.
- An aquarium display was transported to Fort Sill for a kids' fishing event, helping promote youth engagement in aquatic education and angling.
- Biologists continued statewide work on Letters of Authorization (LOAs) and scientific collector permits to support regulated fish and wildlife research activities.
- The Sooner Creel Survey continued.
 1. 314 in person interviews have taken place from Sept 1 - July 31. (51 the month of July)
 2. 62 creel days have been completed from Sept 1 - July 31. (7 Creels in the month of July)
 3. 126 surveys were turned in from QR Codes from Sept 1 - July 31. (26 surveys in the month of July)
- Threadfin shad production continued in the Skiatook Nursery Pond. Biweekly monitoring has shown reproduction. Fry were 35 mm average length in the July samples. Aquashade was applied to increase turbidity and deter plant growth.
- Boating Access Inspections were completed for the region.
- NCR staff assisted NER staff with Blue Catfish sampling on Oologah and Flathead Catfish sampling on Grand.
- Shelbyville Cube components were assembled for future deployment in Skiatook and Kaw reservoirs.
- The PNNG crew completed the fabrication of a new electrofishing boat for nongame collections. This is actually an old boat that the crew resourcefully repurposed to serve as an electrofishing boat.

- Reviewed applicants and interviewed to fill the Paddlefish and Native Nongame Technician vacancy.
- Assisted in the rescue of entrapped fish in Oologah spillway.
- PNNG staff continued to cut, photograph, and age Smallmouth Buffalo otoliths from bowfishing tournament salvages and Shell Lake sampling.
- PNNG staff participated in ongoing meetings with the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association (MICRA) on developing a range-wide management framework plan for Paddlefish.
- PNNG biologist continued development of a paper on the fishing guide industry with Oklahoma as a case study.
- Completed efforts for revising the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations booklet for 2025-2026.
- Supervisor attended the appraisal of the building proposed for purchase in Stillwater for new regional office and continued to act as liaison between the seller and the department.
- Staff continued planning activities for the 2025 OKAFS meeting in Jenks as members of the ExCom.
- Staff continued tagging flathead catfish on Grand Lake to look closer at spawning site fidelity, movements, and harvest. A social media post was made informing anglers of the project and the importance of notifying us of any tagged flatheads they catch. The post was extremely popular on Facebook with mostly positive feedback, which highlights the possible need for including Flathead Catfish (native to Oklahoma waters) as a Game Fish. Thus far, over 200 flatheads have been tagged, with over 20 recaptures, and 4 angler recaptures (1 harvest, 3 released). The majority of ODWC recaptures are in the same general vicinity they were tagged, with 1 moving half a mile in a week, and another moving 1 ¼ miles in a year.
- Staff conducted blue catfish electrofishing on Oologah Lake with assistance from ANS, East Central Region, Native Non-game, and North Central Region crews. A total of 578 blue catfish were collected during the survey, and 370 pairs of otoliths were removed for age and growth analysis. These types of surveys are great to see and take part in as ODWC fisheries personnel from neighboring regions collaborate.
- Staff removed stranded fish from below the Oologah dam spillway with the assistance of USACE. Hundreds of game and sport fish were collected from below the spillway and taken back to the lake.
- Staff continued planning and communications for the upcoming annual OKAFS meeting. NER personnel involved with communications as OKAFS president, OKAFS nominations and awards committee chair, and OKAFS student concerns committee chair.





- Prepared presentations for AFS and streams meetings
- Conducted cooperative fish rescue with COE and Choctaw Nation below Sardis dam, when the area below the dam was dewatered for inspection/repair. Several thousand juvenile blue and channel catfish were moved, but there were very few other fish present (other than gizzard shad). The fish rescue/removal was very thorough and only a minimal number of fish were lost during the dewatering. Almost all the mortalities were shad and were caused by handling stress.
- Grounds maintenance at PFA's and offices.
- Creel survey at Wister.
- Continued with community sampling, primarily in the Poteau River drainage. Noteworthy collections included Blackside and Harlequin Darters, and Lamprey ammocoets.
- Staff prepared three talks and three posters for the National AFS meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Staff assisted with the preparation of an additional three posters and one talk for other analysis and preparation of materials for the National AFS meeting.
- Staff continued Channel Catfish Spawning box checks spawning box and recruitment study. Staff sampled Channel Catfish in Close to home ponds.
- Staff continued deployment of habitat in Lake Eufaula and began construction of reef balls (a new artificial habitat type) for deployment.
- Analysis and writing for country wide Smallmouth growth rates (Texas Parks and Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks) continues.
- Preliminary data for Flathead Catfish power threshold assessment at OFRL in conjunction with ETS electrofishing Systems, LLC was collected.
- Multiple meetings with local resource partners, elected officials, and constituents regarding boating access potential at Lake Texoma.

- Staff completed 2023/2024 bass tournament reporting summary, prepared a draft report for public consumption, and prepared a presentation for upcoming AFS meeting.
- collected vertical water quality profiles at Lake Texoma, made graphics, and provided constituent updates (via Facebook).
- Made roadway and stocking road culvert improvements at Blue River.
- Hauled stockpile gravel to BR for upcoming projects.
- Assisted multiple landowners w/ technical assistance private ponds.
- Discuss fisheries management issues and regulations w/ Tishomingo National Refuge manager.
- Continued the creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting five additional interviews and two pressure counts over one day in July, for a total of 207 interviews for the survey to date.
- Placed multiple Shelbyville Cubes into Greenleaf Lake as fish habitat enhancement and refurbishment.
- Built over 30 Shelbyville Cubes to be placed in area lakes to enhance and refurbish fish habitat.
- Reviewed environmental review requests and drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fish and wildlife resources across the state.
- Reviewed and compiled compliance documents for a new shop building to be constructed at Durant State Fish Hatchery.
- Continued Skipjack collections for species specific research.
- Hauled two trout stockings from the Norfork National Fish Hatchery and stocked in the Lower Illinois River
- Placed temperature loggers in Lower Illinois River at 4 locations along the gradient of the river.
- Maintained stocking roads along spillway creek at Lower Mtn Fork River.
- Attended USACE/SWPA/ODWC stakeholder meetings concerning Lower Illinois River conditions and ongoing hydropower outage.
- Technician meeting attendance and participation from all Porter program and regional staff.
- Attended final Leadership Development level 2 meeting and submitted final report for review.
- Assisted NER with Oologah bluecat electrofishing survey.
- Responded to numerous black carp calls and inquiries including interviews with news outlets.
- Finalized ANS preproposal phase 1 for submittal, awaiting Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- R.S. Kerr hydrilla spot check and attempted mapping, conditions not conducive to date.
- Reviewed and catalogued zebra mussel veliger sampling reports from Bureau of Reclamation, with no positive samples collected.
- Continued larval light trapping on Grand lake to detect bighead carp reproduction.
- Collected 66 eDNA samples on the Lower Arkansas river from L&D 15 to the state line and 6 eDNA samples on the Lower Red river.
- Routine building and grounds maintenance at Porter office, Echota, Stunkard, Bamberger and Watts properties.

- Supplied information for website update concerning Echota and Stunkard Public Fishing Areas.

C&E DIVISION

- Damon Springer and Colby Cook taught two instructor classes to FFA STEP coaches in preparation for the fall 4 stand sporting clays shoots.
- Lance Meek, Kelly Boyer, Jennifer Benge, Jacob Tison, Darrin Hill and Pake Wise filled the roles of presenters, room monitors, videographer and planners of the Deer Conference held at Metro Tech on August 16. Approximately 250 students were in attendance at the 5th annual event.
- Amanda Thomas held the pre-bid meeting for shooting range renovations at the Lexington WMA shooting range and construction at the Copan range is progressing nicely.
- Jena Donnell worked with the wildlife diversity team to finalize the Department's State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- Pake Wise is coordinating a pair of Field Days for new hunters at Kaw and Okmulgee wildlife management areas.
- Kara Gardner published ODWC's FY 25 Annual Report.
- Daisy Creager worked with Metal Memorials to produce plaques honoring Department employees who died while on duty.
- Michael Bergin worked with the Wildlife Division to update the public and media about the recent confirmed CWD deer from Texas County.
- Michael also worked with Boiling Point to finalize the media strategy for the upcoming commercial ad.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Area Highlights

- 21 acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated.
- 194 miles of roads maintained (mowed and/or bladed).
- 920 tons of gravel spread.
- 117 acres invasive species control (sericea, musk thistle, and johnsongrass).
- 710 acres burned.
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 212 Signs installed or maintained.
- Multiple Miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 494 acres brush-hogged/mowed.
- Multiple WDU's had water manipulations.
- Shooting ranges maintained.
- Firebreak maintenance on multiple areas.
- Ag & Grazing lease activities ongoing – work on windmills, water wells & fences.
- NWTF roost enhancement work at Waurika.
- Cedar cutting contract monitoring at Canton.
- Salt cedar contract monitoring at Beaver.

- Prairie dog control inquiries are increasing.
- 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.
- Met with Ducks Unlimited engineers to discuss Drummond Flats wetland development.
- Mourning Dove banding wrapped up.
- Conducted interview with channel 8 (Tulsa)– Black Bears in Oklahoma.
- Conducted STEP program.
- Millet seeding in WDU's at Hackberry Flat, Hugo, Red Slough, Hulah & Copan WMA's.
- Work at Wister WDU on water structures.
- Turkey surveys conducted (summer brood & adult survey).
- Fireline Refresher was attended by NE & SE staff.
- Quail Roadside Surveys first round completed.
- Quail management field day was held at Packsaddle WMA.
- Staff assisted with quail research.
- CWD positive deer detected in Texas County.
- Pronghorn controlled hunts starting this month.
- Possible EHD local outbreak in northeast Oklahoma.
- Central Flyway Tech Committee meeting upcoming.
- Planning underway for ODWC Land Trapping Workshops.
- Worked on CVR grant to add additional properties.
- Had ag lease bid openings.
- Reviewed and revised land monitoring policy.
- Finished edits for WMA atlas.
- WMA planning group meeting to update and streamline data entry.
- Met with OCC & other state agencies to discuss woody invasive reporting.
- Updated maps for Honobia, Three Rivers & Herron Family WMA's.
- Will be attending South Central Arc User Group Conference at Metro Tech OKC.
- Private land youth hunt draw is complete (37 youth hunters).
- WHIP applications open Sept 1-Dec 31.
- New and Renewal of OLAP leases.
- State Wildlife Grants request for proposals was sent out.
- State Wildlife Action Plan revisions completed (presentation today).
- Bear scent station survey for population distribution and density estimate ongoing.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- Review, approval, submission of numerous federal aid grants.
- Staff attended/presented at the OHA Deer Conference and the QF/PF Banquet.
- Attended a meeting with commercial hunt area operators at Arcadia.
- Attended the SEAFWA Wildlife Health Technical Committee meeting.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- D1 finished up Mid-Year PMP's.
- New Laptop Exchange.
- New Axon Training at HQ.

- Warden Adair assisted Miami PD, Quapaw Marshals, and BIA Police with the search for a subject who was involved with a drive-by shooting near Commerce.
- Dist. Meeting - Financial Cleet Class w/ Ken Stafford. This class covered financial strategies for LEOs and delved a great bit into peer support and officer assistance. Ken did a great job. He has taught this class for years.
- During the meeting we also issued the MIFIs and Rolling gave us a tutorial on how to operate them and how to get our BWCs to link up. She did an outstanding job of making it understandable.
- Wardens Jackson and Jenks attended the NAWEOA Conference in Erie, PA. They attended numerous training sessions including Black Bear Conflict Management, Surviving Critical Incidents, and others.
- Warden Jackson attended Adaptive Challenges training as part of the Leadership Development Training Program.
- Wardens Jackson, Jenks, Moore, Morris, Willman, Rolling, and Lt. Alexander worked a special emphasis on the small creeks in Delaware County. They are having continued complaints of folks catching WAY over the limit on various species of small creek fish. The favored technique is cast netting which is still legal in all areas EXCEPT the Scenic Rivers but the limit is 25 fish. They implemented two undercover vehicles and posed as fisherman to access areas discretely. Although they made no arrests, they were able to work areas that are very hard to get to in uniform. This may be repeated as needed to address the problem.
- Wardens Mooris, Tilley, Rolling, and Lt. Alexander attended the Quail Forever Youth Day and assisted with STEP and Archery located at the Strang Park.
- Warden Tilley assisted the Fisheries Division with electrofishing on Oologah Lake.
- Warden Willman assisted the Fisheries Division with a flathead catfish survey on Grand Lake. Willman was able to glean a ton of practical information on how to address LE issues with illegal noodling all while assisting the Fisheries Division in their Flathead Study.
- Lt. Alexander attended a meeting with all stakeholders, including contractors, ODWC personnel, USACE, and neighboring landowners for the new shooting range being built on Copan WMA. Construction to begin on Aug.1st
- Warden Jerermy Bersche and Lt Welch responded to a complaint of possible illegal netting on Bird Creek near Pawhuska. The suspects were from a nearby marijuana grow operation. Bersche and Welch were able to gain access covertly to the creek and their timing was perfect. A subject from the operation ran the nets as they were hiding nearby. Bersche was able to obtain a warrant for the residence. On August 7, Jeremy Bersche, Jake Bersche, Rolling, Tilley, Grace, Green, and Jenks executed the warrant along with the Osage Co SO and members of the Oklahoma AGs office and OMMA. Numerous fish and fish parts were seized from the residence along with several nets, boats, and fishing supplies. OMMA collected almost 160# of illegal, untagged, sealed marijuana along with a host of other violations.
- Hunter Education Courses began at Owasso on Aug 13 and continue throughout the fall.

- Wardens Welch, Alexander and Jenks attended the annual ALL BRASS Meeting in OKC and discussed an assortment of topics. We were joined by Nels and Wade Free to discuss the controversial nature of the new ODWC area check-in rules.
- Warden Fulton facilitated a fishing program for the local Masonic Lodge.

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

Public Outreach Events

- Warden D. deMontigny put on a fishing clinic for 4-H group on the Lower Illinois River.
- Wardens K. Bailey, D. Garrett, D. Langford, Lt. Matlock, and J. Pixley attended the annual Beast Feast event at Muskogee. Put on Fishing Simulator event and worked Department booth.
- Wardens K. Bailey and Lt. Matlock attended question and answer event at OSU Okmulgee Campus.
- Wardens D. deMontigny and Lt. Matlock attended the yearly Law Enforcement Night Out at Eufaula. Had boat and booth at the event
- Wardens J. Cramer and M. Stanley attended the Game Warden Jerry Cole Memorial Archery Shoot in Wagoner.
- Wardens M. Stanley, C. Fields, and J. Cramer provided a Hunter Education course in Wagoner.

Training

- Game Wardens in District 2 completed the CLEET Firearms Maintenance class.
- D2 Wardens completed the Waterfowl Enforcement Techniques CLEET course.
- D2 Wardens attended AXON Body Camera training in OKC.
- Wardens Couch, D. Langford and J. Rowland attended Honor Guard training.
- Warden D. deMontigny completed CLEET Basic Instructor Training.
- Warden D. Langford attended a CLEET course on Transitional Gangs.

Special Cases

- Wardens J. Henry, D. Langford, and J. Rowland issued citations to two individuals for over-limit trout below Tenkiller Dam

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- During this period, Wardens James and Thomas Gillham patrolled Honobia Creek WMA and contacted 19 different individuals and issued 6 citations in for failure to have a land access permit.
- Wardens Thomas Gillham and Blake Dull are continuing a bear poaching investigation where they have been able to secure a search warrant for a GPS tracking device to be placed on a suspect's vehicle.
- PGW Chance Phillips is in Phase 3 of the Field Training Program, he has focused on patrolling the trout stream and issued 35 citations (ADF's, Temporaries and warnings) from 312 compliance checks which computes to 11% non-compliance. He

also assisted Three Rivers/Honobia Creek/ Herron WMA biologist Sid Tabor with sign placement on the new Herron Family WMA.

- PGW Blake Dull is also in Phase 3 of the Field Training Program, and he is progressing very well.
- Lt. Lawson is investigating a horseback trail riding business which is using Three Rivers WMA as a place to ride. None of the participants in the business or any of their customers have had land access permits and the owners are operating a concession on ODWC managed land without written permission from the Director.
- Wardens Loudermilk and Penwright issued a citation for reckless handling of a watercraft while working McGee Creek Lake after witnessing a near collision when a jet-ski operator travelling at high-speed drove between a boat and a wake board rider which the boat was pulling.
- D3 wardens conducted two hunter safety courses, one in McAlester and the one in Poteau on August 9, 2025.
- Lt. Polk assisted with a drowning and recovery in the Trout Stream located on the Lower Mountain Fork River in McCurtain County.
- D3 wardens issued 10 citations, 23 field licenses, 13 written warnings and 23 admin fines during the 28-day period.
- D3 wardens conducted 705 compliance checks during the period.
- D3 wardens participated in 3 public outreach and 6 programs other than hunter education during this 28-day period.
- D3 wardens logged 112 hours assisting other divisions, agencies and the public.
- D3 wardens logged 189 hours in training.
- D3 wardens logged 52 hours conducting investigations.
- D3 wardens logged 953 patrol hours.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Warden Trey Hale and Zane Arnold attended two Wildlife Investigator Team trainings. The training covered entering the names of subjects into the Wildlife Violators Compact data system and reviewing current laws on reptiles.
- All District Four Wardens attended Axon Body Camera training and received new body cameras.
- Warden Trae Taylor, Clayton Johnson, Billy Walker, Zane Arnold, and Lt. Bud Cramer assisted with the law enforcement booth at the Delta Waterfowl Expo in Oklahoma City. The wardens answered the public's questions regarding hunting and fishing regulations, public hunting areas, and waterfowl numbers from the previous season.
- Warden Trey Hale attended a Leadership Development training that focused on communication within divisions at the Arcadia facility.
- Wardens Bailey Johnson and Tracer Wagner held a “Touch a Truck” public outreach for the community of Bristow.
- Wardens Bailey Johnson and Tracer Wagner held a Skins and Skulls program for kids at Slick Baptist Church Vacation Bible School.

- Wardens Clayton Johnson, Trae Taylor, and Lt. Garret Harley held a Hunter Education Class for 14 students at Ada First Baptist Church.
- Wardens Trae Taylor, Clayton Johnson, and Lt. Garret Harley responded to a call from Nomads Animal Encounter in Strother about a large fire that traveled onto their property and caught their fox enclosure on fire. Wardens assisted with finding, trapping, and getting foxes back into their enclosure and assisting Nomads employees and other individuals who showed up to help. All foxes and other animals were found and returned safely.
- Warden Clayton Johnson attended Honor Guard training at Arcadia Lake Training and Education Building.
- Wardens Trae Taylor and Clayton Johnson assisted landowners with a deer drive at a new high fence hunt area in Hughes County.
- Wardens Trae Taylor and Lt. Garret Harley attended a local Ducks Unlimited banquet in Seminole where they spoke with the public and answered questions.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- Wardens France, Murray, and Hanson completed inspections for wildlife breeder facilities.
- Annual handgun and shotgun qualifications were completed along with lowlight training.
- Lt. Strang and GWs Buley and Murray worked the Operation Game Thief trailer at the National Night Out event in Moore.
- GWs France, Campbell, Mesis and Murray worked the Delta Waterfowl Show.
- Multiple fishing clinics were worked across the district. Lt. Strang and GW France worked the Moore PD Cops-N-Bobbers fishing clinic. GWs Buley, Murray and Averitt worked the News 9 Fishing Clinic at Scissortail Park in OKC. GW Buley worked a Fishing Clinic at 66 Park. GW Meskimen worked a fishing derby in Newcastle.
- GWs Meskimen and France worked the Touch A Truck event in Purcell.
- GW Hanson attended the NWTF Banquet.
- 3 separate Hunter Education classes were held across the district by Lt. Young and GWs Hanson, France, Averitt, Harriet, Mesis and Campbell.
- GW Harriet completed the week long CLEET Basic Instructor Development course.
- Numerous arrests were made along with selling temporary licenses and ADFs. A couple different dumping cases of wildlife were investigated which was kind of out of place for July and August. GWs Campbell and Mesis investigated 2 deer heads dumped in NW OKC and GW Mesis investigated a dumped deer head in someone's yard in Logan County. GW France investigated a cooler dumped with animal parts reported by Newcastle PD.
- GW Harriet caught a group of notorious hog hunters hunting without consent after watching an area a landowner had reported he was having cattle shot at night.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- D6 Wardens have been busy attending to summertime calls about young wildlife (especially Mississippi kites).
- D6 Wardens attended training for new body cameras.
- D6 Wardens have been approving breeder's licenses and lifetime licences.
- Fishing activity has slowed due to summertime heat, but wardens continue to check fishermen and find some violations.
- Wardens Pearson and Flynn put on a "Stop the Bleed" class at Watonga High School.
- Warden Pearson and Lt. Howser conducted a special emphasis patrol for noodlers on Ft. Cobb Lake.
- Warden Pearson worked the Delta Waterfowl show.
- Warden Pearson caught an oilfield tanker truck driving down a county road southwest of Okarche with its tank valves open dumping his payload as he drove down the road. Warden Pearson contacted the individual and got his information and turned it over to the Corporation Commission
- Warden Cornett participated in several training courses including Officer Involved Shooting, Confidential Informant Management, IWVC Training so he can assist Capt. Loftis in revoking people and ratifying other states revocations, Rescue Task Force (Tactical Medical Type Class), Save a Cop (Tactical Medical Type Class).
- Warden Cornett located a missing man at Ft. Cobb Lake. Unfortunately, the man had committed suicide.
- Lt. Howser conducted 2 public outreaches for Binger and Hinton Schools.
- Warden Clem assisted Warden Long with teaching D8 defensive tactics annual refresher course.
- Warden Clem has been busy building classes for the next game warden academy.
- Warden Clem and Cornett continue to work cases as part of the WIT team.
- Lt. Carroll assisted with Hunter Education class in Cotton County
- Warden Taylor held a Hunter Education class in Cotton County
- Warden Taylor was able to catch up with an individual that had warrants out for his arrest for bail jumping. These warrants were related to charges that Warden Taylor had filed on the individual for selling hunts on private property that he did not have permission to hunt on. The hunting guide and would take money for turkey hunts through online apps such as Venmo and send the hunters a pin to the location that they were supposed to hunt. Several of these hunters were caught hunting without permission by landowners on these properties which prompted the investigation by Warden Taylor.
- Warden Zimmerman conducted 2 public outreach events.
- Warden Zimmerman worked the Delta Waterfowl show in OKC.
- Warden King assisted Canadian County deputies with the recovery of a deceased person near Caddo Jake bridge.
- Warden King participated in a fishing clinic at Route 66 park.
- Warden Flynn did a Q&A program for Watonga Kiwanis Club
- Warden Stover conducted a hunter education class in Marlow.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- D7 Wardens are preparing for upcoming Hunter Education Classes.
- Still working some fishermen.
- Scouting high dove areas for early activity.
- Wardens Clint Carpenter and Andrew Vaughan 52 fishermen on 08/09/2025 and wrote 5 citations. Covered three counties to check that many fishermen.
- Lt. David Smith and Warden Jeremy Brothers assisted an Arizona Wildlife Manager on a case involving an illegal bear kill in Arizona. Subject admitted to killing the bear with a rifle in a closed area.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- 8th District Wardens have had an unusually wet Summer. Warden Reigh reported 5 inches of rain recently and during the same overnight rain event Warden Grace reported that the East side of Ponca Lake recorded a state record “rate of rainfall” of 6 inches per hour.
- Warden League is continuing on with his Phase 3 in Tulsa County with Warden Rolling as his FTO, Warden Leonard is continuing on with his Phase 4 FTO with Warden P. Cottrill providing his sage knowledge.
- Warden Gearhart is getting her feet wet (pun intended) in Texas county, driving roads, familiarizing herself with the county geography, and meeting landowners.
- Wardens are set to attend the 2nd Annual Racks and Rods Outdoor show in Woodward Aug 22, 23, and 24 with the new Law Enforcement 10x10 Booth.
- Warden Reigh was instrumental in creating the above mentioned LE booth along with Autry Vo tech. That booth was manned at the most recent Delta Waterfowl show in OKC.
- Warden Gearheart and Lt Baker worked a fish kill on Etling Lake. Dissolved oxygen is believed to be the culprit.
- Lt. Baker is handling several elk depredation, nuisance bear, and mt lion complaints in the panhandle.
- D8 Wardens are set to work the upcoming antelope either sex rifle draw hunt that is upcoming. Local reports are that antelope numbers are way down in the two open counties.
- Regulations have been delivered to the Woodward office, and area wardens are busy distributing the literature around the district.
- Regional hunter education courses have been planned and two of our district’s classes will be held on Aug 23. Woodward and Ponca city.
- Warden Grace assisted the 1st district with a search warrant service for an illegal multinational pot farm where the primary offender was video recorded to have been illegally netting fish in Byrd creek. Several human trafficking charges have stemmed from this investigation and warrant service.
- Area Wardens are busy taking Mississippi Kite calls usually in areas in town with mature nesting trees and assuring residents that the inconvenience is temporary.
- Public outreach events are still being held locally with Wardens giving talks and answering questions for local Lions Clubs and other civic group meetings.

Investigations/Training – Capt. Loftis

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)

- Inv Long was deployed by USFWS/OLE on an ESF13 disaster detail to the Texas Floods (Kerr County) as Force Protection for Missouri Task Force One for twelve days.
- Inv Long attended the 2025 AFWA Investigations and Intelligence Summit in Clearwater Beach, Florida.
- The Reptile and Amphibian WIT members convened in person at the ODWC headquarters to discuss potential regulatory changes. They collaborated with Wildlife Senior Biologist Mark Howery to evaluate these matters from both legal and biological perspectives, with a focus on population size, density, and other factors affecting native reptile and amphibian species.
- Inv Long taught Defensive Tactics in District 8 in Enid.
- GW Rolling has had five (5) investigations involving charges and violations related to non-commercial breeder licenses, offer for sale, illegal possession of wildlife, and illegal importation into the state. The wild animals involved in these cases included a red fox, red-eared sliders, raccoons, skunks, and opossums. These animals were either seized or willfully abandoned to the Agency. GW Rolling had assistance on these cases from wardens throughout the NE region, including GW Jackson, GW Stauffer, and GW Wagner.

FTO Program

- The fifth cohort of the Game Warden Academy is currently progressing through the Field Training Officer (FTO) program. Of the seven Probationary Game Wardens (PGWs), five have successfully advanced beyond Phase 2, which concludes the initial eight-week training period. Phase 3 requires PGWs to demonstrate the ability to operate independently for the majority of their duties and exhibit proficiency across core game warden competencies.
- Two PGWs did not meet the required standards to transition into Phase 3 and were assigned the maximum allowable four-week period for remedial training. One PGW voluntarily resigned during the third week of remedial training after it was determined that he was not responding to training (NRT), would not meet program expectations and should be removed from the program. The second PGW has entered the fourth week of remedial training; however, concerns remain regarding his overall competence and mental fortitude for the demands of the role. A final determination regarding his status in the program is forthcoming.
- The remaining five PGWs are performing exceptionally well. They have received commendations from their FTOs for their professionalism, motivation, skill proficiency, and resilience. The Law Enforcement Division continues to express support for the Academy and FTO program structure, which emphasizes standardized training principles and accountability.
- Together, these programs have demonstrated their effectiveness in identifying and cultivating high-performing candidates while ensuring that individuals who do not meet the rigorous standards are appropriately evaluated and addressed. This has

improved morale in the field over this aspect of the hiring process, because, this approach has significantly reduced the risk of underqualified personnel entering the field, thereby enhancing the overall integrity and operational readiness of the department.