

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

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, August 5th, 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 – Chairman Barwick
2.     Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3.     Invocation – Russ Horton
4.     Pledge of Allegiance – Russ Horton
5.     Introduction of Guests
6.     Presentation of Awards  
  
Patrick Matlock, Game Warden Supervisor – 30 years of service  
Jerry Shaw, Wildlife Programs Supervisor – 30 years of service
7.     Presentation of The Spirit of ODWC Award – Wade Free, Interim Director
8.     Recognition of the 2023 Wildlife Division Technician of the Year, Dillon Good, and the Biologist of the Year, Joey McAllister – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division
9.     Recognition of Eric Brennan as the recipient of the 2023 Fisheries Division Professional of the Year award – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division.
10.    Recognition of 2024 Game Warden of the Year, Marshall Reigh – Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement Division
11.    Recognition of the 2024 Oklahoma Landowner of the Year, Randy Malson – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, Josh Richardson, Private Lands Supervisor, and Marcus Thibodeau, Senior Biologist.
12.    Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the June 3rd, 2024, regular Commission meeting.

13. Director's Report
  - a. 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.
14. Presentation of the May 31st and June 30th, 2024, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on an FY24 budget revision – Andrea Crews
16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on an FY25 budget revision – Andrea Crews
17. Presentation on Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers 2024 Deer Conference scheduled for August 17 at the Reed Conference Center in Midwest City. – Nels Rodefeld, Chief, Communication and Education; Kasie Harriet, R3 Coordinator, National Wild Turkey Federation; Rick Nolan, President Oklahoma Hunters & Anglers.
18. Presentation on the production process and trends of the annual Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations. Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education Division and Smokey Solis, Communication and Education Specialist.
19. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Emergency Rules – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education.

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

**CHAPTER 1. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES**

**SUBCHAPTER 13. HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE DEALERS**

800:1-13-11. Wildlife Land Stamp, also known as Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit [REVOKED]

**CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES**

**SUBCHAPTER 5. MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASON**

**PART 1. DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS, GEESE, MOURNING, WHITE-WINGED AND EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES, WOODCOCK, VIRGINIA AND SORA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN, PURPLE GALLINULE, SNIPE, AND SANDHILL CRANE**

800:25-5-2.2 General provisions for migratory game birds [AMENDED]

**SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS**

**PART. 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

**PART. 15. FURBEARERS**

800:25-7-60. General provisions for furbearers [AMENDED]

**SUBCHAPTER 13. COMMERCIAL HUNT AREAS**

800:25-13-12. Five-Day Paper Hunting License [NEW]

These emergency rule change proposals are related to and a result of the passage of SB 941 and HB 3856. Delete the section on Wildlife Land Stamp as it is no longer needed, modifies HIP

requirements, add license requirements for youth hunters, deletes special license requirements for furbearers, and allow the sales of five-day paper hunting licenses for winged upland game at licensed commercial hunt areas.

20. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a Resolution Establishing Conservation Passport options and prices, pursuant to the passage of SB 941 – Nels Rodefeld, Chief of Communication and Education.
21. Discussion and possible action to convene in Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4) for the purpose of confidential communications between the Commission and counsel from the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General concerning *Barrick v. Hannah, et al.*, 6:23-cv-00129-JFH-GLJ (Eastern Dist. Okla.) and *Nelson v. State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission*, CV-2024-1969 (Oklahoma County) where counsel has determined that disclosure of information related to the claim(s) or action(s) will seriously impair the ability of the Board to process or conduct litigation in this matter, provided that any action taken shall be in open session.
  - a. Vote to Enter Executive Session
  - b. Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4).
  - c. Vote to Exit Executive Session
  - d. Possible discussion and action on matters discussed in Executive Session.
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 9th, 2024, Commission meeting will be held at The Cedar Gate in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.
24. Adjourn

This agency receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and thus prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, age, and sex (gender) pursuant to Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. To request accommodation or informational material in an alternative format, please contact the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, (405) 521-3851. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any facility, program, or activity, or if you need more information, please write to **Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC**

## MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on June 3rd, 2024, of the

### OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on June 3, 2024. 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 30th, 2024, at 10:21 a.m.

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

Tammy St. Yves, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT:      LEIGH A. GADDIS, Chairwoman  
                                 C. RICK HOLDER, Secretary  
                                 MARK H. MABREY, Member  
                                 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member  
                                 JESS M. KANE, Member  
                                 TIM DIEHL, Member

MEMBERS ABSENT:      JAMES V. BARWICK, Vice-Chairman  
                                 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member

Chairwoman Gaddis introduced the following guests: Annie Farrell, Lynn Hagerman, National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf); Laura McIver, Quail Forever; Rick Grundman, Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF).

Wade Free, Interim Director, recognized Mikki Wilmoth, Wildlife Administrative Assistant, for 20 years of service.

Russ Horton, Assistant Chief of Wildlife Division, introduced Annie Farrell, District Biologist, NWTf, who presented a donation of \$27,500. Ms. Farrell explained this donation is part of the initiative Waterways for Wildlife, which is a landscape level initiative designed to address critically urgent conservation needs in riparian areas in the great plains. Ms. Farrell stated the donation is to help restoration of 10 stream miles of riparian habitat on Beaver WMA and 156 acres of invasive species cedar removal on Lexington WMA. Mr. Horton pointed out the donation of \$27,500 will be federally matched 3:1 with Pittman-Robertson funds totaling \$70,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner Holder, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to approve the donation as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Motion was made by Commissioner Kane, seconded by Commissioner Diehl to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2024, Commission meeting. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Director Wade Free updated the Commission on the upcoming calendar items and division activities found on the Director’s Report, mentioning Commissioner Barwick’s representation of the Commission at the currently underway Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) summer meeting. He also pointed out the upcoming Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Youth Camp being held in Kingston, OK later this month, June 16-21. This report was given to the Commission and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Director Free noted the combined revenue generated by raffles and controlled hunts, stating it is up considerably. He also referenced 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.

Nels Rodefeld, Legislative Liaison, pointed out the Senate override of the Governor’s veto of SB922, which limited the number of non-residents to 10% of available tags for hunting seasons with limited tags, that essentially only applies to the controlled hunts program. However, the House did not take up the override, so the Governor’s veto stands. Mr. Rodefeld stated the bill would not have impacted the controlled hunts program at 10% because 5/6% of non-residents are selected currently. Mr. Rodefeld referenced the six wildlife related bills passed and signed into law and stated each Commissioner has a copy of the legislative report in their meeting packet.

Lindsey Presley, Accounting Supervisor and Comptroller, presented the Financial Report for April 30th, 2024. Ms. Presley referenced the title change from statement to report, explaining the PeopleSoft accounting system transition changes the way some funds will report. Commissioner Holder, Chair of the Finance Committee, pointed out with the upcoming design of the financial reports, there is flexibility with what information will be presented in future reports and encouraged the Commission, if there is certain funding they’d like to see presented on the report, to let the Finance Committee know.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham, seconded by Commissioner Diehl to accept the financial report as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting “Yes”.

Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration, presented and requested approval for the Department’s Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget. Ms. Crews explained the focus for this year’s proposed FY25 budget process was collaboration. Divisions identified baseline budget needs. Accounting, Federal Aid and the Director met with each Division to review Divisions budgets. The Commission Finance Committee met with Director, Division Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs to review the proposed budget.

### **Budget Summary:**

The overall budget for FY25 is \$65,440,197 excluding capital expenditures increased 13% which includes the personnel and operating budgets.

The overall budget including capital expenditures is \$96,340,315.

Personnel Cost for FY25 are \$39,402,824, increased 18%.

**Employee Compensation:** To keep employee salaries competitive and relative to increased market conditions, the Finance Committee recommended a 16% adjustment for all employees.

**Retirement:** Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 2%. With effective date of July 1, 2024, along with the remaining commitment for the COLA awarded in FY24 of \$500,000.

Ms. Crews explained the significant increase from FY24 to FY25 is due to funding becoming available from the lifetime trust fund and the estimated revenue from the recent passing of the license bill. The license bill also removed restrictions on funds 220 and 210, the land funds, which now can be utilized in ways that weren't previously available. Ms. Crews stated this will allow for equipment and infrastructure needs, adjustments to pay bands and include an overall adjustment for employee salaries. Commissioner Holder, Chairman of the Commission Finance Committee, addressed the budget and stated the Finance Committee was very engaged this year based on estimating revenues from the recent passing of the license bill. He stated the Committee wanted to be prudent in not overspending but wanted to accomplish things that are necessary. This includes a 16% adjustment in all salaries which includes a 1.8-million-dollar COLA for retirees. He stated 60% of estimated revenue is being used. He continued, there are still inequities in salary and to address that, a comprehensive study with surrounding states is being funded.

Motion was made by Commissioner Holder, seconded by Commissioner Kane to approve the FY25 budget as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Ms. Crews stated that agenda item number 12, relating to COLA for retirees, was embedded and presented in the FY25 Budget proposal presentation. Commissioner Dillingham added that COLA for retirees is funded 100% of estimated total cost upfront through the entirety of its lifespan. Pointing out the amount is large because it is funded upfront.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham, seconded by Commissioner Mabrey to approve the Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in accordance with the retirement plan. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Commissioner Dillingham in the absence of Commissioner Zelbst, who chairs the Nominating Committee, announced that the Nominating Committee met and recommends for FY2025 a slate of Commission Officers. The recommendation is as follows: Commissioner Barwick as Chairman, Commissioner Holder as Vice-Chairman and Commissioner Mabrey as Secretary.

Motion was made by Commissioner Dillingham, seconded by Commissioner Kane to accept the FY25 Commission Officers as presented. Motion carried with Commissioners Mabrey, Diehl, Holder, Dillingham, Kane, and Gaddis voting "Yes".

Chairwoman Gaddis announced thanks to the Commission and stated it has been an honor to serve as Chair of the Commission. Commissioner Dillingham expressed appreciation on behalf of the Commission for Commissioner Gaddis's grace, focus and determination throughout her tenure and addressing challenges.

Russ Horton announced the recent passing of Steven K. Sherrod, Executive Director, and founder of Sutton Avian Research Center. Mr. Horton stated Mr. Sherrod was a stalwart in Oklahoma conservation. He was an avid falconer and when he started his eagle work here, there were no nesting bald eagles in Oklahoma; today there are over 300 nesting pairs. Mr. Sherrod's passion for wildlife, the wildlife community, and in particular birds, and his work, reached around the world. Mr. Horton expressed appreciation for the life Mr. Sherrod gave to conservation.

Chairwoman Gaddis announced the July 1st, 2024, Wildlife Commission meeting is cancelled, and the next meeting will be August 5th.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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James V. Barwick, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

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Mark H. Mabrey, SECRETARY

# **Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation**

## **Financial Reports**



**For the Period July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024**



**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation**  
**Combined Statement of Revenues and Expenditures**  
**Revolving Funds**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024**

			% of Inc. or
Revenues:	FY24 Collected	FY23 Collected	Dec
Motor Vehicle Collection & Diversity Tags	319,485	304,361	5%
Fishing Licenses	8,283,055	7,792,091	6%
Combo Hunt/Fish Licenses	5,558,922	3,780,217	47%
Legacy, Land Access Permits, and Other Permits	3,432,813	3,589,587	-4%
Hunting Licenses	13,059,990	11,822,941	10%
Fish & Game Law Fines	251,630	226,014	11%
*Interest on Investments	5,660,443	4,365,127	30%
Oil and Gas Production	415,604	444,492	-6%
Oil and Gas Surface Damage	171,395	30,786	457%
Insurance Reimbursements	29,735	6,192	380%
Federal Reimbursements	26,218,675	25,140,204	4%
Refunded Money	3,145	2,161	46%
Magazine Sales & Duck Art Fees	54,346	46,601	17%
Agriculture, Misc. Income, Contributions, etc.	2,502,398	2,246,723	11%
Sale of Surplus Property	62,410	315,250	-80%
Sale of Motor Vehicles, Equipment, Machinery	617,675	575,500	7%
Senior Lifetime Sales and Habitat Permits	773,185	725,365	7%
Non-Game Contribution	25,354	17,336	46%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>67,440,259</b>	<b>61,430,946</b>	<b>10%</b>
Expenditures:	FY 24 Expenditures	FY 23 Expenditures	% of Inc. or
Administration	12,493,632	11,374,300	10%
Wildlife	15,533,932	15,875,230	-2%
Fisheries	10,723,743	9,871,632	9%
Law Enforcement	13,796,820	11,580,321	19%
Communication & Education	3,356,871	3,153,705	6%
Capital Expenditures	4,692,828	5,142,547	-9%
Land Acquisitions	1,409,383	1,288,777	9%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62,007,209</b>	<b>58,286,510</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures</b>	<b>5,433,050</b>	<b>3,144,435</b>	<b>73%</b>

\*Includes transfers from lifetime trust to operations

**Cash Balance Revolving Funds**  
**As of June 30, 2024**

Fund	Name	Cash Balance
200	Wildlife General Fund	5,589,927
205	Wildlife Diversity Fund	1,425,669
210	Wildlife Land Acquisition Fund	6,307,486
215	Wildlife Heritage Fund	4,698,864
220	Wildlife Land Fund	7,983,116
Total Balance of Revolving Funds		26,005,062

**Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation**  
**Trust Funds**  
**Combining Balance Sheet**  
**Period Ending June 30, 2024**

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	Defined Contribution Trust	Totals 5/31/2024	Totals 6/30/2023
<b>Assets:</b>						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	625,029	4,073,835	-	-	4,698,864	4,373,630
Investment Accounts						
Lifetime License Sales	44,545,828	101,221,990	-	-	145,767,818	133,002,512
Defined Benefits	-	-	139,490,376	-	139,490,376	128,968,377
Defined Contribution	-	-	-	8,927,441	8,927,441	7,343,690
Due From Other Funds	-	3,750,050	-	-	3,750,050	153,225
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)	22,350	7,000	-	-	29,350	7,000
	45,193,207	109,052,875	139,490,376	8,927,441	302,663,899	273,848,434
<b>Fund Balance:</b>						
Reserved for Employee						
Retirement Benefits	-	-	139,490,376	8,927,441	148,417,817	136,312,067
Total Fund Balance	45,193,207	139,490,376	139,490,376	8,927,441	302,663,899	273,848,434

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Lifetime License Trust**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 June 30, 2024**

	Fund Performance	Contributions & Expenditures	Market Value
Beginning Balance			143,969,867
Cash Received	-		
Receipts:	-	-	
<i>April Sales - not posted by the bank; May and June waiting for budget revision</i>			
<b>Total Receipts</b>			-
Income:			
Dividend	374,153		
Interest	40,496		
Accrued Interest	-		
Foreign Tax	-		
Other	795		
Class Action Proceeds	-		
<b>Total Income</b>			415,443
Disbursements:			
Professional Service Fee		-	
Other Payments		-	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			-
Realized Gains/Loss	(138,033)		
<b>Total Realized Gains/Loss</b>			(138,033)
Non-Cash Asset Changes	-		
<b>Total Non-Cash Asset Changes</b>			-
Accrued Income	23,265		
<b>Total Accrued Income</b>			23,265
Market Appreciation/Depreciation	1,497,277		
<b>Total Market App/Dep</b>			1,497,277
<b>Fund Balance, June 30, 2024</b>	<b>1,797,951</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,767,818</b>

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Pension Trust**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024**

	Previous Balance	Current Month	Ending Balance
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>			
Interest Income	15,507,951	1,911,644	17,419,596
Employer Contribution	2,840,521	205,195	3,045,716
Employee Contribution	465,463	40,393	505,856
Total Operating Revenue	18,813,935	2,157,233	20,971,168
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Administration	(253,600)	(688)	(254,289)
Benefits & Refunds	(8,574,702)	(1,620,179)	(10,194,881)
Total Operating Expenses	(8,828,302)	(1,620,868)	(10,449,169)
<b>Operating Income</b>	9,985,633	536,366	10,521,998
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	9,985,633	536,366	10,521,998
Beginning Fund Balance	128,968,378		128,968,378
<b>Fund Balances, June 30, 2024</b>	138,954,011		139,490,376

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Defined Contribution Trust**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 June 30, 2024**

	Previous Balance	Current Month	Ending Balance
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>			
Interest and Investment Income	991,947	96,612	1,088,559
Employer Contributions	642,433	58,319	700,752
Employee Contributions	436,868	39,722	476,589
Total Operating Revenue	2,071,248	194,653	2,265,901
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Administration	(5,540)	(30)	(5,570)
Benefits & Participant Refunds	(618,784)	(57,796)	(676,579)
Total Operating Expenses	(624,324)	(57,826)	(682,150)
<b>Operating Income</b>	1,446,924	136,827	1,583,751
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Transfers Out	-	-	-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	1,446,924	136,827	1,583,751
Beginning Fund Balance	7,343,690		7,343,690
<b>Fund Balances, June 30, 2024</b>	8,790,614		8,927,441



## Wildlife Contributions Report

June 2024

Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
\$9.00	Wesley Warren	General Contribution
\$9.00	Total	

# **Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation**

## **Financial Reports**



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Income:			
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Interest	40,496		
Accrued Interest	-		
Foreign Tax	-		
Other	795		
Class Action Proceeds	-		
<b>Total Income</b>			415,443
Disbursements:			
Professional Service Fee		-	
Other Payments		-	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>			-
Realized Gains/Loss	(138,033)		
<b>Total Realized Gains/Loss</b>			(138,033)
Non-Cash Asset Changes	-		
<b>Total Non-Cash Asset Changes</b>			-
Accrued Income	23,265		
<b>Total Accrued Income</b>			23,265
Market Appreciation/Depreciation	1,497,277		
<b>Total Market App/Dep</b>			1,497,277
<b>Fund Balance, June 30, 2024</b>	<b>1,797,951</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>145,767,818</b>

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Pension Trust**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024**

	Previous Balance	Current Month	Ending Balance
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>			
Interest Income	15,507,951	1,911,644	17,419,596
Employer Contribution	2,840,521	205,195	3,045,716
Employee Contribution	465,463	40,393	505,856
Total Operating Revenue	18,813,935	2,157,233	20,971,168
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Administration	(253,600)	(688)	(254,289)
Benefits & Refunds	(8,574,702)	(1,620,179)	(10,194,881)
Total Operating Expenses	(8,828,302)	(1,620,868)	(10,449,169)
<b>Operating Income</b>	9,985,633	536,366	10,521,998
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	9,985,633	536,366	10,521,998
Beginning Fund Balance	128,968,378		128,968,378
<b>Fund Balances, June 30, 2024</b>	138,954,011		139,490,376

**Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balance**  
**Defined Contribution Trust**  
**For the Period July 1, 2023 June 30, 2024**

	Previous Balance	Current Month	Ending Balance
<b>Operating Revenue:</b>			
Interest and Investment Income	991,947	96,612	1,088,559
Employer Contributions	642,433	58,319	700,752
Employee Contributions	436,868	39,722	476,589
Total Operating Revenue	2,071,248	194,653	2,265,901
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>			
Administration	(5,540)	(30)	(5,570)
Benefits & Participant Refunds	(618,784)	(57,796)	(676,579)
Total Operating Expenses	(624,324)	(57,826)	(682,150)
<b>Operating Income</b>	1,446,924	136,827	1,583,751
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Transfers Out	-	-	-
Total Non-Operating Expenses	-	-	-
<b>Net Income</b>	1,446,924	136,827	1,583,751
Beginning Fund Balance	7,343,690		7,343,690
<b>Fund Balances, June 30, 2024</b>	8,790,614		8,927,441



## Wildlife Contributions Report

June 2024

Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
\$9.00	Wesley Warren	General Contribution
\$9.00	Total	

# August 2024 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## **CALENDAR ITEMS:**

Sep. 1 Dove Season Opener  
Sep. 9 OWCF Sporting Clay Fundraiser & ODWC Commission Meeting

## **AGENCY UPDATE**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Accounting – May Activity**

Accounts Payable:  
# of Claims Audited and Paid: 490  
Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$4,107,758.91

#### **Purchase Card Program:**

Total # Agency Cardholders: 195  
Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13  
Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$460,000.00  
Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$598,000.00  
# of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 38  
# of P/Card Transactions Processed: 789  
# of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 42  
OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 13  
Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$274,260.54  
PCard Program Refresher Training: 58  
New Approver Training at OMES: 0  
New Cardholder Training at OMES: 4

#### **Risk Management:**

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 2  
New Cases Reported: 1 (Just dents and ding no repairs)

#### **Purchasing:**

# of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 37  
IT Acquisitions Processed: 8

#### **Accounting – June Activity**

Accounts Payable: June  
# of Claims Audited and Paid: 303  
Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$1,381,072.73



**Purchase Card Program:**

Total # Agency Cardholders: 191  
Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 13  
Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$459,000.00  
Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$538,000.00  
# of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 65  
# of P/Card Transactions Processed: 918  
# of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 71  
OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 0  
Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$327,697.52  
PCard Program Refresher Training: 64  
New Approver Training at OMES: 0  
New Cardholder Training at OMES: 4

**Risk Management:**

OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 0  
New Cases Reported: 3

**Purchasing:**

# of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 45  
IT Acquisitions Processed: 5

**Federal Aid- May Activity**

Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,426,268.97  
Program Income: \$498,653.38  
In-Kind Contributions: \$6815.00  
New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 7  
Grant Reports Submitted: 2  
Reviewed 741 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$244,800.76 charged to grants.  
Subaward Invoices Processed: 21  
Key Meetings: Staff attended the USFWS Region 2 Federal Aid Coordination meeting in Santa Fe, NM. Many internal meetings regarding FY25 budget preparation.  
Milestones: ODWC went live on the use of PeopleSoft Projects in WorkDay for the month of May; lots of troubleshooting ensued. Federal Aid completed two draws in May – one for April payroll “the old way” (BTG) and one for PS transactions.

**Federal Aid – June Activity**

Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,652,652.19  
Program Income: \$57,274.22  
In-Kind Contributions: \$5,713.00  
New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 7  
Grant Reports Submitted: 4  
Reviewed 736 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$289,013.25 charged to grants.  
Subaward Invoices Processed: 6  
Grants Specialist attended Advanced Grants Management training.

Federal Aid completed first federal drawdown of payroll data using PeopleSoft (significant learning curve/kinks to work out)

Federal Aid Coordinator promoted to Chief of Administration

### **Human Resources – May Activity**

- # Open Full-time Positions – 44
- Positions Interviewed – 3
- Candidates interviewed – 12
- Positions Announced – 7
- Candidates Screened – 160
- Filled Positions – 4 (2 promotion, 2 hires)
- See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
- Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids) – 4
- Full time employees on March payroll – 331
- DB Plan Members – 145
- DC Plan Members – 186
- Hourly employees on supplemental payroll – 31
- Retirement meetings and / or calculations – 1
- Work Comp Injuries – 20

### **Other miscellaneous.:**

- Work on Budget Payroll process for FY25
- Submitted HR Corner article for the May WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 4 new hires
- Careers presentation at Wildlife Youth Camp 39 participants
- 2nd Quarter update to supervisors on Mandatory Supervisor Training hours
- Rollout of PeopleSoft GPC timekeeping
- Developed and produced training materials for new time & leave reporting procedures
- Toolkit Factsheet, PowerPoint presentation, Training Video for Workday Learning app.
- Hosted multiple Teams Meetings to answer questions regarding new time & leave reporting procedure

### **Human Resources – June Activity**

- # Open Full-time Positions - 41
- Positions Interviewed - 5
- Candidates interviewed - 21
- Positions Announced – 3
- Candidates Screened – 185
- Filled Positions – 4 (0 promotion, 3 hires, transfers 1)
- See included personnel report that shows personnel actions for the month.
- Temporary Employees Processed (Interns & Aids), - 3
- Full time employees on March payroll - 333
- DB Plan Members – 145
- DC Plan Members – 187
- Hourly employees on supplemental payroll – 34
- Retirement meetings and / or calculations - 2
- Work Comp Injuries – 1

### **Other miscellaneous:**

- Submitted HR Corner article for the June WOG

- New Employee Orientation for 3 new hires
- Continue work on PeopleSoft GPC timekeeping
- Toolkit Factsheet, PowerPoint presentation, Training Video for Workday Learning app.
- Leadership Development Program – Croton Creek Ranch, Cheyenne OK
- Costing allocations for FY25
- Onboarding and training for new Payroll / Benefits Specialist, Dylan Swanson

### **Information Technology – May Activity**

I.T. took in 85 tickets for the month of May. This is within an expected range for this time of year.

#### **Upcoming and ongoing projects:**

- Installed Dell Open Manage to remotely check the status of all our servers from a VMware plugin.
- We have continued to build and revise a new inventory system for leased equipment.
- OMES has given us access to Crowd strikes' back end for monitoring our endpoints. This will save us money from buying our own endpoint monitoring system and help us score higher on our yearly audit.
- We have started drafting a computer use form for all of our employees to sign that they agree to our policies. We have worked with HR to have this as part of the onboarding process in the future.
- Microsoft came to do an in-person meet and greet. We discussed how Microsoft products could improve our workflow with an emphasis on AI.
- Worked with OMES to whitelist software so that our end users can install approved software without OMES approval each time.
- Scheduled our audit for FY2025.

### **Information Technology – June Activity**

- I.T. Took in a combined total of 68 tickets this month. This is drastically down year over year without a clear indication as to why.
- We are creating a Drupal module to allow our web developer to build forms and allow searching of Brandt's customer databases.
- Pinnacle stopped by for the first quarterly meeting to discuss our backup strategies and our backup data health.
- Created a new virtual server to migrate our backup functions to.
- An email was sent out to all users requesting them to fill out a form that reports back the leased inventory that they use or have possession of. This will keep our inventory data up to date and assist with laptop refresh projects in the future.
- The vehicle log had a bug that was causing issues with how it was pulling data. It has been resolved.
- Accounting found an issue with the Automated Clearing House that needed IT intervention to balance.
- Microsoft came onsite for an introductory meeting as well as to discuss how A.I. can help with different workflows.

- We previously did not have a computer usage form. It is now part of our onboarding process that H.R. does. We are working towards every current employee signing one via a Microsoft Form through their email.
- OMES has granted us access to CrowdStrike's web portal. CrowdStrike is on every computer we have and handles endpoint security. The web portal allows remote monitoring of any system with an internet connection. This had previously been denied to us but there was an update on CrowdStrike's end allowing them to separate different government agencies from accessing each other's assets. This could save us hundreds of thousands of dollars in just a few years, not having to get our own. This will also help lower our risk assessment during our audit.

## **License – May Activity**

- Processed over 940 orders, including 856 licenses/permits and 776 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$164,274 in revenue.
- Shipped 247 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling almost \$4,000 in revenue.
- Processed over \$250,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 3,108 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

### **May License Review**

Recreational Licenses were down 3% for the month compared to May 2023.

Notables include:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Pct Change MTD (# Sold)</b>
Resident Combo	+11% (1,562)
Resident Fishing	-4% (29,320)
Nonresident Hunting	+43% (879)
Nonresident Deer Gun	+619% (115)
Nonresident Deer Archery	+452% (149)

Lifetime License sales up 54% for the month compared to May 2023. Over 2,700 sold.

Notables include:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Pct Change MTD (# Sold)</b>
Lifetime Combo	+419% (975)
Lifetime Fishing	+87% (401)
Senior Citizen Combo	-6% (579)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-7% (567)

## License – June Activity

### License

- Processed 1,283 orders, including 1,195 licenses/permits and 1,098 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$378,412 in revenue (436 more orders than June 2023).
- Shipped 308 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling almost \$4,000 in revenue.
- Processed over \$36,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 5,372 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits (2,200 more than previous month).

### June License Review

Recreational Licenses were up 8% for the month compared to June 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+37% (978)
Resident Fishing	+10% (22,051)
Nonresident Hunting	+1,154% (652)
Nonresident Deer Gun	+6,717% (409)*
Nonresident Deer Archery	+3,318% (752)*

\*Note: We normally sell less than 20 deer licenses to nonresidents during this time, which makes the % change so large. NR Deer numbers sold here represent roughly 8% of total sales for the year, while NR Hunting numbers sold represent about 9% of yearly sales.

Lifetime License sales up 267% for the month compared to June 2023. Over 5,100 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	+1,895% (2,811)
Lifetime Fishing	+355% (869)
Lifetime Hunting	+2,983% (185)
Senior Citizen Combo	+30% (619)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+13% (521)
Senior Citizen Hunting	+364% (51)

For reference, here are FY23 Lifetime License sales numbers to show how big the surge was in June:

License Type	FY23 Licenses Sold
Lifetime Combo	3,037
Lifetime Fishing	1,592
Lifetime Hunting	269

Takeaways from the big license surge. Numbers represent the period of April 1 through June 30:

### Licenses Sold

Lifetime Resident Combo: 4,332  
 Lifetime Resident Fishing: 1,609  
 Lifetime Resident Hunting: 264  
 Senior Lifetime Combo: 1,868  
 Senior Lifetime Fishing: 1,670  
 Senior Lifetime Hunting: 80

### Transactions

Over 2,100 transactions at ODWC HQ and over 430 transactions at Regional Offices (Jenks, Porter, Caddo). More than 7,200 purchases were made online. Both online sales and regional office lifetime sales were not available during the last price increase.

### Online Applications

9,700 online applications reviewed, with a special shout out to Megan Moore for helping with online approvals. Over 1,000 applications were reviewed and approved after 4:30pm on June 28 and the weekend of June 29 and 30, so even after the office closed the applications were still getting approved.

### Approval Efficiency

We measured the average amount of time to get an application approved, then how long it took a customer to buy their license. ODWC took less than one day to approve online applications and by the big rush in June we were averaging half a day for the entire month.

Month Submission to Approval (Days) Approval to Purchase (Days) Submission to Purchase (Days)

Month	Submission to Approval (Days)	Approval to Purchase (Days)	Submission to Purchase (Days)
April	0.95	5.04	5.99
May	0.96	5.23	6.18
June	0.52	2.1	2.63

During the last week, the average time from submission to approval was 1.2 hours. And during the final surge - June 28-30 - online approval time averaged less than 10 minutes.

I'm super proud of the License Team for battling through the big rush of changes, all while handling Controlled Hunts and being shorthanded. And thanks to everyone that helped us along the way!

#### Mid-July License Review (Sales through July 14)

Recreational Licenses are down 1.5% for the first 14 days of the month compared to July 2023.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+51% (493)
Resident Fishing	+11% (7,192)
Resident 1-Day Fishing	464 sold (new license)
Nonresident Fishing	+29% (1,961)
Nonresident 1-Day Fishing	+35% (3,532)
Nonresident Hunting	+84% (35)
Nonresident Deer Gun	-58% (5)
Nonresident Deer Archery	-23% (10)

Lifetime Licenses were up 15% for the first 14 days of the month compared to July 2023.

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	+211% (118)
Lifetime Fishing	-7% (52)
Senior Citizen Combo	-6% (132)

Walk-in traffic has dropped off as of July 1 and mail-in applications have decreased as of the second week of July.

#### Property – May Activity

- Received 13 new trucks for Law, Fish and Wildlife divisions. Continued preparation process on each truck to deploy out to the field.
- Attended demonstration and training for Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVLs) that are being implemented by OMES.
- Coordinated with IT to make repairs to central office door access control system and begin process to upgrade server and camera system.
- Continued to process inventory items and transfers in both BTG and PeopleSoft with plans to completely move off BTG to PeopleSoft Asset Management in the coming months.

- Continued preparation process for next vehicle auction as vehicles are traded in for new vehicles.

## Property – June Activity

- 31% reduction in kWh usage of power at headquarters compared to the previous average four years.
- Accomplished by placing building on unoccupied hours, installing equipment to reduce specific items energy usage. The benefit of this also helps with reduction of wear and tear on equipment if not running 24/7.
- All FY24 vehicles have been received and 19 deployed as of July 17.
- Began preparations for an Aug/Sept Vehicle Auction for vehicles turned in.

## FISHERIES

### May & June Highlights

#### Fisheries Division

Statewide Fish Stocking, June 2024			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Channel Catfish, Commercial	209	16-17"	5
Channel Catfish, ODWC	18,930	12-14"	21
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC	2,000	Fingerlings	1
Hybrid Striped Bass, ODWC	283,735	1.5-2"	6
Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC	400	6"	3
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	9,316	Mature	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	1,724	9+"	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	1,290	14-25"	2
Total:	317,604		

## Meetings

- Staff members attended and presented at the North American Native Fishes Association conference held in Broken Bow. Presentations were given on many different topics covering many species and topics. Staff also assisted in leading several field sampling trips conducted throughout the conference and helped ensure the safety of participants.
- Personnel participated in a meeting with USACE over details of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System dredging project and mitigation plans.
- Participated in the South-Central Climate Adaptation Centers' agricultural and region-wide proposal selection committee to select funding for projects that pertain to the adaptability and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the South-Central United States.
- ANS staff attended the Little Rock, Arkansas's Mississippi River Basin Panel meeting. Presentations focused on ANS-related legislation and field collection methods of invasive carp. This meeting is beneficial for keeping ODWC's ANS program current on ANS issues, legislation, and best field practices.



## Activities

- Filled and stocked 5 different sunfish ponds for farm pond fish production, hybrid sunfish, and bluegill fish trade with Wyoming.
- Installed new drain culverts for hatchery drain water diversion and mowed and maintained hatchery grounds.
- Paxton banded Canada Geese on Durant State Fish hatchery.
- Presented the Hatchery Research Program Overview at the NANFA conference in Broken Bow.
- Completed MOCC boating course provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- A creel survey was started on Foss Lake. The two creel days conducted in June were negatively impacted by weather, resulting in low angling pressure.
- Elmer, Watonga, and American Horse were mowed, and trash was picked up.
- On-site technical assistance was provided on 12 ponds. Most recommendations for pond owners are concerned with habitat (aquatic vegetation) management.
- Continued work at Jap Beaver: Building jetties, removing silt, placing Rip rap and filter blanket.
- Concrete for the upper section of the Primary spillway was poured.
- Began placing rip rap for the emergency spillway.
- Mowing, weed eating, trash pickup at Dept lakes.
- Installed steps along Medicine Creek to improve fishing access.
- Fisheries personnel partnered up with the Skiatook Lake association to build and deploy 10 Shelbyville Cubes on Skiatook Lake.
- The Native Non-Game fish crew underwent a large tagging effort on Shell Creek Lake, tagging approximately 900 fish for population estimates and future exploitation studies.
- NCR partnered with the City of Ponca City and Osage Hills State Park for three fishing clinics in June.
- The Skiatook Lake Nursery Pond was stocked with Florida Largemouth Bass and monitored weekly for water quality, forage status, fish growth and condition.
- Staff picked up angler-shot fish from the Tenkiller Numbers and Ft. Gibson Youth Bowfishing Tournaments and processed 667 total carcasses for various data, including age, length, weight, and DNA.
- Staff investigated a fish kill extending over 40 river miles on the Cimarron River.
- SCR staff assisted with Wildlife Youth Camp. Campers could view sampling equipment, pull a trap net, observe otolith removal, learn how sampling data is used, and construct and sink an artificial habitat structure (Shelbyville cube) in the lake.
- Staff met with Ardmore Parks and Recreation Dept staff to discuss city lake fisheries, regulations, regulatory signage, and current invasive species (hydrilla and zebra mussels).
- Completed construction of a new Lean-To barn at Blue River.

- Assisted w/ trout tagging at LMFR and with EF collections at Mountain Fork and below Hugo.
- Processed blue catfish otoliths by cutting, sanding, and mounting samples for subsequent aging.
- Personnel continued working on the Grand Lake Creel Survey. May concluded the first quarter of the creel survey, which consisted of 5-weekend creels and 4-weekday creels. In May, three-weekend surveys and one-weekday surveys were accomplished. A total of 34 interviews were completed in May, bringing the total thus far to 71 total angler interviews during the first quarter of the Creel survey.
- Personnel conducted 3 fish kill investigations on large reservoirs. The first took place on Oologah Lake (verdigris River), looking at potential petroleum contamination in the Verdigris River in Kansas and if the spill was killing fish in the river in Oklahoma down into the lake. The 2nd occurred on Hudson Lake and was traced back to floodgate closures at Pensacola Dam. The 3rd took place on the Cimarron arm of Keystone Lake. NER Personnel investigated and worked with fish kill staff to complete the write-ups.
- Personnel collected shad from Eucha Lake and transferred to Bixhoma Lake to supplement forage for Florida Largemouth Bass population to improve fish condition and trophy fish potential.
- Conducted mowing on public fishing hunting areas.
- Pulled pencils and leveled dock at Ozzie Cobb
- Conducted dam maintenance and sprayed/thinned timber at public fishing hunting areas.
- Assisted with Jap Beaver Renovation and Blue River Lean-to construction.
- Continued stocking and tagging trout and recording tag returns.
- Conducted catfish hoop netting on Cimmaron River.
- Staff members and interns worked on mounting and cutting 140 otoliths collected from spring catfish sampling on the Cimarron River with 47 of the otoliths also having been photographed and ready for aging later.
- Staff members conducted many community surveys in June, with 13 sites completed in the Blue River drainage and 26 in the Muddy Boggy River drainage. This represents most of the sites to be completed in this year's community sampling.
- A total of 99 eDNA samples were shipped off for metabarcoding analysis to a vendor in Colorado. The analysis is pending, but we will list all species in each given sample. The target of these samples is invasive carp, but other invaders can also be identified using this sampling tool.
- Prepared three manuscripts for the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. Papers centered around Skipjack Herring, Spotted Gar, and Angler preferences for Saugeye fisheries.
- Primary manuscripts are being worked on for other journals. Papers center around investigating tag retention of operculum-placed carlin-dangler tags in Catfish (collaborators: University of Vermont, Oklahoma State), an assessment of standardized sampling bias on Catfish size through mark-recapture (collaborators: University of Vermont, Oklahoma State), and growth of Smallmouth Bass across the United States (collaborators: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism).

- Addressing edits on a manuscript assessing commercial harvest of Native Nongame fishes in Lake Erie (collaborators: University of Vermont, Oklahoma State, Ohio Department of Natural Resources)
- Multiple surveys for channel catfish in close-to-home ponds, age and growth data are being processed, 68 Mossback Fish Habitat structures deployed at Eufaula Lake in conjunction with the city of Eufaula, assisted SER with trout tagging on Lower Mountain Fork, continued assessment of catfish spawning along with the effectiveness of artificial spawning structures on the reproduction of Channel Catfish.
- Participated in the South-Central Climate Adaptation Centers' agricultural and region-wide proposal selection committee to select funding for projects that pertain to the adaptability and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems in the South-Central United States.
- Attended multiple online meetings and calls concerning invasive carp, including WISCE, joint SAW/DAW, and national Invasive Carp Coordination calls.
- ANS and Invasive Carp technicians attended and completed the USFWS led Motorboat Operator Certification Course safety training at Sequoyah NWR.
- Reports of hydrilla in R.S. Kerr reservoir were confirmed, and staff worked with C&E to formulate a press release.
- ANS staff filmed an Outdoor Oklahoma episode focused on Zebra mussel veliger sampling.
- Staff assisted Central Region personnel with the building and placement of mossback aquatic habitat structures on Eufaula Lake.
- ECR staff prepared for and participated in the Tahlequah summer student fishing clinic at the Methodist Home.
- Use of Habitat Additions by Oklahoma Game Fishes fieldwork on Tenkiller Lake is ongoing.

## **C&E DIVISION**

Heather Gaylord worked on and distributed several news bulletins related to fishing, she also set up and coordinated several fishing clinics with OG&E and other outside the agency partners.

Lance Meek, Shawn Gee and Kasie Harriet attended the national R3 conference and engaged with staff from other states to learn about and share information on efforts to recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, anglers, and recreational shooters.

Betsey York completed and distributed the Statewide Angler Survey and the annual Game Harvest Survey. Additionally, she worked with Outdoor Oklahoma staff to launch surveys for the magazine and TV show.

Lance Meek and Kasie Harriet worked with the Oklahoma Hunters and Anglers on several planning meetings for the 2024 Deer Conference. They also put in extensive work on development of the Agency Mentorship Program (AMP) proposal.

C&E staff attended the ODWC Nuisance Bear Control Workshop at the Lexington Wildlife Management Area.

Staff met with Garver, USFWS and Corps staff regarding the Environmental on the Arcadia Archery range project.

Final preparations are underway for the printing of the 2024 Fishing and Hunting Regulations.

Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee set up and began teaching the next round of teachers and schools that will be implementing the ODWC outdoor Education programs.

Amanda Thomas met with contractors for the Atoka shooting range and documented progress as it was happening at the range. Amanda also went to several meetings with engineers and agency staff looking at other future range projects all across the state. She and agency staff reviewed plans, met with engineers, environmental contractors as well as partners.

C&E staff served as camp counselors for the Wildlife Youth Camp.

Worked with Federal Aid to amend the R3 hunting grant to include funds for the TV commercial and developed TV commercial script.

Lance Meek handled requests and assisted organizations and staff with several meetings that took place at the Arcadia Conservation Education center. Staff also met with the engineers regarding the Arcadia parking lots.

Kelly Adams worked with Wildlife and License to open applications for the special hunt for women and their families.

Damon Springer worked with Career Tech staff to get the fall FFA Clay Target district shoots and state shoot scheduled. Several STEP events were also held during the past month with equipment being loaned out to wardens, FCA staff for their youth leadership camp and others.

#### FFA Clay Target Shoot Dates and Locations

NW- Ft Supply- Oct. 9

SW-Altus- Oct. 11

NE- Coweta- Oct. 16 (2 Fields)

Central- Stillwater- Oct. 30

SE- Broken Bow- Nov. 6 (2 fields)

State- OKC Gun Club- Nov 13

Kelly Boyer and Shawn Gee attended the annual NASP coordinators conference where they interacted with coordinators from across the country and again were able to give input on NASP as it continues to grow in Oklahoma and across the country.

Amanda Thomas met with contractors for the Atoka shooting range and documented progress as it was happening at the range. Amanda also went to several meetings with engineers and agency staff looking at other future range projects all across the state. She and agency staff reviewed plans, met with engineers, environmental contractors as well as partners.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

August 2024

### **WMA Highlights**

- Spring / Summer food plot plantings completed, thankful for continued timely rains across much of the state.
- 7,871 tons of gravel delivered and distributed on WMA roads.
- 191 miles of roads maintained / bladed.
- 5 culverts replaced.
- 4,077 acres treated with herbicide for undesirable / invasive species.
- 19.5 miles of firebreak were maintained.
- 41 acres of woody vegetation mulched with skid steer.
- Continue monitoring ag and grazing lease activities / compliance. Most grazing leases for this summer will wrap up by mid-August.
- Considerable staff time has been expended clearing fallen trees from roadways and ditches following substantial early summer storms across central and eastern parts of the state.
- WMA staff are updating road layers on WMA maps to reflect road classification definitions and display in preparation for new atlas printing and release of dove field maps in mid-August.
- Growing season burns are being conducted as needed/planned on WMA's across the state. Have also begun burning some wheat patches in preparation for the upcoming dove season.

### **Numerous staff attended / assisted with:**

- OSU field day regarding habitat management/burning in the Cross Timbers Ecoregion (20 participants)
- Fishing Clinics (Pryor Schools (25), Tahlequah (60),
- Bat mist netting (NEOSU research project) at Cookson WMA
- Quail Forever volunteer day at Rock Creek WMA (52)
- STEP program for Creekside Church Youth Camp group (20)
- Explore Bowhunting at OSU Extension program (8)
- Spring / Summer Joint venture meetings (Oaks and Prairies, Playa Lakes, and Lower Mississippi Valley) were attended by ODWC representatives to the respective JV Management Board
- Northeast and Central Region staff attended safety training on "conflicts with constituents" taught by COE staff
- All staff are busy with FY 25 requisitions / PO's and purchasing as the new FY begins.
- 38 black-tailed prairie dogs were captured from an urban commercial lot (18 acres) in the city of Yukon and relocated to Cimarron Bluff WMA to try and re-establish a prairie dog colony on the WMA. Researchers from the University of

Louisiana studying prairie dog disease live-trapped the animals and handed them over to Wildlife Diversity team members who transported the prairie dogs to NW Region staff. Prairie dogs were held overnight to acclimate before relocation to Cimarron Bluff WMA.

- Outdoor classroom events continue through the summer and into the fall at Hackberry Flat WMA and the William Crawford Center. The annual Monarch Watch event is being planned for the first week of October.
- Diversity staff continue with fieldwork and SGCN surveys, including supporting USFWS staff with leopard darter surveys in southeastern streams.
- GIS section staff are working with C&E to update and reprint the WMA atlas
- An undivided partial interest in 240 acres at Deep Fork WMA was recently acquired, giving ODWC full ownership/interest in that tract.
- 87 WHIP applications were approved, and the increase in funding for the FY 25 budget year was critical for being able to fund all of those, addressing a multi-year backlog of applications.
- The beginning hunter Private Land Youth Hunts drawing will be advertised and drawn by mid-August. We currently expect ~18 slots, and these hunts are focused on beginning youth deer hunters (have harvested <2 deer per the GoOutdoors harvest history).
- Early field reports of numerous broods of quail/pheasant/turkey from across the state, and the habitat across most of the state is looking better than it has in years.
- August roadside quail surveys will begin later this month, (memo and survey information sent ~01 August). Turkey surveys are ongoing through the end of August.
- The Big Game Report is in the final editing stages and should be available soon.
- Working on protocols for genetic sampling as per HB 3462, and sourcing needed equipment / supplies needed for collecting and analyzing samples.
- Division staff met with representatives from 4 tribes to discuss CWD and common ground measures that can be implemented to reduce and slow the spread of this disease. Discussed sharing of harvest information and any research that is conducted.
- Protocols for the statewide elk survey are being developed for implementation this fall.
- The National Furbearer Working Group in Kentucky was attended in May. It was our first time meeting face to face with the northeastern states and see what are doing to manage furbearers, and the problems they face.
- Continue to work with License Section to get the falconry renewal form on the gooutdoorsok.com application.
- Furbearer reports for annual review are underway.
- Both the gray fox project and the eastern spotted skunk project are going well.
- The Oklahoma Falconer's Association held their annual meeting at the Arcadia Education Center in June. There are lots of potential changes coming from the USFWS regarding the management of falconry programs by the state coordinators. Staff attended a webinar with the USFWS for multi-factor authentication requirement for the federal falconry database that is being mandated at the end of July and continue to work with license section to get the falconry renewal form on the gooutdoorsok.com application.
- Work continues on Neosho Bottoms and Drummond Flat developments.

- Dove banding is set to begin this month.
- Goose banding wrapped up with a successful year. Final banding totals are being tallied and will be reported when available. With more effort than would seem necessary we have finally been able to successfully update our reporting party for National Bird Banding Lab permitting and data entry.
- Staff will be attending the Central Flyway meetings later this month.
- Staff presented on waterfowl management in Oklahoma at the state Ducks Unlimited business meeting and awards banquet.
- FY 25 wetland work has begun with areas repairing and updating structures and infrastructure.
- A significant two-phase project has begun at Wister WDU for significant maintenance work and needed upgrades to infrastructure.
- WDU work is ongoing at Ft Cobb WMA. Soil hauling (clay to seal wetland units) was completed in mid-July.
- Water control structures are being replaced at Hackberry Flat.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

### **August Update**

#### **Dist. 1**

- Fishing Day at Copan Lake with Corps
- All three-weapon qual and additional red-dot training
- Several wardens attended 5-state in Kansas.
- Tornado damage and response by several wardens on Memorial Day Weekend
- Wardens Willman/Jackson assisted with multiple drowning recoveries on Grand Lake
- Warden Rolling assisted with multiple drownings on Keystone.
- OSGWA Summer Meeting in June at Poteau
- Several wardens involved with Bear Grease Paddlefish Podcast
- ODWC Youth Camp – Lt. Alexander heavily involved.
- In person meeting in June at Latham Ranch including Throw-bag training
- In person Meeting in July in Dewey including PMPs and ammo issuance
- Aquatic Ed class – Afton
- Nowata County Saturation – revoked fisherman contacted and arrested – multiple units.
- Division Meeting – Teams – District wide
- 66 Festival Skins and Skulls
- FTO ops – Warden Newkirk finishing up, Warden Tilley transitioning well!
- Lt. Alexander continues to foster Peer Support Team and has utilized in District for drowning debriefs.
- Attended SCHEELS meet and greet in Tulsa.

#### **Dist. 2**

- Wardens Cramer, Garrett, Youngblood, Farris, and Lt. Wilcox conducted a fishing clinic in Tahlequah with 50 kids in attendance.
- Wardens DeMontigny, Lt. Wilcox, and Lt. Matlock conducted a fishing clinic in Muskogee for the School For The Blind with 26 kids in attendance.

- Wardens Bailey and J. Henry conducted a fishing clinic at Vian Lake.
- Wardens deMontigny and Lt. Matlock conducted a fishing clinic at the Deepfork NWR.
- Wardens Morris and Shimp conducted a STEP event in Ft. Gibson
- Wardens Cramer, Garrett, Stanley, Farris, and Lt. Wilcox conducted a STEP event at the Oil Capital Gun Club in Coweta.
- Warden Cramer gave a program in Stilwell on nuisance bear protocols.
- Wardens Garrett and Youngblood gave a game warden career program in Tahlequah.
- Warden Bailey gave a game warden career program at Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee.
- Warden Garrett gave a skins and skulls program in Westville.
- Wardens Rowland and DeMontigny attended the Bass Master weigh-in in Eufaula.
- Special Emphasis:
- Wardens Langford, Morris, Stanley, Cramer, Rowland, and Lt. Wilcox participated in a special emphasis on illegal atv/utv use on Ft. Gibson WMA.
- Wardens J. Henry, Couch, and Lt. Matlock participated in 2 special emphasis projects on the lower Illinois river resulting in 49 written contacts.
- Cases:
- Warden Bailey is working a deer case on a private shooting range.
- Wardens Garrett, Youngblood, and Lt. Wilcox made 2 separate cases on taking fish with speargun resulting in 20 written contacts.
- Wardens Rowland, DeMontigny, and Lt. Matlock made a case on taking fish from a barrel while noodling.
- Warden Morris made a case taking fish with a hook while noodling.
- All D2 wardens attended the Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response training.

### **Dist. 3**

- D3 Warden Fields was contacted by an Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority Agent who was serving a search warrant on marijuana grow facility in Pittsburg County about a venomous reptile and box turtle in an aquarium which was located inside the grow house. Fields contacted Warden Hanson our district venomous reptile handler and they drove to the scene where they issued a temp license and administrative fine for the reptiles and assisted the Pittsburg Co. Sheriff's Office and OMMA with service of the warrant. Working together the officers seized 3,077 pounds of marijuana, 36 quarts of marijuana distillate, 49 jars of marijuana extract, 40,000 millimeters of pure marijuana distillate, 27 gallons of marijuana crude and approximately \$114,000 in cash. Charges are pending and the investigation is ongoing.
- D3 Wardens completed the Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response training at Pocola High School in Pocola Oklahoma June 3-6, 2024.
- D3 Wardens Loudermilk, Potter, and Barnes completed the Law Enforcement Active Shooter Response Instructor Training course in OKC June 24,25 & 28, 2024.



- D3 Choctaw County Game Warden, Firearms Instructor, Defensive tactics Instructor, LEASR Instructor, Andrew Potter resigned effective July 1, 2024, and took job with the Oklahoma ABLE commission.
- D3 Game Warden Supervisor, Dru Polk served as Director of the ODWC Youth Camp. Several Wardens from D3 and other districts from across the state attended as instructors, role players for scenarios and as mentors.
- D3 Wardens met at the Wildlife Heritage Center in Antlers Oklahoma to attend the Quarterly Law Enforcement Divisional Meeting and stayed afterward for a CLEET certified Mental Health/Substance Abuse/Narcan Administration training course, I also conducted a district meeting to discuss new procedures outlined in the divisional meeting.
- D3 Warden Supervisors Lawson and Polk met with their men individually to conduct our District 3 bi-annual vehicle inspections and complete the mid-year performance review process.
- D3 Wardens participated in the annual Choctaw Nation Tribal Wildlife Youth Camp in Pushmataha County.
- Captain Tobey responded to a call about an injured Bald Eagle near SH270 approximately 8 miles west of McAlester. He was able to capture the injured Eagle and made arrangements to get the bird to the eagle rehabilitation center near Perkins, Oklahoma. Unfortunately, the injury was so severe (infected broken wing) the Eagle had to be euthanized.
- D3 Wardens activity for the period June 9 through July 6, 2024 included the following.
  - Miles driven 21,794
  - Citations issued 11
  - Field License issued 8
  - Written warnings 26
  - Admin Fines collected 8
  - Sportsman Compliance checks 412
  - Hunter Ed Classes 1
  - Programs presented 80
  - Public outreach events 36
  - Assisting hours 323
  - Training hours 201
  - Investigation hours 25.5
  - Patrol hours 915

#### **Dist. 4**

- Game Warden Zane Arnold, Trey Hale, and Lydia Gearhart assisted Johnston Co. Sheriff's Deputies and Tishomingo Police Department with investigating a drowning at the Pennington Creek Dam in Tishomingo.

- Game Warden Zane Arnold attended a Basic Instructor Development course at the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics headquarters in Oklahoma City. Warden Arnold is now certified to instruct basic CLEET courses.
- Game Warden Dale Stites and Garret Harley attended an instructor training, Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response, in Oklahoma City hosted by Louisiana State University.
- Game Warden Trey Hale and Garrett Beam assisted as counselors for 38 campers at this year's Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Youth Camp at Lake Texoma.
- Game Warden Clayton Johnson and Trae Taylor conducted a Skins and Skulls public outreach in Wewoka. They presented at the Woods Adventist Center hosting 60 children.
- Game Warden Trae Taylor and Bailey Johnson hosted a public outreach for Wetumka Oil and Gas Company employees. Wardens discussed many topics including department programs, new license changes, Operation Game Thief, and the many roles of a Game Warden.
- District 4 Game Wardens conducted 1140 compliance checks, 27 programs, 10 public outreaches, and completed 160 hours of Law Enforcement training.

## **Dist. 5**

- Lt. Young, Wardens Flynn & Runyan assisted with search & rescue & traffic control at the Sulphur tornado. Warden Gillham assisted with search and rescue & scene management at the Marietta tornado.
- D5 Completed an LEDT Refresher course which emphasized the need for more of it by counting the number of innocent traffic cones ran over.
- Capt. Emmons, Lt.s Young & Strang assisted teaching the state approved LASER Active Shooter Program for Metro-Tech Police Academy along with students from Del City & GW Buley ensuring every Warden in D5 has had the valuable training. Warden Buley learned the importance of not turning his back on an unsecured shooter who he had just "shot" down. Buley turned around, knelt down & began to apply a tourniquet to one of the victims as the "shooter" regained blood pressure and "Re-animated" and began firing about 8 rounds into the Perineum (TAINT) of GW Buley. Buley was advised "You can't put a tourniquet on a Taint". He will not forget that valuable lesson which amplifies the reason we train...training is where mistakes should be made, not out along a remote riverbank or secluded country road.
- Lt. Strang is testing the E-Ticket method.
- GW Buley seized 2 Peacock Bass from a Pet Store selling them.
- GW Branch's OSU Wildlife Law Enforcement class was completed with field scenarios for the students acting as GWs. Capt. Emmons, Lt. Strang, GWs France, Mesis, Harriett, Murray & Buley were role players acting as violators.
- GW Branch taught our Defensive Tactics Refresher class to District's 1, 2 & 7.
- GW Mesis received a call of a Mt. Lion trapped in a chicken pen. Upon arrival, the Mt. Lion turned out to be a Serval cat whose owner was located and was able to retrieve the upset feline.
- While interviewing a subject who had harvested a hen turkey on Lex WMA, GW Meskimen received a call someone had rolled a vehicle on the WMA. GW Meskimen was able to locate the rolled vehicle which was well camouflaged in

the foliage and trees. Fortunately, no one was injured. When asked why they were driving so fast on the WMA the driver stated the fish weren't biting at Dalgren Lake and it was too crowded, so he wanted to get to Lake Thunderbird fast.

- GW Flynn assisted C&E with the Ask a Warden on social media.
- Falls Creek STEP: GWs Meskimen, Flynn, Gillham, Runyan
- McCloud STEP: Lt. Strang, GWs Murray & Buley
- Fishing event Cops & Bobbers with Stillwater PD: GWs Branch, France & Harriett
- Purcell & Dibble School Day Outdoor Education program was worked by GWs Meskimen, France & Lt.s Young & Strang.
- Mesis presented 2 Skins & Skulls programs for Guthrie & Cashion public schools.
- GW Campbell had a career day at Spencer public schools.
- GW Campbell & Buley did a Fishing Clinic at the Jones City Pond
- GW France did an Aquatic Ed program for North Rock Creek Schools north of Shawnee.
- GW Murray rescued Mallard ducklings from a storm drain in Yukon. He also worked the Fishing Derby at Lake El Reno.

#### **Dist. 6**

- Warden Pearson, Warden Taylor, Lt. Howser, and Warden Zimmerman all assisted with the ODWC Youth Camp. Warden Pearson and Lt. Howser were there the entire duration of the camp.
- Warden King and PGW Vaughn responded to a drowning call in Weatherford. They were the first on scene and performed CPR on a 1-year-old infant. Unfortunately, the child did not survive. The following day the two wardens attended a counseling/debriefing session with other first responders and dispatchers that were involved in the incident. Warden King told me that he had responded to things like this before, but this incident affected him a lot differently now that he has small children of his own.
- D6 personnel have been busy inspecting and approving breeder's licenses and commercial hunt area licenses as well as approving lifetime license applications before the July 1 cost increase.
- Warden Clem was able to get a license revocation on an individual from Texas that has killed a deer prior purchasing his non-resident deer license and then provided false information to the online check station to make it look like he had killed the deer after buying his license. The individual also had killed a bobcat out of season with no licenses.

#### **Dist. 7**

- Completed IT info for Drew.
- Inspected for Rehabbers license.
- GW Vaughn, GW Blackburn Patrolled OKC Metro with D. King for more activity.
- GW Vaughn, FTO D. King attended debriefing from assisting with infant drowning incident, held at Weatherford PD, hosted by OHP
- GW Vaughn arrested an individual on a warrant after hearing the info put out on his radio.
- Working on getting D7 Laser Training set up, still dealing with OHP sandbagging us!!!

- Lt. Edwards assisted Colorado Parks and Wildlife on an investigation.

## **Dist. 8**

- Warden Baker is working on an intensive license fraud case as part of his WIT team duties.
- Road-kill bear in Cimarron County.
- Several public outreach events in the district. (4th of July fishing clinics, Butch's gun camp shooting STEP and archery programs, very popular Nursing home fishing clinic with a stock tank full of fish in Alva) to name a few.
- Special emphasis with D8 and D1 to catch overlimit and double bagging strippers below Kaw dam. They shut off the water right when things were getting good. Even had 1 guy leave and come back with a change of clothes, but the fish catching never started again. Bad timing. Wardens Grace, Green, and Lt. Paul.
- Warden Reigh is meeting with C&E officials to share his insight on highly popular and innovative programs that he has assisted in designing. He is also set to be the Keynote speaker at the State Ducks Unlimited Banquet.
- Wardens Leonard and Wagner are off to CLEET basic academy, they both passed their entrance physical tests with flying colors and will be a guest of the state for the next 16 weeks.
- Defensive tactics class hosted in Enid and attended by several districts. Most guys are catching up on the required annual online CLEET trainings.

## **TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

### **2024 PROPOSED EMERGENCY RULES**

- 1. 800:1-13-11. Wildlife Land Stamp, also known as Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit**
  - Delete this section on Wildlife Land Stamp as it is no longer needed due to the passage of SB 941.
- 2. 800:25-5-2.2. General provisions for migratory game birds**
  - Modify HIP requirements based on the passage of SB 941.
- 3. 800:25-7-3. General Provisions**
  - Add license requirements for youth hunters based on the passage of SB 941.
- 4. 800:25-7-60. General provisions for furbearers**
  - Delete special license requirements for furbearers based on the passage of SB 941.
- 5. 800:25-13-12. Five-Day Paper Hunting License**
  - The passage of HB 3856 requires ODWC to allow sales of five-day paper hunting licenses for winged upland game at licensed commercial hunt areas.

**NOTE: The following turkey license change is not an emergency and will go through the regular permanent rule making cycle for 2025.**

- 6. 800:25-7-19. Wild turkey – general provisions**
  - Change the license costs for turkey licenses.

## 2024 Proposed EMERGENCY RULES

### TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

#### CHAPTER 1. OPERATIONS AND PROCEDURES

##### SUBCHAPTER 13. HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE DEALERS

**800:1-13-11. Wildlife Land Stamp, also known as Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit [REVOKED]**

~~(a) The form and design applicable to annual hunting and fishing licenses shall apply to the Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit. The manner of issuance applicable to all annual hunting and fishing licenses which includes the universal license form, the Department's Internet Point of Sale or Online Sales System, or phone sales will apply.~~

~~(b) The form and design of the lifetime Fishing and Hunting Legacy Permit or Wildlife Land Stamp shall be incorporated into the current design of the appropriate Oklahoma Lifetime License. The issuance shall be consistent with all current lifetime licenses. Each lifetime license sold on or after September 1, 2004 will include the appropriate Wildlife Land Stamp fee in the price of the license.~~

#### CHAPTER 25. WILDLIFE RULES

##### SUBCHAPTER 5. MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING SEASON

##### PART 1. DUCKS, MERGANSERS, COOTS, GEESE, MOURNING, WHITE-WINGED AND EURASIAN COLLARED DOVES, WOODCOCK, VIRGINIA AND SORA RAIL, COMMON MOORHEN, PURPLE GALLINULE, SNIPE, AND SANDHILL CRANE

**800:25-5-2.2. General provisions for migratory game birds [AMENDED]**

The following provisions apply to the taking of migratory game birds:

- (1) **Hunting hours.** Unless otherwise provided, the hunting hours shall be one-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset.
- (2) **Legal means of taking.** The legal means of taking shall be shotgun (conventional or muzzleloading), bow and arrow or legal raptors and as otherwise provided. Shotguns must not be larger than 10 gauge. No rifles, pistols or shotgun slugs. Shotguns must be incapable of holding more than three (3) shells in the magazine and chamber combined. Specific limitations otherwise provided by law shall control over the general requirements of this section.
- (3) **Nontoxic shot requirements.** All waterfowl and coot hunting is restricted to use of federally approved nontoxic shot in all areas of the state.
- (4) **Hunting from boats.** No person may take migratory game birds from any motor-boat or sailboat unless the motor has been shut off and/or the sails furled and the boat has stopped.
- (5) **Baiting.** Migratory game birds may not be baited or taken on or over any baited areas.
- (6) **Retrieving responsibility.** All hunters are required to make a reasonable effort to retrieve any migratory game bird killed and include such birds in their daily bag limit.
- (7) **Hunting in two states.** A hunter who hunts in two states having separate daily bag limits, may not exceed the largest number of birds that can legally be taken in one of the states in which they take birds.
- (8) **Wildlife management areas.** All management areas are open to migratory game bird hunting during designated seasons unless otherwise closed to hunting during those seasons.
- (9) **National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program requirements.** ~~Licensed~~ Those who are required to be licensed to hunt migratory birds ~~migratory bird hunters, including lifetime license holders who hunt migratory birds,~~ will be required annually to obtain and complete a Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit and have the permit in their possession while hunting migratory birds. HIP permit is required for all migratory bird and waterfowl hunters under age 64, including lifetime license holders. Youth under 18 not hunting waterfowl, but hunting other migratory birds, are exempt. Hunters under sixteen (16) years of age, senior citizens (age sixty four (64) or older or those who turn sixty four (64) during the calendar year in which they intend to hunt migratory birds) and landowners Landowners hunting only on their own property are exempt from the requirements of the National Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.

HIP permits can be obtained at any hunting license dealer ~~as part of the Universal License form~~. The effective dates that the HIP permits will be valid for any given migratory bird season will be from July 1 through June 30.

## **SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS**

### **PART. 1 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

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

- (a) Any person hunting any wildlife in open areas during the youth deer gun, bear muzzleloader, deer muzzleloader, deer gun, holiday antlerless deer gun (in open zones), elk gun (in open counties) or September antelope gun (in open areas) seasons with a shotgun and rifled slug, or any rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber long rifle, must possess a valid bear, deer, elk, or antelope license, unless otherwise exempt. Any person hunting feral hogs in open areas during the deer gun, deer primitive, elk, bear or antelope season with a shotgun and rifled slug, or any rifle or handgun larger than a .22 caliber rimfire, must possess a filled or unfilled deer, elk, bear, or antelope license appropriate for that season unless otherwise exempt.
- (b) No person while in the field may possess or attempt to harvest any wildlife, except waterfowl and crane, with shotgun utilizing shot larger than #4 buckshot. Any person hunting any wildlife with an air powered arrow rifle during any open season when rifles are a legal means of take must possess a valid air powered arrow rifle permit.
- (c) Any person participating in primitive firearms season, deer gun seasons, elk season, antelope season and bear gun season must conspicuously wear both a head covering and an outer garment above the waistline, both totaling 500 square inches or more of clothing, both consisting of daylight fluorescent orange color totaling not less than 400 square inches [Title 29 O.S., Section 5-205, Part A]. All other hunters, except those hunting waterfowl, dove, crow or crane, or while hunting furbearing animals at night must wear either a head covering or upper garment of fluorescent orange clothing during the deer primitive firearms season, deer gun seasons, elk season, antelope season and bear primitive firearms season, or bear gun season in zones where these seasons are open.
- (d) For purposes of pheasant, turkey, deer, elk, bear and antelope regulations, 'final destination' shall be the hunter's residence or place of consumption.
- (e) No person may possess any game bird, animal or other wildlife, or portions thereof that have been taken by another person unless such game bird, animal or other wildlife, contain information giving the taker's name, customer identification number, date taken and the number and kind of game bird, animal or wildlife. In addition, information on deer, elk, antelope, bear and turkey must include the confirmation number as proof that the animal's harvest has been properly reported. The person's name and address receiving said wildlife must also appear on the written information.
- (f) No person shall concentrate, drive, molest, hunt, take, capture or kill; or attempt to take any wildlife by the aid of any fire or smoke whether man-made or natural.
- (g) No person may hunt, chase, capture, shoot at, wound or kill any moose or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, except as otherwise provided by statute or Commission rule.
- (h) Private landowner regulations regarding any items covered by these rules may be more restrictive, but not less restrictive than these rules.
- (i) Dogs may be used in taking all game species in these rules except bear, deer, elk, antelope and turkey. Exceptions to this rule would be the use of a leashed dog to track downed game after notification to the game warden of location and having no means of take on person while tracking.
- (j) Except as otherwise provided for by law or Commission rule, nothing shall prohibit the year-round pursuit of game, which may be lawfully hunted with the use of hunting dogs, for dog training or sport only. However, unless otherwise provided, no person in pursuit of game with hunting dogs outside of the regular harvest season shall have in their possession the means to harvest such game.
- (k) Harvest tagging of game – All persons taking a deer, elk, antelope, bear, or turkey must immediately secure their name, customer identification number, date and time of harvest to the carcass.
- (l) Harvest reporting of game – All deer, elk, antelope, bear, or turkey taken must be reported by the hunter to the Department within 24 hours of leaving the hunt area. Instructions for reporting of harvest will be provided in the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations and on the Department's

website. Once reported, a carcass tag or online confirmation number will be issued. This tag or confirmation number must remain with the carcass to its final destination or through processing and/or storage at a commercial processing or storage facility. Evidence of sex must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the harvest has been properly reported.

(m) All resident and nonresident youth under 18 must have a youth super license to hunter deer, elk, pronghorn, bear, turkey, waterfowl, furbearers, and trapping. Youth hunters under the age of 18 hunting all other species not listed are exempt from the youth super license.

## **PART. 15. FURBEARERS**

### **800:25-7-60. General provisions for furbearers [AMENDED]**

The following general provisions apply to the taking of furbearers:

(1) **Sale of carcass.** The skinned carcass of any legal furbearer or predator may be sold, offered or displayed for sale or bartered at any time. The sale of scent glands from furbearers or predators is permitted.

(2) **Bobcat and River Otter export tag.**

(A) No bobcat or river otter pelt may be held in possession after 10 working days after the close of furbearer season by the taker or buyer, sold, purchased or bartered within Oklahoma, nor taken out of Oklahoma without having first affixed a permanent tag to the pelt. This tag shall serve as an export tag.

(B) The tag must be affixed by an authorized employee of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, a designated agent, or a private tagging station. Private tagging station may charge \$0.75 per tag fee.

(C) It is the responsibility of the possessor of the bobcat or river otter pelt, not the Department, to ensure that the pelt is legally tagged.

(D) No untagged bobcat or river otter harvested in another state may be possessed in Oklahoma.

(3) **Possession of carcasses or hides.**

(A) It shall be illegal to possess live animals, carcasses or raw furs of swift fox, ringtail, or spotted skunk, unless proven that each carcass or hide was taken legally outside of the State of Oklahoma.

(B) Proof of legality or origin for carcasses or green hides shall be a tag or other marking device attached to or imprinted on each and every hide in such a way that it cannot be removed intact. The tag or marking must be the official method used by the issuing agency. If any identification is not required by the issuing agency, a hunting or trapping license appropriate to the species taken is required as proof.

(4) **Night hunting of coyotes.** It shall be unlawful to hunt, take or attempt to take coyotes within the period of dark to daylight with the aid of any artificial light and/or any sight dog. Persons hunting at night must first obtain permission from the County Game Warden. Anyone hunting at night must use a shotgun, utilizing size 6 shot or smaller.

(5) **Special license requirement.** ~~A special Bobcat Raccoon River Otter Gray/Red Fox License is required for all who take these species by any means. Holders of an Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation lifetime hunting or lifetime combination license, senior citizen hunting or senior citizen combination license are exempt. No individual may purchase more than one special license. This license is valid through seasons currently in effect for bobcat, raccoon, river otter, gray fox and red fox. Said fee for Oklahoma resident is \$9.00 plus \$1.00 vendor fee, non-resident is \$50.00 plus \$1.00 vendor fee. Beginning July 1, 2024, a trapping license will be included in the privileges for resident annual, resident youth super, resident 3-year, disability license, non-resident~~



annual, non-resident 5-day, non-resident youth super license, and non-resident 5-day youth super license.

(6) **Intent to hold form requirement.** Any person who takes a pelt or pelts during the season shall have until the end of March to sell or dispose of the pelts or to provide written notification to the Department of Wildlife Conservation that the person intends to hold the pelts for later sale. Written notification shall be made on a form prescribed by the Department.

(7) **Trap placement.** No trap so used may be set in paths, roads, or runways commonly used for recreational purposes by persons, domestic animals or dogs.

(8) **Trap check requirement.** Any trap set for the purpose of catching any wildlife shall be tended once during each twenty-four (24) hour period. All traps shall bear the name, or customer identification number, of the owner of the traps, except for any traps set on property owned or leased by the owner of the traps. Any person violating this subsection shall, in addition to any criminal penalty, be civilly liable for all damages caused by such violation.

(9) **Posting of signage.** On any lands where smooth-jawed double-spring offset no less than 1/8 inch or smooth-jawed coil-spring offset no less than 1/8 inch traps are used, the posting of signs shall be required at all entrances from public roads and highways. The requirement to post signs shall not apply if the person is trapping on private property. Signs shall be no less than 5" by 8" and clearly state the word "TRAPS".

### SUBCHAPTER 13. COMMERCIAL HUNT AREAS

#### **800:25-13-12. FIVE-DAY PAPER HUNTING LICENSE [NEW]**

(a) Beginning November 1, 2024, the Department may provide a five-day paper hunting licenses for hunting upland winged game, excluding wild turkeys, at a licensed Commercial Hunt Area.

(b) The fee per license shall be \$5.00.

(c) Licenses will be sold in books of no fewer than ten (10) licenses to Commercial Hunt Area operators in a manner determined by the Department. License holder information is to be completed on each license as instructed and copies shall be returned to the Department prior to the renewal of the Commercial Hunt Area license.

**NOTE: The following turkey license change is not an emergency and will go through the regular permanent rule making cycle for 2025.**

### SUBCHAPTER 7. GENERAL HUNTING SEASONS PART 5. UPLAND GAME

#### **800:25-7-19. Wild turkey - general provisions [AMENDED]**

The following general provisions apply to the taking of turkey:

(1) **Tom turkey description.** A tom turkey is any bearded turkey, regardless of sex.

(2) **Hunting hours.** The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

(3) **Baiting.** Turkeys may not be taken within 100 yards of any bait. "Bait" shall mean the placing, exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain or other feed so as to constitute for such birds a lure, attraction or enticement to, on or over any area where hunters are attempting to take them. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the taking of wild turkey over standing crops, grain crops, properly shucked on the field where grown or grain found scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations.

(4) **Roost shooting.** Roost shooting is prohibited.

(5) **Decoys and recorded calls.** Hunting turkey with artificial decoys is permitted. Live decoys and recorded calls are prohibited.

(6) **Evidence of Sex.** Beard or one foot must be naturally attached.

(7) **Turkey License and Fee.** All persons hunting wild turkeys, unless otherwise exempt, must possess a turkey license. A separate turkey license is required for each bird hunted. Fee for turkey license will be ~~\$9.00~~ plus \$1.00 vendor fee \$19.00 for residents and \$39 for non-residents, plus \$1.00 vendor fee for each license sold.