

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, April 7th, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

This meeting is scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at
www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

The Commission may vote to approve, disapprove, or take other action on any of the following items. The Commission may vote to authorize public comment on any agenda item requesting a rule change.

1. Call to Order – Chairman Barwick
2. Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation – Scott Parry
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Scott Parry
5. Introduction of Guests
6. Recognition of winners of the inaugural R3 Champion Award, Colby Farquhar, Wildlife Biologist and JD Ridge, Senior Wildlife Biologist – Wade Free, Director.
7. Presentation on the agency's partnership with the Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International's Creative Writing Contest – Micah Holmes, Assistant Chief of Communication and Education Division; Lance Meek, Education Section Supervisor; with guests Sam Munhollon, OSCSCI, and this year's winners: Berklee Snow, Cooper VanOrsdol, Kayleigh Baker, and Teegan Brownlee.
8. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the March 3rd, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
9. 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
10. Presentation of the February 28th Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.

11. 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 *Nelson v. State of Oklahoma, ex rel. Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation and Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission*, CV-2024-1969 (Oklahoma County) where the Commission, with the advice of its attorney, has determined that disclosure of information related to the claim(s) or action(s) will seriously impair the ability of the Commission to conduct litigation in the public interest, provided that any action taken shall be in open session.
 - a. Vote to enter Executive Session.
 - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S.2021, § 307(B)(4).
 - c. Vote to exit Executive Session.
 - d. Possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.
12. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
13. Announce the May 5th, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
14. Adjourn

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April DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

April 16th OKSSSP State @ Oklahoma Trap Shooting Association (OTSA), El Reno
April 25 & 26 OKC Memorial Marathon Health & Fitness Expo
April 30th Legislative Fish Fry 11:30 – 1:00 @ Supreme Court Hallway, Capitol

AGENCY UPDATE

ADMINISTRATION

Accounting:

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 216
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$1,332,146

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 204
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 11
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$448,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$578,500
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 28
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 728
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 289
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 1
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$207,897
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 0
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 3

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 2
- New Cases Reported: 6

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 25
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 7

Overview:

- Built the division sheets for the FY26 budget, started the annual property survey, and had a lot of purchasing activity. Getting caught up on CAP small projects.

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$1,864,682
- Program Income: \$57,677

- In-Kind Contributions: \$26,506
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 24
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 0
- Reviewed 655 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$151,440 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 18
- Attended Request for Proposals review meeting (WR and SWG) regarding upcoming subaward funding priorities.
- New subaward reporting system training (FSRS).
- Meeting to discuss the lands certification and reconciliation of ODWC lands purchased with federal funds.

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 32
- Positions Announced 8
- Applications Screened 360
- Positions Interviewed 6
- Candidates Interviewed 29
- New Hires 4
- Promotions 0
- Transfers 0
- Resignations 3
- Retirements 0
- Terminations 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 4

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 340
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 38
- DB Plan Members 140
- DC Plan Members 201

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 2

Training:

- # in orientation 3

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 2
- Worker Comp Injuries 5

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the March WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 3 new hires
- Planning for LDP Level Two workshops

- Monitored 2024 Annual Performance Review for full-time employees
- Planning for MBTI trainings for Fisheries Division
- Career Fair - Cameron University

License

- Processed 387 orders, including 387 licenses/permits and 235 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$366,948 in revenue
- Shipped 131 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc), totaling over \$1,697 in revenue.
- Processed over \$609,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such lease payments, fines restitution, etc.
- Reviewed 789 online and paper applications for various licenses and permits.

January License Review

Recreational Licenses were down 46% for the month compared to February 2024.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	-24% (1,003)
Resident Fishing	-47% (5,704)
Resident Hunting	-7% (491)
Nonresident Fishing	-40% (2,101)
Nonresident Hunting	+10% (269)
Paddlefish	-59% (3,342)

Slow February sales, but we'll continue to monitor sales for March.

Lifetime License sales were down 50% for the month compared to February 2024, with revenue down 44% for the category and 641 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-60% (68)
Lifetime Fishing	-71% (36)
Senior Citizen Combo	-57% (219)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-37% (223)

Not much to highlight this month, but next month we expect sales to increase with fishing season..

Information Technology

- IT took in 67 tickets. This is a little lower than what we expect for this time of year and has allowed us to tackle some extra projects.
- Kicked off Windows 11 migration strategic planning. Started documenting known issues with BTG compatibility in Windows 11 and submitting fixes.

- We have started working on upgrading the Drupal backend to version 10.
- Worked with the Rack Madness leadership team to help this year go as smoothly as possible.
- Attended a closeout meeting with our auditors to discuss ways to improve next year's assessment.
- We conducted our yearly cyber security, computer skills, and best practices training for our employees.
- Scheduled our first disaster recovery testing with Pinnacle.
- For the first time, we have implemented a Linux server for testing the migration of our web server and other core applications.
- Working to implement our own web server monitoring software.
- Planning for Oklahoma Room audio visual system refresh.
- Working with OMES on the Texas Parks and our website not working for people behind an OMES firewall.
- Laptop refresh has been submitted to Dell. We will work with Dell to get them deployed as quickly as possible.

Property

- Provided setup and teardown for the Oklahoma room for 2 days of internal only groups.
- Eight new trucks for wildlife division were received, and four new fish truck was deployed.
- Received seven law enforcement trucks to prepare for deployment outfitted.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 539 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of February in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

Director highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, February 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	17,099	10+"	2
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	13,624	9+"	9
TOTAL	30,723		

Meetings

- Staff participated in the Mid-Continent Warm/Cool Water Fish Culture Workshop in Des Moines, Iowa, where they learned new culturing techniques and gained valuable knowledge.
- Conducted a site visit to the Marion Conservation Aquaculture Center in Marion, NC, where I learned about new technologies to implement in our hatchery section.
- Meeting with Visionary Ag and reprogrammed bird laser at Durant State Fish Hatchery.
- A meeting was held with the Skiatook Lake Association to plan the 2025 production season at the Skiatook Nursery Pond. USACE, ODWC LE and representatives from Zink Ranch were also in attendance.

- A progress meeting for the Watonga dam project was attended. The southeast spillway is near completion and the primary spillway pipe has been installed.
- Met with Contractor and Engineer at Jap Beaver Lake for final punch list items.
- Attended Mississippi River Basin Panel virtual conference.

Activities

- Staff continued the office renovation project consisting of new flooring installation, paint, refinished cabinets and new countertops
- Assisted City of Lawton with water leak on hatchery.
- Met with Fort Sill GSA to review property.
- Deterred Cormorants and other predators as needed.
- Evaluated Bluetooth equipment for tank monitoring during transport tanks.
- Project documents were submitted to the boating access coordinator to install a courtesy dock at American Horse Lake.
- Tree removal continued from the lake bottom at Watonga to improve fish habitat. A plan for additional habitat improvements, including artificial structures, was developed.
- Prepared agenda and planned Biologist meeting
- Processed Scientific Collectors permits and Letters of agreement.
- Entered and filed all SSP data from 2022-2024 in the shiny app for analysis.
- Monitored potential chlorinated water leak into Medicine Creek.
- Continued shoreline fishing access improvements at Jap Beaver Lake.
- Processing of nongame otoliths and coded wire tags continued for the PNNG group.
- Finalized equipment maintenance and continued procurement of habitat materials for Eufaula Lake and statewide habitat programs.
- Staff assisted C&E with Statewide Archery shoot in OKC.
- Work on the Arkansas River Striped Bass Natal Origin project (Striped Bass sampling), and Catfish Recruitment Project (catfish box construction) continued. With C&E obtaining images for exposé on catfish spawning box construction and the project. The Bowfishing Shoot-and-Release rough draft is close to submission for publication.
- Completed SSP gillnetting at Lake Texoma including otolith removal for age and growth.
- Assisted SWR with collection of striped bass for Medicine Park Aquarium.
- Staff completed prescribed burns on 3 burn units at Blue River PFHA.
- Staff assisted WD Division with several prescribed burns on differing WMA's.
- Personnel finished the Grand Lake Creel Survey. A total of 36 creel days produced 174 creel interviews throughout the survey.
- Personnel stocked trout at Veterans Pond twice, which concluded the seasonal fishery.
- Personnel discussed the possibility of adding a Close to Home Fishing Program pond with the City of Stroud.
- Personnel set up undergraduate research with NSU student looking into the validity of aging LMB with dorsal rays.
- Personnel worked with OSU, Dan Shoup and Judd Morgan, for logistics on a Master's project looking at habitat structures on Keystone Lake.

- Personnel set up three (3) aquatic education events for this coming spring and submitted aquatic education fish needs.
- Continued creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting 26 interviews and six pressure counts over three creel days in February.
- Reviewed environmental review requests then drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fisheries across the state.
- Entered habitat data into GIS to update interactive online Fish Attractor Map.
- Reviewed and signed Section 7 compliance documents for multiple proposed Boating Access projects within Oklahoma.
- Coordinated sauger collections below Webbers Falls Lock and Dam to update age and growth information for the species.
- Picked up new trout hauling truck and began updating tank and preparing for regular trout trips.
- Met with Lower Mtn Fork Foundation at their annual meeting and discussed changes and opportunities for collaboration.
- Placed ANS signage around popular Eufaula boat ramps.
- Attended Mississippi River Basin Panel virtual conference.
- Prepared info docs for National Invasive Species Awareness Week for ODWC C&E and USACE personnel for social media release.
- Reviewed Neosho bighead carp genetic data matching genetic data with collection data
- Plotted collection localities of bighead carp on map.
- Conducting night shocking to collect sauger at Webbers Falls. Approximately one dozen fish were collected and aged.
- Conducted gillnetting for Skipjack on the Arkansas River. Skipjack were present but collected in low numbers at the confluence of the Illinois River.
- Finalized reports on black bass, catfish and community sampling.
- Cut cedar trees at Nanih Waiya and refurbished fish attractors with approximately 200 new trees.

C&E DIVISION

- Initiated construction of shotgun range improvements at Packsaddle WMA and kicked off construction for renovation of Optima WMA. Four projects posted on the Department's website and social media for pre-public scoping of the environmental assessments. Projects are located at Texoma-Washita, Hickory Creek, Sandhills, Sandy Sanders and will be open for public comment until mid-April. Began engineering for expansion and/or improvements at Lexington WMA and Beaver WMA.
- Damon Springer and Colby Cook prepared for Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program shoots. Both regional shoots held at Oklahoma Trap Shooting Association in El Reno on April 1-2 and as well as the state shoot on April 16.
- Summer Fishing Clinics hosted by the Communication and Education Division are on the Outdoor Calendar for this spring and summer at the Oklahoma Aquarium and the Arcadia Conservation Education Area.

- Chose three Multistate Conservation Grants to participate in including where demand for sportfishing access the greatest, identifying and overcoming hunting's competition and increasing the public's awareness of state fish and wildlife agencies.
- Staff assisted the Oklahoma Hunters & Anglers in the initial planning for DeerCon 2025.
- Betsey York completed and distributed a user survey for those who hunt, fish or otherwise access areas where a Land Access Permit is required.
- Rack Madness was March 5 and was a success. In total, 178 racks and horns were scored.
- C&E staff participated in judging the Sutton Center annual youth art contest featuring Oklahoma wildlife.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

WMA Highlights

- 64 Acres winter disking to promote forbs
- 15 Acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated
- 87 Miles of area roads maintained
- 7 Tons of gravel spread
- 34 Miles of firebreaks maintained
- 3 Gates repaired
- 25 Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained
- 6 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
- Multiple prescribed burns conducted on WMAs
- Preparations on infrastructure for upcoming grazing season and turkey season
- Herd Health Evaluation in northeast and north-central Oklahoma wrapped up.
- Deer scoring underway.
- Trapping workshop conducted.
- Southwest and Southeast Regions turkey research ongoing.
- Monthly bird survey conducted at Drummond Flats.
- Jaw aging from DMAP and area WMA's wrapping up.
- Meeting with Ducks Unlimited for Hackberry Flat and Drummond Flats projects.
- Staff attending Southeast Deer Study Group meeting in Maryland.
- Winter turkey flock surveys completed data being compiled.
- WDU maintenance occurring post-waterfowl season.
- Aerial pronghorn research ongoing.
- Cedar cutting project at Canton & Cooper WMA's.
- Communications continue with OSU research on current bobwhite projects.

- Collected more than 500 genetic samples for CWD genetic sampling and submitted to ODAFF.
- Big game harvest data being analyzed for big game report.
- GPS tracking collars placed on female cackling geese at Ft Cobb State Park to quantify habit use in wintering grounds.
- Negotiations with timber companies ongoing to keep open for public access.
- Assisted with legislative request, meetings as needed.
- Budget build process began for FY-26.
- Staff assisted with Rack Madness.
- Train the trainer trapping workshop completed.
- Bobcat and otter tagging wrapping up.
- Working with USFWS on bird permits, regulation and reporting pertaining to falconry.
- Updating WMA maps, anticipating new WMA atlas.
- Participated in GIS day at State Capitol March 5.
- OK Natural Resource Conference is April 7/8 at Metro Tech Conference Center in OKC.
- Staff attended and presented at Ranch Conversation meetings final one was March 20th.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- Revisions continue with State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Environmental compliance on grant activities continues.
- WMA planning app committee is meeting and continuing to fine-tune the planning app.
- Performance reviews completed.
- Housing inspections and inventory completed.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- D1 had our in-person meeting in February at the Latham Ranch and also 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

- Warden J. Cramer completed a bear poaching case. Warden Cramer and wardens Couch, D. Langford, Jake Rowland, D. Garrett, D. deMontigny, and C. Youngblood along with Cherokee Nation Marshals Service served a search warrant on a rural Adair county residence belonging to bear poaching suspect. A black bear as well as a whitetail deer and electronic equipment were seized.
- Illegal possession of bear, illegal possession of whitetail deer and internet crimes charges were filed in the Cherokee Nation Tribal Court.
- Wardens D. Langford, J. Cramer, J. Rowland, D. deDemontigny, Couch, Lt. Matlock and Capt. Robertson assisted with antler scoring at the OKC Backwoods show.
- Wardens D. deMontigny and Lt. Matlock assisted with antler scoring at Rackmadness.
- Wardens J. Cramer and C. Youngblood attended Devil Dog Downers coyote contest and gave updates on wildlife laws.
- Warden Henry gave a program at Central High public schools career fair.
- Wardens K. Bailey, D. Langford, and Lt. Matlock gave regulation updates at Okmulgee WMA fur tagging event.
- Wardens D. deMontigny, J. Rowland, and D. Langford presented fur skinning demonstrations and wild game food preparation technics at the OSU extension event in Checotah.
- Lt. Matlock attended the OKNASP event in OKC.
- Warden Stanley attended the Wagoner Rotary Club annual pancake breakfast.
- Warden C. Youngblood was interviewed by a NSU student regarding becoming an Oklahoma game warden.
- Wardens J. Cramer, C. Youngblood, D. Garrett, and M. Stanley spent time instructing at the game warden academy.
- Warden K. Bailey attended peer support training.
- D2 wardens completed 14 hours of CLEET training including Dealing with Law Enforcement Depression and Suicide Prevention, Defensive Tactic annual refresher course and a distracted driving safety meeting.
- Lt. Gary Wilcox announced his retirement effective May, 1, 2025.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Warden T. Gillham wrapped up a longstanding investigation relating to an illegal Bear hunting case involving Leflore County Resident. He plead Nolo Contendere to 9 counts of various wildlife violations including, Illegal possession of Game, Hunting W/O license, Hunting in closed season, Exceeding bag limits. He paid \$2,400.00 in fines and cost and was placed on probation for a period of 5 years.
- D3 Wardens J. Gillham, E. Barnes, S. Loudermilk, and T. Gillham conducted a Hunter Education Course at the Trinity Baptist Church in Messer, Oklahoma. 3-15-2025

- Capt. Tobey measured a bear skull which was taken by a hunter in Pittsburg County Oklahoma. The Bear measured 20 and 5/16 inches and qualified for the 3yr Boone and Crockett Record Book. Once entered, the bear skull will be the 3rd largest bear currently in the Oklahoma record book. 3-11-2025
- D3 Wardens attended 8 hours CLEET training, Basic Alcohol Laws and Dealing with Law Enforcement Depression and Suicide in Antlers Ok. Friday 3-14-2025

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Game Warden Trey Hale and Lt. Bud Cramer assisted the Wildlife Division with a Winter Turkey Flock survey in Marshall and Johnston counties.
- Game Warden Garrett Beam, Trey Hale, Zane Arnold, Dale Stites, Trae Taylor, Lydia Gearhart, Bailey Johnson, Clayton Johnson, Trace Wagner, Lt. Garret Harley, and Cpt. Tom Cartwright scored antlers at the Backwoods Show in Oklahoma City.
- Game Warden Dale Stites, Garrett Beam, Cody Jones, Trey Hale, Zane Arnold, Lydia Gearhart, Tracer Wagner, Cpt. Tom Cartwright, Lt. Garret Harley, and Lt. Bud Cramer assisted with the annual Rack madness event at ODWC headquarters. Wardens scored whitetail, elk, mule deer antlers, and others worked security.
- All District Four Wardens attended CLEET training covering Lake Laws and Other Water Species Identification courses.
- Game Warden Garrett Beam, Zane Arnold, Lydia Gearhart, and Trey Hale assisted the Fish Division with their annual gill net survey on Lake Texoma. The wardens removed fish from nets, collected otoliths, weighed and measured Stripper and Blue Catfish.
- Game Warden Zane Arnold represented District four by continuing his peer support training in Bartlesville.
- Game Warden Cody Jones presented a Skins and Skulls program to 500 students at Washington Irving and George Washington Elementary Schools in Durant.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- Wardens France, Mesis, Campbell, Buley, Meskimen and Capt. Emmons worked Rack Madness. GWs France, Mesis, Hanson, Murray, Gillham & Lt. Young scored deer at the Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Show.
- Wardens in D5 have been busy tagging bobcats & otters as well as assisting wildlife division with the wild turkey winter flock survey and the roadkill furbearer survey and I&E division by submitting fishing reports for various lakes in addition to enforcing our wildlife laws issuing several temporary licenses, administrative fines & citations. GW Hanson & Meskimen assisted wildlife division with controlled burns on Lexington WMA.
- Wardens Buley, Mesis, Branch, Harriet & Hanson assisted with the historic wildfires on March 14 in their respective counties.
- Wardens France & Harriet worked the State Archery Shoot for the Oklahoma Rural Elementary Schools held annually at North Rock Creek School in Shawnee. GW France also taught a Hunter Education course and STEP program for the FFA in McLoud along with GW Buley.
- Warden Harriet taught 3 different online courses to new hunters & fishermen: OHA Turkey 101(parts 1 & 2) & OHA Crappie 101. GW Harriet also caught a trespasser cutting wood on a landowner's property, but the landowner decided not to press charges.

- Lt. Young & Warden Meskimen worked a career day at Blanchard.
- Lt. Strang assisted Del City PD teaching the state's active shooter class (L.A.S.E.R.) at OCCC.
- Warden Branch taught the Defensive Tactics Refresher class for D1 & D2.
- Warden R. Gillham is working on some cases on nonresidents buying resident licenses.
- Warden Murray submitted some cell phone warrants for a deer poaching case in Cleveland County and is patiently awaiting a judge's signature. He also secured a conviction on an Oklahoma County waterfowl baiting case.
- Wardens Murray & Buley did a fishing program for Jones Elementary School.
- Wardens Meskimen, Hanson & Lt. Strang taught a STEP program in McClain County.
- The whole district has been actively involved in the Game Warden Academy teaching numerous topics or being Role Players for: physical fitness training, search warrants, wildlife search & seizure, precision driving, night driving, inland boat operations & marine patrol fundamentals, defensive tactics, wildlife forensics, & the waterboarding class known as Officer Water Survival. On the last day of defensive tactics, Wardens Mesis, Campbell, France, Buley, Harriet & Lt. Strang volunteered to be bag holders and being on the receiving end of knee strike takedowns to handcuffing from the Prospective New Game Wardens after the PGWs received a generous dose of OC spray affectionately applied by Capt Emmons, Lt. Young & GWs Branch & Loudermilk.
- Wardens Meskimen & Harriet both made separate cases on Asian Marijuana growers taking wildlife illegally. Warden Meskimen interviewed a guy in February who had shot several Robins with a .22 rifle from his vehicle on a county road for stir fry. Despite the language barrier, the suspect really wanted to hunt some birds similar to robins and was very excited to learn he could shoot (and eat) all the crows he wanted. Warden Harriet's interview didn't go as well do to his lack of fluency in Mandarin Chinese. His suspect had shot a wild turkey in his yard in an Edmond suburb in Logan County with a .22 rifle. But thru Google talk, phone calls with Mandarin speakers and the RP who had a video of the suspect washing his vehicle with the dead turkey beside him, Warden Harriet was able to make a case.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- Highlights – All D6 wardens attended our annual 3 day training event where we completed our annual CLEET training requirements. This included Waterfowl Enforcement Techniques, Deceptive Behaviors, Firearms training, Sexual Assault Training, Missing Persons training and Mental Health training. This 3 day get together not only allows us to complete our annual training requirements during a relatively slow time of the year for game wardens, but also give us a chance to spend time together in the evenings building camaraderie and getting to catch up with each other regarding our busy lives outside of our work lives. We were joined by some 8th district wardens for some of the training and enjoyed having them.
- Supervisors have been working on completing annual HRDS training requirements as well as completing annual inventory audits and starting 2025 performance evaluations for those that they supervise.
- D6 Wardens have been busy with public outreach events such as Rack Madness, Backwoods Show, and career days at high schools and colleges. This is the time of

year that we receive lots of requests for outreach events. We will continue to fulfill these requests throughout the spring.

- Wardens continue to have issues with trespass complaints. This time of year, the complaints typically stem from hog hunters that are pursuing hogs at night with dogs.
- Fishing is starting to pick up around the district. Trout fishing continues to be steady in the 2 designated trout areas that we have in D6.
 - Wardens have been busy approving farm pond stocking applications and with last minute requests to tag bobcats.
 - Warden King –
 - Assisted with game warden academy by teaching water survival and boat driving to PGWs.
 - Participated in career day at Hydro schools
 - Had a case of 4 individuals hunting without landowner consent
 - Warden Zimmerman –
 - Investigated complaint of commercial wildlife breeder keeping wildlife illegally. An on site inspection revealed that all was well and no violations were found.
 - Warden Pearson –
 - Assisted other ODWC personnel with Rack Madness
 - Assisted other wardens with scoring deer at Backwoods Show
 - Participated in career day at Hydro schools
 - Lt. Carroll –
 - Lt. Carroll was called out to a residence that Lawton PD and animal control were at to assist with some wildlife that a person was keeping illegally. The individual used to have a rehabilitators license but had not had one since 2021. Lt. Carroll seized 2 owls, 2 racoons, and one Canada goose. The animals were relocated to licensed rehabilitators in Medicine Park and the person that had them paid an administrative fine for possessing wildlife without a rehabilitators license.
 - Lt. Howser –
 - Assisted other wardens with Rack Madness.
 - Participated in career day at Hydro schools.
 - Warden Clem-
 - Wrote 3 individuals for hunting without consent.
 - Assisted with Internet Wildlife Investigations, Seach and Seizure, Evidence Collection, Search Warrants and Advanced Search Warrants at the Game Warden Academy.
 - Currently investigating an individual for killing a hen turkey with a rifle. The tip came from an Arkansas game warden that is originally from Ringling, OK that still sees facebook posts from his old Ringling running buddies.
 - Warden Michael Taylor –
 - Reports that fishing activity is picking up but that things have generally been slow in Cotton County.
 - Warden Stover –
 - Represented ODWC at career day at Cameron University
 - Warden Flynn –
 - Assisted other ODWC employees with Rack Madness

- Assisted other game wardens with scoring deer at Backwoods Show
 - Spoke to SWOSU Foundations of Recreation class
 - Represented ODWC at SWOSU career fair
- Capt. Walker –
 - Assisted other ODWC instructors with LEDT and Night Vision Driver training at Game Warden Academy
 - Assisted other ODWC employees with Rack Madness
 - Assisted other game wardens with scoring deer at Backwoods Show
- Warden Cornett –
 - Has been working on WIT investigations and is awaiting the results of a phone search warrant.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Dylan worked Gage Beach and Lake Vincent and little activity. He took a SWOSU COPS program student on a ride along and came south to find some activity. They were able to cite 2 At EC LAKE for no license. He checked individuals at Shattuck selling furs. Dylan said the ride along was timid. He said he told her she would need to become more comfortable speaking to people if she wanted to become a GW.
- Andrew worked Canton with FTO Blackburn last week and they worked south finding better activity in Washita Co, writing 1 citation. He says canton hasn't picked up with activity yet. He received complaint of illegal night road hunting activity near the oakwood bridge. Landowner chased a newer Ford pickup to no avail. He returned the Axon BWC to HQ without actually getting to test it due to not receiving a new card for memory storage.
- Clint worked on getting a good pattern of movement, location, and times for the doe at Foss lake estates that has the mercury vapor light housing around her neck so wildlife division can tranquilize her this week and remove it. He received a call about possible trespassing, but the suspect ended up being landowner's family. He and I worked together Sunday checking Foss, EC, and Clinton Lakes. Checked 25 and wrote 4 for no licenses. One a repeat customer 5 times over. Investigated the great retro mountain lion sighting, finding a 10 lb bobcat kitten.
- Tucker spent time FTOing Andrew and worked canton and south into Beckham and Washita to find good activity. He's been assisting USFS with pig trapping due to the biologists for USFS not being able to carry firearms. He assisted me when I was unable to respond due to being in POV with my kids in EC on my day off. A landowner near mayfield reported possible illegal night hunting/shooting from road and followed the tag less vehicle to a residence. BKSO #6 assisted and he and Tucker determined the unregistered vehicle was backfiring and no guns were possessed by the unlicensed driver who was a convicted felon.
- I worked on GWOY paperwork, prepared for Sayre Career day. Worked with Clint and we wrote 4 on Sunday. Investigated the retro mt lion and then the Rocky mt lion... bobcat tracks found where the RP reported the injured lion in Rocky and a bobcat kitten seen where Retro lion was reported. Dale Kennemer advised we'd have more luck catching poachers in the Retro area instead of seeing a lion! Saturday weather was miserable but Sunday was great! Lots of folks out but catching of fish was very slow.
- Wardens tagged bobcats, assisted OHP and Fire departments with evacuations during a wildfire.

- Transitioning from hunters mode to fishing mode. Checking licenses at area lakes and farm ponds.
- Still doing a few night patrols for thermal activity. Investigated a possible elk poaching east of Cooperton. Not much to go on there.
- Pretty much all D7 Wardens assisted with wildfires after finishing up our CLEET training on last Friday the 14th.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Wardens B. Cottrill, Reigh, Grace, Badley, Pearson, Lt. Paul, & Capt. Bickerstaff all participated in the 2nd annual Deer scoring event at the Autry Vo-Tech center in Enid. The event was organized by Wardens B. Cottrill and Reigh. Although we scored many less deer than the initial event last year, it was still a great success. An estimated 40 deer were scored on a Wednesday evening from 5pm-9pm. Several questions were answered, stories heard, and even some furbearers were tagged. It was a great public outreach showcasing the versatilities and professionalism of Oklahoma Game Wardens.
- Several officers are following up on deer cases where the license was bought after the fact. It seems to be a trend this year with non-resident deer hunters.
- Several officers are preparing for the fishing season and planning multiple fishing clinics in their own areas.
- Lt. Baker has been involved in a possible poisoning case in Texas county where a resident placed Tomcat laced wheat seed top side of a prairie dog town right beside the city's sewer lagoon. The lagoon roosted several thousand light geese and ducks. Needless to say there were a lot of dead waterfowl. Lt. Baker enlisted the help of some D7 guys (Wardens Jones and Vaughn), TFO officer Long, and Capt. Bickerstaff to assist with evidence collection and furthering the investigation. Results are pending.
- Lt. Baker also worked an illegal waterfowl baiting investigation in Texas county with the assistance of Warden Badley.
- Lt. Paul lent his new show piece air boat the Tulsa boat show. This is good to promote the foundation and let folks know that their donations go back to Game Wardens.
- Warden P. Cottrill is working an investigation where an oil companies water pit lined with plastic are unintentionally trapping all kinds of wildlife and drowning them in Major County.

Investigations/Training – Capt. Loftis

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)

- Investigator Long traveled to Texas to assist with serving a Search Warrant on a facility.
- Investigator Long traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas to attend the Whooping Crane Festival and received a Special Recognition Award from the International Crane Foundation for the investigation and prosecution of Operation Tom Steed Whooping Crane case partnering with US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS).
- Investigator Long coordinated with a USFWS Wildlife Inspector in the Northeast United States on an illegal international import of wildlife inbound to Oklahoma.
- Investigator Long assisted USFWS Special Agent interviewing an individual regarding smuggling/Lacey Act violations in Texas.

- Investigator Long completed her 1st Quarterly Safety Training.
- The Wildlife Investigations Team mini-task force Nuisance Wildlife Control Operators (NWCOs) team conducted their first quarterly TEAMS meeting to kick off the year. Open investigations, future enforcement actions, amongst other topics were discussed in the meeting.

ODWC 5TH GAME WARDEN ACADEMY

- Halfway through the Academy.
- Moving along smoothly. Classes are better each year.
- Started with 10 PGW's, now down to 9 due to 1 resignation.