

**AGENDA**  
**Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, August 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**  
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

In compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at [www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma](http://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 Leigh Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Ken Cunningham
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Ken Cunningham
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Special Recognition Award

Tony Crawford, Wildlife Technician – 20 years; Thad Potts, Wildlife Biologist – 20 years; James Edwards Jr., Warden Supervisor – 20 years; Rusty Menefee, Warden – 20 years; David Routledge, Fish Technician – 35 years; Keith Thomas, Fish Biologist – 35 years

7. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the June 28, 2021 special Commission meeting.
8. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
  - a. Federal and Congressional Update
    - Oklahoma Legislative Update – Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison
  - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
  - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
9. Presentation of the June 30, 2021 Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a donation of land from the estate of Donald Peacock in Adair County – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.
11. Recognition of Mr. Edward A. (Andy) Gresham for the donation of a 16' War Eagle boat and 40 hp Yamaha outboard motor – Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries Division.

12. Recognition of Wildlife Division Biologist of the Year and Technician of the Year, and Fisheries Division Professional of the Year – Bill Dinkines and Barry Bolton.
13. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
14. Announce the date for the next regular Commission Meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
15. Adjourn

**People with disabilities may request accommodations by calling 405-522-6279 at least three days before the meeting.**

## MINUTES

Of the Special Meeting on June 28, 2021 of the

### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 28, 2021. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The Agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on June 21, 2021 at 11:25 a.m.

In compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting was streamed live and recorded at [www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma](http://www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma)

Chairman Bruce Mabrey called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      BRUCE R. MABREY, Chairman  
                                 LEIGH A. GADDIS, Secretary  
                                 BILL K. BREWSTER, Member  
                                 JAMES V. BARWICK, Member  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Member  
                                 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:      ROBERT S. HUGHES II, Vice-Chairman

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Laura McIver, Quail Forever; Rick Nolan, National Wild Turkey Federation; Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation; Tyler Talley, eCapitol; Robert Newman, turkey hunter; Baylee Williams, Governor Stitt's Office; Katy Feaver, Legisok.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statement for May 31, 2021. Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Ms. Gaddis to accept the financial statement as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division requested Commission approval on emergency rules.

Chapter 30. Department of Wildlife Lands Management  
Subchapter 1. Use of Department Managed lands  
800:30-1-4. Camping [AMEND]

Add the recently acquired Barren Fork WMA to the list of areas that do not allow overnight camping. Without passage of emergency rules, there will be no camping restrictions on the new WMA. Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Barwick to approve the

emergency rules as presented. . Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting “Yes.”

Bill Dinkines introduced Eric Suttles, Regional Supervisor, who gave a presentation on the current status of the Oklahoma turkey populations. The turkey populations are declining statewide and Mr. Dinkines requested Commission approval on a resolution to establish new wild turkey seasons and bag limits.

- 1) Fall turkey would be open to shotgun only.
- 2) The spring season bag limit would be 1 Tom statewide.
- 3) The dates for spring turkey hunting would be moved to April 16 through May 16.

These changes would help reduce the harvest of toms early in the breeding season and allow hens to breed and settle a nest before the season starts. This item was tabled at the June 7, 2021 regular meeting to allow the Commission to review more data provided by Wildlife division. Mr. Brewster stated that the presentation was well presented and he appreciated the data he received in advance for review. He supported the one tom limit and the delayed opening day as well as opening day being the same statewide. This would eliminate some of the SE pressure from a previous later start date. Mr. Dillingham agreed the report was well presented. He asked how long until we can see if these actions have moved the needle on turkey populations. Mr Suttles said from a research prospective it would be at least three years, but we can review data after each year results are available to get an idea. Rick Nolan from the National Wild Turkey Federation read a letter of support for the proposed changes. Robert Newman, a concerned turkey hunter voiced his support of all the proposals except the one tom bag limit. He hunts in different areas around the state and feels a zone approach would be better to allow hunters to take more than one tom. Director Strong stated that the department had struggled internally on the 2 – 1 bag limit but feels it is critical to do what we have to do to turn the population of turkeys in Oklahoma around. Mr. Dinkines said that by using a resolution instead of a Title 800 rule change for the turkey proposals, we have a better response time in adjusting the regulations as needed. Mr. Mabrey stated that this Commission is adamant and passionate about turkey hunting and as well as protecting the species and doing what we have to do to best manage the populations. Mr. Barwick referenced the great number of public comments made in response to the Department's online turkey survey and with over 5,000 comments made, the sporting public should be commended for being so engaged in voicing their opinions on the turkey situation. He also thanked Department staff for their hard work in pulling together the wealth of data presented to the Commission on this important issue. Mr. Barwick stated that the Rules Committee had met, reviewed the resolution and discussed a myriad of alternatives, including among others, no fall season, separate season start dates by method of take and/or regions to compare impacts. He suggested pulling the bag limits out of the resolution and voting on them separately. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to approve the resolution as stated without the bag limits included. Motion carried with Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting “Yes.” Mr. Barwick then stated that the majority of the rules committee had agreed on the one tom limit, but he wanted to suggest another option. He stated that while the Commission is charged with protecting the species, maintaining hunter opportunity with more days in the field is also important. Mr. Barwick proposed a two tom limit, with at least one must be taken by archery equipment. The data furnished by the Department confirmed only 377

turkeys were taken by archers out of 5,846 taken state wide in the 2021 spring season, which indicates archery hunting has a minimal effect on the turkey population declines. Their data further showed that over 45% of the hunters taking two or more turkeys in the 2021 spring season were taken by non-resident hunters, so they had a noticeable impact. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick and seconded by Mr. Dillingham to maintain the one tom county limit, but allow resident hunters to take a second tom as long as at least one of the toms was taken with archery equipment and in a different county. The motion would also restrict non-resident hunters to one tom for the entire season total regardless of method of take. Director Strong reiterated that in the Commission rules committee meeting this issue was discussed and that three of the four committee members supported the one tom limit and that he was also concerned that through our echeck portal, this would allow for more abuse by non-ethical hunters and wardens would have a more difficult time making cases. He suggested that often we have to worry about pitting the gun hunters against the archery hunters and one or the other getting special privileges. When asked by Mr. Barwick, Law Enforcement Chief Erdman agreed that vast majority of hunters are ethical and law abiding. Mr. Barwick stated the hunting public should not be penalized with less hunting opportunities due to the violations that might be committed by a few criminals. Mr. Brewster did not favor limiting the non-residents to one bird if this proposal was passed. Mr. Zelbst stated that for this first year, he supported the recommendations made by staff. Mr. Holder suggested the decline issue is with the Rio Grande species and stated that if a second bird is killed, it should not be a Rio Grande. For this first year, he supports the one tom limit with the opportunity to look at the data and revisit it next year. Mr. Dinkines reiterated that these proposals were also an effort to simplify regulations, but if this proposal was passed, the southeast would have to be refactored because currently the limit in the southeast is one tom for all combined eight counties. Southeastern birds could not handle a two tom bag limit. Ms. Gaddis said she liked the one bird with archery equipment, but agreed that drastic measures need to be implemented at least for this first year. Mr. Barwick reiterated his motion to maintain the one tom county limit and allow resident hunters to take a second tom as long as at least one of the toms was taken with archery equipment and in a different county, the non-resident bag limit would only be one tom, but he amended his motion to exclude the southeast region, which would remain with its current limits. This motion was seconded by Mr. Dillingham. Director Strong mentioned that the proposal on the table has not been vetted by staff and asked that staff have the opportunity to consider all the impacts that this modification would create. Motion failed with Commissioner Barwick, Dillingham and Mabrey voting "Yes" and Commissioner Brewster, Gaddis, Zelbst and Holder voting "No". Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Brewster to approve the turkey resolution bag limits as presented by staff. Motion carried with Commissioner Brewster, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham and Holder voting "Yes" and Commissioner Barwick and Mabrey voting "No". The turkey resolution, by two separate votes, was approved as it was presented by staff in its original state.

Chairman Mabrey announced the July 6, 2021 regular meeting is canceled and the next Commission meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, August 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce Mabrey CHAIRMAN	Bill Brewster MEMBER
Robert S. Hughes II VICE CHAIRMAN	D. Chad Dillingham MEMBER
Leigh Gaddis SECRETARY	Rick Holder MEMBER
James V. Barwick MEMBER	John P. Zelbst MEMBER



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR

J.D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 53465 Oklahoma City, OK 73152 (405) 521-3851

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 20, 2021

**TO:** OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

**FROM:** Brittnee Preston

**RE:** Report June and July Federal and Congressional Issues for August Commission Meeting

**State of Play:**

President –

- > President Biden announced in conjunction with the USFWS and the NMFS their intention to rescind or rewrite four Trump-era rules on endangered species protections.

Infrastructure package –

- > Infrastructure negotiations between the White House and the Senate Republicans reached a stalemate and ended abruptly in June. This made way for a bipartisan group of 10 Senators (5 republicans and 5 democrats) to pick up the baton to try for a deal. They reached an agreement a short time later and presented it to the President. He agreed to the deal if it moved with a budget reconciliation package. Biden wants the package moving forward with the second reconciliation bill that includes trillions of new spending. The infrastructure agreement is largely the \$1.2 trillion package with \$579 billion in new infrastructure spending the group presented to the President. Agreed upon pay-fors for the package were worked out with the White House as well. The bipartisan group then pitched it to their respective caucuses and the Senate began debate on the package late in the week of July 12<sup>th</sup>.
- > Meanwhile, the House passed a \$760 billion infrastructure bill relating mainly to highway and transit.

Fiscal lay of the land –

- > Debt ceiling is about to be reached. In 2019, Congress agreed to let the government borrow through July 31. The Treasury Department at that point can take what's known as extraordinary measures to keep the government solvent, but it's unclear how long it will be able to do this. Secretary of the Treasury Janet Yellen originally urged Congress to take action to raise the debt limit before August but has since recanted and said it can wait until September. It is unclear how long the Treasury can use extraordinary measures before defaulting on its obligations.

**Congress:**

General Congressional Actions –

- > Speaker Pelosi created a select committee to investigate the Jan. 6 attack at the Capitol this week.
- > Congress is considering using the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to repeal some Trump-era rules. The CRA allows Congress and a new sitting President to get rid of rules established by a previous Administration if the rules were finalized in the waning days of the previous president's time in office. These rules are often referred to as "midnight rules." Three bills have already passed the Senate and the House is expected to clear the bills as well. The three rules include the methane emissions rule, a currency rule on lending and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission rule on discrimination cases.

## RAWA –

- > The House introduced their version of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in April. The cosponsor list is closing in on 100 members, including Rep. Cole. Additionally, the House Natural Resources Committee has set a hearing for the bill on July 29<sup>th</sup>.
- > J.D. and I had zoom meetings with our delegation asking them to consider cosponsoring RAWA. We had good meetings and hopefully we will get a couple more of our members to sign on.
- > The Senate introduced their version of the bill July 15<sup>th</sup>. This version has a pay-for in the bill unlike the House version.

## House –

- > House Transportation Committee held a markup on H.R. 1915, The Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021 and H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act. H.R. 1915 invests \$50 billion for wastewater projects including \$40 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. H.R. 3684 invests \$547 billion over the next five years in surface transportation projects and in efforts to improve and expand infrastructure networks.
- > House Appropriations Committee marked up the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Energy and Water bill and Interior and Environment bill.
  - Below are some key highlights of the Ag bill:
    - The bill provides \$26.6 billion in discretionary spending, a 13 percent increase over the current year's enacted level.
    - includes \$347.4 million across USDA to address the impacts of climate change.
    - \$1.125 billion – \$57 million above the FY 2021 enacted level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which covers funding for plant and animal diseases including CWD.
    - \$1.06 billion to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners conserve and protect their land.
  - Below are some key highlights of the Energy and Water bill:
    - The bill provides \$53.226 billion, an increase of \$1.474 billion above 2021
    - \$14 billion of investments in clean energy and science to help develop clean, affordable, and secure American energy to address climate change
    - Provides a total of \$8.66 billion, an increase of \$1.9 billion above the President's budget request for the Army Corps of Engineers
    - Provides a total of \$1.97 billion for the Interior Department, an increase of \$274.9 million above fiscal year 2021 and \$413 million above the President's budget request.
    - Provides \$1.95 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$276 million above fiscal year 2021 and \$413 million above the request.
  - Below are some key Highlights of the Interior and Environment bill:
    - Confronts the climate crisis by expanding environmental enforcement efforts, creating a Civilian Climate Corps, and launching a renewed focus on land and water conservation
    - Supports Native American families by investing in a strong and resilient Indian Country, including through education and health care programs
    - Dramatically expands environmental justice efforts to address unacceptable pollution in communities of color
    - Honors the federal government's responsibilities to Native Americans
    - \$15.6 billion in discretionary appropriations for DOI, an increase of \$2.3 billion above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$240 million below the President's budget request
    - \$66.5 million for the National Landscape Conservation System.
    - \$1.9 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an increase of \$301 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$32 million below the President's budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes:



- \$315million for Ecological Services, an increase of \$45.5 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$17 million below the President's budget request.
- \$582 million for National Wildlife Refuge System, an increase of \$78 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$2 million below the President's budget request.
- \$22 million for Multinational Species Conservation Fund, an increase of \$4 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and the President's budget request.
- \$82 million for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, an increase of \$10 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and equal to the President's budget request.
- \$3.5 billion for National Park Service, an increase of \$324 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$28 million below the President's budget request. Within this amount, the bill includes:
  - \$3 billion for Operation of the National Park System, an increase of \$277 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$12 million below the President's budget request.
  - \$80 million for National Recreation and Preservation, an increase of \$6 million above the FY 2021 enacted level and \$6 million above the President's budget request.
  - \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey, an increase of \$327 million above the enacted level and equal to the President's budget request.
- > The House Budget committee opted to hold off on pushing forward a budget package and instead wait on the Senate to move first. This is mainly to see what the Senate can get through on the 50-50 chamber.
- > The House is planning to take up a seven-bill appropriations package during the last week of July. This should include the Interior's appropriations bill, which holds most of the wildlife related issues. This bill will include: Transportation-HUD, Agriculture, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior and Environment, Labor-HHS-Education, and Military Construction-VA.

#### Senate –

- > Senate Democrats are preparing to draft a fiscal 2022 budget resolution with up to \$6 trillion in reconciliation spending during the next decade.
- > Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on infrastructure needs of the U.S. energy sector, western water and public lands. Collin O'Mara, President and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation, testified on the panel. He touted the committee's past work on the Great American Outdoors Act, past public lands package and other bills the committee moved forward in the last few years. Collin suggested that some funding on conservation needs and forestry and fire needs need to be plused up and energy and mining issues need to be addressed. He did not mention Recovering America's Wildlife Act in his comments.
- > Senate Democrats reached a deal on a \$3.5 trillion budget reconciliation package. Previously, the House halted moving a budget (as mentioned above) to see what the Senate could manage to get through the 50-50 tied chamber.

#### Agencies:

- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
  - The USFWS announced their FY 2022 - Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act - [BIG Tier 1](#) and [BIG Tier 2](#) grants. Application deadline for both of these grants is September 30, 2021.
  - The ANS Task Force [announced](#) it will meet Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, June 28-30, 2021, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. each day (Eastern Time). The meeting will be held via teleconference and broadcast over the internet. To register and receive the web address and telephone number for participation, contact the Executive Secretary Susan Pasko, ANS Task Force, by telephone at (703) 358-2466, or by email at [Susan\\_Pasko@fws.gov](mailto:Susan_Pasko@fws.gov). or visit the ANS Task Force website at <https://anstaskforce.gov>.
  - The USFWS announced receipt of application requests to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened species. Below are the requests affecting OK:
 

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- TE206783 from Marlo Perdicas, Marshallville, OH for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat
- TE64239B from Nathanael Light, Branson, MO for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Ozark big-eared bat
- TE70868B from Brian Ortman, Thornville, OH for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat
- PER0002430 from David Ford, Houston, TX for 23 freshwater mussel species
- PER0007034 from Eric Britzke, Vicksburg, MS Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Ozark big-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat
- PER0009122 from Emily Grossman, O'Fallon, MO for the Clubshell, fat pocketbook, fanshell, Higgins' eye, Neosho mucket, northern riffleshell, orangefoot pimpleback, Ouachita rock pocketbook, pink mucket pearly mussel, purple catspaw, rabbitsfoot, rayed bean, ring pink, rough pigtoe, scaleshell, sheepnose, snuffbox, spectaclecase, white catspaw, winged mapleleaf
- TE41671D Brian Carlson, Morgantown, WV Add candy darter and diamond darter. To existing permitted species: Fanshell, orangefoot pimpleback, pink mucket, purple cat's paw, rabbitsfoot, rayed bean, ring pink, rough pigtoe, sheepnose, snuffbox, spectaclecase, white catspaw, Big Sandy crayfish, Guyandotte River crayfish
- The USFWS announced they have received applications for permits, permit renewals and/or permit amendments to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered species. TE 34778A-3 by U.S. Geological Survey, Blacksburg, VA for the Gray bats, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat
  - TE 83011B-1 by Prescott Weldon, Bristol, VA for gray bat, Indiana bat, and northern long-eared bat
  - TE 65002A-2 by Robert Oney, Versailles, KY for the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared and the Virginia Bat
  - TE148282-6 by Jack Wilhide, Franklin, TN for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Ozark big-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat
  - TE 94849B-2 by Copperhead Environmental Consulting, Paint Lick, KY for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, Ozark big-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat
  - PER 0002649 by Joey Weber, Candler, NC for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long-eared bat, and Virginia big-eared bat
  - PER 0002667 by Mitchell D. Kriege, Erlanger, KY for the Spectaclecase, fanshell, dromedary pearlymussel, Cumberlandian combshell, oyster mussel, purple cat's paw (purple cat's paw pearlymussel), white catspaw (pearlymussel), northern riffleshell, tubercled blossom (pearlymussel), snuffbox, cracking pearlymussel, pink mucket (pearlymussel), Higgins eye (pearlymussel), ring pink (mussel), white wartyback (pearlymussel), orangefoot pimpleback (pearlymussel), sheepnose mussel, clubshell, James spinymussel, rough pigtoe, fat pocketbook, fluted kidneyshell, rabbitsfoot, winged mapleleaf, rayed bean, and Cumberland bean (pearlymussel)
  - TE 62778B-2 by Chanston T. Osborne, Aberdeen, NC for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, and northern long-eared bat
  - TE 89785B-1 by North Florida Wildlife, LLC, Crawfordville, FL for the Red-cockaded woodpecker
  - TE 65346A-2 by Matthew S. Roberts, Richmond, KY for the Gray bat, Indiana bat, and northern long-eared bat

### Coming up...

- > Appropriations work
- > Infrastructure package
- > Debt Ceiling

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**J.D. Strong, Director**

**Personnel Actions**  
**June 2021**

**New Hires**

Katherine N. Schrag – Fish Biologist ANS, Porter Office, 6/22/2021

**Promotions**

**Transfers**

**Resignations/Terminations**

Sheri Reynolds – Secretary, Wildlife Division, Central Office, 05/31/2021

**Retirements**

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**J.D. Strong, Director**

**Personnel Actions**  
**July 2021**

**New Hires**

Kenny Word – Wildlife Technician, Cross Timbers WMA, 7/1/2021

Erika Sarvela – Fish Technician, NC Region/Ponca City Office, 7/15/2021

**Promotions**

**Transfers**

Shelli Gray – Fish Division Secretary, Central Office to Secretary, SE Region at Higgins Office, 7/1/2021

Kelli Joyner – Fish Division Secretary, Porter Office to Administration/Property Assistant at Central Office, 7/1/2021

Terry Stuart – Wildlife Biologist at Hugo WMA to Wildlife Biologist at Honobia and Three Rivers WMAs, 7/1/2021

Alex Talbert – Hatchery Technician at Holdenville Hatchery to Fish Technician for the SE Region, 7/1/2021

**Resignations/Terminations**

**Retirements**

***Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
Financial Statement***

***For the period July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021***

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups**  
**June 30, 2021**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups		06/30/2021 Totals	06/30/2020 Totals
	General	Capital Projects		General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt		
<b>Assets and Other Debits:</b>							
Cash	15,675,918		3,842,709			19,518,627	15,851,974
Investments	0		282,136,229			282,136,229	227,668,931
Accounts Receivable	3,131,493					3,131,493	3,045,236
Monthly Lifetime License			158,200			158,200	193,750
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	5,152,242		7,000			5,159,242.00	4,239,566.00
Fixed Assets				70,095,418		70,095,418	70,912,222
Land				96,610,614		96,610,614	96,633,279
<b>Other Debits:</b>							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,376,489	3,376,489	3,276,366
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
	23,959,653	0	286,144,138	166,706,032	19,932,032	496,741,855	429,098,001
<b>Liabilities and Fund Balance:</b>							
<b>Liabilities:</b>							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	572,242					572,242	373,860
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	158,200					158,200	193,750
Compensated Absences Payable(leave accrual)					3,376,489	3,376,489	3,276,366
Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>730,442</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19,932,032</b>	<b>20,662,474</b>	<b>15,353,219</b>
<b>Fund Balance:</b>							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			141,740,478			141,740,478	118,471,982
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			5,793,272			5,793,272	3,702,810
Investment in General Fixed Assets				166,706,032		166,706,032	167,545,501
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>23,229,211</b>		<b>138,610,388</b>			<b>161,839,599</b>	<b>124,024,489</b>
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>23,229,211</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>286,144,138</b>	<b>166,706,032</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>476,079,381</b>	<b>413,744,782</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>23,959,653</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>286,144,138</b>	<b>166,706,032</b>	<b>19,932,032</b>	<b>496,741,855</b>	<b>429,098,001</b>

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Trust Funds**

**Combining Balance Sheets**  
**June 30, 2021**

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	06/30/2021 Totals	06/30/2020 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	380,316	3,462,393			3,842,709	3,564,854
Investments	41,890,289	92,712,190	141,740,478	5,793,272	282,136,229	231,371,741
Due From Other Funds		158,200			158,200	193,750
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	42,270,605	96,339,783	141,740,478	5,793,272	286,144,138	235,137,345
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			141,740,478	5,793,272	147,533,750	122,174,792
Fund Balance	42,270,605	96,339,783			138,610,388	112,962,553
Total Fund Balance	42,270,605	96,339,783	141,740,478	5,793,272	286,144,138	235,137,345

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Fund**  
**For the Period July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021**

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	06/30/2021	06/30/2020	Percent of
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	Inc. or Dec.
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	20,857,921			20,857,921	18,736,656	11.32%
Other Wildlife Sales	3,814,898			3,814,898	3,808,845	0.16%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,553,911			1,553,911	1,390,609	11.74%
Grant Revenue	23,998,912			23,998,912	29,667,880	-19.11%
Investment Income	272,657		60,720	333,377	469,821	-29.04%
Miscellaneous	3,479,723			3,479,723	1,456,856	138.85%
Total Revenues	53,978,022	0	60,720	54,038,742	55,530,667	-2.69%
Expenditures:						
Administration	6,385,697			6,385,697	6,091,008	4.84%
Wildlife	13,436,778			13,436,778	12,942,756	3.82%
Fish	9,916,891			9,916,891	10,526,281	-5.79%
Law Enforcement	11,173,808			11,173,808	12,223,073	-8.58%
Information and Education	2,985,149			2,985,149	2,854,857	4.56%
Capital Improvements	7,027,713			7,027,713	10,549,995	-33.39%
Land Acquisitions		1,201,917		1,201,917	6,760,813	-82.22%
Total Expenditures	50,926,036	1,201,917		52,127,953	61,948,783	-15.85%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	3,051,986	(1,201,917)	60,720	1,910,789	(6,418,116)	-129.77%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	2,178,565			2,178,565	882,695	146.81%
Operating Transfers In	203,265	1,201,917	26,104,180	27,509,362	16,365,965	68.09%
Operating Transfers Out	(1,201,917)		(203,265)	(1,405,182)	(11,443,944)	-87.72%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	1,179,913	1,201,917	25,900,915	28,282,745	5,804,716	387.24%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	4,231,899	0	25,961,635	30,193,534	(613,400)	5,022.32%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,997,312	0	16,308,970	35,306,282	35,919,682	-1.71%
Fund Balances June 30, 2021:	23,229,211	0	42,270,605	65,499,816	35,306,282	85.52%



**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances**  
**Trust Funds**  
**For the Period July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021**

	Fiduciary Fund Types				
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	06/30/2021 Totals	06/30/2020 Totals
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	3,171,875			3,171,875	2,624,925
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	217,135			217,135	198,355
Interest and Investment Income	0	27,009,788	1,341,854	28,351,642	6,190,527
Employer Contributions		4,312,988	482,673	4,795,661	2,705,759
Employee Contributions		563,681	344,342	908,023	888,542
Total Operating Revenues	3,389,010	31,886,457	2,168,869	37,444,336	12,608,108
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		271,719	2,437	274,156	280,695
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	8,346,242	75,969	8,422,211	8,075,994
Total Operating Expenses	0	8,617,961	78,406	8,696,367	8,356,689
Operating Income	3,389,010	23,268,496	2,090,463	28,747,969	4,251,419
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	3,389,010	23,268,496	2,090,463	28,747,969	4,251,419
Fund Balances, Beginning	92,950,773	118,471,982	3,702,809	215,125,564	210,874,146
Fund Balances, June 30, 2021	96,339,783	141,740,478	5,793,272	243,873,533	215,125,565



## Wildlife Contributions Report

### June 2021

Order ID	Order Date	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
20607353	6/25/2021 8:50 AM	\$50.00	Paul Matthews	Donation to OK Wildlife Dept
20592920	6/17/2021 3:25 PM	\$1,556.00	Quail Forever Red Bud	Wildlife Division/Habitat expenses for Deep Fork & Lexington
20592918	6/17/2021 3:24 PM	\$1,556.66	Quail Forever Tall Grass Heritage	Wildlife Division/Habitat expenses for Deep Fork & Lexington
20592908	6/17/2021 3:21 PM	\$3,906.67	Quail Forever Oklahoma #89	Wildlife Division/purchase of UTV for Deep Fork
20563476	6/2/2021 2:51 PM	\$50.00	Deborah Bowersock	Fostercare Fishing Donation
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,119.33</b>		



## JULY/AUGUST 2021 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### **CALENDAR ITEMS:**

July 14-20	WAFWA Virtual Summer Meeting
July 28-29	ODWC Leadership Summit
July 31	NWTF-ODWC Deer Conference, Reed Conference Center, MWC
Aug 7	ODWC Family Bat Watch, Selman Bat Caves
Aug 10-12	C&E Annual Division Meeting
Sep 24-26	Wildlife Expo, Lazy E Arena

### **AGENCY UPDATE**

- **LEGISLATURE:**

- There are two interim studies relevant to ODWC, neither of which have been scheduled at this time:
  - HSP1121 (D. Lowe): This study proposes to review fence systems and standards in Oklahoma. The study specifically requests that ODWC be informed of the meeting, suggesting that we will likely participate in some capacity. No House interim studies have been approved by the Speaker yet.
  - SSP1021 (Murdock): This study was requested by ODWC and will look at more specific details of how we hope to streamline and restructure licenses, as well as take a look at the effect of the new administrative rules process on agency licensing authority.
- Senator Darcy Jech and his family experienced bluegill fishing on American Horse Lake in early June. This was Sen. Jech's first visit to the Department Lake, which is in his Senate District. Thanks to Wade Free and Nels Rodefeld for guiding the experience!



Senator Darcy Jech (Kingfisher) and his great nephew, Sam

- Representatives Dick Lowe and Ty Burns (House Wildlife Chairman), Senator Blake Stephens, members of the Speaker McCall's staff, and family members helped out with

the recent goose banding efforts. Everyone got to handle geese and learn about the purpose of banding. Thanks to James Morel and all of the employees who helped make these enjoyable and interactive experiences!



Left: Rep. Ty Burns (Pawnee) and his son, Ty. Center: Rep. Dick Lowe (Amber). Right: Sen. Blake Stephens (Tahlequah)

#### • **HUMAN DIMENSIONS**

- A bowfishing survey was sent to 15,000 fishing license holders. This survey will be complete by mid August and analysis will begin. Results will be shared internally and will also be presented publicly at Oklahoma AFS and the Pathways Conference.
- ODWC hired a focus group facilitator to conduct women centric focus groups. The goal is to better understand how ODWC can serve women better in terms of their program needs, barriers to participation, etc. These focus groups will be conducted in mid August.
- The Private Lands survey was closed and results compiled. The report was completed and circulated for review.
- A listserv was created to send out job opportunities at ODWC. This list has over 300 subscribed after only two weeks.

#### **ADMINISTRATION**

- Accounting
  - Number of Claims Audited and Paid - 493
  - Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid - \$1,669,879.62
  - Number of P/Card Transactions Processed -765
  - Number of In-depth Audited Transactions - 150
  - Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases - \$223,319.04
  - New and Refresher PCard-holder and Approver Training Completed 50 Sent, 50 Completed
  - Number of Purchase Orders/CO issued - 103
  - Risk Management Cases Reported - 2 new ODWC vehicle accident/incident reports: Hail, Fire, Equipment, Dent/Ding, etc.
  - 3 pending 3rd party vehicle claims: Law Enforcement Officer hit by 3rd Party, Law Enforcement Office damaged property (OMES RM Claim), Fish Division employee hit by 3rd Party
  - 3 pending ODWC property claims: OKC HQ Freeze/Pipes, PRC Freeze/Pipes, Jenks Burglary

- Construction Site Visits: Cheryl Luetkemeyer - Canton WMA - Pre-Construction Shop Building 06/02/2021, Cheryl Luetkemeyer - Packsaddle WMA Gun Range - Pre-Bid Mandatory Meeting 06/17/2021
- Human Resources
  - Open Full-time Positions, June 17, July 19
  - Positions Interviewed June 5, July 2, Candidates interviewed June 17, July 10
  - Positions Announced, June 7, July 0
  - See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
  - Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), June 7, July 1
  - 7 Office 365 training sessions
  - 3, 6-hour HRDS Supervisor training classes
- IT
  - This month we have worked 104 help-desk tickets, 80 calls and 112 emails.
  - We have reconfigured the GIS server to double the resources it had before.
  - We continued work on the Federal-Aid project and installed new software for the Webserver.
  - Staging equipment for Scissortail Park for license sales and POS hardware for Jenks office.
  - Upgrading older laptops to Solid State drives to extend their performance.
  - Preparing for the rollout of Crowd Strike (Security Software required by the state - no cost to agencies).
  - 50 new computers coming in, plus another 170+ in the pipeline
- License
  - Processed over 1,000 customer orders, including 807 licenses and 478 hard card orders (mail and walk-in orders) and shipped over 400 merchandise items (hats, books, etc) - Totaling almost \$75,000 in revenue
  - Deposited over \$228,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as lease payments, fines, restitution, etc.
  - Reviewed almost 1,400 online applications for various licenses, including lifetimes, seniors, fishing guides, disability hunting and fishing, and more
- Property
  - 12 new trucks, new comdata cards and new pikepass
  - Window tint for 10 warden trucks
  - Work new inventory and deletions for the month of June. New inventory and deletions are due on the 25th of each month
  - Had Lewis Electric come out with high lift and trouble shoot lobby lights
  - Met with Carrier Corporation on problem with chilled water not getting cool enough.
  - Had quarterly maintenance preformed on HVAC system.
  - Sent out 2022 boat/boat motor renewal registrations and stickers to all divisions.
  - Wardens brought in two boats to OKC; these will be sold at our next Purple Wave sale.
  - Registered and titled 2 new boats & boat motors for Law Enforcement
  - Registered and titled 3 new ATV's
  - Had a seal issue on one of the chilled water pumps. Work over the July 4 holiday weekend cleaning up water and drying out the carpet.

## **FISHERIES DIVISION**

### **May-June**

#### **Statewide Fish Stockings**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number Fish</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Number Locations</b>
Channel catfish	621	9-14"	5

Channel catfish	3,355	18-24"	7
Florida largemouth bass	60	9-14"	1
Florida largemouth bass	692,248	1½-3"	9
Hybrid striped bass	817,152	1½-3"	18
Hybrid striped bass	4,787,000	<1"	5
Hybrid sunfish	1,148	6-7"	5
Hybrid sunfish	12,961	5-7"	27
Largemouth bass	68,503	1½-3"	1
Rainbow trout	23,944	9-14"	4
Rainbow trout	287	14-24"	3
Sauger	91,438	1½-3"	3
Saugeye	786,392	1½-3"	17
Threadfin shad	5,100	3"	3
Walleye	378,850	1½-3"	3

#### Meeting attended

- Advanced Electrofishing Workshop, June 15-17, 2021, Stillwater, OK.

#### Activities

- A new world record Paddlefish (164 lbs) from Keystone Lake was weighed and certified.
- New state record hybrid sunfish (2 lbs, 5.68 oz) and river carpsucker (9 lbs 7 oz) were also certified.
- Staff conducted extensive correspondence with caviar buyers and sold, invoiced, and shipped all caviar.
- Staff tagged fish and provided technical assistance in support of the Walleye Rodeo at Canton Lake.
- Staff conducted fishing clinics at 11 fishing clinics statewide.
- Staff collected carp for the kid's carp rodeo event as part of the City of Okmulgee's annual pecan festival
- Staff prepared for, stocked fish and conducted Aquatic education fishing events at Greenleaf State Park kid's pond and at the Muskogee First Assembly church.
- A study was initiated to evaluate the gear bias of low-frequency electrofishing for Blue Catfish in reservoirs, with 1,250 fish at Wiley Post and 1,023 fish at Arcadia being tagged. A social media post was created to inform anglers through the Department's ComEd Division.
- The effects of water hardness on Channel Catfish eggs are being tested
- Smallmouth buffalo otoliths were collected from Chimney Rock Lake as the initial steps of a project to monitor populations of native nongame species in Oklahoma.
- Staff researched tagging and tracking technology for potential applications to future paddlefish research efforts.
- Three manuscripts were written and submitted to the 75<sup>th</sup> SEAFWA Conference, and an article was also submitted for publication in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management
- Stream community sampling was conducted in the Verdigris River drainage at approximately 54 sites using multiple gears.
- Staff assisted USFWS personnel with larval Asian Carp sampling on the Kiamichi River.
- Spring electrofishing surveys were conducted on 22 reservoirs statewide. Genetics samples and otoliths were collected, and analysis is ongoing.
- Surveys for channel catfish were conducted on 12 reservoirs statewide. Otoliths were collected and analysis is ongoing.

- Conducted habitat enhancement projects on Robert S. Kerr Reservoir (65 trees placed at 8 sites) and Eufaula Lake (77 cedar trees placed at 22 sites).
- Technical assistance was provided to the Cherokee Nation's Watershed Lake Management Plan
- Staff attended an annual meeting with Chickasaw National Recreation Area (NPS) staff to discuss joint Fish and Wildlife management opportunities.
- Oversight of the Manning pump station project continues.
- Holdenville SFH staff placed spawning kegs into channel catfish brooder ponds for catfish fingerling production.
- Annual fish disease testing by the USFWS was completed for Manning, Byron, and Holdenville SFH.
- Manning SFH staff handed out bass fingerlings for the farm pond fish program.
- Approximately 9,000 shad were collected and stocked into the Skiatook Nursery Pond. Reproduction and water quality were monitored.
- Subsurface water was discovered below Watonga Dam. Consequently the contractor has demobilized pending identification of an engineering resolution.
- Staff oversaw preparation, delivery, and installation of a new restroom facility at Atoka Bluestem Lake.
- Staff spread 1,400 tons of gravel at Lake Nanih Waiya to improve fishing access.
- All Department lakes and fishing areas were mowed and maintained.
- New signage was coordinated with Wildlife Division at the new Barron Fork property.
- Staff assisted with the Law Enforcement Division's investigation of dead gar in Hickory/Wilson Creek area of Lake Texoma.
- Fish kill investigations were conducted on Lake Hudson and the Washita River Arm of Lake Texoma.
- Staff participated in the Oka' Advisory Council meeting, SARP Director's meeting, Lake Texoma Stakeholder meeting, and Lake Pawnee Improvement meeting.

## **C&E DIVISION**

- The Communication and Education Division is holding their annual Division Meeting at Cross Point Camp near Lake Texoma Aug. 10-12.
- The Outdoor Oklahoma Adventure raffle series ends August 6. The cow elk hunt is the most popular raffle item closely followed by the lifetime combination license. To date, more than \$164,000 have been raised through this effort.
- Don Brown has developed a 6-month plan to promote Outdoor Oklahoma magazine. The special promotion will allow customers to buy a two-year subscription and receive an additional one year subscription for free. Don is working with Michael Chrisman to determine which specific license buyers will receive the cross-sell.
- Kasie Harriet and Colin Berg worked with NWTf volunteers on organizing a Deer Conference for July 31st in Midwest City. Several ODWC staff (J.D. Strong, Todd Craighead, Kelly Boyer, Dallas Barber, Jerry Shaw, Jacob Harriet, Mark Murray and Jeff Tibbits) are scheduled to be on hand to speak or present information to conference attendees during breakout sessions. The target audience is beginning/intermediate level deer hunters that are seeking additional information that will assist them as they plan for the upcoming 2021 deer seasons.
- Through the Fostering Outdoor Oklahoma Families, a total of 54 DHS employees went through the Aquatic Education training. Skylar T. Yves is currently coordinating delivery of two fishing kits to each region (5 regions, 10 total kits). Once they receive the kits, they can start setting up their own clinics.
- Likewise, Skylar recently trained 58 OG&E employees and is working on getting another training set up as there are bunch more that are interested. While it's not nailed down yet, the



hope is to have an OG&E clinic up at Sooner Lake (run mostly by their employees) in the next couple of months.

- The Go Outdoors Oklahoma app is now able to send push notifications to users with app notifications enabled. Michael Bergin and Brandt are working to develop a plan and schedule for using this new opportunity. The plan is to send two push notifications per quarter -- one being more sales driven and the other more resource-oriented. In order to maximize the impact and usefulness of the push notifications, we are currently doing paid online advertising to increase app downloads. Combined with marketing automation to get better insights about who has push notifications enabled, this has the potential to increase the ways we can reach customers who don't see our social media or emails.
- Additionally, Michael Bergin is spearheading an effort to better align the Go Outdoor Oklahoma app with the ODWC's website. Michael is ensuring any link within the app that takes the user to our website provides for the best experience. Additionally, there new options like the Fishing Resources page, OOF, revamped Close to Home Fishing webpages, etc. that could be linked within the app and are not.

#### Current App Users

IOS - 148k currently have app downloaded, of those 53k have updated to latest version that allows push notifications. Of the 53k, 35k have push notifications enabled.

Android - 53k currently have app downloaded, of those 26k have updated to latest version that allows push notifications. Of the 26k, 23k have push notifications enabled.

- Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee conducted two teacher training courses for NASP, Varsity Archery, Explore Bowhunting, Explore Bowfishing, Hunter Education and Fishing in the Schools programs certifications. Around half of the teachers that attend workshops are from schools that already have our programs and are needing new teachers trained. The other half are from schools that are just now starting our programs. Additional courses are scheduled for August and September. Approximately 20 teachers attend each two-three day training course.
- The Outdoor Oklahoma television program began its 46th year in July. The show has a new format that features more, but shorter, segments.
- Jennifer Benge and Lance Meek continued the Vamos a Pescar trainings with families that had signed up to attend three different training dates as part of a grant from the RBFF that we are assisting OKC Latina with this summer. Trainings are being held at South Lakes Close to Home Fishing area.
- New this year, the Expo program will not be advertised in the Oklahoman. Instead, digital ads will be the primary method of promotion. Additionally, the Sept/Oct issue of Outdoor Oklahoma will feature a 16-page spread that includes maps, general information, booth activities and next steps. An overrun of this spread will replace the program historically printed in the Oklahoman.
- Lance Meek continued to work on gun range grant projects. There are a lot of projects underway, some are just in the planning stages, others are currently undergoing environmental assessments, some are at the construction phase and have gone out for bid with others currently in the design phase.

Copan - Final stages of Corps Approval. Waiting on FONSI from Corps.

Hugo -- Letter of request sent to Hugo Corps office.

Kaw -- First draft of engineering plans turned in.

Texoma-Washita Arm -- Engineering is happening now.

Packsaddle - Bid closed.

Hulah - Requisition for EA turned in.

Cimmaron Hills - Requisition for EA will be turned in in September.

Canton -- Engineering requisition turned in. Kick off in July or August.

Waurika -- EA in process.

- Skylar St. Yves continued working on updating the fishing pages of the website. Recent work was completed on the Where To Fish sections. He also continued to update and add additional



information to the fishing resources page, and reviews the photos being submitted to the Dock (225 total submissions in the first six months).

- The shipment of 2021-22 Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Guide is expected to arrive mid to late August.
- Damon Springer and Jason Smith worked on setting dates for the FFA Clay Target program. District shoots are held in October and early November each year. Each FFA district has a number of other events that we work around to ensure as many teams as possible are able to attend. Annually over 1,500 students participate in the FFA Clay Target Program. As soon as dates are finalized they will be shared with the commission (Traditional District Shoot Locations: Ft. Supply, Altus, Coweta, Norman and Broken Bow. State is held mid-November at OKC Gun Club).

## WILDLIFE DIVISION

- Routine maintenance of WMA's is front and center this month. Over 5000 tons of gravel were spread to enhance the all-weather condition of roads, parking areas, and campgrounds on WMAs, over 10 miles of firebreaks were maintained, as well as maintenance / upkeep of camping areas, parking areas, entrances, signs, gates and shooting ranges.
- In a cooperative effort with Fisheries division a new pre-fab restroom was installed on Atoka WMA at Bluestem Lake.



- A large primitive campground was developed on Arbuckle Springs WMA, and 13 OCI constructed steel picnic tables were installed at scattered primitive campgrounds on Kaw WMA

- This is the active grazing season and considerable time was spent monitoring grazing, fences, and maintaining watering facilities.
- An unusually wet early summer continues to hamper efforts to manage wetland units, particularly in eastern and Central Oklahoma. Several remain flooded, and drawdown is well behind schedule on others.
- A number of woody vegetation mastication projects (NRDA) have been recently completed or are still underway.
- Growing season prescribed burns are underway, with a number of burns completed in July and a few more scheduled for this month.
- Conducted wildlife program to a Church group (12 attended), archery program to Jay 4H club (14 attended), and 1 STEP program to First Baptist Church group (12 attended)
- Dove Call count surveys have been completed. Overall dove counts were down, with some survey routes having high numbers, some low...much variability. Dove were distributed widely on the landscape due to much forage available and abundant water, which likely influenced the relatively low count index.
- Goose banding was a tremendous success this year. Banded approximately 1000 geese across 6 days and 8 locations. We had approximately 40 people that assisted us with the roundups on most days, which included agency personnel, legislators, commissioners, Delta waterfowl volunteers, local volunteers, and many kids. Banding data helps to study movement, recruitment, survivability, and hunting pressure on these resident birds.
- Dove banding efforts are underway across the state. Baiting (primarily using sunflower seeds) was implemented for approximately 3-4 weeks, and traps are being set for capture and banding. Band recovery data is used to assist in season structures and management decisions across the Central Flyway.
- DMAP reports have been mailed out to all cooperating land owners. This program continues to be a popular option for those operators wishing to have more intensive management help meeting their goals. DMAP spotlight counts should begin the last two weeks of August and continue through the first two weeks in September.
- Roadside quail counts will start in August. These numbers are used to help provide a season forecast and gather data on hatching success.
- Pheasant surveys start in August as well. Brood size to provide data on recruitment and to help produce the annual pheasant season forecast.

#### **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- Body Cameras: They are up and going since first of July. No real problems and rollout went smoothly.
- Almost all of the Districts have finished their yearly training, the few remaining only have a class or two left before being done.
- All 12 Law trucks have been received at the office from the dealer and are in the process of being issued out to the field.
- 2 new SeaArk boats have been issued to the field, one going to Keystone Lake (D4) and the other going to Broken Bow lake (D3).