

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, August 1, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

In compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

The Commission may vote to approve, disapprove, or take other action on any of the following items. The Commission may vote to authorize public comment on any agenda item requesting a rule change.

1. Call to Order – Chairwoman Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Nathan Erdman
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nathan Erdman
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Ron Smith, Southwest Regional Supervisor – 25 years
Mark Howery, Senior Biologist – 30 years
7. Recognition of Eli Yates, winner of the Department’s first Youth Raffle deer hunt in 2021 on the Dillingham Ranch – Wade Free, Assistant Director and Commissioner Chad Dillingham.
8. Recognition of 2021 Wildlife Division Biologist of the Year, Jeff Ford, and Technician of the Year, Jason Rockwell – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.
9. Recognition of 2021 Fisheries Division Professional of the Year, Chas Patterson – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division.
10. Recognition of Game Warden of the Year – Blake Pearson; Medal of Valor recipient – Riley Willman and Colonel’s Life Saving Citation recognition – Riley Willman, Austin Jackson, Stephen Paul, and Larry Green – Colonel Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement Division.
11. Presentation of the Spirit of ODWC Award – J.D. Strong, Director.
12. Presentation on National Shooting Sports Month – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education Division.
13. Presentation on Wildlife Restoration Grant providing funding for upgraded target throwers for Silverleaf Shotgun Sports – Nels Rodefeld, Lance Meek, Senior Communication and Education Specialist and Zachary Womack, Owner/Operator of Silverleaf Shotgun Sports.
14. Recognition of The Grand National Quail Club, Grand National Quail Foundation, the Grand National Quail Hunt Past Shooters Council and John Groendyke for their individual donations of \$5,000 to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation – Rick Grundman, Executive Director OWCF.
15. Recognition of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation 2021 Hall of Fame donors of \$5,000 and above – Rick Grundman

\$5,000 -Mabrey Bank, Oklahoma State University, Nature Conservancy, John Zelbst, OG&E, AT&T, American Fidelity, Cresup Foundation, Luke & Becky Corbett Foundation
\$10,000 - Dillingham Foundation, Jones PR/Jim Barwick, Devon Energy Corporation, Herman & LaDonna Meinders, BOK Financial, Continental Resources, Midwest Wrecking
\$25,000 – Le Norman Companies, Flying Squirrel Farms, Tulsa Duck Hunters Anonymous

16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes of the June 6, 2022, regular Commission meeting.
17. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
 - a. Federal and Congressional Update
 - Oklahoma Legislative Update
 - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
 - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.
18. Presentation of the May 31, 2022 and June 30, 2022 Financial Statements and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.
19. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the ratification of proposed resolution of the adoption agreement for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Defined Contribution plan and SECURE Act Amendment – Amanda Storck.
20. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on emergency rules relating to the establishment of air-powered arrow rifles as a legal means of take during open rifle deer seasons. These emergency rules are necessary after the state legislature passed and the Governor signed SB1571 allowing for their use in open deer rifle season – Bill Dinkines.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation
Chapter 25. Wildlife Rules
Subchapter. General Hunting Seasons
Part 1. General Provisions
800:25-7-3. General Provisions [AMENDED]
Part 13. Deer
800:25-7-53. Deer-Gun [AMENDED]
800:25-7-54. Legal firearms and archery specifications [AMENDED]
21. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Cimarron County, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines.
22. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
23. Announce the September 6, 2022, Commission meeting (Tuesday) will be in Broken Bow, Oklahoma.
24. Adjourn

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

MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on June 6, 2022 of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on June 6, 2022. 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 May 31, 2022 at 11:11 a.m.

Chairwoman Leigh Gaddis called the Commission in session at 9:00 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

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

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF); Laura McIver, Quail Forever; Mark Mabrey, newly appointed Commissioner for District 2.

Director Strong recognized Commissioner Bruce Mabrey, District 2 for 20 years of service to the department. Governor Kevin Stitt has appointed Mark Mabrey to fill the seat. Commissioner Mabrey expressed his appreciate of department employees and his joy of serving on the Commission.

Director Strong introduced the Communication & Education social media team who were awarded the "Best Twitter Presence" at the Government Social Media Conference. The team includes Smokey Solis, Whitney Heskett, Daniel Griffith, Sarah Southerland, Todd Craighead, Darrin Hill, Jena Donnell, Michael Bergin, Don Brown and Blake Podhajsky.

Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication & Education, gave the Commission a brief overview of the Outdoor Oklahoma magazine, TV Show and Journal (blog). He introduced Don Brown and Todd Craighead, Communication and Education Specialists. Mr. Brown presented a history of the Outdoor Oklahoma magazine that has been in publication for 77 years. We have paid subscribers in all 50 states and the magazine is also available on-line. In 2020, the department launched a Journal (blog) which has increased the reach of Communication & Education content such as helping the public go out and be a hunter, angler or outdoor enthusiast. In less than 2 years, the blog and email marketing strategies have captured more than \$650,000 in revenue for the department. The Journal is managed by Michael Bergin, Senior Communication & Education Specialist. Mr. Craighead gave an update on the Outdoor Oklahoma Television Show. It has been running on OETA since 1976. The Show is viewed by 1.8 million viewers weekly and approximately 18 new episodes are filmed yearly. It has also received over 6 million views on YouTube. Mr. Craighead said the Team is also working to get

all the archived TV Shows on YouTube. Commissioner Gaddis indicated that the TV show was a staple in her home growing up.

Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Mabrey to approve the minutes from the April 4, 2022 Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Director Strong gave a brief update and highlighted the Congressional report submitted by Brittnee Preston, the Department's part-time Federal and Congressional Liaison. This report was sent to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison, gave a legislative report siting the Legislature adjourned on May 27, 2022. She gave a brief update on the bills that were passed, and this information is in the Director’s Report. Mr. Strong gave a Director's Report on calendar items and agency updates. This report was given to the Commission and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Director Strong highlighted that Game Warden Riley Williams was recognized by the Legislator for his lifesaving efforts in the field. Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation gave a brief Foundation update. The annual Gala, Call of the Wild, date has been set for October 6, 2022, at the Omni Hotel. The save the date cards will be going out by the middle of June. The 2022 honoree is Mr. Larry Nichols. Mr. Grundman highlighted the accomplishments of the Foundation for the past year, which include but not limited to providing personal flotation devices for all Game Wardens, providing dart guns and training for the nuisance bear response team and partnering with the Kevin VanDam Foundation to stock tiger bass in Grand Lake.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration presented the Financial Statements for March 31, 2022 and April 30, 2022. Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Kane to accept the financial statements as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Amanda Storck presented and requested Commission approval for the Department’s FY2023 Annual Budget. Ms. Storck explained the following:

The Retirement/Finance Committee met to review the proposed budget. The budget is comprised of 4 parts: Revenue, Personnel Costs, Operations, and Capital Expenditures.

Budget Summary:

The overall budget for FY23 is \$99,242,642.
Personnel cost for FY23 are \$31,412,570.
Operations Budget for FY23 is \$54,634,948.
Capital expenditures for FY23 are \$39,854,654.

Employee Compensation:

Job descriptions were updated for all employees March 2020 and several positions were sent to OMES to be graded in June of 2020. Following last year’s compensation changes, existing employees over 1 year are at least making 90% of midpoint and new hires in the last fiscal year are making 85% of midpoint. Recommendation to the Committee is to increase all employees by 3% in addition to the following changes to the grades.

Summary:

- Grade 9 eliminated and existing positions moved to grade 10
- Secretaries now titled Administrative Assistants
- C&E Technicians moved to grade 12 where other like jobs reside
- Payroll/Benefits Specialist moved to grade 12
- Game Warden moved to grade 15

- License Supervisor and Accounting Supervisor moved to grade 18
- Assistant Chief moved to 19, and Chief moved to 20
- \$200 added to all non-law enforcement employees for clothing allowance

Retirement: No COLA is planned for FY2023.

Commissioner Holder stated that the Retirement/Finance Committee had met and reviewed the proposed budget and employee compensation plan and recommended approval as presented. Motion was made by Mr. Holder, seconded by Mr. Dillingham to approve the FY23 Budget as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes.”

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, requested Commission approval on a Resolution to establish hunting dates, bag, possession limits, and special means of take for the 2022-23 Migratory Game Birds hunting season. Season dates remained the same except adjusted for calendar roll to maximize weekend hunting opportunity, merganser limit was combined with duck bag limit of 6, and falconry dove season was moved back to the traditional dates. Mr. Barwick said the Rules Committee met and reviewed the Resolution and recommend approval. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Bill Dinkines requested Commission approval on a Resolution to establish antlerless deer seasons and bag limits. Dates and bag limits remained the same except for opening Zone 10 to the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season. Mr. Barwick said the Rules Committee met and reviewed the Resolution and recommend approval. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to approve the Resolution as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Mr. Brewster stated that he appreciated all the thoughts, prayers and contacts from his ODWC family during his extended absence for medical issues. He thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness.

Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Kane to enter into an Executive Session. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes.”

Motion was made by Mr. Kane, seconded by Mr. Barwick to return to open session. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes.”

Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Zelbst to authorize the Director to pursue the purchase of property in Harmon and Pittsburg Counties at appraised value. These properties are either inholdings or contiguous to existing Wildlife Management Areas. All three properties do not require state match. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes.” Mr. Holder “abstained”.

Commissioner Barwick requested Commission approval on the reappointment of John Groendyke, John Zelbst and Blake Shelton to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation and to add Barry Bolton as a new member of the Foundation Board. Board member Jean Kates has step down from the Foundation. The bylaws also require that the Wildlife Commission must approve all appointments and reappointments to the Foundation Board. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Dillingham to approve the reappointments as well as the addition of Barry Bolton to the Foundation Board. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Mabrey, Holder, Zelbst, Dillingham, Kane and Gaddis voting “Yes.”

Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Mabrey to renominate the current slate of Commission officers by reappointing Leigh Gaddis as Chairwoman, Jim Barwick as Vice-Chairman and Rick Holder as Secretary for the 2022-2023 Wildlife Commission Officers. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting “Yes.”

Chairwoman Gaddis announced that the July 5, 2022 Commission meeting has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Leigh A. Gaddis, CHAIRWOMAN

ATTEST:

C. Rick Holder, SECRETARY



J. KEVIN STITT, GOVERNOR

J. D. STRONG, DIRECTOR

Wildlife Conservation Commission

Leigh Gaddis

Chairman

James V. Barwick

Vice Chairman

Rick Holder

Secretary

Bill Brewster

D. Chad Dillingham

Jess Kane

Bruce Mabrey

John P. Zelbst

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 20, 2022

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

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

State of Play:

President –

- > The President has been keenly focused on gun rights issues, gas prices, inflation, abortion and medical access for women traveling between states and climate change.
- > While the House took up several measures to restrict gun rights, a bipartisan group of Senators came together to develop a gun control reform measure. The House and Senate passed this bipartisan gun safety reform bill by votes of 234-193 and 65-33, respectively.
- > The Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, which shifted Congress and the President's focus onto abortion laws, regulations and policy riders as appropriation bills move through the Committee process.
- > Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer retired and Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as the newest Supreme Court Justice.
- > The President is considering making a climate declaration in the coming days.

Recovering America's Wildlife Act –

- > **Senate:** The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee has passed a version of the bill and it awaits floor time.
- > **House:** The House Natural Resources Committee moved their version of the bill in January of this year. On June 14th, the House passed H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, by a vote of 231-190! This is a major step forward in finally enacting this legislation. The Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee offered an amendment to the bill that aligned the text more closely with the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed bill. Both bills offered a ramp up in funding instead of allocating all \$1.4 billion to states and tribes in the first year. The House included a 3 year ramp up while the Senate bill uses a 5 year. Additionally, there were several amendments that were added to the bill on the House floor. They are as follows:
 - Kildee (MI) & Meijer (MI) - Bipartisan amendment, expands conservation activities eligible for funding under the Endangered Species Recovery and Habitat Conservation Legacy Fund to include efforts to manage, control, and prevent invasive species and disease.
 - Jackson Lee (TX) - Democrat - Instructs the Secretary of Interior to report on contracts, subcontracts, and grant money allocated to or received by minority-serving educational institutions and minority-owned businesses.
 - Scott (GA) - Democrat - Allows funds to be used for conservation and restoration of native pollinator species.

- Schrier (WA) - Democrat - Allows funds to be used for conservation infrastructure projects that protect and conserve habitat for species of greatest conservation need.
- Cherfilus-McCormick (FL) - Democrat - Encourages the use of innovative technologies in wildlife management and conservation.
- Kirkpatrick (AZ) - Democrat - Allows non-profit organizations to be eligible to receive competitive grant funds through the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Subaccount.
- Bentz (OR) - Republican - Imposes a 1.85% administrative spending cap on portions of Title III.
- Tiffany (WI) - Republican - Requires 0.5% of the funds from this bill be provided to the Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General to oversee this program.

Congress:

General Congressional actions:

- > Reconciliation
 - A potential slimmed down version of the Build Back Better bill is being discussed. It was slated to focus on tax increases, deficit reduction as well as some key policy positions.
 - However, Sen. Manchin, who is at the center of negotiations again, has reportedly killed any chance of a climate related title, which leaves taxes, Medicaid, Medicare and drug prices still in. It is shaping up to be more of a healthcare centered bill. This reconciliation bill has been a catch all for everything, so it seems through the past year.
- > FY23 Appropriations
 - Work on the FY 23 appropriations bills is in full swing with the Senate holding budgetary hearings and working on draft bills. The House has moved a significant number of bills through the Committee process including all the titles covering wildlife issues including: Department of Agriculture, Energy and Water, and Interior and Environment bills. The House passed a six-bill appropriations minibus package, which includes the previously mentioned bills. Below are highlights of the relevant bills.

FY 23 AGRICULTURE BILL

- The bill provides funding of \$27.2 billion– a critical increase of \$2.075 billion, 8 percent– above 2022.
- \$1.16 billion – \$52 million above the FY 2022 enacted level – for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, which covers funding for plant and animal diseases including CWD.
- Provides \$1 B for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and affiliated programs.

FY 23 ENERGY AND WATER BILL

- The bill provides \$56.275 billion, an increase of \$3.4 billion above the fiscal year 2022 level
- Provides a total of \$8.889 billion, an increase of \$545 million above the fiscal year 2022 level and \$2.288 billion above the request for the Army Corps of Engineers
- Provides a total of \$1.913 billion for the Department of Interior, an increase of \$479.7 million above the request.
- Provides \$1.891 billion for the Bureau of Reclamation, an increase of \$476.7 million above the request.

FY 23 INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

- The bill provides a total of \$11.5 billion for EPA – an increase of \$2 billion above the FY 2022 enacted level.
- Provides a total of \$16.6 billion in discretionary appropriations for DOI, an increase of \$2.1 billion above the FY 2022 enacted level.
- \$1.5 billion for the Bureau of Land Management (MLR/O&C), \$135 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$81 million for sage-grouse conservation,
 - \$37 million for threatened and endangered species,
 - \$70 million for the National Landscape Conservation System, and
 - \$12 million for National and Scenic Historic Trails consolidated in a new sub-activity in Recreation Management. It also provides \$156 million for the Wild Horse and Burro program

which includes \$11 million for research on reversible immunocontraceptive fertility control and its administration.

- \$1.9 billion for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, \$230 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$355 million for Ecological Services, \$77 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - \$574 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System, \$55 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - \$25.5 million for Multinational Species Conservation Fund, \$5.5 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - \$24.5 million for the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund
 - \$74.4 million for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
 - \$57.8 million for migratory bird management
 - \$44.7 million for Aquatic Invasive Species, of which \$4,400,000 is for National Invasive Species Act (NISA) activities, as requested, which includes \$2,834,000 for State and Interstate plans and \$1,566,000 is for NISA coordination
- \$3.6 billion for the National Park Service, an increase of \$378 million above the FY 2022 enacted level. Within this amount, the bill includes:
 - \$3.1 billion for the Operation of the National Park System, an increase of \$323 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - \$88 million for National Recreation and Preservation, an increase of \$4 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - \$171 million for the Historic Preservation Fund. Within this amount, the bill includes \$82 million for State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, \$38 million for Save America's Treasures competitive and project grants, \$28 million for competitive grants to preserve the sites and stories of underrepresented community civil rights, and \$10 million for grants to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.
- \$1.6 billion for the U.S. Geological Survey, \$250 million above the FY 2022 enacted level.
 - Provides \$28 million for Cooperative Research Units

House –

- > House Natural Resources Committee held a markup on several bills including:
 - [H.R. 263](#) (Rep. Mike Quigley), To amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes. *Big Cat Public Safety Act*.
 - [H.R. 6734](#) (Rep. Hakeem S. Jeffries), To amend the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 to reauthorize the volunteer services, community partnership, and refuge education programs of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for other purposes. *Keep America's Refuges Operational Act of 2022*.
 - [H.R. 7025](#) (Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva), To prohibit the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from funding entities that commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes. *Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022*.
- > The House Agriculture Committee is hosting a number of Farm bill hearings. Two this week covered the U.S Department of Forestry focusing mainly on wildfire issues and the State of Credit for Young, Beginning, and Underserved Producers. They have not yet covered conservation issues outside of the brief touches during the climate hearings I previously reported on.

Agencies:

- > Environmental Protection Agency
 - EPA [issued](#) a 401 Clean Water Act proposed rulemaking. Comments on this rulemaking are due by August 8, 2022.
- > U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - USDA forest service [announced](#) \$503 M for improving outdoor recreation and conservation and National Forests. This funding comes from “the Great American Outdoors Act to address deferred

maintenance, improve infrastructure, increase user access and support rural economies while also meeting conservation goals.” Funding is split between the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Legacy Restoration Fund.

> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)

- DOI [announced](#) that the USFWS is proposing to revise the section 10(j) regulations under the ESA to better facilitate recovery by allowing for the introduction of listed species to suitable habitats outside of their historical ranges. [Comments](#) are due by August 8, 2022.
- The USFWS announced the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act - [BIG Tier 1](#) & [Big Tier 2](#) grant opportunities. These Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) programs aim to provide grants for the construction, renovation and maintenance of boating infrastructure facilities for transient recreational vessels at least 26 feet long that are operated, leased, rented, or chartered primarily for pleasure.
- USFWS [announced](#) the final 2022-2023 migratory bird hunting season dates and bag limits.

Coming up...

- > FY 23 appropriations consideration.
- > Potential Senate floor time for Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.
- > The Farm Bill expires in 2023 and preliminary discussions on the next bill have begun.

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

For the period July 1, 2021 Through May 31, 2022

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
May 31, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Trust	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	05/31/2022 Totals	05/31/2021 Totals
Assets and Other Debits:							
Cash	13,336,689		4,071,332			17,408,021	19,817,840
Investments	0		260,829,672			260,829,672	279,191,307
Accounts Receivable	2,269,454					2,269,454	1,942,031
Monthly Lifetime License			194,425			194,425	201,900
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	4,449,788		7,000			4,456,788.00	4,991,513.00
Fixed Assets				76,420,839		76,420,839	70,014,197
Land				103,565,869		103,565,869	96,610,614
Other Debits:							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,518,573	3,518,573	3,415,886
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
	20,055,931	0	265,102,429	179,986,708	(406,317)	464,738,751	487,756,318
Liabilities and Fund Balance:							
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	868,135					868,135	827,180
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	194,425					194,425	201,900
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,518,573	3,518,573	3,415,886
Net Pension Obligation					(3,924,890)	(3,924,890)	16,555,543
Total Liabilities	1,062,560	0	0	0	(406,317)	656,243	21,000,509
Fund Balance:							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			127,607,449			127,607,449	140,807,548
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			6,025,513			6,025,513	5,650,494
Investment in General Fixed Assets				179,986,708		179,986,708	166,624,811
Fund Balance	18,993,371		131,469,467			150,462,838	153,672,956
Total Fund Balance	18,993,371	0	265,102,429	179,986,708	0	464,082,508	466,755,809
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	20,055,931	0	265,102,429	179,986,708	(406,317)	464,738,751	487,756,318

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
May 31, 2022

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	05/31/2022 Totals	05/31/2021 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	417,739	3,653,593			4,071,332	3,822,704
Investments	31,638,020	95,558,690	127,607,449	6,025,513	260,829,672	284,841,801
Due From Other Funds		194,425			194,425	201,900
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	32,055,759	99,413,708	127,607,449	6,025,513	265,102,429	288,873,405
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			127,607,449	6,025,513	133,632,962	146,458,042
Fund Balance	32,055,759	99,413,708			131,469,467	142,415,363
Total Fund Balance	32,055,759	99,413,708	127,607,449	6,025,513	265,102,429	288,873,405

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, 2021 Through May 31, 2022

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	05/31/2022	05/31/2021	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	19,016,150			19,016,150	18,974,546	0.22%
Other Wildlife Sales	3,398,618			3,398,618	3,418,407	-0.58%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	1,539,277			1,539,277	1,334,814	15.32%
Grant Revenue	24,706,868			24,706,868	21,577,718	14.50%
Investment Income	164,549		37,423	201,972	310,188	-34.89%
Miscellaneous	1,361,793			1,361,793	3,279,944	-58.48%
Total Revenues	50,187,255	0	37,423	50,224,678	48,895,617	2.72%
Expenditures:						
Administration	6,831,720			6,831,720	5,979,978	14.24%
Wildlife	13,122,951			13,122,951	12,173,174	7.80%
Fish	9,913,527			9,913,527	9,219,225	7.53%
Law Enforcement	11,712,543			11,712,543	10,370,201	12.94%
Information and Education	2,831,807			2,831,807	2,782,386	1.78%
Capital Improvements	5,648,834			5,648,834	6,598,538	-14.39%
Land Acquisitions		6,955,255		6,955,255	1,201,917	478.68%
Total Expenditures	50,061,382	6,955,255		57,016,637	48,325,419	17.98%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	125,873	(6,955,255)	37,423	(6,791,959)	570,198	1,291.16%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	874,655			874,655	2,178,565	-59.85%
Operating Transfers In	1,718,887	6,955,255	(8,533,382)	140,760	25,640,148	-99.45%
Operating Transfers Out	(6,955,255)		(1,718,887)	(8,674,142)	(1,405,182)	517.30%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	(4,361,713)	6,955,255	(10,252,269)	(7,658,727)	26,413,531	-129.00%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	(4,235,840)	0	(10,214,846)	(14,450,686)	26,983,729	-153.55%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	23,229,211	0	42,270,605	65,499,816	35,306,282	85.52%
Fund Balances May 31, 2022:	18,993,371	0	32,055,759	51,049,130	62,290,011	-18.05%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2021 Through May 31, 2022

	Fiduciary Fund Types			05/31/2022 Totals	05/31/2021 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,680,825			2,680,825	3,215,575
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	191,200			191,200	201,110
Interest and Investment Income	0	(9,015,885)	(620,392)	-9,636,277	26,690,356
Employer Contributions		2,500,000	531,975	3,031,975	4,752,521
Employee Contributions		509,916	382,931	892,847	831,140
Total Operating Revenues	2,872,025	(6,005,969)	294,514	(2,839,430)	35,690,702
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		285,180	5,150	290,330	273,773
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	7,841,881	57,123	7,899,004	7,716,993
Total Operating Expenses	0	8,127,061	62,273	8,189,334	7,990,766
Operating Income	2,872,025	(14,133,030)	232,241	(11,028,764)	27,699,936
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	2,872,025	(14,133,030)	232,241	(11,028,764)	27,699,936
Fund Balances, Beginning	96,541,683	141,740,479	5,793,272	244,075,434	215,125,564
Fund Balances, May 31, 2022	99,413,708	127,607,449	6,025,513	233,046,670	242,825,500



Wildlife Contributions Report

May-22

Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
\$300.00	Crappie University	Fish Division
\$5.00	James Franks	General Contributions
\$50.00	Mary Ann Shockey	In Memory of Alma Black

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

Personnel Actions
June 2022

New Hires

Greg Baker – Wildlife Technician, Red & Grassy Slough WMAs, 6/1/22

Hayden Savage – Wildlife Biologist, Beaver & Schultz WMAs, 6/1/22

Madison Mitchell – Fisheries Technician, SE Region/Higgins, 6/20/22

Sean Robertson – Accounting Assistant, Central Office, 6/20/22

Promotions

Transfers

Resignations/Terminations

James Morel – Wildlife Biologist, Migratory Birds & Wetland Dev., 6/24/22

Matt Gamble – Fisheries Biologist, Blue River Public F/H Area, 6/30/22

Retirements

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

Personnel Actions
July 2022

New Hires

Promotions

Ron Smith – Senior Wildlife Biologist to SW Regional Supervisor, 7/1/22

Transfers

Tom Gillham – Warden, LeFlore County to Warden, Pushmataha County, 7/1/22

Resignations/Terminations

Adriana Bustamante – Procurement Officer, HQ, 7/29/22

Corey Jager – Legislative Liaison, HQ, 7/31/22

Retirements