

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

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, March 3rd, 2025, 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 – Nathan Erdman
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nathan Erdman
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Presentation of Awards

Kelvin Schoonover, Wildlife Biologist – 30 Years of Service

7. Presentation of performance metrics for [wildlifedepartment.com](http://wildlifedepartment.com) and overview of the newly renovated Cy Curtis Program website. – Micah Holmes, Assistant Chief of Communication and Education, and Kara Gardner, Web Developer
8. Presentation of donation for \$15,000 from the Mender Company to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation. – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife; Sean McCabe, Director Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation and Kent Taggart, Chief Executive Officer of Mender
9. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the February 3rd, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
10. Director's Report
  - a. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
  - b. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division.
  - c. Oklahoma Legislative Update
11. Presentation of the January 31st Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration

12. Discussion of the purchase of certain real properties located in Adair, Creek, Delaware, Haskell, Okfuskee, and Pushmataha counties, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division
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 April 7th, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
15. 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**

# MARCH 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## CALENDAR ITEMS:

March 5	Rack Madness, ODWC Headquarters, OKC
March 10-14	North American Wildlife Conference, Louisville, KY
April 1-2	Regionals OKSSSP @ OTSA, EL Reno

## AGENCY UPDATE

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Accounting

##### Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 324
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$2,801,544

##### Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 202
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 12
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$464,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$575,500
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 36
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 788
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 0
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 17
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$211,111
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 2
- New Approver Training at OMES: 1
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 2

##### Risk Management:

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

##### Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 53
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 12

##### Overview:

- The CPO's are making significant progress on the backlog of purchasing requisitions.
- Developing a new Purchasing Requisition Form to replace both the current form and the IT Acquisition Request Form.
- Testing a weekly upload from Brandt to PeopleSoft.

## **Federal Aid**

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,054,872
- Program Income: \$73,559
- In-Kind Contributions: \$29,290
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 4
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 12
- Reviewed 694 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$163,347 charged to grants.
- Subaward Invoices Processed:
- New employee orientation for Federal Aid Coordinator
- Indirect cost proposal submitted.
- Federal funds for grant drawdowns were taken offline during the change of administration, but quickly reinstated and ODWC's reimbursement has not been impacted. New grants and amendments are going through additional review; Federal Aid is monitoring potential delays and working with accounting to assess cash flow needs.

## **Human Resources**

### Recruitment:

- Open Positions 28
- Positions Announced 5
- Applications Screened 248
- Positions Interviewed 7
- Candidates Interviewed 33
- New Hires 13
- Promotions 5
- Transfers 0
- Resignations 1
- Retirements 1
- Terminations 1
- Temporary Employees Processed 3

### Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 338
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 35
- DB Plan Members 140
- DC Plan Members 198

### Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 2

### Training:

- # in orientation 13

### Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 0
- Worker Comp Injuries 0

### Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the February WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 13 new hires
- Planning for LDP Level Two workshops
- Monitored 2024 Annual Performance Review for full-time employees
- Planning for MBTI trainings for Fisheries Division
- Game Warden physicals and MMPI
- Career Fair

### **License**

- Processed 532 orders, including 387 licenses/permits and 231 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$366,948 in revenue.
- Shipped 318 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$6,300 in revenue.
- Processed over \$336,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 1096 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

### January License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 12% for the month compared to January 2024.

Notables include:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Pct Change MTD (# Sold)</b>
Resident Combo	-28% (1,574)
Resident Fishing	-30% (3,035)
Resident Hunting	-26% (1,734)
Resident Waterfowl	1,123 sold
Nonresident Fishing	-27% (1,499)
Nonresident Hunting	+405% (5,889)
Nonresident Waterfowl	5,150 sold

- Nonresident annual hunting spiked in January due to the last part of waterfowl season, resulting in a \$1 million increase in sales revenue for that license type. Annual fishing licenses saw their first monthly decrease of the fiscal year but are still up overall, so we'll continue to monitor their sales.
- Lifetime License sales were down 34% for the month compared to January 2024, with revenue down 32% for the category and 819 sold.

Notables include:

<b>License Type</b>	<b>Pct Change MTD (# Sold)</b>
Lifetime Combo	-54% (93)
Lifetime Fishing	-50% (46)
Senior Citizen Combo	-37% (371)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-10% (208)

We're currently in a slower period in License but expect to ramp up as we move into fishing season and begin Controlled Hunts preparation.

## Information Technology

- IT took in 102 tickets. This is an increase month over month that is normal for this time of year, due to people taking extra time off for the holiday season. When users return to work, they have a backlog of issues to get to.
- Penetration testing is complete. In the follow-up test, we were able to reduce our biggest attack vectors, lowering our overall risk score.
- Assisted Law Enforcement with onboarding 10 wardens for their new hire training.
- We meet with the Rack Madness leadership team to discuss pain points from previous years from an IT perspective. We have game-planned solutions for how to fix things this year and sent out an email to the scores with our plans for the year.
- Fixed issues with ordering 49 new lease laptops to replace aged-out computers.
- Security refresh has been signed for and is getting scheduled.

## Property

- January 2025 auction complete with \$390,935.00 generated between surplus items and vehicles. Scheduled and coordinated pickup with buyers of items following the completion of the auction.
- Provided setup and teardown for the Oklahoma room for 4 days of internal only groups.
- Three new vehicles were deployed out to the field.
- Coordinated assignment of vehicles to ten new Game Wardens and setup radios for their counties in each truck.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 950 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of January in the mailroom.

## FISHERIES

### Jan 2025 Highlight

Statewide Fish Stocking, January 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	30,789	10+"	3
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	4,888	9+"	6
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	774	14-25"	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,451</b>		

### Meetings:

- Staff attended and presented at the SDAFS Aquaculture meeting that took place At the Durant Hatchery.
- Staff attended meeting with the Blue River Foundation.
- Attended South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center proposal review meeting.

#### Activities:

- Staff continued rainbow trout production in fish house. Fish are doing well and growing. Fish are approximately 271 per lb. with a total of 14,500 fish
- Staff continued the office renovation project consisting of new flooring installation, paint, refinished cabinets and new countertops.
- The manager started preparations for the upcoming fish production season. Supplies were ordered, out-of-state fish trades were discussed and confirmed.
- Submitted all soil samples to OSU Extension for processing
- Installed and programmed bird lasers at Durant
- Submitted interim report for the Planning for Propagation and Repatriation of Native Freshwater Fishes in Oklahoma (T-133-P-1) grant.
- Showed HEO Dept lakes and responsibilities for areas.
- Picked up trash at Dept Lakes.
- Maintained heavy equipment, repaired equipment, winterized equipment before heavy freeze.
- Cleared trees along shoreline at Jap Beaver to provide better bank fishing access.
- Contractor began lining drain lines at Jap Beaver. 1 of 2 pipes were lined. Equipment failure caused delay in second pipe.
- Entered all data for fish sampling, validated data in OFAT, A&G for Ft. Cobb, Altus Lugert, and Lawtonka.
- Staff ensured all lake management reports for 2023/24 sampling were completed.
- Signed contracts and put agenda together for bio meeting in March.
- BR staff developed area maps and brochures with assistance of C&E and GIS staff.
- Staff attended meeting with the Blue River Foundation.
- BR staff built new metal frames for new area signage.
- Staff finalized edits and figures for SEAFWA publications.
- Staff sampled RS Kerr for Striped Bass for Arkansas River Striped Bass Natal Origin Project
- Staff completed regional management/creel survey reports.
- Staff prepared presentations for the 2025 Southern Division of the American Fisheries Society Meeting
- Maintenance of boats and equipment continued
- Staff continued conducting Angler Survey on Greenleaf Lake.
- Skipjack sampling continued on R.S. Kerr using modified gillnets in targeted areas.
- Information concerning ODWC Hwy 10 properties was compiled to inform ODWC/GRDA use agreement discussions.
- Attended GRDA meeting to discuss property agreement as well as an ongoing meeting with stakeholders to discuss Illinois river usage.
- ECR Trout crew made stocking runs with Holdenville hatchery staff to learn the process.
- Met with LMFR Foundation representatives to discuss cooperative work opportunities.

- Completed drafting SSP Survey Reports for lakes sampled during 2024-2025 federal grant period and submitted to supervisor for review and to be submitted to fish division for federal aid compliance.
- Completed Section 7 compliance for OSU research project through OFRL.
- Attended meeting with USACE and USFWS to discuss McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) 12-foot deepening project lead by the USACE. Discussions were had on potential impacts to fisheries, wildlife, and Department managed lands.
- removed over 550 cedar trees at Nanih Waiya.
- attended leadership training.
- Selected 2025 sampling sites for Poteau and Red River drainages.
- Assisted with paddlefish netting on Eufaula and Skipjack on Kerr. Catch rates on skipjack were low.
- Trees in the Watonga lakebed were masticated to allow boating access and improve fish habitat.
- Two creel surveys were conducted at Foss Lake. Hybrid striped bass remain the most sought-after species.
- Creel surveys is ongoing at Sooner reservoir with 14 contacted and 9 QR code.

## **C&E DIVISION**

- Amanda Thomas accepted the bid and finalized the contract and purchase order for renovation of the Optima WMA gun range. Construction will kick off in March. The renovated range will include a 100-yard Rifle and a 50-yard pistol range.
- Bids were awarded for the Arcadia parking lot project. Rudy Construction was chosen to complete the project. This project will fix existing drainage issues at the Arcadia Conservation Education Center, install concrete parking lots at the Center, visitor parking and Aquatic Education Pond. It will also add 32 parking spots to the Center's parking lot. Construction will kick off in March.
- Jena Donnell reports an all-time high of \$92,360 deposited in the Wildlife Diversity Fund in 2024 from license plate sales. She also reports \$25,131 was donated from 2024 tax refunds, generating \$117,491 for wildlife diversity efforts.
- Last fall, Michael Bergin helped launch a strategic digital campaign to promote hunting access and opportunities across the state. The project was funded by a \$50,000 grant from the Association for Conservation Information. Leveraging customer data, the effort aimed to maximize views of the video across Youtube and other digital platforms. In a month-and-a-half, the campaign helped generate thousands of dollars in license sales.
- Kara Gardner revamped the Cy Curtis Program bringing a fresh new look and enhanced functionality. This upgraded system streamlines the certificate approval process, including auto-populating certificates, greatly improving time and efficiency.



- The Game Harvest Survey began in early February.
- Smokey Solis kicked off the regulations production cycle in early February. Again, this year, regulations will be available for the public in mid-August.
- Damon Springer and Colby Cook prepared for the 2025 Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program shoots in March. Regional shoots will be held in a new format this year, providing the same quality experience for students, but saving time and money for the ODWC. Regional shoots will be April 1, 2 and the state shoot at April 16 at the Oklahoma Trap & Skeet Association in El Reno, Oklahoma. This is the culminating event for the more than 100 schools participating in OKSSSP year-round.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

- 87 Miles of area roads maintained.
- 7 Tons of gravel spread.
- 43 Miles of firebreaks maintained.
- 3 Gates repaired.
- 25 Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 7 Signs installed or maintained.
- 2.5 Miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 31 Acres brush-hogged/mowed.
- Shooting ranges maintained
- Ag and Grazing lease bid openings & inspections
- Waterfowl Surveys
- Multiple prescribed burns conducted on WMAs.
- Bird Survey conducted at Drummond Flats WMA
- Herd Health Evaluation in northeast and north central Oklahoma.
- Deer scoring underway.
- Trapping workshop and train the trainer workshops completed.
- Southwest and Southeast Regions turkey research trapping underway.
- Staff gave turkey necropsy training to 7<sup>th</sup> district Game Wardens.
- Mule deer research team completed collaring animals in Beaver, Ellis and Roger Mills counties.
- Meeting with Ducks Unlimited for Hackberry Flat and Drummond Flats projects.
- CWD freezer collections completed.
- Winter turkey flock surveys completed.
- Elk Surveys finishing up.
- Aerial pronghorn survey completed.
- Cedar cutting project at Canton & Cooper WMA's.
- Jaw aging from DMAP's and area WMA's wrapping up.
- Collected more than 500 genetic samples for CWD genetic sampling.
- Big game harvest data being analyzed for big game report.
- Attended Wingbee and the Central Flyway Winter Meeting.
- GPS tracking collars placed on female cackling geese at FT Cobb State Park to quantify habit use in wintering grounds.
- Quail season wrapped up.

- Train the trainer trapping workshop completed.
- Bobcat and otter tagging wrapping up.
- Working with USFW on bird permits, regulation and reporting pertaining to falconry.
- Updating WMA maps, anticipating new WMA atlas.
- Participating in GIS day at State Capital March 5.
- OK Natural Resource Conference is April 7 at Metro Tech Conference Center in Oklahoma City.
- Staff attended and presented at Ranch Conversation meetings.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- The Wildlife Research Committee met to discuss research proposals.
- Revisions continue with State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Environmental compliance on grant activities continues.
- Northern bobwhite wings collected on select WMAs were aged compiled.
- WMA planning app committee is meeting and continuing to fine-tune the planning app.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

### **Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks**

- D1 had our in-person meeting in February at the Latham Ranch and completed our inventory work at that meeting along with lunch and fellowship. We also were presented a brush-up training on deer scoring by Wildlife Div biologists Tony Crawford and Russell Perry.
- D1 had our 1st Safety Meeting and Teams Meeting of the year in late January. Lt Alexander presented the meeting on the topic of distracted driving.
- Craig Co Warden Jackson has once again been tasked with setting up schedules for all of the boat and hunting shows in the district this winter. D1 wardens answered the call for the Tulsa Boat Expo, the Tulsa Boat Sport and Travel Show, and the upcoming Pryor Hunting Show. We are also signed up to handle the new Tulsa Backwoods Show and Rack Madness.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche has been busy with programs this winter including assisting with the Osage Predator Contest, the Skiatook Lake Association, and the upcoming Outdoor Career Day presented by Fishing University TV which will air on the Outdoor Channel next year.
- Lt Welch completed some great cases this winter including a Colorado resident hunting without licensing (and hiding the gun from him). Lt. Welch also worked a case on a subject that killed a deer with an air rifle in his front yard.
- Wardens Fulton and Garrett caught some subjects duck hunting over bait near Coweta.
- Capt. Jenks and Wardens Rolling and Newkirk attended FTO initial training in OKC.
- Capt. Jenks served on an OHP LT-CPT Promotional Board at OKC.

- Warden Willman returned this month to duty after taking time off with his new baby boy, Brecken.

## **Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson**

### **Public Outreach-**

- Wardens D. Langford, M. Stanley, J. Cramer, J. Rowland, D. Garrett, D. deMontigny, A. Couch, Lt. Matlock, and Capt. Robertson attended the annual 2 day Legislative STEP event at the Inhoff Pecan Creek Ranch.
- Wardens D. Langford, K. Bailey, J. Rowland, and D. deMontigny scored deer antlers at Pat's Archery for a big buck contest.
- Lt. Matlock assisted with the OKNASP event in OKC.

### **Cases-**

- Warden D. Langford, while checking waterfowl hunters, found a non-resident with a resident hunting license. Upon further investigation the individual possessed resident hunting licenses in 3 other states. Those other states have opened investigations on this individual because of warden Langford's initial contact.

## **Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey**

- Warden K. Lawson, on January 26, I received information from a local landowner of trespassing duck hunters at '41 cut-off, an oxbow lake created by Red River changing course in 1941. I responded and located 4 duck hunters from Louisiana who had been told previously by the landowner/lessee not to be there. I issued 4 citations for trespassing and 2 citations for non-resident hunting without a license or state duck stamp.
- Warden K. Lawson, later that day January 26, 2025, around lunchtime I received a call from a retired federal warden that there were duck hunters trespassing on Red River and another call from a local hunter who stated he was leaving Red Slough WMA around 1:00 pm (the end of legal shooting hours on the WMA) and witnessed 3 hunters carrying in decoys to begin hunting. This hunter stated he had gotten in touch with Wardens Hannah and Lt. Polk as well. I went to the location and found Warden Hannah already there and we listened to them shoot for a couple of hours then made contact. Warden Hannah issued 6 citations there for hunting after legal hours, no plugged gun and license violations while I went to Red River. I located 5 Texas trucks with 2 empty boat trailers there on private property. Warden Hannah joined me as well as Texas game warden Daniel Kessler and we contacted 8 duck hunters from Texas and issued 8 citations for trespassing and 6 citations for license violations and one warning for an unplugged shotgun. We wrote a total of 26 tickets and one warning.
- We are currently working on completing our annual Performance Review process and annual Inventory here in D3.
- We are also working on confirming dates and places for our annual CLEET training requirements here in D3.

**Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright**

- Warden Jones and Lt. Cramer assisted with the National Archery in the Schools State Shoot in Oklahoma City.
- Wardens Hale and Beam assisted the Fisheries Division with a winter creel survey by pulling gill nets in Lake Texoma.
- All District 4 Wardens completed their first quarter safety training over driving in inclement weather.
- Wardens Hale, Jones, and Lt. Cramer completed an Elk Herd Survey for Bryan, Johnston, and Marshall counties.
- Warden Hale attended three days of Leadership Development Training at Sequoia State Park.
- Warden Gearhart attended “Train the Trainer” Trapping Workshop at Packsaddle WMA.
- Warden Gearhart, Taylor, and Johnson assisted with the National Archery in the Schools State Shoot in Oklahoma City.
- Warden Wagner did a Career Day Program for high school students at Charles Paige High School.
- Wardens Johnson and Taylor did a Career Day Program at Ada Public Schools.
- Warden Taylor did public outreach at the Tulsa Boat Show.
- Warden Stites and Taylor did Career Day Program at Okemah Public Schools.
- Wardens Johnson, Taylor, and Gearhart completed a waterfowl baiting investigation which led to multiple citations, including taking waterfowl over bait, no waterfowl license, and no hunting license.
- Wardens Stites, Johnson, and Taylor completed recent Field Training Officer instructor school.

**Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons**

- GW Murray, Meskimen & Gillham attended FTO class.
- D5 GWs participated in a CLEET accredited Handgun Disarms class.
- GW Mesis & France checked a group of 11 duck hunters from Mississippi and Arkansas that were being guided in Logan County on the last weekend of duck season. 5 out of the 11 hunters were in violation. 4 temporary non-resident hunting licenses, 3 non-resident temporary waterfowl licenses and 2 ADFs for unplugged shotguns were issued. GW Mesis had issued a temporary hunting license on the opening weekend of duck season to a client of the same Guide service.

- Lt. Strang & GWs Branch & Harriet assisted wildlife division with the herd health survey.
- GW Harriet is investigating an individual with several deer heads after the Meeker Police Department responded to a Domestic Incident involving the individual.
- GW Harriet has been putting the PGWs thru their P.T. workout every evening.
- GW Murray is still finding baited waterfowl spots. On January 19, he conducted a compliance check on a guided group of 8 duck hunters near El Reno and discovered the pond was baited with oats. All 8 hunters were cited for Title 29-5-406: Hunting Migratory Birds in Violation of Federal Law. He issued a temporary license to another individual on different hunt the same day and issued an ADF a few days later to an individual hunting with an unplugged gun.
- On February 2, GW Murray conducted a compliance check on a guided group of goose hunters and issued 2 citations for no state waterfowl license and one citation for no federal duck stamp. One subject who been guiding and hunting for years, claimed he had never been required to have a state waterfowl license despite previous compliance checks.
- GW Meskimen responded to a possible "shooting geese from the roadway" call which turned out to be a 17 yr old shooting at geese on a wheat field (not from the road) with a .22 rifle besides his grandpa's shop building to "protect" his 55 pound Pit Bull puppy. GW Meskimen was able to find one dead goose as it had fallen dead into the neighbor's/ Reporting Party's yard. Before GW Meskimen arrived, the kid had gone to the neighbor's house and confessed his Sins.

#### **Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker**

##### **Special or unusual cases –**

- While out patrolling at night Warden Clem came across a vehicle parked in the middle of a county road. As he pulled up behind the vehicle, he observed a hose that was attached to the exhaust of the vehicle and ran into the cab of the vehicle through the window. Warden Clem exited his vehicle as did the man in the vehicle. The man in the vehicle was very upset and was yelling at Warden Clem, "you f'ed it up!" Warden Clem was able to talk to the individual and calm him down. Warden Clem had radioed for assistance during the contact. Assistance arrived and the man was EOD'd.
- Warden Taylor caught a group of individuals using a thermal go light from a county road. This is the second group of guided hog hunters that has been caught doing this within the last year. Guns and the thermal device were seized. Charges are pending.
- Warden Taylor recently wrapped up a case where a waterfowl guide used a drone to haze ducks and geese off of adjacent properties to bring them to his hunters. The guide plead guilty to charges of harassing wildlife. Federal officers are now pursuing charges for violations of the airborne hunting act.

- Warden Cornett worked an illegal wildlife disposal case where he found 246 ducks and geese dumped on a property. A group of Texas hunters admitted to dumping the birds. Warden Cornett is waiting to meet with the hunters to write them tickets.
- Warden Cornett is working a multi-state case on an Instagram famous woman for all sorts of violations. License fraud in multiple states, no licenses, failure to check, etc.
- Warden Clem –
  - Conducted career day at Comanche High School with Warden Stover
  - Assisted Lt. Carroll with controlled elk hunt safety briefings at Wichita Mtns NWR
  - Assisted with Archery in the Schools program at OKC.
  - Investigated a hunting incident near Ringling that resulted in the death of an individual.
  - 11 arrests made for the cycle.
- Warden Stover
  - Conducted career day programs at Comanche High School with Warden Clem
  - Assisted with Tim Tebow Foundation “Night to Shine” event.
  - 1 ADF for the cycle
- Lt. Carroll –
  - Conducted safety briefings for controlled elk hunts at Wichita Mtns NWR
  - Wrote one individual for exceeding the bag limit of elk on the hunt. The person shot through a cow and hit a calf on the other side of her.
- Warden Zimmerman –
  - Did Rotary Club of Chickasha presentation on wildlife and law enforcement issues in Grady County.
- Warden Cornett –
  - Caught a waterfowl guide that had checked in a beardless turkey with no license. The bird was checked as an archery kill but the guy admitted to killing it with a shotgun. Phone was seized pending OSBI warrants for his phone and cloud storage.
  - 3 arrests made and 3 arrest completed for the cycle.
- Warden King –
  - Continues to work on Leadership Development program.
- Warden Pearson –
  - Presented skins and skulls program to Okarche Clover Buds group.
  - Had 3 arrests made and 1 ADF for the cycle.
- Warden Taylor –
  - Assisted with Archery in the Schools at OKC
  - Had 3 arrests made for the cycle.
- Warden Flynn –
  - Just came off baby leave towards the end of the cycle. Glad to finally have a warden back in Blaine County.

## **Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick**

- Warden D. Jones worked quail hunters on Packsaddle/driving on closed roads, he also worked a hunting without consent case.
- Warden C. Carpenter worked waterfowl hunters.
- Warden T. Blackburn activity was slow in Roger Mills, he went to D5 and D6 and worked with their GW's, they ended up with 53 contacts and 15 citations
- Warden A. Vaughn worked waterfowl hunters, he's also working an investigation on a trail cam pic of an individual scanning a field from the road, in a vehicle, with a rifle mounted thermal
- Lt. Edwards attended the FTO School, took care of some deer depredation calls, and tagged some bobcats
- GW's checked waterfowl hunters, nighttime patrol for thermal pig hunters and whatever else they might be hunting
- Wardens T. Blackburn, D. Jones, Lt. Edwards worked some waterfowl baiting info
- Warden Andrew worked some night hunting complaints and waterfowl hunters.
- Lt. Edwards worked with J. Cornett on an Operation Game Thief call involving a waterfowl guide killing turkeys illegally.
- Lt. Smith visited with a landowner in regard to dead pigs and a calf that was shot on his property, as well as he spent a lot of time working elk country
- Warden D. Jones worked a lot of quail hunters and nonresidents hunting quail on closed WMA's, he also spent some time checking fishermen.
- Wardens A. Vaughn and C. Carpenter teamed up on Black Kettle working quail hunters and coyote hunters, as well as work crappie fishermen at Canton Lake
- Warden C. Carpenter took several calls on deer depredation issues.
- Lt. Edwards patrolled W Beckham County getting some elk numbers for the survey, as well as assisted turkey researchers with gaining access to private land,
- Lt. Edwards also worked fishermen at Elk Lake and Clinton Lake
- GW's took calls about coyote calling contests, deer depredation calls, and worked elk country.

## **Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff**

- Wardens Menefee and Badley assisted NM with an elk investigation leading to confessions, and seizure of 3 illegally harvested elk. They also assisted area LE in searching for a dangerous shooting suspect in southern Woodward County.
- Warden Leonard flew pronghorn surveys with wildlife division. Reporting 200 total antelope sightings. Numbers are dismal.
- Warden Menefee found a fur buyer in Mooreland illegally purchasing non-game wildlife. Fur buyer told him he's been doing it for years, and no one has had a problem with it.
- Hunting activity is slowing down area wide. Night hunting furbearer seems to be a common theme right now, but with the increased use of thermals, catching subjects in the act has been difficult.
- The panhandle is without a gov't trapper, so Lt. Baker has been assisting landowners when they're calling for help with calf crop depredation.
- Warden Badley attended a 3-day drone operators' course in Beaver. He gained 24 hrs of CLEET and will be testing for his part 107 license soon. He will be ready for a department drone should we ever implement a program.
- Lt. Baker began a multi-agency investigation concerning a person illegally placing poison grain on a prairie dog town near the Guymon city water works. Needless to say, thousands of geese are now roosting on the lagoon and hundreds have died suspiciously. Task force officer Emily Long, Wardens Vaughn, Jones, and Capt. Bickerstaff were all called to help gather evidence for testing to see if this was an avian flu or poisoning event. The case will most likely be turned over to Federal Environmental Protection Agency if it is fact a poisoning event.
- Lt. Baker, Warden Leonard, and Badley worked a last weekend of goose season waterfowl baiting investigation. All information was recorded, and they are trying to verify the Reporting Parties claims.
- Warden P. Cottrill is finding several possible window-shopping Non-resident deer harvests where the license was bought after the harvest and is looking into each. He is also working on an investigation concerning an oil company fresh water plastic lined pit that has trapped and drown several deer, coyotes, and other wildlife.
- Warden Reigh attended the AIS regional shoot at Autry Vo tech and is working hard to sway folks at the capital in the mind set and goals of the Department.
- Warden Grace is busy with goose hunters that shot 37 minutes late on roost pond, illegal traps and that investigation, and trespassing coyote hunters in his area.
- All Wardens are recovering from the prolonged waterfowl and deer season, with many check station cases to be uncovered.



**Investigations/Training – Capt. Loftis**  
**WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)**

- Investigator Long traveled to Texas to assist as cover team security while covert officers contacted their target.
- Investigator Long served a search warrant for a cell phone related to a Migratory Bird Treaty Act baiting case.
- Investigator Long traveled to Western Oklahoma to assist Lieutenant Baker on a potential Migratory Bird Treaty Act poison case. Approximately 200 birds were counted or recovered. A sample of specimens were shipped to the USFWS National Wildlife Laboratory to be tested for cause of death.
- Warden Jackson was contacted by the Tulsa Zoo after the OK Highway Patrol Tactical Team contacted the Zoo concerned about a barricaded subject known to have venomous snakes in their house. After several days, Warden Jackson was able to contact the correct Trooper and resolve the issue. The subject was legally licensed through ODWC to be in possession of the snakes.
- The Wildlife Investigations Team mini-task force (License Fraud, Reptiles & Amphibians, and Breeders) teams conducted their first quarterly TEAMS meeting to kick off the year. Open investigations, future enforcement actions, amongst other topics were discussed in each of these meetings.

**ODWC 5TH GAME WARDEN ACADEMY**

- Game Warden Academy is in the 3rd week and going well. Recruits have a great drive and attitude and are so far very impressive. Looking forward to this being one of the best hiring classes.