

# PANORAMAS

**F**ish and wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation are our business, so to speak. Our wildlife resources are managed on scientific management principles and we know a thing or two about how important hunting and fishing are to our state and its citizens.

That's why even we were surprised by what we found as we began putting this special issue together. What we found was that there are literally hundreds of companies in the state, from one-man operations to multi-million dollar corporations employing thousands of people, that produce the outdoor products we use. They're found from one corner of Oklahoma to the other, and they don't just make products that allow hunters, anglers and others to enjoy the outdoors better, they provide a living for thousands of our citizens.

Figures from the most recent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation," conducted in 2001, show that almost 775,000 anglers in Oklahoma spend more than \$484 million on their equipment, gas, meals and expenses, which ripples through our economy to generate almost \$1 billion in economic output. That output translates into 11,000 jobs for Oklahomans.

Hunters, numbering some 300,000, create a \$573 million economic surge for the state's economy through the ripple effect of their retail

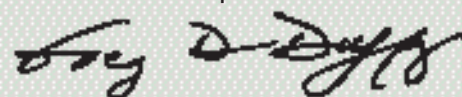
purchases, trip-related expenses and state and federal taxes. That spending translates into another 7,000 jobs for Oklahomans.

Wildlife watching is big business too. The Fish and Wildlife Service survey shows Oklahomans spend some \$193 million a year on the pursuit of outdoor enjoyment. More than 600,000 state residents say they enjoy observing wildlife within a mile radius of their home. Those are pretty impressive numbers for sure.

But there is a human side to all these facts and figures, and it's a side we often overlook. You see, there are hard-working men and women all across this great state that feed their families, send their kids to college and make car and house payments—and they do all of it with wages earned from an outdoor industry supported by a healthy natural environment and a robust social culture of hunting, fishing and wildlife enjoyment.

I know I, for one, have an even better apprecia-

tion for the men and women who make the outdoor gear I use, and I have a better appreciation for my fellow sportsmen and women whose passion for the outdoors helps fuel our economy.



Greg Duffy, Director

## ESTIMATED JOBS BY OCCUPATION

1,310	Dentists
2,840	Oil and gas derrick operators
4,660	Lawyers
6,640	Police and sheriff's patrol officers
13,460	Licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses
18,000	Hunting and Fishing Industry*
18,800	Secondary School Teachers, including special and vocational

\*Based on economic impact figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2001 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

All other figures are from the U.S. Department of Labor's 2000 National, State, and Metropolitan Area Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates.