

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also 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 – Chairman Bruce Mabrey
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Bill Dinkines
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Bill Dinkines
5. Introduction of Guests

6. Update from Governor Stitt’s Administration – Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell

7. Presentation of Awards – J.D. Strong, Director

Kristen Gillman, Wildlife/Lands Minerals Coordinator/GIS Supervisor – 20 years of service

8. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the February 1, 2021 regular Commission meeting.

9. 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.

10. Presentation of the January 31, 2020 Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.

11. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a resolution in recognition of the National Rifle Association for their development of an online hunter education course. This free course has resulted in the collection of more than \$191,000 worth of Federal Aid match – Nels Rodefled, Chief of Communication & Education Division, Lance Meek, Communication and Education Senior Specialist and Peter Churchbourne, Director – Hunter’s Leadership Forum of the National Rifle Association.

12. Update on ODWC's lands/minerals program – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Kristen Gillman, Wildlife Division Lands/Minerals Coordinator/GIS Supervisor.
13. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Micah Holmes, Assistant Chief of Communication & Education Division.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 1. Operations and Procedures

Subchapter 3. Function, Organization, Powers and Duties

800:1-3-3. Function, organization, power and duties [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. General Course and Method of Operation

800:1-5-2. General course and method of operation [AMENDED]

Subchapter 10. Citizen Complaints of Employee Actions

800:1-10-2. Receipt of complaints [AMENDED]

800:1-10-3. Investigation of complaints [AMENDED]

800:1-10-5. Review of complaint disposition [AMENDED]

800:1-10-7. Duties of investigators and Division Chiefs in regard to complaints [AMENDED]

Subchapter 11. Publications

800:1-11-1. Charges for workshops, publications and other material [AMENDED]

Subchapter 13. Hunting and Fishing License Dealers

800:1-13-1. Purpose [AMENDED]

800:1-13-2. License dealer bonding requirements [REVOKED]

800:1-13-3. Dealer operating provisions [AMENDED]

800:1-13-4. Termination of license dealership [AMENDED]

800:1-13-5. Penalties [REVOKED]

800:1-13-6. Opportunity for hearing [AMENDED]

800:1-13-7. Hearing procedures [AMENDED]

800:1-13-8. Telephone license dealers [REVOKED]

Subchapter 15. Hunter Education Rules

800:1-15-2. Hunter education certification requirements [AMENDED]

800:1-15-3. Instructors [AMENDED]

800:1-15-4. Administrative requirements [AMENDED]

Subchapter 19. Aquatic Education Rules

800:1-19-1. Instructors [AMENDED]

800:1-19-2. Administrative requirements [AMENDED]

The purpose of the proposed rule amendments are to align with Governor Stitt's Executive Order 2020-03 as part of a thorough review of Title 800 to identify costly, ineffective, duplicative and outdated information and regulations. The proposed rule amendments serve to eliminate language that is already established in Title 29. Additionally, it replaces outdated language. Removes items no longer available for purchase. Clarifies requirements for hunting and fishing license dealers. Expands opportunities for non-residents to participate in the hunter education program. Removes the outdated volunteer incentive program.

14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries Division.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 10. Sport Fishing Rules

Subchapter 1. Harvest and Possession Limits

800:10-1-3. Additional definitions [AMENDED]

800:10-1-4. Size limits on fish [AMENDED]

800:10-1-5. Bag limits on fish [REVOKED]

800:10-1-7. Possession limit [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3. Methods of Taking

800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grabhooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling and netting [AMENDED]

800:10-3-6. Use of trotlines, throwlines, limblines, juglines and yo-yo's [AMENDED]

800:10-3-7. Penalties [REVOKED]

800:10-3-8. Harvest tagging and reporting [NEW]

800:10-3-9. Penalties [NEW]

Subchapter 5. Area Restrictions and Special Fees

800:10-5-2. Department fishing areas [AMENDED]

800:10-5-3. Designated trout areas [AMENDED]

800:10-5-5. Tailwaters [AMENDED]

800:10-5-6. Lakes, reservoirs, rivers and streams [AMENDED]

The purpose of the proposed rule amendments are to align with Governor Stitt's Executive Order 2020-03 as part of a thorough review of Title 800 to identify costly, ineffective, duplicative and outdated information and regulations. These revisions include housekeeping edits, combination of the size limit and bag limits sections, clarification of culling restrictions, clarification of release of fishes taken by bow and arrow, gig, spear, and speargun, new aggregate bag limit for Close To Home waters, new statewide aggregate trout bag limit, removal of Monday and Friday catch and release requirement for paddlefish, clarified restrictions on cleaning and disposal of fish or fish remains, statewide May closure and catch and release rules clarified for alligator gar, removal of restrictions on tiger muskie, changed labeling requirements for fishing equipment, modification of snagging restrictions on the Arkansas River, new section on harvest tagging and reporting of fish, and allow non-motorized boats on Doc Hollis Lake.

15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Barry Bolton.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 15. Commercial Harvest Rules; Aquatic Species

Subchapter 1. Commercial Fishing

800:15-1-1. Purpose [AMENDED]

800:15-1-2. License requirements [AMENDED]

800:15-1-3. General; operating provisions [REVOKED]

800:15-1-4. Open and closed areas [REVOKED]

800:15-1-5. Special rules; paddlefish [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3. Commercial Minnow Seining [AMENDED]

800:15-3-1. Purpose [AMENDED]

800:15-3-2. License and fee requirements [AMENDED]

800:15-3-3. General; operating provisions [AMENDED]

800:15-3-4. Closed areas [REVOKED]

800:15-3-5. Special restrictions [REVOKED]

Subchapter 5. Commercial Shad Harvest

800:15-5-1. Purpose [AMENDED]

800:15-5-2. Licenses and fee requirements [REVOKED]

800:15-5-3. General; operating provisions [AMENDED]

- 800:15-5-4. Areas open [REVOKED]
- Subchapter 7. Commercial Mussel Harvest**
- 800:15-7-1. Purpose [AMENDED]
- 800:15-7-2. License and fee requirements [REVOKED]
- 800:15-7-3. General; operating provisions [AMENDED]
- 800:15-7-4. Mussel sanctuaries [REVOKED]
- 800:15-7-5. Species restrictions [REVOKED]
- Subchapter 9. Commercial Turtle Harvest**
- 800:15-9-3. General; operating provisions [AMENDED]

The purpose of the proposed rule amendments are to align with Governor Stitt’s Executive Order 2020-03 as part of a thorough review of Title 800 to identify costly, ineffective, duplicative and outdated information and regulations. These revisions include housekeeping edits, equipment labeling requirements, and closure of waters of this state to commercial fishing, commercial minnow seining, commercial shad harvest, and commercial mussel harvest.

- 16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 25. Wildlife Rules

Subchapter 1. Hunting/Trapping on Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Lands

- 800:25-1-5. Trapping on Lake Thunderbird State Park [REVOKED]

Subchapter 3. Hunting on Corps of Engineers Land

- 800:25-3-2. Areas open to archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only [AMENDED]
- 800:25-3-3. Areas open to archery equipment only [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. Migratory Bird Hunting Season

Part 23. Waterfowl Hunting on Sooner Lake

- 800:25-5-94. Hunting area, dates and hunting hours/days [AMENDED]
- 800:25-5-95. Species which may be hunted [AMENDED]

Part 25. Hunting at Tishomingo Wildlife Management Unit

- 800:25-5-105. Dates for waterfowl hunting [REVOKED]
- 800:25-5-206. General provisions [REVOKED]

Subchapter 7. General Hunting Seasons

Part 1. General Provisions

- 800:25-7-3. General provisions [AMENDED]

Part 5. Upland Game

- 800:25-7-15. Wild turkey – Fall; dates, limits and open areas [AMENDED]
- 800:25-7-17. Wild turkey – Spring; dates, limits and open areas [AMENDED]
- 800:25-7-17.1. Wild Turkey – Spring Youth Season [AMENDED]
- 800:25-7-19. Wild turkey – general provisions [AMENDED]

Part 12. Antelope

- 800:25-7-48. Dates, open areas, bag limits and hunting hours and regulations [AMENDED]

Part 13. Deer

- 800:25-7-50. General provisions for deer [AMENDED]
- 800:25-7-55. Deer-Youth Gun Season [AMENDED]

Part 14. Elk

- 800:25-7-57. Dates, open areas, bag limit and hunting hours [AMENDED]

Part 15. Furbearers

- 800:25-7-61. Bag limits [AMENDED]

800:25-7-64. General provisions for furbearers [AMENDED]

Part 16. Black Bear

800:25-7-67. Dates, open areas, bag limits, hunting hours, legal means of take, quotas, prohibited activities [AMENDED]

Part 19. Season on areas owned or managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

800:25-7-84. Black Kettle WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-85. Blue River Hunt Area [AMENDED]

800:25-7-88. Canton WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-89. Canton WRP [AMENDED]

800:25-7-92.1. Cimarron Bluff Wildlife Management Area [AMENDED]

800:25-7-92.2. Cimarron Hills Wildlife Management Area [AMENDED]

800:25-7-95. Ellis County WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-98. Fort Cobb WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-100. Fort Gibson WRP [AMENDED]

800:25-7-102.1. Gist WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-105.5. Hackberry Flat WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-106. Heyburn WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-115. Kaw WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-116. Keystone WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-117. Lexington WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-121. Major County WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-126. Mountain Park WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-128. Okmulgee PHA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-134. Packsaddle WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-136. Pushmataha WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-139.1. Sandhills WMA [NEW]

800:25-7-140. Sand Sanders WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-143. Skiatook WMA [AMENDED]

800:25-7-151. Tishomingo WMU/Cooperative Unit [AMENDED]

800:25-7-154. Waurika WMA [AMENDED]

Part 25. Oklahoma land Access Program

800:25-7-180. General provisions for OLAP walk-in areas [AMENDED]

800:25-7-151. OLAP walk-in hunting areas, seasons, and equipment restrictions [AMENDED]

800:25-7-182. OLAP wildlife-viewing areas, seasons and equipment restrictions [AMENDED]

Subchapter 9. Controlled Hunts

Part 1. Guidelines

800:25-9-7. Schedule of hunts [AMENDED]

Part 3. Antelope

800:25-9-12. General Antelope Regulation [AMENDED]

Subchapter 13. Commercial Hunt Areas

800:25-13-6. Facility requirements [AMENDED]

Subchapter 21. Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Design Competition

800:25-21-1. Purpose [REVOKED]

800:25-21-2. Contest rules for Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Design Competition [REVOKED]

800:25-21-3. Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Design Competition [NEW]

Subchapter 30. Wildlife Depredation on Agricultural Crops

800:25-30-5. DCAP (Damage Control Assistance Permits) [AMENDED]

Subchapter 37. Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators Program

800:25-37-5. Procedures and guidelines [AMENDED]

Subchapter 40. Oklahoma Land Access Program

800:25-40-3. Qualifications and enrollment procedures [AMENDED]

The purpose of the proposed rule amendments are:

Subchapter 1 – This rule will remove outdated regulations that are no longer in effect.

Subchapter 3 – These rules will open additional portions Corps of Engineers lands at Ft. Supply and Eufaula Reservoirs to hunting opportunity.

Subchapter 5 – These rules will update language to reflect the correct name of the regulations book, and revoke rules for the Tishomingo WMA that are out of date, no longer effective, or have been moved Subchapter 7.

Subchapter 7 – These rules will exempt dove hunters from having to wear blaze orange during the restricted times of the year; clear up confusing language about when / where blaze orange clothing is required by rewording to eliminate potential confusion with Wildlife Management Areas; add rules to simplify and update harvest tagging and reporting requirements; update language to reflect the electronic license system by replacing address and license number labeling requirements to customer ID number; eliminate outdated references to check stations; strike unnecessary restrictions on shot size for shooting feral hogs; remove specific listing of counties, season dates and bag limits for wild turkeys to allow these to be set by commission resolution; remove obsolete language about check stations and carcass tags; allow youth deer antlerless gun licenses to be used during the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season; strike “spotted skunk” from bag limits since taking of spotted skunks is prohibited; change the obsolete term “Ranger” to “Warden”; open rail and gallinule season Black Kettle WMA; extend deer gun season to 16 days on Blue River PFHA; open hunting for a number of species during deer muzzleloader season and after the first nine days of deer gun season, on Cimarron Hills and Cimarron Bluff WMA’s; open a rail and gallinule season on Ellis County WMA; change spring and fall turkey bag limits to one tom, and close spring turkey hunting hours at 7:00 pm daily on several WMA’s; remove the nontoxic shot requirement for crow hunting, open deer muzzleloading firearms season, and close pursuit with hounds and predator calling during the first nine days of deer gun season on Ft. Cobb WMA; open predator / furbearer season on Ft Gibson WRP the same as statewide dates except closed October 15-January 31; open common snipe, gallinule, rail, and spring turkey (one tom limit, hunting closes at 7:00 pm daily) seasons the same as statewide dates, and allow trapping (water sets, live box traps, and enclosed trigger traps only) on Gist WMA; open deer gun season (muzzleloading firearms only) for the first nine days, open squirrel season same as statewide dates (except closed first nine days of deer gun season), and close rabbit, crow, dove, common snipe, woodcock, pursuit with hounds, and predator / furbearer calling during the first nine days of deer gun season on Hackberry Flat WMA; open trapping to same as statewide dates on several WMA’s; open all of muzzleloading firearms season on Lexington WMA for antlerless harvest; remove firearm restrictions on Mountain Park WMA; Allow harvest of antlerless deer during muzzleloading firearms season on Okmulgee PHA; establish hunting seasons on Sandhills WMA; Open rail, gallinule, woodcock (except closed first nine days of deer gun season), common snipe (except closed first nine days of deer gun season), and muzzleloading firearms season (except closed to antlerless mule deer harvest) same as statewide season dates on Sandy Sanders WMA; remove bag limit restrictions during deer gun and muzzleloading firearms seasons on Skiatook WMA; require hunters to sign in and out at designated locations and close waterfowl hunting at 1:00 pm daily on Tishomingo WMU/Cooperative Unit; remove firearms restrictions and open deer muzzleloading firearms season same as statewide dates on Waurika WMA; and correct typos, update language, expand access dates and hunting

opportunity, introduce new property types and standardize species regulations for OLAP properties.

Subchapter 9 – These proposed changes will delete outdated reference to a schedule of hunts brochure, and move antelope tagging and reporting requirements to Subchapter 7.

Subchapter 13– This proposed change will change the fencing requirements for Commercial Upland Hunting facilities.

Subchapter 21 – These proposed changes will revoke the Oklahoma Waterfowl Stamp Design Competition section and create new language to move the rules for the competition to procedure manual and website.

Subchapter 30 – These proposed changes add archery as a legal method of take to fill DCAP permits, and replace obsolete wording “Game Division” with “Wildlife Division”.

Subchapter 37 – These proposed changes modify trap restrictions, and trapping location restrictions for Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators.

17. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 30. Department of Wildlife Lands Management

Subchapter 1. Use of Department managed Lands

800:30-1-2. Use restrictions [AMENDED]

800:30-1-4. Camping [AMENDED]

800:30-1-5. Vehicles [AMENDED]

800:30-1-7. Livestock and feral hogs [AMENDED]

800:30-1-18. Nonambulatory and motor vehicle permittee’s [AMENDED]

800:30-1-20. Restricted public use areas [AMENDED]

The purpose of the proposed rule amendments is to update outdated language and references to obsolete booklets; clarify language closing entry to WMA safety zones with any means of take; establish camping rules for Sandhills WMA; establish rules for fires in designated camping areas; clarify the prohibition of ATV’s/UTV’s on WMA roads that are not county roads; close feral hog hunting on Hackberry Flat, Kaw, Sandy Sanders and Waurika WMA’s; remove the current 700cc or smaller restriction for UTV’s used on WMA’s by those with non-ambulatory permits; allow hunter and angler camping on Ellis County WMA, and remove Sandy Sanders WMA from restricted public use areas.

18. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
19. Announce the date for the next regular Commission Meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
20. Adjourn

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

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

Personnel Actions
February 2021

New Hires

Graham Montague – Fish Biologist at OFRL, 02/01/2021

Dwain Workman – Wildlife Technician at Arbuckle Springs WMA, 02/01/2021

Promotions

Transfers

Resignations/Terminations

Retirements

MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on February 1, 2021 of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 1, 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 January 25, 2021 at 11:50 a.m.

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at 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

ABESENT: ROBERT S. HUGHES II, Vice-Chairman
 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member
 C. RICK HOLDER, Member

Agenda Note: The presentations on #10 and #12 on the agenda were interrupted mid-presentation to skip to action items and then returned to the presentation. To eliminate confusion, the presentations within these minutes will remain intact. Also, #13 on the agenda was skipped entirely and will be added to the March agenda.

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Laura McIver, Quail Forever; Rick Grundman, Executive Director of OWCF; Suzie Brewster; and Scott Alls, Oklahoma State Director of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services.

Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Mr. Barwick to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2021 regular Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Dillingham and Mabrey 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. He noted within the report that due to recovery, the Least Tern has been removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Species. This report was sent to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Director 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 announced that Rack Madness would be a virtual event this year.

On February 22 – 26, 2021, there will be live streaming presentations on various Rack Madness topics on social media. The weeklong series of live feeds will focus on topics such as how to score typical and non-typical racks, and discussions about the most recent deer seasons. The topics will also be recorded and be available on the Outdoor Oklahoma YouTube channel.

During the Director's Report, Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation gave an update to the Commission. He stated that the Foundation is a 501C3 and supports the efforts of the Department and its mission. In the past several months he has been focused on spreading awareness of the Foundation and increasing donor contacts. Mr. Grundman announced the first social fundraising event would be held in conjunction with the Wildlife Expo in September 2021. Commissioner Dillingham asked about the fundraising event that had been planned in honor of Mr. Groendyke? Mr. Grundman stated that due to Covid it had been postponed, but that he would be speaking with Mr. Groendyke soon and can hopefully get it back on the calendar. Commissioner Mabrey requested that a link to the Foundation website be available on the ODWC website for easy access. Commissioner Dillingham suggested that a list of WMA priorities should be on the website to help engage the constituents who use that area. One suggestion made by Mr. Dillingham was to have a WMA Volunteer Day for clean-up, manpower help or any engagement activity to get people involved.

Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison, took the Commission through the slate of wildlife bills submitted for the 2021 Legislative Session. She noted that these bills are available to view on the ODWC website under Legislative Tracker.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statement for December 31, 2020. Motion was made by Mr. Dillingham, seconded by Ms. Gaddis to accept the statement as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Dillingham and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Barry Bolton, Chief of Fisheries introduced Jason Schooley, Senior Biologist who gave a presentation on Oklahoma's native non-game fish species and potential effects of bowfishing on those populations. Mr. Schooley recently published research on the topic, which is very scarce nationally. He said these native fish do not compete with game fish, and some of these species can live very long lives (alligator gars, 98 years; bigmouth buffalo, 106 years) in the wild. He said the females of these species are the oldest and largest, and they have the greatest effect on sustainable populations. However, the older and larger nongame fish are often the preferred targets for bowfishers. Commissioner Barwick asked why the scrutiny now? Mr. Schooley stated that when he went to a recent bowfishing tournament to collect data, upon further research he realized there is no data on these species and the effects of fishing on their survival. Steps need to be taken to manage and conserve these non-game species.

Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Information and Education requested Commission approval on a \$3,270 donation from OnX Maps as a result of a collaborative marketing effort. Through the project, the Wildlife Department was able to offer hunters an exclusive promotional code to save on select OnX mapping products designed to aid Oklahoma hunters with land navigation. Onx, a popular company among hunters, made the donation to Oklahoma conservation upon completion of the promotional effort. Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Brewster to approve the donation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis Dillingham and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Nels Rodefeld introduced Michael Bergin, Information and Education Senior Specialist who gave a presentation on the ODWC's thriving marketing efforts including a review of recent and upcoming projects. He outlined how partnerships, donors, targeted email/text campaigns and digital ads have encouraged participation in the outdoors for ODWC's mission to manage and conserve the fish and wildlife of the state, along with their habitats. Mr. Bergin said ODWC marketing efforts stem from the agency's focus on addressing all aspects of hunter and angler

recruitment, retention and reactivation, based on the idea that existing hunters can be primary recruiters of new sportsmen.

Number 13 on the agenda was postponed until the March Commission meeting.

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, requested Commission approval on a solicitation to lease ODWC owned mineral interests on four parcels in Section 7-04-22E in Beaver County. It comprised of 7.67 acres with the price per acre ranging from \$50.53 to \$57.39. Total revenue will be \$416.00. Mr. Dinkines reminded the Commission that solicitation of ODWC mineral interests are managed by the Commissioners of the Land Office on behalf of ODWC. Motion was made by Mr. Brewster, second by Mr. Barwick to accept the proposal as submitted. Motion carried with Brewster, Barwick, Gaddis, Dillingham and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Bill Dinkines introduced Scott Alls, state director of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, who updated the Commission on efforts to control feral hogs. Mr. Alls said lethal baits will be tested this spring in other states, using bait boxes that can be opened remotely when swine are present. Pending successful testing, Mr. Alls said he expects that control method will be approved for widespread use. He also stated that Wildlife Services has three helicopters and will be getting a fourth next month for aerial eradication and they have 60 remote traps statewide.

Chairman Mabrey announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled on Monday, March 1, 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce R. Mabrey, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Leigh A. Gaddis, SECRETARY

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

For the period July 1, 2020 Through January 31, 2021

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
January 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Types	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Trust	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	01/31/2021 Totals	01/31/2020 Totals
Assets and Other Debits:							
Cash	15,607,112		3,715,778			19,322,890	17,352,955
Investments	0		260,427,450			260,427,450	231,538,859
Accounts Receivable	2,421,496					2,421,496	2,767,494
Monthly Lifetime License			349,650			349,650	216,025
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	4,387,811		7,000			4,394,811.00	3,602,609.00
Fixed Assets				70,003,149		70,003,149	69,418,993
Land				95,408,697		95,408,697	90,937,707
Other Debits:							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,351,600	3,351,600	3,231,885
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
	22,416,419	0	264,499,878	165,411,846	19,907,143	472,235,286	426,980,161
Liabilities and Fund Balance:							
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	42,430					42,430	782,393
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	349,650					349,650	216,025
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,351,600	3,351,600	3,231,885
Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
Total Liabilities	392,080	0	0	0	19,907,143	20,299,223	15,739,546
Fund Balance:							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			133,153,936			133,153,936	122,814,976
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			4,858,503			4,858,503	3,523,646
Investment in General Fixed Assets				165,411,846		165,411,846	160,356,700
Fund Balance	22,024,339		126,487,439			148,511,778	124,545,293
Total Fund Balance	22,024,339	0	264,499,878	165,411,846	0	451,936,063	411,240,615
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	22,416,419	0	264,499,878	165,411,846	19,907,143	472,235,286	426,980,161

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
January 31, 2021

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	01/31/2021 Totals	01/31/2020 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	359,310	3,356,468			3,715,778	3,413,105
Investments	30,858,446	91,556,565	133,153,936	4,858,503	260,427,450	235,062,505
Due From Other Funds		349,650			349,650	216,025
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	31,217,756	95,269,683	133,153,936	4,858,503	264,499,878	238,698,635
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			133,153,936	4,858,503	138,012,439	126,338,622
Fund Balance	31,217,756	95,269,683			126,487,439	112,360,013
Total Fund Balance	31,217,756	95,269,683	133,153,936	4,858,503	264,499,878	238,698,635

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 January 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	01/31/2021	01/31/2020	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust	Totals	Totals	
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	13,461,587			13,461,587	10,758,265	25.13%
Other Wildlife Sales	1,861,937			1,861,937	1,909,339	-2.48%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	433,835			433,835	563,824	-23.05%
Grant Revenue	14,080,694			14,080,694	16,581,081	-15.08%
Investment Income	172,223		39,714	211,937	287,635	-26.32%
Miscellaneous	2,282,889			2,282,889	598,081	281.70%
Total Revenues	32,293,165	0	39,714	32,332,879	30,698,225	5.32%
Expenditures:						
Administration	4,001,423			4,001,423	4,243,437	-5.70%
Wildlife	8,052,607			8,052,607	7,706,460	4.49%
Fish	5,837,770			5,837,770	6,025,030	-3.11%
Law Enforcement	6,750,384			6,750,384	7,424,889	-9.08%
Information and Education	1,693,031			1,693,031	1,867,487	-9.34%
Capital Improvements	5,256,408			5,256,408	7,864,962	-33.17%
Land Acquisitions		-		-	1,065,241	-100.00%
Total Expenditures	31,591,623	0		31,591,623	36,197,506	-12.72%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	701,542	0	39,714	741,256	(5,499,281)	-113.48%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	2,178,565			2,178,565	281,955	672.66%
Operating Transfers In	146,920	0	15,015,992	15,162,912	11,365,339	33.41%
Operating Transfers Out	0		(146,920)	(146,920)	(5,703,471)	-97.42%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	2,325,485	0	14,869,072	17,194,557	5,943,823	189.28%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	3,027,027	0	14,908,786	17,935,813	444,542	3,934.67%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,997,312	0	16,308,970	35,306,282	35,919,682	-1.71%
Fund Balances January 31, 2021:	22,024,339	0	31,217,756	53,242,095	36,364,224	46.41%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2020 Through January 31, 2021

	Fiduciary Fund Types			01/31/2021 Totals	01/31/2020 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,207,700			2,207,700	1,568,550
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	111,210			111,210	80,635
Interest and Investment Income	0	16,072,789	764,752	16,837,541	7,406,582
Employer Contributions		3,327,866	271,921	3,599,787	2,522,069
Employee Contributions		328,855	195,208	524,063	517,970
Total Operating Revenues	2,318,910	19,729,510	1,231,881	23,280,301	12,095,806
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		200,718	2,718	203,436	216,363
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	4,846,838	73,469	4,920,307	4,638,288
Total Operating Expenses	0	5,047,556	76,187	5,123,743	4,854,651
Operating Income	2,318,910	14,681,954	1,155,694	18,156,558	7,241,155
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	2,318,910	14,681,954	1,155,694	18,156,558	7,241,155
Fund Balances, Beginning	92,950,773	118,471,982	3,702,809	215,125,564	210,874,145
Fund Balances, January 31, 2021	95,269,683	133,153,936	4,858,503	233,282,122	218,115,300



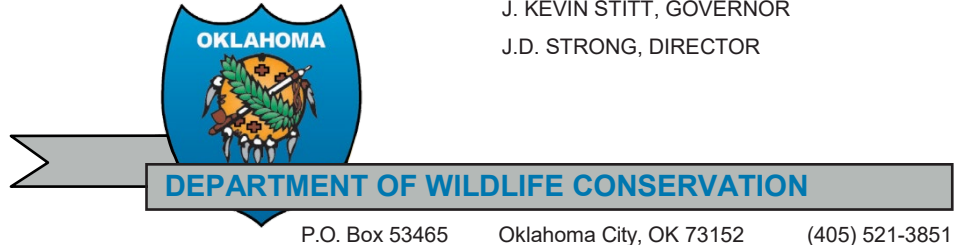
Wildlife Contributions Report

January 2021

Order ID	Order Date	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
20241344	1/7/2021 3:35 PM	\$100.00	Ken and Cindy Bissett	In Memory of Mark Lee
20241341	1/7/2021 3:33 PM	\$100.00	Saied Family Foundation	Donation give by Tucker Koch
20237604	1/5/2021 11:33 AM	\$5.00	Michael Arbuckle	General Contribution
	Total	\$205.00		

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



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report on January and February Federal and Congressional Issues for March Commission Meeting

Impeachment:

During the last week of January, Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) forced a vote on whether the impeachment trial was constitutional. All but 5 of the Republicans in the House voted that the trial is unconstitutional. This gave a first glance at how the impeachment vote might shape up.

On February 8, 2021, the second impeachment trial for President Trump began. The trial only lasted 7 days and, in the end, President Trump was acquitted on a vote of 57-43 as it fell short of the two-thirds vote needed to impeach. Seven Republican's voted with the Senate Democrats to impeach President Trump.

State of Play:

President –

- > President Joe Biden suggested soon after being sworn in as President that he was prepared to give Republicans a "couple weeks" to reach a bipartisan deal on a coronavirus aid package before triggering the budget reconciliation process to skirt GOP opposition. As the first week went on, Democrats began to lose patience with the minority party members and said they may move on a COVID package without bipartisan support if they did not come around soon.

Congress –

> Appropriations & COVID-19 Stimulus –

- o A group of Republican Senators released a COVID relief package totaling \$618 billion in aid. After this, the President hosted the Senators at the White House to discuss the packages. A deal was not made, and the House and Senate began preparations to move forward with budget reconciliation, a mechanism that set up a vote-a-rama on amendments in the Senate but only requires a majority vote to ultimately pass a bill instead of needing a 60-vote threshold to pass a measure. The Senate held a 15-hour vote-a-rama with hundreds of amendments. The ordeal ended with VP Harris casting her first tie-breaker vote to pass the budget reconciliation resolution setting up the President's COVID package.
- o During the second week of February, the House passed a budget reconciliation resolution carving a path forward on a COVID relief package that would not require a supermajority. Following this vote, committees began considering pieces of the COVID package and a full bill is expected soon.
- > There were quite a few fireworks on the House side recently with the GOP and two members, Liz Cheney (R-WY) who voted to impeach President Trump and Marjorie Greene (R-AL) who has embraced QAnon and several conspiracy theories on things such as 9/11 and school shootings being a hoax. The Republican Caucus held an hours long meeting where both members' fate within the party were discussed. Ultimately, Rep. Cheney was allowed to keep her leadership position and Rep. Greene apologized to the caucus and was not stripped of her committee positions by her Republican colleagues. However, the Democrat Majority in the House moved forward with a resolution, since the Republicans opted to not take away Rep. Greene's committee memberships, that they would effectively remove her from the committees. The measure passed.

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.

Agencies –

- > U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)
 - The Interior Department is delaying the effective date of a Trump final rule that made changes to the scope of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in order to determine next steps. The Trump administration had published the final rule in its final days to exclude incidental take of migratory birds under the bedrock environmental law. The effective date had been Feb. 8, but the Fish and Wildlife Service will initiate a 20-day public comment period to allow for more engagement on the rule. The rule's new effective date is March 8, 2021. New Administrations often do this with rules that were pushed through at the last minute. They will continue to consider comments during this delay and I believe they can delay a rule up to 6 months if they so choose.

Coming up...

- **Stimulus package**
- **FY 22 budget from the President**
- **FY 22 appropriations process to begin**