

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

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, April 1st, 2024, 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 – Chairwoman Gaddis
2. Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation – Bill Dinkines
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Bill Dinkines
5. Introduction of Guests
  
6. Recognition of James Allen for completing the Oklahoma Slam. The Oklahoma Slam honors those hunters who have harvested each of the big game animals in the state (whitetail deer, mule deer, black bear, elk, and antelope). – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education Division.
  
7. Update and Presentation on the Department's Boating and Fishing Access Program – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division and Nathan Copeland, Boating Access Coordinator.
  
8. Discussion and possible action to approve, disapprove, or modify a resolution consenting to T. McDonald's assignment of the boat dock fabrication and installation project to Marine Development, Inc. – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division and Niki Batt, Deputy Attorney General, Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General
  
9. Presentation of February 29th, 2024, Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Lindsey Presley, Accounting Supervisor, Comptroller.
  
10. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a FY24 budget revision – Lindsey Presley

11. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the March 4th, 2024, regular Commission meeting.
12. Director's Report
  - 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.
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 May 6th, 2024, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
15. Adjourn

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# April 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## CALENDAR ITEMS:

April 1 Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation meeting @ 2:00 p.m.  
April 2&3 OKSSSP Regionals @ OTSA, El Reno  
April 17 OKSSSP State @ OTSA, El Reno  
April 23 Legislative Fish Fry @ 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## AGENCY UPDATE

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Accounting

##### Accounts Payable:

# of Claims Audited and Paid 278  
Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid \$2,183,892.57

##### Purchase Card Program:

Total # Agency Cardholders 193  
Total # Agency Approvers (no cards) 13  
Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits \$445,500.00  
Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests \$495,500.00  
# of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved 27  
# of P/Card Transactions Processed 716  
# of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions 225  
OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions 2  
Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases \$198,633.58  
PCard Program Refresher Training 0  
New Approver Training at OMES 0  
New Cardholder Training at OMES 3

##### Risk Management:

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed 4  
New Cases Reported 1

##### Purchasing:

# of Purchase Orders/CO issued 29  
IT Acquisitions Processed 9

### Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$1,459,148.54
- Program Income: \$10,211.90
- In-Kind Contributions: \$9,425.00

- New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 7
- Grant Reports Submitted: 1
- Fisheries and Wildlife division Pcard charges sorted into 344 unique combinations of Fund / Division / Grant number / Project number / Product Code / Area / Object Code for claim jacket preparation.
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 18
- Key Meetings / Milestones: Met with SWAU regarding next steps on an alligator research grant. Met with City of Altus to kick off EA for Bitter Creek Shooting Range Complex. Attended webinar for the 2024 America the Beautiful Challenge grants application period. Annual performance reviews completed. Census R&D survey completed. Semi-annual internal audit of financial system-generated rate data completed. Grants Specialist attended Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow training in Shepherdstown, WV. FAC attended Next Level Supervisors meeting.
- Noteworthy: Majority of the month was again spent coordinating and testing for the PeopleSoft implementation.

## **Human Resources**

Open Full-time Positions - 38

Positions Interviewed - 4

Candidates interviewed - 16

Positions Announced - 4

Candidates Screened - 62

Filled Positions - 8 (1 promotion, 7 hires)

See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.

Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), - 5

Full time employees on March payroll - 334

DB Plan Members - 148

DC Plan Members - 184

Hourly employees on supplemental payroll - 31

Retirement meetings and / or calculations - 3

Work Comp Injuries - 0

Other misc.:

- Assisted with Hospitality for Employees at Rack Madness
- New Employee Orientation for 5 new Game Wardens and 2 other new hires
- Planned and facilitated 2 Mandatory Supervisor Trainings
- Follow-up on completion of 2023 Performance Reviews for all full-time employees
- Assisted Accounting with development of video training for new procedures for PCard reporting.
- Approved Final Project Proposals for LDP 2 Class of 2025; continued planning for next workshop scheduled in April.
- Begin Budget Payroll process for FY25.
- Assisted with updates to HR procedures manual.

## **Personnel Actions**

### **New Hires**

Maddie Ingram - License Assistant, Central Office, 3/4/24

Lydia Gearhart – Game Warden, Coal County, 3/4/24  
Tristian Leonard – Game Warden, Woods County, 3/4/24  
Dartanion Tilley – Game Warden, Nowata County, 3/4/24  
Andrew Vaughan – Game Warden, Dewey County, 3/4/24  
Wyatt Slade – Wildlife Technician, McCurtain County Wilderness Area, 3/4/24  
Michael McLaughlin – Wildlife Biologist, Keystone/Skiatook/Candy Creek, 3/18/24

### **Promotions**

Tracer Wagner – Wildlife Technician to Game Warden, Texas County, 3/4/24

### **Transfers**

### **Resignations/Terminations**

Jamie Green – HR Management Specialist, Central Office, 3/7/24  
Anthony Rodger – Fisheries Senior Biologist, Porter Office, 3/8/24  
Catherine Appling-Pooler – Legislative Liaison, 3/15/24  
Kyle Troxell – Fisheries Technician, Blue River PFHA, 3/15/24  
Billy Bob Walker – Game Warden Supervisor, District 4, 3/29/24

### **Retirements**

Charles Cowell – Data Analyst/Programmer, Central Office, 3/31/24  
Brek Henry – Game Warden, Sequoyah County, 3/31/24  
Rhonda Hurst – Executive Assistant, Central Office, 3/31/24

### **IT**

- Charles Cowell will retire at the end of the month with over 35 years of service to the department.
- Preparing new hire requirements to hire someone to fill the FTE once Charles Cowell leaves.
- Finishing efforts to make the Peoplesoft to Workday transition as easy as possible.
- The new laptop batch has been delivered and we are preparing for deployment.
- Assisting wildlife in vetting and hiring a new GIS Admin.
- Assisted with training and onboarding our 5 new game wardens

### **License**

- Processed over 740 orders, including 691 licenses/permits and 489 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$53,590 in revenue.
- Shipped 143 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$1,600 in revenue.
- Processed over \$1.1 million in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1,430 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

### **February License Review**

Recreational Licenses were up 11% for the month compared to February 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Hunting	-3% (528)
Resident Fishing	+14% (10,794)
Resident Combo	+5% (1,314)
Resident Youth Hunting	-40% (25)
Resident Youth Fishing	+25% (481)
Paddlefish	+4% (8,158)

Lifetime License sales up 5% or the month compared to February 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	+18% (170)
60-100% Disabled Vet Combo	+25% (101)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+5% (356)

Mid-March License Review (Sales through Mar. 17)

Recreational Licenses are up 7% for the first 17 days of the month compared to March 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Fishing	+8% (13,466)
Resident Combo	+6% (1,121)
Resident Youth Fishing	+14% (799)
Paddlefish	-4% (9,794)
Lake Texoma	-9% (2,351)
Nonresident 1-Day Fishing	+24% (3,348)
Nonresident Fishing	+27% (4,103)

Lifetime Licenses were down 9% for the first 17 days of the month compared to March 2023 (85 less lifetimes sold).

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-13% (101)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-9% (261)
Senior Citizen Combo	-4% (350)

## Property

- Preparation for some additional auction items in April through PurpleWave.
- Received three new trucks for fish division, started preparation to deploy vehicles.

- Godfrey’s portal orders received at headquarters. Also additional progress on new items is being added to the portal.
- Collected annual inventories from divisions. Process transfers, deletions and corrections before final cutoff of BTG inventory system.
- Issued out trucks and radios to new Game Warden hires.
- OKC Warehouse clean up completed.

## FISHERIES DIVISION

### February Highlights

<b>Statewide Fish Stocking, February 2024</b>			
<b>Species</b>	<b># Fish</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b># Locations</b>
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	12,296	10+”	2
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	11,791	9+”	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,087</b>		

### Meetings

- Staff attended the Mid-Continent in Warm Springs Arkansas, this meeting continues to be highly useful for staff development, networking opportunities, and even inspiration.
- Staff attended the aquatic connectivity team organizational meeting.
- Gave a presentation to NSU fish and wildlife club, attended 3 professional meetings, and a trout club meeting on LMFR.
- Staff participated in meetings with COE, USFWS, Arkansas Game and Fish, ODEQ, and other agencies to discuss the upcoming McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System 12-Foot Deepening project in Oklahoma and Arkansas.
- Staff gave a presentation to anglers on “Where to Fish” for the Crappie 101 workshop hosted by ODWC and the Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers LLC (OHA) at the Arcadia Conservation and Education Training Center. Personnel attended public a meeting with the City of Tulsa to learn more about the City’s plan for water quality testing in the Arkansas River after the renovation of Zink Dam and deepening of Zink Lake and the plan to educate the public before the public using the newly constructed recreational facilities.
- Staff attended southern aquaculture workshop in Louisiana

### Activities

- An on-site meeting with Garver and geotechnical engineers was attended at Lake Watonga. No additional geotechnical work was recommended. Garver continues to work on final plans.
- A meeting with the Friends of Roman Nose was attended to discuss trail maintenance and improving access due to safety concerns at Lake Watonga. A MOU with the Friends of Roman Nose was executed to allow trail maintenance and improve access to the east side of the property.

- Staff assisted with the renovation at Jap Beaver. Silt was removed from the lakebed and jetties were built. Contractors poured piers for new spillway structure.
- Sank 250 cedars at Elmer Thomas.
- Repaired boat ramp at lake hall.
- Annual Lake Texoma gillnetting was completed marking 31 consecutive years of sampling. Samples were processed and otoliths pulled for age and growth analysis. Results are pending but preliminary expectations are "near average". Buffalo species were retained and provided to the non-game staff for aging purposes.
- Completed 8 net-nights of large mesh gillnetting on Lake Texoma to assess blue catfish population. Otoliths were removed for subsequent age and growth analysis. Additionally, striped bass bi-catch were utilized to better understand growth patterns of larger fish than traditionally caught in normal SSP collections.
- Blue River staff continued area sign replacement, road work, equipment procurement, and trout stocking. The 2023-2024 trout season has been great. Constituent use and satisfaction has been high all season. Area improvements (roads, culverts, campsites, signage) have been noticed and expressed by constituents to BR staff!
- Staff continued research on alternative rainbow trout tagging measures, Goldeye age and growth, catfish spawning habitat enhancement effects on recruitment in reservoirs, and Arkansas River Striped Bass natal origins. Staff submitted one publication on Alligator gar thermal tolerance and range forecasting and finalized one publication on commercial fishing and native non-game fishes in Lake Erie in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.
- Staff assisted with controlled burns on the Lexington WMA and continued maintaining Central Office aquaria. Staff attended OKRMT training. Staff conducted an assessment of remaining population size of put-and-take winter rainbow trout fisheries to understand use and continued creel surveys at OKC-metro close to home fisheries.
- Staff finished procurement of materials from donated funds to build fish cubes at Eufaula Lake. A total of 119 cubes were built (in one day) to be placed in Eufaula Lake with volunteer assistance. Staff began deploying cubes in Eufaula lake. Along with Eufaula Lake, staff deployed 4 fish cubes and 12 spider blocks at Holdenville Lake, and 2 fish cubes at Okmulgee Lake.
- Fisheries staff attended and assisted with the annual trout fishing tournament at Perry CCC Lake hosted by the Perry Chamber of Commerce.
- Regional staff began the process of filling the Skiatook Nursery Pond for the upcoming production season.
- Staff presented at SDAFS and attended technical committee meetings.
- Planning is taking place for the upcoming joint meeting of OCLWA and OKAFS, including a workshop on the Aging of Long-Lived Fishes.
- Staff assisted with the state archery shoot in Tulsa.
- Staff assisted Fort Gibson WMA personnel with a controlled burn.
- Continued work on site selection for Cimarron River and the Muddy Boggy.
- Worked on updating the Historical Database with entries from the Poteau River drainage.



- conducted night electrofishing for sauger and collected well over 100 the first night. Approximately 125 were selected for broodstock were taken to Byron Fish Hatchery.
- Assisted SCR with striped bass sampling, Durant Hatchery with reservoir repairs, SW Region with Jap Beaver Renovation, Wister WMA with controlled burn, and Central Region with Eufaula habitat project.
- Built cubes for Tenkiller lake and conducted angler creels on Fort Gibson
- Monitored water quality and stocked trout at Robbers Cave and LMFR
- Created Grand Lake angler creel survey using Survey123, selected sample sites and days, and prepared maps for each creel sample site. The creel will begin in March 2024.
- Lots of repairs and upgrades going on in hatcheries installed new water line to the residence, installed heater into pump building, rotovate and shape ponds, hatching battery reservoir construction, PM on an equipment Skid steer, tractors, mowers, weed eaters, removal of pipe from small reservoir, repair split airline next to blower building, core samples of Phase 0 ponds, and ordered al replacement parts.

## **C&E DIVISION**

- The annual Rack Madness event was a big success including 158 participants from across the state in attendance with 191 racks scored (180 deer, 8 elk, and 3 mule deer), including 58 animals that qualified for the Cy Curtis Program
- Staff conducted four OKNASP and Varsity Archery State Shoots. 67 teams shot high enough scores to qualify for the National Archery in Schools Program National Shoot. 4,055 students participated in this year's shoots.
- Amanda Thomas coordinated several virtual meetings with Garver Engineering, other agency personnel and agency partners reviewing progress being made on the environmental assessments, engineering and construction phase for shooting ranges across the state. Included were Optima, Canton, Ft. Supply, Ft. Gibson, Atoka and Altus projects. The bid was awarded and pre-construction meeting was held for the Atoka range.
- The most recent donation from OnX of \$2363 brings their total donation nearly \$13,000 through our partnership. This donation resulted from the annual marketing partnership between OnX and the ODWC.
- Amanda Thomas and Lance Meek conducted an annual site visit at OPSU to inspect the range and review activities. While at the range they installed new signs at the entrance to the range. ODOT has also installed the direction signs to the range off of the highway.
- Damon Springer and Jason Smith sent out registration information to all of our OKSSSP coaches regarding the April 2 & 3 Regional shoots that will be held at the Oklahoma Trap Association (OTA). Over 100 schools have registered for the shoots. The state shoot will be held April 17<sup>th</sup> again at the OTA located SE of El Reno.
- The annual Game Harvest Survey is now completed and data is currently being analyzed.
- Heather Gaylord produced and emailed out several fishing blog posts about white bass, largemouth bass, the Dock and dates to get on your calendar to take advantage of the many fishing opportunities across Oklahoma. She also worked on getting all equipment ready for use and distribution to agency staff or other groups that will be

conducting fishing clinics in the coming months. Heather also coordinated with the OHA association a Crappie fishing 101 workshop, over 60 participants attended this first of many future in person 101 adult oriented how to courses that will be taking place in the coming months/years.

- Colin Berg, Lance Meek and Damon Springer met with Marshall Reigh and Brian Moorehead regarding the successful events that have taken place at the Autry Technology Center in Enid. More than 1,300 kids and adults have participated in intro to archery, deer processing and cleaning, deer hunting 101 course at the Autry Technology Center since they launched their Outdoor Education program initiative. A plan to bring up to three additional technology centers on board including at least one technology center staff member and one ODWC staff member to grow and expand into other centers across the state. The Technology centers offer a perfect spot for ODWC to engage face to face with adults who are interested but not active hunters and anglers.
- Shawn Gee is working with the Jenks Community Education program on development and offering adult focused Intro to Archery and Intro to Bow Hunting courses via the Jenks Schools Community Education Programming. These will be in person paid courses targeting again interested adults who have never hunted or who are wanting to learn and try the next method of hunting.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

- All staff have been busy completing annual performance evaluations and annual inventory inspections.
- GIS section participated in GIS Day at the Capitol on March 6.
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Continue preparing for upcoming grazing leases, preparing water wells and associated infrastructure.
- Several ag and grazing leases were bid out, and payments were monitored.
- 59 miles of firebreaks were worked and over 30,000 acres were treated with prescribed fire.
- Controlled hunts were coordinated for the division and all biologists worked on 2024 entries, including private lands youth hunts.
- Forb plots are being disced and warm season food plots are being prepared. The spring planting season is just getting underway.
- 110 acres of woody vegetation mulching / cedar clearing were completed.
- 3500 tons of gravel were spread on area roads and parking areas, and boat ramps.
- All WMA shooting ranges were maintained.
- Met with Camp Gruber to discuss annual MOU.
- Met with Corps of Engineers to discuss channel dredging on Arkansas and Verdigris rivers.
- Cleared for 1.5 miles of new fence construction, and marked 3.5 miles of WMA boundary.
- Met with OSU staff to discuss future bear research.
- NW and SW region crews came together to protect ODWC structures / infrastructure on Ellis County and Packsaddle WMA's from the threat of wildfires, which fortunately just missed the WMA's.

- Work continues getting all the timber company leases extended for an additional year for the Three Rivers/Honobia Creek WMA.
- Staff are working on a meeting with partners (DEQ, OWRB, Dept of Corrections) to discuss concerns about historically low water levels at Bluestem Lake on Atoka WMA.
- Local staff assisted C&E with a beginning squirrel hunter course at Lexington WMA. Turnout was lower (15) than expected due to cold and windy weather conditions.
- Begin prepping areas for upcoming spring turkey season.
- Numerous staff assisted with Rack Madness, presented seminars, scored racks, and handled other duties / issues during the course of the event.
- 167 additional deer heads were scored at various other venues/events across the state.
- Programs on Prescribed Fire and Upland Habitat Management were presented to NSU students.
- The City of Stillwater “Cops and Bobbers” Fishing Clinic (assisted by numerous ODWC staff) will be held at Boomer Lake on May 11.
- Statewide winter turkey flock surveys were conducted and final results are being calculated.
- Diversity staff are working through the considerable load of grant administration, reporting, monitoring, and compliance associated paperwork duties common to this time of year.
- Numerous landowner technical assistance requests are being accommodated, and WHIP applications / projects are being evaluated.
- Continue to work on filling vacant positions across the state. The McCurtain County Wilderness Area technician, Red Slough/Grassy Slough technician, the Keystone/Skiatook/Heyburn/Candy biologist, and OLAP biologist positions were recently filled. Interviews have been completed for administrative assistant and OLAP technician positions, and interviews are scheduled or being scheduled for the Hugo/Pine Creek technician, and GIS data analyst / programmer positions.
- Quail wings collected from WMAs were examined and the data catalogued, followed by meetings with OSU to share the data and discuss incorporating the roadside survey data into the population model being developed in the current research project.
- Upland Game biologist assisted with a Quail Forever “On the Wing” podcast, talking about prescribed fire and wildfire.
- Deer Herd Health Evaluation (NW Oklahoma) project work has wrapped up for the year. Overall the effort was successful, with 67 deer being sampled in areas of relatively low deer densities. Results will be shared when data analysis is complete.
- Big Game Report data will be processed over the next several weeks to obtain overall harvest reports from the ‘23-24 big game seasons.
- Staff representatives attended the Central Flyway technical committee and Council meetings to discuss and plan for migratory bird management and research across the flyway for the coming year.
- 3 ODWC staff participated in the annual Central Flyway “Wing Bee” event. Migratory bird experts from across the flyway gather to review and report on bird part collections. Hunter submitted bird wings and tail fans were evaluated as to species, sex, and (for some species) relative age. This data is important to gather species harvest metrics to assist in harvest management.

- Cackling goose capture to participate in a distribution and range study was attempted. Warmer weather hindered bird capture in Oklahoma. Efforts should be repeated in 2025. Results will provide some insight into the movements and habitat choices of these birds.
- The March roadside fur bearer survey just wrapped up. This effort asks Dept employees to log fur bearing animals they encounter during their daily travels. This survey provides trend data points by species and helps evaluate these species relative abundance and presence across different habitat types and eco regions. Results will be shared when data analysis is complete.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

- D1 West Wardens worked in conjunction with D8 Wardens on a special emphasis in the Airboat on Paddlefish snaggers on the Arkansas River this past weekend and had 45 contacts, 2 temps, two 800 violations, one warning.
- Warden Larry Green and Spencer Grace were able to respond and safely recover two fisherman that had been trapped by rising waters below the Kaw Dam this past weekend. The responded in 17 minutes and were the first units able to safely make the recovery.
- D1 Wardens continued to prep, schedule, attend meetings, and prep equipment for the BASS Classic held at Grove and the BOK Center in Tulsa this coming weekend.
- Several Wardens attended the WIT team training that dealt with data from vehicles, specialized assignments on different genres ie Herps, etc.

### **Dist. 2**

- This month was slow on enforcement-related activity, but District 2 wardens spent considerable time with public outreach events including Archery in the Schools event in Tulsa, Backwoods show in OKC, Rackmadness event at HQ, Fishing Derby in Broken Arrow, Judges at the annual Science Fair in Muskogee. Also spent time meeting our mandatory CLEET training and firearms qualifications.

### **Dist. 3**

- Wardens Matt Penwright and Zach Hanson initially investigated a report of a large number of deer carcasses illegally dumped on some property in northwestern Pittsburg County. Matt and Zach responded to the report and counted more than 100 deer carcasses allegedly dumped by a local deer processing operation. DEQ was notified about the dump site and has taken over the case.
- D3 Wardens both uniformed and non-uniformed conducted a special emphasis on the Lower Mountain Fork River Trout Stream in McCurtain County in an effort to curtail reports of fishing guides who frequent stream intimidating/harassing people fishing without the services of a guide. Although no guides were observed harassing other people fishing, the Wardens did issue three citations for barbed hooks, one citation for no name of stringer, and one fishing w/o license violation.
- Lt. Dru Polk along with Wardens Terry Springwater and Clayton Kannady assisted the OHP and the McCurtain Co. S.O. with and injury accident involving UTV's illegally operating on the Ouachita WMA. One individual was seriously injured when the UTV he was operating overturned and caught fire. The man

was pulled from underneath the burning vehicle by other UTV operators on the scene. The injured person was life flighted to a hospital. After helping to secure, stabilize and obtain medical assistance for the injured rider at the crash sight the Wardens issued 10 citations others who were illegally using UTV's on the area.

#### **Dist. 4**

- District Four Game Wardens have been busy serving the public through outreach events, checking fishermen, working predator hunts, assisting other divisions, following up on deer investigations and completing annual training. Thirty-seven public outreach events were completed, including Rack Madness, the Backwoods Show, and the OKNASP in Tulsa.
- Game Warden Trae Taylor graduated from the CLEET Academy and is now fulfilling his role as Game Warden in Hughes County. Warden Dale Stites assisted CLEET with LEDT training and Wardens Garret Harley, Bailey Johnson, and Clayton Johnson participated in bobcat/otter tagging events and Coffee with a Game Warden in Seminole and Creek counties. Wardens Garret Harley, Trae Taylor, and Clayton Johnson also worked an annual predator hunt in Seminole Co.
- Game Wardens Trey Hale, Zane Arnold, and Garrett Beam assisted fisheries division with gill net surveys on Lake Texoma. For three days, they pulled nets and collected data from Striper and Blue Catfish. In addition, Warden Trey Hale completed three days of Wildlife Investigator Training (WIT) in Oklahoma City.
- Game Wardens Trey Hale, Garret Beam, and Zane Arnold worked an investigation in Marshall County involving the illegal killing of a Red Stag. After receiving a call from a commercial hunting area, Warden Hale was made aware of the kill and the possibility of it being shot from a county road. After an extensive investigation and multiple interviews were conducted, a search warrant for a subject's cell phone was obtained. The end result was a full confession from the subject. The evidence along with the confession, showed that the Red Stag had been spotlighted and shot within the commercial hunt facility. Upon final review by the Marshall County District Attorney's Office, the subject is facing charges of headlighting, shooting into a commercial hunt area facility, and required to pay restitution to the owner of the Red Stag.

#### **Dist. 5**

- Wardens France, Buley & Mesis worked the 2-day Organization of Rural Elementary Schools (ORES) State Archery Shoot north of Shawnee.
- Wardens France, Buley, Harriet & Mesis worked the 280 Ranch Squirrel Hunt in Lincoln Co.
- Capt. Emmons and Warden Branch attended Cecil Burch's Immediate Action Combatives training which integrates ground fighting, standup grappling/clinch work with strikes in a weapons-based environment. We learned a lot of good stuff we will implement in our DT training.
- Warden Gillham caught a Texan with weed on WMA. Interviewed the guy and got info on dealer. Turned info over to OMMA.

#### **Dist. 6**

- A case that Warden Clem made in Jefferson county a couple of months ago was finally disposed of recently. An individual that is a habitual violator and had his hunting and fishing privileges revoked for life a couple of years ago continued to fish on Waurika Lake and was observed by Warden Clem fishing

from a boat. Warden Clem talked to his ADA and was advised by the ADA to write a warrant and go pick him up. Warden Clem obtained and served the warrant and ultimately the individuals felony probation for other charges was revoked and he was sentenced to 5 years DOC time

- Warden Clem also recently made a case on a hunting guide that was guiding non-residents for hogs at night. The individuals were using thermal scopes from a county road and had no permission to hunt any of the property adjacent to the road. Charges are pending and may change according to what footage is obtained from the thermal scope hard drive that Warden Clem is obtaining a warrant for.
- D6 wardens have been busy with Rack Madness, Backwoods hunting and fishing expo and other public outreaches. Springtime is a busy time for public outreaches for everyone.

#### **Dist. 7**

- GW Dylan Jones and Capt. Headrick assisted Ellis County Sheriff's Office with the evacuation of Shattuck and worked roadblocks coming into and leaving Shattuck during the wildfire emergency in Ellis County.
- GW Martinez and GW Carpenter assisted with mock interviews and Law Enforcement Career Fair at SWOSU.
- Lt. Edwards, GW Carpenter, GW Lehrman participated in Sayre Schools College and Career Fair as well as a program at Sayre Schools.
- Assisted Colorado Parks and Wildlife with court proceedings from illegal import case to aid in their illegal import case.

#### **Dist. 8**

- Wardens Grace and Green saved 2 young fishermen that were washed away from below Kaw dam over the weekend. Also, Lt. Paul assisted with a stranded boater on Sooner Lake at 2am Saturday night.
- Special emphasis with D8 and D1 along the Arkansas river for paddlefish using the airboat to access new territory. Netted several citations warnings and temp license sales. And numerous contacts previously unattainable.
- Major County thermal coyote poacher was allegedly shooting at a coyote at night off a public roadway on land he didn't have permission on, ended up shooting a female in her home about 600 yards across the field. The bullet more than likely ricocheted off the ground and then travelled through a window striking the female in the upper chest region.