

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

**Public Meeting:**     **Monday, June 9th, 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](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 – Wade Farrar
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Wade Farrar
5. Introduction of Guests
  
6. Presentation on the broadcast television outreach project to promote awareness and encourage participation in hunting activities in Oklahoma. – Micah Holmes, Chief of Communication and Education Division.
  
7. Presentation, consideration, and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the donation of a Great Plains grain drill valued at \$11,500 from the North Fork Chapter of Quail Forever / Pheasants Forever in Oklahoma. This drill is to be used to plant food plots and other sowings on WMAs in the Southwest Region. Matching funds will be used for (2) fire skid units and other items for prescribed burning. – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division and Laura McIver, Regional Representative, Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever
  
8. Presentation, consideration, and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on donation of \$16,800 from the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF) for the Commissioner tag auction items at the 2025 OWCF Gala - Sean McCabe, OWCF Executive Director.
  
9. Update and consideration to vote, approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a Resolution to establish hunting dates, bag, possession limits, and special means of take for the 2025-26 Migratory Bird hunting season. – Bill Dinkines, and Paxton Smith, Migratory Bird/Wetlands Biologist.

10. Update and consideration to vote, approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a Resolution establishing antlerless deer seasons and bag limits for the 2025-26 hunting season. – Bill Dinkines and Dallas Barber, Big Game Biologist.
11. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Emergency Rules for Wildlife Division – Bill Dinkines

**TITLE 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 25. Wildlife Rules**

**Subchapter 5. Migratory Bird Hunting Season**

**PART 11. Waterfowl Hunting Blinds**

800: 25-5-48 Purpose [AMEND]

800: 25-5-49 Permits for Seasonal or Daily Blinds [REVOKE]

800: 25-5-50 Drawing process [REVOKE]

800: 25-5-51 Blind Construction [REVOKE]

**Subchapter 7. General Hunting Seasons**

**Part 19. Seasons on Areas Owned or Managed by The Oklahoma**

**Department of Wildlife Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.**

800:25-7-105.7 Herron Family WMA [NEW]

**Subchapter 24. Import of Cervids**

800: 25-24-3 Requirements [NEW]

**Chapter 30. Department of Wildlife Lands Management**

800: 30-1-3 License Requirements and Wildlife Conservation Passport [NEW]

800: 30-1-4 Camping [NEW]

800: 30-1-5 Vehicles [NEW]

800: 30-1-20 Restricted Public Use Areas [NEW]

These proposed emergency rules would eliminate seasonal duck blinds but still allows daily blinds on Corps of Engineers Reservoirs as requested by and to comply with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulations. Adds regulations for the new Herron Family Wildlife Management Area. Allows importation of cervids going to a taxidermist per SB1077. Adds requirement for a non-resident game bird permit and user check-in for WMAs to comply with SB448.

12. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the April 7th, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
13. 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

14. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on adding two Department-owned fishing areas on the Upper Illinois River to those areas requiring a conservation passport. – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division.
15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Emergency Rules for Fisheries Division – Ken Cunningham

**TITLE 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation**

**Chapter 20. Restriction on Aquatic Species Introduction**

800:20-2-4 Definitions [NEW SUBCHAPTER]

800:20-4-5 Propagation, Sale, and Release of Fish by Licensed Aquaculturists in a Closed Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) [NEW SUBCHAPTER]

800:20-4-6 Broodstock Transaction Process [NEW SUBCHAPTER]

This proposed emergency rule would align Title 800 with Title 29 changes related to the passage of SB777. SB777 provides avenue for allowing capture, cultivation, propagation, sale, and release of fishes from private aquaculture facilities.

16. Presentation of the March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 30<sup>th</sup> Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
17. Presentation of the Department’s proposed FY2026 Annual Budget for consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action. – Andrea Crews
18. Discussion and action, if necessary, concerning the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, including a status update, approval of appointment/reappointment of members for the Foundation's Board of Directors, fundraising and other matters involving the Foundation — Chairman Barwick.
19. Discussion and action, if necessary, concerning Commission committee assignments, including establishment, designation and approval of committees and members of each committee. - Chairman Barwick
20. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on the nominations of the 2025-2026 Commissioner Officers – Commissioner Zelbst.
21. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Atoka, Haskell, Okfuskee, Garfield, and Payne 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 and Ken Cunningham
  - a. Vote to enter Executive Session
  - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to 25 O.S., § 307(B)(3).
  - c. Vote to exit Executive Session
  - d. Possible action regarding item(s) 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 July 7th, 2025, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, 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**

# JUNE 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
**WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

## CALENDAR ITEMS:

June 15-20 ODWC Youth Camp, Goddard Facility, Sulphur, Oklahoma  
June 20 ODWC Controlled Hunt Result Emails Go Out

## AGENCY UPDATE

### ADMINISTRATION

#### Accounting

##### Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 526
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$4,177,165

##### Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 202
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 11
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$444,500
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$551,500
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 53
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 908
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 410
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 9
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$290,000
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 6
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 0

##### Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 1
- New Cases Reported: 1

##### Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 61
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 39

##### Highlights:

- Held interviews for 4th CPO. We found a great candidate who accepted and will start in May.

### Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$2,302,129
- Program Income: \$730,789
- In-Kind Contributions: \$7,221
- New Grants of Amendments Submitted: 1

- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 27
- Subrecipient FFATA Reporting: 3
- Reviewed 841 Pcard charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$247,958 charged to grants.
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 27
- Attended USFWS webinar pertaining to Collaborative Conservation Initiatives, for landscape-level projects.
- Grants Assistant interviews; position reannounced

## **Human Resources**

### Recruitment:

- Open Positions 27
- Positions Announced 4
- Applications Screened 109
- Positions Interviewed 5
- Candidates Interviewed 25
- New Hires 5
- Promotions 1
- Transfers 0
- Resignations 0
- Retirements 0
- Terminations 1
- Temporary Employees Processed 16

### Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 346
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 40
- DB Plan Members 141
- DC Plan Members 229

### Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 2

### Training:

- # in orientation 6

### Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 0
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

### Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the May WOG
- New Employee Orientation for 6 new hires
- Facilitated LDP Level Two workshop.
- Prepared FY26 Payroll Budget
- Payroll is working on a benefit audit from EGID.
- Planning for Korn Ferry pay study focus group.
- Published updated employee handbook.

## License

- Processed 703 orders, including 609 licenses/permits and 499 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$48,389 in revenue
- Shipped 157 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$1,425 in revenue.
- Processed over \$77,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as fines, restitution, oil & gas, etc.

### April License Review

- Recreational Licenses were down 8% for the month compared to April 2024.
- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+13% (2,102)
Resident Fishing	-13% (20,185)
Resident Hunting	-15% (995)
Nonresident Fishing	-3% (6,479)
Nonresident Hunting	0% (2,653)
Spring Turkey	-16% (6,691)

Lifetime License sales were down 53% for the month compared to April 2024, with revenue down 80% for the category and 1,084 sold.

- Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-91% (48)
Lifetime Fishing	-86% (46)
Senior Citizen Combo	-47% (352)
Senior Citizen Fishing	-4% (558)

- This data is difficult to compare with 2024, as the surge in Lifetime Licenses started in April last year.

## Information Technology

- IT took in a total of 75 tickets this month. This is slightly higher than our monthly average. We attribute that to being in the middle of a large (49) laptop deployment which triggers tickets for printer installs once the users get back to their workstations.
- Prepping for the LE new laptop deployment.
- The old HQ building security system is being upgraded.
- Phase one of the Oklahoma Room revamp is scheduled for June 25-27 and training for IT is scheduled for July 2nd and 3rd.
- Rodney is scoping a major Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program rebuild.
- Getting started on the cyber security insurance forms for the year.

## Property

- Received additional outfitted law enforcement trucks, applied decals to prepare for deployment.
- Deployed three new law enforcement trucks.
- Deployed three new wildlife trucks.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 864 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of April in the mailroom.
- Completed daily routine checks of central office building grounds and equipment. Made minor repairs as needed.
- Conducted interviews for Property Technician position.

## FISHERIES

### April Highlights 2025

Statewide Fish Stocking, April 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Bluegill, ODWC	498	5-8	4
Florida Largemouth Bass, ODWC	24,220	Fry	2
Grass Carp, ODWC	18	Varies	1
Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC	237	Varies	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	14,670	9+	2
Rainbow Trout, ODWC	26,626	3+	1
Saugeye Cross	171,000	Fry	1
Walleye, State Trade	870,000	Fry	1
Walleye, ODWC	1,323,325	Fry	5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,430,594</b>		

## Meetings

- Conducted a meeting with Red Hills Fishery regarding FLMB genetics and a possible opportunity to expand the ODWC program.
- Recently, I had the opportunity to tour the Neosho National Fish Hatchery (NFH) as part of the comprehensive SCGN study. This visit allowed me to gain valuable insights into the hatchery's operations and the importance of fish conservation efforts in our community.
- Staff attended and presented at the Clean Lakes and Waters conference, highlighting our commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.
- Staff attended and gave a stream presentation to approximately 100 students at Chouteau Public Schools career day.
- Presented overview of ODWC Fisheries Program and Agency career opportunities to Northeastern State University Fish and Wildlife Club students at Tahlequah, OK campus.



## Activities

- Staff assisted Nebraska with walleye production to bring back 8 million green walleye and saugeye eggs. They were then incubated, hatched, and distributed to other hatcheries and lakes.
- Moved brood FLMB to spawning ponds, fertilized FLMB spawning ponds, and filled and fertilized FLMB grow out ponds.
- Staff stocked 360,000 walleye fry and 700,000 saugeye fry for fingerling production.
- Staff completed the annual HSB fry production to produce 5.5 million fry.
- Staff purchased and applied 3,000 pounds of ag lime to HSB fingerling production pond for PH monitoring study.
- NWR staff assisted with Dewey County Conservation Day, Cub Scouts, and Big 5 fishing clinics.
- Largemouth bass were collected from American Horse for farm pond production at Holdenville.
- Progress on the Lake Watonga dam continues. During a progress meeting ODWC learned the project is about 75% complete. The southeast spillway is complete, a primary spillway pipe and tower were installed in the center of the dam, and the toe drain has been installed.
- Spring electrofishing was completed on lakes Elmer and Chambers. Catch rates at Elmer were good. All sizes of bass were observed with several over 9lbs. Catch rates were moderate at Chambers but in line with historical samples.
- Habitat project at Lake Ellsworth-Collier's landing. Sank 75 cedars and willow trees.
- Monitored gate issues/repairs at Jap Beaver Lake. Coordinated with Engineers and Contractor for repairs.
- Met mowing contractor for Burtschi and Vanderwork Lakes and showed him areas for mowing and trash pick-up.
- Spread gravel and packed parking lot at Jap Beaver Lake.
- Began SSP sampling at Fuqua and Lawtonka.
- Staff repair of 14-inch main water line at Holdenville State Fish Hatchery following storm damage.
- Staff assisted with the Purcell 5th grade outdoor class at Purcell Lake (fishing clinic)
- Staff completed SSP electrofishing surveys of Mayesville, Pauls Valley, Langston, El Reno, Elmore City, Okmulgee, Wes Watkins, and Wewoka reservoirs. Along with close to home ponds in Newcastle, Guthrie, Mineral Wells, Del City, Jones, and Choctaw. Otoliths were collected for age and growth data at Okmulgee and Wewoka. DNA was collected at Okmulgee.
- Staff installed 109 Shelbyville cubes at Eufaula Lake.
- Staff attended LDP-2 training. Staff refurbished tanks and plumbing in the OFRL wet lab.
- Staff sampled Kaw Tailwater with the assistance of Law Enforcement and acquired hatcher brood stock striped bass with the assistance of the Byron and Holdenville hatcheries collected at the Eufaula Tailwater for Striped Bass Natal Origin project.
- Staff finalized preliminary work on the Crappie Tagging and mortality study.
- Initial check of CCF spawning boxes for the channel catfish recruitment project was conducted.

- Proofs of “An Evaluation of Recruitment Variability Indexing Techniques for Channel Catfish in Oklahoma” and “Evaluating the coarse-scale effects of Walleye and Saugeye stocking on White Crappie growth in Oklahoma using long-term data” were reviewed for SEAFWA.
- Staff worked on CAP requisitions/bids and discussed projects with vendors
- Staff completed SSP electrofishing surveys at Ardmore City and Arbuckle Lakes
- Staff assisted DSFH with FLMB brooder collections.
- Staff stocked fish and participated in 7 days of fishing clinics with Big-5 Services
- Staff spent significant time managing tournament exemption program and assisting tournament directors with missing reports.
- Staff submitted rule change proposal for Blue River PFHA spotted bass.
- Staff remodeled tub/shower and carpeting at Blue River residence.
- BR staff completed spring turkey gobbler survey.
- Staff assisted with two podcast recordings.
- Worked with Kansas parks and Wildlife ANS crew on the Missouri River to learn invasive carp removal methods and gear.
- Planned upcoming veliger sampling for zebra mussels, gear purchase, prep and protocols outlined.
- Developed letter from OKAFS Environmental Concerns committee concerning OWRB 50-year water plan.
- Continued creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting 35 interviews and six pressure counts over three creel days in April.
- Conducted spring SSP electrofishing for black basses on Haskell, Roland, and Greenleaf Lakes to determine population trends and fish condition as part of ODWC's long-term monitoring program. Otoliths were removed from a sub-sample of Largemouth Bass from Greenleaf Lake to determine age, growth rates, and mortality. All data was entered and verified through the Oklahoma Fisheries Analysis Tool and is ready for inclusion in the SSP database.
- Demonstrated and explained fisheries reservoir sampling procedures to Fish and Wildlife students from Northeastern State University. Demonstrated boat shoreline electrofishing, gill netting, trap netting, and hoop netting, as well as how to remove otoliths from various species of fish.
- Continued with Skipjack collections for research project to document growth, feeding habits, and overall biology of skipjack in Oklahoma.
- Collected striped bass brood stock below Eufaula dam for Byron State Fish Hatchery
- North Central Region Fisheries collected male white bass for hybrid striped bass production at the Byron State Fish Hatchery.
- The paddlefish crew surveyed Hugo Lake with multiple gears to assess presence/absence of paddlefish in the reservoir. There are reports of paddlefish being caught in the tail waters, but none were encountered by the paddlefish crew in-lake.
- The paddlefish crew designed and implemented a creel survey for walk in areas on the Arkansas River between the Kaw Lake dam and Keystone Lake.
- North Central Region Fisheries began spring electrofishing and conducted largemouth bass surveys on Lone Chimney and Cleveland Lakes. FLMB DNA samples were taken along with age and growth.
- Staff conducted aquatic education events for the Pawnee Conservation District, Mayo Public Schools, and Norman Cub Scout Pack.

- Personnel conducted Spring SSP black bass sampling on Grand, Spavinaw, Keystone, and Bixhoma Lakes. Genetics were taken on 288 fish from Grand Lake to keep track of F1 LMB growth rates. Otoliths were taken from bass on Spavinaw and Grand Lakes for age and growth analysis. Excessive rainfall caused widespread flooding in NE OK and hindered crews from sampling Copan and Hudson Lakes this Spring.
- Personnel assisted with the Badges and Bobbers fishing event held at Vinita Lake. Over 100 kids took part in fishing at the Lake during the event this year.
- Personnel hauled back 238 grow-out FLMB and stocked them into Eucha Lake as part of the Eucha Lake F1 LMB project.
- NER Personnel lead the collection efforts of striped bass broodstock for the Byron Hatcheries' production of Hybrid Striped bass.
- continued thinning on Ozzie Cobb public fishing area and removed 80 cedar trees.
- Conducted largemouth bass surveys on Ozzie Cobb, Broken Bow, Nanih Waiya, and Raymond Gary.
- Made site visits and met with landowners in the Lower Red and Poteau River drainages.

## C&E DIVISION

- Damon Springer and Colby Cook, assisted by C&E and the rest of the agency headed the regional Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program shoots on April 2 and 3 and State Shoot on April 16 at the Oklahoma Trap and Skeet Association in El Reno. More than 180 schools participate in OKSSSP, a trap-based shotgun shooting program offered to schools through the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's suite of outdoor education programs. Approximately 1,200 students participated in the regional shoot and 385 in the state shoot.
- Boise City's senior and junior trapshooting teams swept the competition to become 2025 state champions at the Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program (OKSSSP) state shoot. Merritt was the second-place senior team for 2025, and Woodward edged Okarche for third place. In junior team competition, Elgin took second place, and Okarche bested Chisholm for third.
- In the individual competitions, the state's top overall senior shooter and state champion senior male was Clay Culver of Chelsea. Second-place senior male was Bo Patten of Woodward, and Kase Angelly of Navajo took third place. The senior female individual winners were Ali Earls of Navajo, state champion; Addison Darling of Merritt, second place; and Manes of Boise City, third. In the junior male individual competition, Gage Juna of Elgin was state champion and top overall junior shooter; Connor Waller of Kingston earned second place, and Camden Sliger of Kingston placed third. In the junior female individual contest, Jayden McElhannon of Latta was state champion, with Berklee Snow of Elgin and Katelynn Wood of Sayre taking second and third places.
- Betsey York began collecting responses for the Close to Home Fishing survey. we are kicking off a survey about our Close to Home fishing program. As part of this effort, we are sending to around 30,000 general public individuals, non-license holders. These people are also only those who live in metro areas of Oklahoma. The goal of

the survey is to better understand how these ponds can work as a recruitment tool. We are also assessing them as a retaining tool by surveying active license holders and a reactivation tool by surveying lapsed license holders in separate efforts.

- Jacob Tison kicked off the Aquatic ed season with a clinic at Horseshoe Lake in cooperation with OG&E. Shawn Gee stocked the Jenks Aquarium Kid's pond with fish in preparation for the Spring/Summer fishing clinics there. Colby Cook and Jacob Tison repaired the wellhouse at Arcadia so that the Aquatic Education Pond will be ready for new anglers this summer. In total more than 50 different fishing events are on the Outdoor Calendar.
- Amanda Thomas worked with contractors to complete construction of shotgun range improvements at Packsaddle WMA. Huge thanks again to Grand National Quail Club for the donation in making this happen. Amanda Thomas kicked off engineering for expansion and improvement at Pushmataha WMA and completed engineering for new construction at Copan WMA. Construction at the Optima WMA Shooting Range started last month and will continue through the summer.
- Renovation of three parking lots at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area is ongoing. Will add additional parking and erosion control for the building and provide marked parking spaces for the Aquatic Ed Pond, guest parking and building.
- Kara Gardner completed two SQL trainings and has begun conducting needed data queries. This much needed skill has historically been the responsibility of Rodney Derrick. C&E will benefit greatly from adding Kara as a SQL resource.
- Staff met to discuss updates the 2019 R3 strategic plan. Michael Bergin will coordinate a committee to revise the recently outdated plan. One major update will be to include a robust marketing strategy.
- Darrin Hill has helped shoot several videos using the new vlog studio. This space has expanded ODWC's video opportunities and has been a huge hit with our constituents. An upcoming project is to hear stories from current and retired game wardens. This is sure to be a neat series.
- Blake Podhajsky continues to prepare for the 2026 Association for Conservation Information conference to be held in OKC. Blake has successfully secured the Fordson as the host hotel. We anticipate about 120 attendees from across the United States.
- Smokey Solis has completed two passes of the Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting regulations. Regulations will be available mid-August.
- Kelly Boyer completed the Western Conservation Leadership Development Program course.

## **WILDLIFE DIVISION**

## Wildlife Management Area Highlights

- 68 Acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated.
- 160 Miles of roads maintained – Heavy spring rains created many repair needs.
- 3,700 Tons of gravel spread.
- 46 Miles of firebreaks maintained.
- 5 Gates repaired.
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- 22 Signs installed or maintained.
- 7 Miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 31 Acres brush-hogged/mowed.
- 70 Acres of food plots for dove fields planted.
- Multiple WDU's drawn down.
- Shooting ranges maintained
- Bids out for Mountain Park & Hackberry Flat WDU structure replacement.
- Spring Turkey preliminary statewide harvest figures up around 30%
- New Biologist hired for Red Slough WMA
- New Technician hired for McCurtain County Wilderness Area
- Some areas are assisting State Forestry with ash borer trapping.
- Discing for sunflowers & other forbs and planted crops for dove fields.
- Ag & Grazing lease activities ongoing – work on windmills, water wells & fences
- Herbicide applied to invasive plants.
- First confirmed mountain lion kitten sightings in OK in 2 different counties.
- Scored numerous deer racks for Cy Curtis/ Boone & Crockett.
- Presented Lexington burn history at Natural Resource Conference.
- Prairie Chicken Surveys were conducted.
- Pheasant crow call counts were conducted – approx. 16% increase.
- 1 Acoustic Bat Survey was conducted.
- Southwest and Southeast Regions turkey research ongoing.
- Monthly bird survey conducted at Drummond Flats.
- WHIP technical committee meeting was held.
- Meeting with Ducks Unlimited for Hackberry Flat and Drummond Flats projects.
- Aerial elk survey completed, indicating herd growth in several areas.
- Aerial pronghorn research ongoing. Fawning season ongoing.
- Cedar cutting project at Canton, Ft Supply & Cooper WMA's.
- Communications continue with OSU research on current bobwhite projects.
- Big game harvest data being analyzed for big game report.
- Preparation for summer bird banding projects – Resident Geese & Mourning dove.
- Meeting with ODAFF and legislators to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease Act, and screwworms.
- Negotiations with timber companies completed, maintained almost 300,000 open for public access.
- Leadership Development Program 2 meeting held at Hackberry Flat. Provided tours to Ft Sill staff and SEOSU ornithology class.
- Several staff participated in presenting at Outdoor classrooms.
- Staff worked on Rule Change Proposals and vetted through the Division.
- DMAP applications being submitted.
- Central Flyway Council meeting was attended.

- Wildlife Division meeting, May 13-15<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to flooding.
- Updating WMA maps, anticipating new WMA atlas.
- Several staff attended the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference.
- GIS attended the South-Central Arc User Group Conference.
- Assisted with Cops & Bobbers fishing clinic at Boomer Lake, Stillwater.
- Bat survey presentation was held at Lexington WMA by Diversity staff.
- Attended the University of Oklahoma Tri-Center Symposium.
- Provided technical assistance and assisted landowners.
- OLAP making spring payments and prepping for summer sign up.
- Revisions continue with State Wildlife Action Plan.
- Diversity staff completed grant environmental compliance for 9 ODWC grants.
- -Environmental compliance on grant activities continues.
- WMA planning app committee is meeting and continuing to fine-tune the planning app.
- Presented STEP program at Spavinaw WMA.
- Trapping/skinning presentation at OSU extension – Checotah.
- Wildlife presentation to Jay lower elementary school.
- Attended Midwest & Southeast Furbearer Working Group workshops.
- Working on data entry for bobcat & river otters.
- Review, approval, submission of numerous federal aid grants.
- Red-Cockaded Woodpecker monitoring & tagging is ongoing.
- Few staff attended WAFWA Conference
- Staff finished up submitting budget requests.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION**

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

- The recent Backwoods Hunting Show in Tulsa, OK, was a fantastic event celebrating the great outdoors and the hunting community. Game Wardens were proud to be a part of it, scoring deer for hunters, answering countless questions, and engaging with attendees about conservation and responsible hunting. It was an incredible opportunity to connect with the public, share our passion for the outdoors, and highlight the importance of preserving our natural resources. We appreciate everyone who stopped by and look forward to continuing to serve and support the outdoor community! Special thanks to the following Game Wardens who gave their time to make this 3-day event so successful: D1 Wardens assisting - Jackson, Willman, Tilley, Morris, Garrett, Fulton, Welch, Jenks, and Alexander.
- On March 22nd, 2025, Oklahoma Game Wardens, working at the Kaw Dam, talked with many sportsmen and women successfully catching paddlefish, during their routine compliance checks. Those same conversations yielded many complaints about paddlefish violations being witnessed throughout the day. On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Oklahoma Game Wardens from multiple districts conducted a special emphasis operation at Kaw Dam. 27 citations were written, and 35 verbal warnings were given in an attempt to educate individuals experienced and new to paddlefishing. Green was instrumental in implementing the emphasis. The

violations consisted of fishing without a fishing license, failure to properly transfer wildlife, failure to attach customer ID to paddlefish, failure to stop snagging after keeping a paddlefish, failure to immediately release paddlefish, unlawful culling of paddlefish, unlawful disposal of fish remains, and littering.

- Wardens Fulton and Garrett taught skins and skulls to six different classes at Oolagah schools.
- Wardens Adair and Newkirk assisted GRDA on vehicle recovery near Twin Bridges.
- Warden Adair assisted Ethan Dittmer a Ph.D. Student at Nebraska University in the Recovery of a GPS transponder on some mallard ducks (captured) and re-released to the wild to track their fly patterns. Dittmer provided Adair with the coordinates, and he was able to locate the transponder.
- Wardens Newkirk and Adair attended a Public Outreach at a non-profit for Veterans at TWB state park (paddlefish/sand bass and catfish fishing event) The event was held at Wyandotte Nation community center (fish fry).
- Wardens Adair and Newkirk assisted OHP on a signal 89/88 driver who hit other cars and fled the scene.
- Members of D1 worked on the case development and submitted charges for a subject caught cutting fences on Spavinaw WMA.
- Warden Jackson, with the assistance of Warden Stauffer, sponsored and developed an Interdivisional meeting for members of the Wildlife, Fisheries, C&E, and Law divisions. The meeting consisted of a meet and greet, updates, and programs in the NE Oklahoma area. Jenks presented a state-of-the-union in Law, and Jackson and Moore presented a case study. The other divisions made presentations on recent projects, and introduced all of the personnel from our area. It was a resounding success, and we are already planning for next year's meeting.
- The GRDA set up a Swift Water Boat Course and several members from D1 (Adair and Moore), D2, and D4 were slated to attend, and necessary equipment was purchased. Unfortunately, heavy rains caused the course to be rescheduled.
- Warden Bersche assisted local authorities during the recent wildfires (after getting beat up in DT all day – as much as you can beat up Jake.) He was involved in a very dynamic situation where an elderly man did not want to leave his property that was in the direct path of the fires. Jake was also dealing with his family that was very concerned for him. Jake went back and assisted the man in protecting and saving what they could. Jake also assisted with fire control around a tractor and numerous other structures. Finally, Jake, Rolling, and Welch helped with removing a disabled man from his house, who was unable to leave and in the path of the oncoming fires.

Jake also rescued a house dog that had been trapped in the path of the fire. His actions were admirable and no doubt saved property and lives.

- Wardens Moore and Morris ran onto a large structure fire while out patrolling and checking fishing licenses. They were instrumental in helping plan for emergency services and guiding folks away from the fire.
- Capt. Jenks worked with Wildlife division to help make changes to the Corps of Engineers mapping on certain lakes that showed contradictory information from our regulations.
- Warden Tilley continued to train and prepare for his upcoming Phase 1 firearms instructor school.
- Warden Tilley made an outstanding (pending) case that involved two juveniles who were out shooting an assortment of critters including deer, turkey, squirrels, and raptors from the roadway. There was also evidence that suggested they had shot several cattle and this case is ongoing with numerous warrants being developed.
- Warden Rolling finished up a tribal case involving hunting during a closed season and hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle. The final judgment was for \$1300 and an 18-month deferred sentence.
- Warden Rolling is attending a Wildlife Investigators training in Texas this week.
- Several D1 Wardens have assisted with the Academy including Wardens Moore, Jackson, and Willman. They have helped with firearms, hunter incident investigations, among other trainings.
- Warden Rolling attended Basic Instructor Development school.
- Warden Stauffer attended LEDT Instructor school.
- D1 held an in-person meeting in March after DT, and in April at the Birch Lake office where many topics were discussed, a safety meeting on PFDs was held (taught by Morris), and misc paperwork was disseminated.
- Warden Jackson helped sponsor the 2nd Annual Badges and Bobbers kids fishing event in Vinita. This event is held at Vinita City Lake and introduces kids to fishing and is attended by a wide range of law enforcement agencies. (Jackson, Moore, Morris, Rolling, Tilley, Adair, and Alexander attended.)
- Camp Bandage event in Broken Arrow - A community outreach showcasing state & local first responders. (Rolling, Morris, Moore, and Alexander)



- Casting out of Sight event for OK School for the Blind (Morris, Tilley, and Alexander.)
- The NE Oklahoma Farm Show/ Conservation District in Vinita - Jackson had an ODWC LE Booth set up to meet and greet local farm and ranchers & answer questions (Jackson, Alexander)
- Warden Moore gave a talk to the 7th Grade Career Day at Salina High School.
- Wardens Willman and Garrett, as part of the Honor Guard, worked the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Memorial.
- Warden Morris had a program at Harbor Village during Ag and Farm Days.
- Wardens Tilley and Jackson continued work on the Op T-Bone Case. More to come on this case but it involves two young men who were hunting from a motor vehicle and took deer, turkey, raptors, and multiple other wildlife as well as shooting from the road at possibly 12 different beef cattle. Simultaneous search/arrest warrants were served earlier this month, and many charges are pending. This all originated from an OHP stop for possible shooting from the road. This is going to be a landmark case, and Tilley did an outstanding job with the assistance and guidance of Jackson.
- Warden Rolling attended and graduated from the WICA training in Corpus Christi. She advised that the training was extensive and challenging and will be a huge asset to D1 and the entire Law Enforcement Division. Her and fellow participant Tucker Clem were taxed with multiple training scenarios dealing with covert and overt operations, techniques, and strategies.
- Warden Rolling conducted a program about Game Warden duties at the Ray Harral Nature Center in Broken Arrow.
- Wardens Garrett, Fulton, Rolling and Lt Welch conducted a special emphasis working paddlefishermen below Oolagah Dam . 5 ADFs were issued for culling and ceasing to snag.
- Warden Stauffer caught 2 subjects who had caught 5 paddlefish. They were from Iowa and under the impression that they could party fish in Oklahoma - 4 ADF's were written.
- Wardens Fulton, Travis Garrett, and Stauffer are investigating a complaint of someone shooting rabbits, ducks and geese with a blow dart gun in a neighborhood in Owasso. This case has made the local news in Tulsa and is being covered extensively.

- Wardens Green and Grace caught a subject shooting a turkey from the window of his truck working off information from another hunter who observed the incident and got a tag number. 3 citations were issued.
- Warden Green assisted fisheries with electro-fishing on Lake Ponca.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche investigated a report of someone overlimit of paddlefish below Kaw Dam, Jeremy was able to contact the suspect and wrote ADF's.
- Warden Jeremy Bersche and Lt Welch conducted a Hunter Education class for the Tulsa 4H clubs
- Wardens Garrett and Fulton conducted two Skins and Skulls programs - one at the Westside YMCA and one for a 2nd grade class at Harold Elementary
- Wardens Stauffer, Willman, Morris, Lt Alexander, and Lt Welch helped Dart Tilley and Austin Jackson serve search warrants in Rogers County (Operation T Bone see above)
- This past 28-day period, the D1 west side guys spent 26.5 hours approving 26 lifetime applications or requests from licensing to verify residency. I imagine those numbers will go up drastically as we get closer to hunting seasons and the Christmas season.
- Warden Jake Bersche participated in the Color Run Program at the Cleveland Primary School
- Capt. Jenks taught a Radio Comms Course at the Academy in OKC.
- Wardens Adair and Willman attended a Swift Water Boat Operators Course sponsored by the GRDA at Pensacola Dam.
- Warden Tilley continued to work on his prep work for FA Instructor School and Jenks and Moore provided a training day.
- Multiple Wardens in D1 (Moore, Willman, Morris, Jenks) worked the closing of the Pensacola Dam Flood Gates. This is a high activity time when folks can hand fish the closed area for 2 days after a gate closing. 100s of contacts were made and multiple citations were issued.
- Wardens Jenks, Moore and Jackson attended the 5 State Game Warden Meeting at Camp Billy Joe in Cimarron County.
- Members of the D1 WIT Team continue to work diligently on multiple cases. (Willman, Jackson, Rolling, Stauffer)

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

- Warden Couch assisted the Haskell County Sheriff's office with a manhunt of a double homicide suspect in rural Haskell County. Suspect was arrested without incident.
- Warden J. Rowland assisted the McIntosh County Sheriff's office with a felony suspect manhunt near the Duchess Creek unit of the Eufaula WMA. The suspect was later involved in a shootout with OHP special unit.
- Wardens K. Bailey and Lt. Matlock arrested a subject with multiple warrants squatting on the Okmulgee WMA.
- Wardens D. Langford and J. Rowland investigated a headlighting deer case.
- Warden Langford was involved in a pursuit and arrest of a DUI subject.
- All D2 wardens spent a lot of hours of surveillance resulting in multiple arrests of illegal fishing activity in area dam tailwaters.
- Warden D. Garrett responded to and recovered an adult roadkill black bear in Adair County.
- Warden D. Garrett rescued two eaglets that were separated from their nest after a storm blew the host tree down.

## **Public Outreach**

- Wardens J. Cramer, Couch, and Capt. Robertson assisted with antler scoring at the Tulsa Backwoods show.
- Wardens D. deMontigny, Couch, and Lt. Matlock assisted with the OKSSSP regional event at El Reno.
- Wardens J. Cramer, D. Garrett, and C. Youngblood attended a Child Abuse Task Force event at the Adair County Courthouse, gave out hunter orange vests and spoke about hunter safety.
- Wardens K. Bailey, and Lt. Matlock gave turkey regulation updates at Okmulgee Walmart outdoor event.
- Wardens J. Rowland, and D. Langford attended a fishing clinic at the Deepfork NWR.
- Warden Youngblood spoke to the NSU Wildlife Club.
- Warden D. deMontigny attended a fishing clinic at Belle Starr on Lake Eufaula.
- Warden Rowland attended the Crappie Masters event weigh-in at Lake Eufaula.
- Warden Rowland attended the College Masters tournament weigh-in at Lake Eufaula.

- Wardens D. deMontigny and Lt. Matlock attended the Career Day Fair at Eufaula Schools.
- Wardens J. Rowland and Lt. Matlock attended a 3D Archery event at the Deepfork NWR.

## Training

- Wardens J. Cramer, C. Youngblood, J. Rowland, and Allen Couch spent time instructing at the game warden academy.
- D2 wardens completed 13 hours of Cleet training.
- Wardens D. Langford, J. Cramer, J. Rowland, D. Garrett, D. deMontigny, Couch, C. Youngblood, Lt. Matlock, and Capt. Robertson attended the FTO orientation training class.
- Warden J. Rowland completed LEDT Instructor Course.
- Lt. Gary Wilcox retired effective May 1, 2025, and we wish him well in his new endeavors.
- Lt. Jared Cramer was promoted to Game Warden Supervisor effective May 1, 2025.
- D2 welcomed new wardens C. Fields and J. Pixley as they settle into the district, they are currently in their field training portion of their training.

## Public Outreach Events

- Wardens J. Henry, D. Garrett, C. Fields, J. Pixley, Couch, Lt. J. Cramer and Lt. P. Matlock assisted with a fishing clinic for the Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee.
- Warden C. Youngblood attended the annual commercial float operators meeting with the GRDA to discuss new agreement protocols and answer questions.
- Warden J. Henry attended the Roland High School Career Day event.
- Wardens D. Garrett and Lt. J. Cramer participated in the Maryetta School multi-agency Safety Program event.
- Wardens J. Henry, Couch, J. Pixley, and Lt. Matlock assisted with a fishing program at the Stigler Golf Course.

- Wardens M. Stanley, D. Langford, and Lt. Matlock attended the Camp Bandage multi-agency program in Broken Arrow where school age kids interact with first responders.
- Wardens D. deMontigny and Lt. Matlock assisted with the OKSSSP state event in El Reno.
- Wardens Couch and D. deMontigny attended the Oklahoma City Memorial with the Oklahoma State Game Warden Honor Guard.
- Wardens Couch and D. deMontigny attended Law Enforcement appreciation event at the Lake Eufaula dam overlook sponsored by the US Army Corp of Engineers-Tulsa District.
- D2 wardens completed mandatory annual pistol and shotgun qualifications and second quarter safety meeting.
- Wardens D. Langford, D. Garrett, and D. deMontigny attended the Swift Water Rescue training.
- Warden J. Rowland completed phase 1 of Law Enforcement Defensive Tactic instructor training.

### **Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey**

- On March 22, 2025, Wardens James Williams and Clayton Kannady performed a S.T.E.P. outreach program in Wister, OK. The program covered a variety of subjects, including safety, shotgun components, shotgun mechanics, proper shooting form, and proper site alignment. This program reached members from 7 different towns, with approximately fifty individuals, of which several were first time shooters.
- On Saturday, March 29, Wardens Jim Gillham and Loudermilk caught 2 young men hunting turkeys on Honobia Creek WMA at Cloudy tower. The two poachers had killed a turkey and were riding an ATV during the closed season (Honobia Creek and Three Rivers WMAs are only open to the use of ATVs from the period of Oct. 1- JAN. 15 and only for licensed deer hunters).
- On Tuesday, April 8, Wardens Penwright and Fields attended the first ever Choctaw Nation wildlife trial at Durant. The suspect was charged with hunting with the aid of a motor vehicle and shooting from a public road. The trial lasted approx. one hour, and the defendant was found guilty largely due to his admissions to both offenses captured on Matt and Shane's BWC's during the interview. He was assessed \$250 for each offense for a total of \$500 fine.

- On Saturday, April 12, Wardens Jim Gillham and Thomas Gillham patrolled McGee Creek Lake and State Park as there is a history of illegal turkey hunting on the state park property. As expected, Jim and Thomas located a boat parked on state park property and located a grandfather, daughter and granddaughter hunting turkeys in the park and on private property where they did not have permission. Citations were issued appropriately.
- Wardens Barnes and Hannah attended the OBN's marijuana training in early April.
- PGW's Chance Phillips and Blake Dull graduated from the game warden academy on April 11. We're proud to welcome Chance and Blake to D3 and look forward to guiding them into their new duty stations in Choctaw and Latimer Counties.
- Capt. Tobey and Lt. Polk attended the Backwoods Show in Tulsa, Oklahoma on March 28 and 29, 2025 to answer questions and measure antlers for the Cy Curtis awards program and Boone and Crockett Records.
- D3 wardens attended 4 hours of the CLEET continuing education class Firearms Maintenance at the McAlester PD firing range on April 4, 2025.
- D3 FTOs and supervisory personnel along with the current PGWs from the 2025 Game Warden Academy attended the FTO orientation course at HQ in OKC on April 11, 2025.
- On April 29, 2025, Wardens James Williams, Blake Dull, and Clayton Kannady, assisted the NRCS in Poteau, OK, in performing a fishing clinic at Twyman Park in Poteau. The program covered a variety of subjects, including safety, boating safety, ethical fishing, and casting methods. This program reached members from four different schools, with approximately 120 students, of whom several were first-time or beginner fishermen.
- D3 Wardens logged 947 patrol hours.
- D3 Wardens logged 83 hours conducting a variety of investigations.
- D3 Wardens logged 193 hours assisting other, agencies, divisions within the dept., the public.
- D3 Wardens logged 94 hours in training.
- D3 Wardens conducted 23 programs and participated in 10 public outreach events.
- During the 28-day period beginning April 13, 2025 and ending May 10, 2025, D3 Wardens conducted 674 compliance checks and issued 20 citations, 14 field licenses, 4 admin fines, and 20 written warnings.

#### **Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright**

- Wardens Trey Hale, Garrett Beam, Dale Stites, and Lt. Bud Cramer attend a law enforcement training on Marijuana Grows in Oklahoma hosted by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics.
- Warden Trey Hale instructed a snake ID and Handling course for the cadets at the ODWC Game Warden Academy.
- Wardens Zane Arnold and Trey Hale served as Field Training Officers in phase 3 of PGW Lydia Gearhart's field training.
- Warden Garrett Beam completed the Law Enforcement Driving Training Instructor Course (LEDT) in Oklahoma City.
- Wardens Garrett Beam and Zane Arnold performed a public outreach with the Make-A-Wish Foundation. The Wardens met with two children who's wish as a guided fishing trip on Lake Texoma. The wardens met with the children after their fishing trip so they could meet a game warden and check out the warden's law enforcement equipment.
- Warden Cody Jones assisted the Calera Fire Department by leading them to a wildfire in a remote area on Lake Texoma.
- Warden Cody Jones presented 7 Skins and Skull programs to approximately 90 Durant elementary students.
- Wardens Lt. Garret Harley, Dale Stites, Trae Taylor, Clayton Johnson, Bailey Johnson, and Tracer Wagner scored deer for the public at the Backwoods Show in Tulsa.
- Wardens Trae Taylor and Clayton Johnson held a conservation program for kids at Thomas Elementary School in Holdenville.
- Warden Taylor participated in a Water Survival CLEET training.
- Warden Dale Stites taught Law Enforcement Driver Training and Simmunitions training for new hires at the Game Warden Academy.
- Warden Lydia Gearhart assisted in a snake ID program in Tishomingo.

- All District 4 Wardens attended their annual team building event at Lake Texoma. Wardens discussed enforcing wildlife laws, gaining compliance of sportsmen, and completed a CLEET training.
- Game Wardens Trey Hale, Zane Arnold, and Lydia Gearhart presented a Snake Identification program to 80 students at Tishomingo Elementary School.
- Warden Trey Hale attended a Leadership Development Course at Hackberry Flat WMA.
- Warden Zane Arnold served as a Field Training Officer in phase 3 of Probationary Game Warden Lydia Gearhart's field training.
- All District 4 Wardens assisted with the annual Big 5 Headstart Fishing Clinic in Coalgate. Wardens introduced over 200 children to the joy of fishing by teaching patience, casting and fish identification.
- Game Wardens Zane Arnold and Trey Hale presented a Snake Identification program to 60 students at Kingston Elementary School.
- Warden Zane Arnold investigated a report of two subjects who killed two hen turkeys while they were hunting on their hunting club's property in Johnston Co. Warden Arnold interviewed the two Oklahoma City residents, who confessed to the crime. The men stated that the turkey had blue heads and were pretty sure they were legal turkeys. Both subjects were issued citations for the Illegal take of a wild turkey.
- Game Wardens Dale Stites and Bailey Johnson participated in a career day at Okemah Middle School, where they engaged with junior high students about the role and responsibilities of a Game Warden.
- Game Wardens Dale Stites, Trae Taylor, Bailey Johnson, Tracer Wagner, Clayton Johnson, Lydia Gearhart, and Lt. Garrett Harley conducted a STEP program for the Lieutenant Governor's Annual Turkey Hunt in Okemah.
- Warden Trae Taylor completed CPR training as part of the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) Rescue Diver training.
- All District 4 Wardens successfully completed their annual firearms qualification and low-light training at the Ada Police Range

#### **Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons**

- Everyone in the district has been busy assisting with the GW Academy from instructing classes to role playing for different training scenarios.



- The 5th District is happy to welcome Chase Averitt into our family as the new Carter County GW.
- D5 Wardens have been busy checking fishermen and scouting areas for turkey activity. Warden Harriet is working an ongoing hunter harassment case for a youth turkey hunter and Warden Branch worked a special emphasis with D8 on paddlefish fishermen at Kaw Lake.
- Wardens Campbell and Hanson investigated a deer case involving a convicted felon shooting a deer with a rifle and checking it in as an Archery harvest. Their investigation led to a total of 2 illegal bucks and 2 illegal does being killed on the same property from 3 different suspects.
- Wardens France & Campbell taught a Hunter Education class in McCloud as well as a fishing clinic in Jones with GW Buley & Lt. Strang.
- Wardens France, Buley & Harriet worked a First Responder Touch-A-Truck event for the Pottawatomie Emergency Management.
- Warden France worked the Regional Shotgun Shoot in El Reno.
- Warden Harriet did an Archery in the School program at Wellston Elementary School
- Wardens Buley & Lt. Strang did an Archery program in Edmond.
- Warden Harriet helped with a H&H Turkey 101 class with NWTF & taught 3 Turkey Tuesday learn to hunt classes with OHA.
- Wardens Harriet & Murray taught the history of ODWC & Game Warden job duties to all the 5th graders during the Lincoln County Wise Guys program in Chandler.
- Wardens Mesis, France & Gillham attended training classes from OBN about illegal marijuana grows.
- The historic rains slowed down a lot of fishing and hunting activity, but D5 Wardens were still busy conducting sportsman compliance checks resulting in numerous temporary licenses being sold or ADFs being issued.
- Wardens Hanson & Campbell are still working on a deer case investigation involving a convicted felon shooting a deer with a rifle and checking it in as an archery harvest that has led to multiple suspects being interviewed and multiple charges being filed.
- Wardens Mesis & Buley worked two separate turkey cases resulting in one ADF being issued. PGW Averitt & his FTO Warden Meskimen interviewed a guy for shooting a turkey from his truck while trespassing. During the initial interview the guy denied the accusations but admitted to already harvesting a turkey on a previous day (and not checking it in). After a day or two of thinking about the

situation, the guy called and confessed his sins (not bad for the PGW's first turkey case).

- Wardens Murray & Buley testified in two trials involving deer season violations in Oklahoma County and were successful.
- GWs across the district have been busy conducting farm pond inspections, conducting lake/fishing reports and verifying lifetime license applications and conducting different public outreach programs. Multiple Skins & Skulls, Archery and Fishing programs and a Touch a Truck were done. One fishing clinic at Scissortail Park had over 350 children!
- Lt.s Strang, Young and Warden Buley helped select youth camp attendees.
- Lt. Young and Capt. Emmons taught the annual Defensive Tactics Refresher class to the 7th & 5th districts. Lt.s Young, Strang and Capt. Emmons assisted teaching the L.A.S.E.R. active shooter class for Metro-Tech's B.P.O.C. Academy (Basic Peace Officer Certification).

#### **Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker**

- All D6 wardens completed annual firearms qualifications with all weapons as well as low light training with sidearms.
- All D6 wardens completed the annual furbearer survey.
- D6 wardens assisted with scholastic shooting sports events at El Reno.
- D6 wardens attended agency wide meeting with Korn Ferry representatives regarding ODWC pay study
- All wardens report increased fishing activity and success with warmer temperatures and longer days. They also report a significant increase in turkey numbers district wide and good participation in the youth turkey season. D6 wardens conducted 414 compliance checks for the previous 28 day cycle of which most were fisherman contacts.
- Capt. Walker – Assisted other instructors with teaching new game wardens. Topics covered were blood tracking, man tracking, and hunter incident investigations.
- Lt. Howser – Participated in career fairs at Hydro-Eakly and Apache Schools, participated in firearms safety program at Binger-Oney Schools.
- Lt. Carroll – Completed HRDS training, assisted warden Clem with illegal turkey investigation, completed ride-alongs with wardens under his supervision, did a ride-along with a SWOSU student.

- Warden Pearson – Gave ODWC current events program to Kingfisher Lions Club, presented Skins and Skulls program to Kingfisher JH STEM program students, nominated a Kingfisher county landowner for ODWC Landowner of the Year.
- Warden Flynn – Worked OKSSP regional shotgun shoot at El Reno, completed 2 ride alongs with SWOSU students, assisted SWOSU with interviewing students to select next year's group of COPS (Collegiate Officer Program) students, assisted with training of new game wardens by serving as a role player in scenarios for training, attended benefit auction at Canton Schools for an Ag teacher who lost all of their belongings in a house fire (donated a knife to be auctioned off to raise money for the family).
- Warden Zimmerman – Public outreach event for Chickasha public school's 8th graders on ODWC careers and wildlife ID, assisted other ODWC LE instructors with training new game wardens in Hunter Incident Investigations.
- Warden Stover – Had a case involving a landowner that heard a shot near his property and saw a truck driving away. The landowner went to the spot where the truck was and found a dead turkey. He posted the incident on Facebook and Warden Stover saw the post and contacted the gentleman. The man had a partial tag number that he provided to Warden Stover. From that partial tag number, Warden Stover was able to fill in the blanks and find a tag that was registered to a man near the area that the turkey was shot. Warden Stover went to the residence of that man and received a full confession from the man for shooting the turkey from the road with a 17 HMR. Charges are pending.
- Warden Stover had another case that resulted from a citizen reporting illegal trash dumping near one of the Duncan city lakes. Warden Stover went to the location and found a partial deer carcass that was discarded with the rest of the garbage. Warden Stover did some digging and was able to find an address on an Amazon box. Warden Stover contacted the person on the Amazon label and that person admitted to killing two does in December and never checking them in. Charges are pending.
- Warden Taylor – Taught hunter education class in Waurika with Warden Clem. Also presented a snake ID class in Waurika with Warden Clem. Warden Taylor also conducted a snake ID program at Big Pasture elementary school. Warden Taylor participated in a survivor tree planting at the Cotton County courthouse in recognition of the OKC bombing in 1995.
- Warden Clem – Assisted with training of new game warden by serving as a role player in hunter investigation scenarios, conducted a hunter education class for all Waurika FFA members as well as a snake ID class for those same students. Warden Clem is currently attending WICA training in Texas.
- Warden King – Assisted with training of new game wardens by serving as a role player in hunter investigation scenarios, assisted with OKSSP shoot in El Reno,

conducted a fishing clinic at Wildhorse Park in Mustang for Kingdom COOP, attended FTO training update.

- Warden Cornett – Assisted with training of new game wardens by serving as a role player in hunter investigation scenarios, assisted with OKSSP program at El Reno, attended FTO training update, worked on investigations as part of the WIT team.

#### **Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick**

- Warden T. Blackburn has been training/shooting a considerable amount for Firearms Instructor School.
- All GW's have been working fishermen, it's been a little slow but picking up gradually.
- Wardens Carpenter and A. Vaughan followed up on a report of some fishermen killing a deer, it ended up being several hogs that they had killed, skinned, and were eating them.
- Wardens Carpenter and A. Vaughan investigated a complaint of Fishing Without Consent that turned into not only fishing without consent but also Unlawful Possession of two deer heads.
- Warden Brothers has been working fishermen at Frederick Lake and Tom Steed Lake, making a special emphasis to work the oriental groups that are catching hybrids, several citations written for various violations.
- Warden Lehrman approved the Mangum Rattle Snake Derby paperwork as well as working fishermen at Lugert and Doc Hollis Lake
- Warden Vaughan handled a public safety issue when an individual ran a stop sign on Hwy 183 in front of him. The stop resulted in two individuals with suspended DL's, possession of meth (10.9 grams) with intent to distribute, as well as marijuana (50.3 grams), possession of a firearm after a former conviction.
- Wardens Vaughan and C. Carpenter worked complaints of road hunting in the Taloga to Oakwood area.
- Lt. James Edwards Jr. attended the Red Dirt Roost NWTF Banquet in Weatherford.
- Lt. James Edwards Jr. investigated an individual possibly running hounds chasing a mountain lion.
- Lt. James Edwards Jr. investigated a call-in regard to an individual buying fish at Elk City Lake, wrote citation for that.
- Warden Lehrman has been working Doc Hollis Lake a lot and said that there are 10-15 people fishing there pretty much every day, he has written several citations out there.
- Warden Jones has been dealing with an abandoned camper trailer on Packsaddle.
- Warden Blackburn is getting inundated with turnkey info calls about Black Kettle, which happens every year
- Wardens Carpenter and A. Vaughan started offspring with some Skins and Skulls Programs at Weatherford Public Schools
- D7 Wardens are all working on CLEET Training hours.
- D7 Wardens got all of their Hunter Ed Classes set up
- D7 Wardens have been getting their Lake Reports sent in

- D7 Wardens worked Youth Turkey hunters; the high winds made it a little more difficult but there were still some nice birds harvested
- Wardens Carpenter and A. Vaughan patrolled Canton WMA and gave a short program to seven NWTF Jakes (Youth) hunters, three of the seven were successful in harvesting turkeys.
- Wardens Carpenter and A. Vaughan have a Skins and Skulls program to 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Deer Creek Conservation District
- Warden Carpenter gave a talk to a Boy Scout group in Elk City at their evening fishing event.
- Wardens Vaughan and C. Carpenter gave a short program at a NWTF Jakes event at Canton Lake WMA
- Warden Blackburn, while FTO'ing assisted local LE with a drunk suicidal suspect.
- Lt. James Edwards Jr. investigated a fishing without consent on North Fork Conservation District Property
- Wardens Blackburn, J. Brothers, Lt. David Smith, Lt. James Edwards Jr., Capt. J. Headrick attended the FTO training at HQ
- Hybrid fishing has been really good at Tom Steed Lake so that has attracted several large groups of fishermen that like to target the hybrids so that is being worked extensively.
- D7 have been looking for illegally baited areas for turkey hunting on WMA's as well as private land
- Wardens A. Vaughan and C. Carpenter presented eight programs on firearms safety to Dewey County 4-H kids.
- Warden T. Blackburn was swamped opening day with an estimated 392 vehicles on Black Kettle. This was the second highest count for opening day on record. He worked multiple shooting from the road calls, roost shooting and trespassing calls. GW T. Blackburn was busy as a FTO as well during this time.
- Lt. Edwards assisted with an investigation of shooting from the road and worked turkey hunters as well on Black Kettle.
- Wardens Black Burn and Leonard continued the second day of turkey season by getting into another shooting from the road investigation. They worked another investigation on a resident landowner possibly checking in a turkey for a NR in Beckham County.
- A non-resident hunter was issued a citation for processing a turkey prior to check in.
- Wardens T. Blackburn and D. King were able to issue citations to several hunters for hunting after legal hours and failure to tag.
- Lt. Edwards worked turkey hunters mainly focusing on bait and NR fraud. He also located some bait put out for turkeys and is trying to catch the hunters hunting in the act that are responsible for putting the bait out.
- Warden T. Raasch worked a case on a guided turkey hunt. Citations were written to the guide and the hunter.

- Warden D. Jones has been busy working hunters that were caught baiting turkeys last year. The same guide that was issued citations last year is still spreading milo by the ton regularly on the places that he puts his hunters on.
- Warden D. Jones is working multiple investigations on hunters that harvested turkeys that didn't have a turkey license, that didn't report the harvest for nearly two weeks, that didn't report the harvest at all.
- Warden A. Vaughan has been conducting Skins & Skulls programs as well as Firearms Safety to Dewey County kids groups.
- Warden A. Vaughan worked an investigation on a turkey hunter that reported he had harvested a turkey after 7:00 pm on Pack Saddle.
- Warden A. Vaughan and Lt. J. Edwards assisted Putnam Fairview Cemetery Caretakers with feral hog damage while coordinating with the USDA Trapper.
- Warden T. Blackburn continues to handle calls and hunters on Black Kettle while completing another phase of firearms instructor school.
- Warden C. Carpenter has spent time patrolling Washita County while it is without a GW in the county as well as assisting Warden A. Vaughan with programs in Dewey County.
- Lt. Edwards received a call from a landowner with evidence of trespassing but determined it was likely related to possible cattle theft, so he assisted Beckham County Sheriff's Office with that investigation.
- Warden J. Brothers is staying busy working turkey hunters and serving as a FTO for PGW W. Slade.
- Warden D. Jones worked an incident where fishermen were being harassed at Gage Beach.
- Warden D. Jones assisted with an uncooperative, arrested individual at the Ellis County jail at the request of the Sheriff's Office.
- Warden A. Vaughan issued citations to two hunters for failure to report the harvest of two turkeys that he ran across when pulled into the gas station for fuel.
- Wardens A. Vaughan and C. Carpenter en route to assist in the search for an 18-year-old drowning victim at Canton Lake, the body was discovered before they arrived.
- GW C. Carpenter is still working investigations on illegal deer kills.
- All D7 Wardens continue to work turkey hunters as well as working fishermen. We have all been working on required CLEET training hours as well as upcoming weapon qualifications.

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

- Lt. Paul organized a special emphasis below Kaw dam watching for paddlefish violations. Wardens Grace, Green, Branch, and Lt. Paul made 35 targeted contacts as that were pulled over after leaving the fishing area, as to not disturb or alert the active fishermen. 21 ADFs, 1 Temp, 5 written warnings, and 35 verbal warnings were issued. Violations consisted of fishing w/o license, Failure to tag fish, Failure to transfer wildlife properly, Fail to attach CID to fish, Fail to stop snagging after keeping their daily limit, Fail to immediately release paddlefish, Unlawful culling of

paddlefish, Unlawful disposal of fish remains, and littering. This was a great enforcement event and obviously needed.

- Warden Badley assisted with the Big 5 fishing clinic for underprivileged children in Woodward. Lots of worms were squeezed and a few first-time fish were caught. All greatly enjoyed the event.
- Warden Leonard is the proud father of a new baby boy Irwin and also finishing up his 3rd phase of FTO going to the 7th district to work with Warden Blackburn.
- Several D8 wardens have been tirelessly assisting with the GW Academy in OKC. Classes include, Waterfowl Enforcement techniques, Blood and Man Tracking, Hunter Incident Investigation, Emergency Medical Technician services, and also assisting with firearms training for the new Wardens.
- Warden Badley, Probationary GW League, Lt. Paul, and Captain Bickerstaff all attended the FTO refresher class in OKC. And PGW League is beginning Phase 1 of his FTO training in Alfalfa County.
- Badge pinning for the newest GWs was a somber and esteemed ceremony. I believe this has become a great tradition that signifies the achievements of the new recruits.
- Several Wardens have documented turkey bait before season and are tirelessly working to build cases for prosecution.
- Warden Grace caught an opening day turkey poacher that shot a strutter from the road on the Kaw WMA.
- Lt. Paul has been utilizing his issued Air boat to assist other districts with accessing areas on the Cimmaron river targeting paddle fishermen. He is also assisting fisheries division with setting striper nets on the Salt fork river, as they have never had access to this area to collect data.
- Warden P. Cottrill is steadily knocking out deer cases via online check station investigations.
- Wardens all over the district have been busy with Turkey season and fishermen especially on the pretty days.
- Warden Grace made a good investigatory case on a man who shot a jake from the road on a WMA and recorded the poachers tag number after he retrieved his ill-gotten gains. Spencer showed up at his house and awarded him with several citations and poaching awards.

- Warden P. Cottrill worked a turkey guide service along with D6 guys to net several No license cases, Fail to check, and baiting cases on several of the clients.
- Warden League is getting broke in on Phase 1 of his Field Training with Capt Bickerstaff. They are starting his career off right with several illegal turkey cases. Landowner permission was obtained, and a cell phone camera was inconspicuously placed to watch the door on a blind that was 30 yds away from 2 active corn deer feeders. 10 different people were caught illegally hunting and at least 3 illegally taken turkeys, with a possibility of several other charges for turkeys taken that were never checked in. Warden League is waiting on a Tactacam cell phone cloud storage data warrant to be returned for further gathering of evidence of what might be on their camera set up to record their illegal hunts.
- Lt. Paul caught an OSU wrestling student trespassing to hunt turkeys on a place he wasn't supposed to not once but twice. Landowner decided to press charges on the slow learner.
- Lt. Paul organized another paddlefish special emphasis below Kaw dam. Wardens League, Reigh, and Capt Bickerstaff all lent a soggy hand to be an enforcement presence on the rainy-day op. 11 conacts and 6 warnings, ADFs, and citations were issued along with several verbal warnings for violations.
- Wardens were busy with fishing clinics all around the district over the last month.
- 5 State was heavily attended by Oklahoma Wardens. Texas hosted in Oklahoma this year near Black Mesa. Several crucial networking contacts were made and maintained.

### **Investigations/Training - Capt. Loftis**

#### **WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS SPECIALIST/WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION TEAM (WIT)**

- Wardens Hale and Arnold investigated an illegal offer for sale of wildlife parts, specifically eagle talons, a violation of both State and Federal law. The property was abandoned to ODWC.
- License Fraud Team met via TEAMS to discuss and begin working multiple violations of license fraud that occurred when the lifetime license increased from \$775 to \$1024. This is an ongoing investigation.
- Warden Cramer investigated the unlawful take of a Black Bear. Two (2) search warrants were executed during the course of the investigation. Collaborative efforts between Law Division and Wildlife Division ultimately helped positively ID the remains of the Black Bear. GW Cramer received a confession from the subject and



located an illegal deer during one of the search warrants. Charges have been filed, and the case is pending.

- Wardens Clem and Rolling have been accepted to and are currently enrolled in a highly selective Wildlife Investigation School located in Texas. This nationally competitive program admits only a limited number of exceptionally qualified applicants and provides comprehensive training in wildlife investigation.
- Wardens assisted Arizona Game and Fish with an investigation regarding the unlawful take of an Elk in Arizona by an Oklahoma resident. Wardens assisted by interviewing the subject and seizing the Elk as evidence. They took a DNA sample from the Elk and sent the sample to Arizona. Arizona was able to match DNA left at the crime scene to the Elk seized by Oklahoma Wardens. The subject was found guilty in Arizona and paid fines and restitution. The Elk was forfeited by Arizona Game and Fish and given to ODWC.

### **ODWC 5TH GAME WARDEN ACADEMY**

- Graduation of the 5th Game Warden Academy: The 5th Game Warden Academy formally concluded its program on April 11, 2025, marking the successful completion of an intensive training regimen for prospective game wardens (PGW's).
- Initial Enrollment and Attrition: The academy commenced with an initial cohort of ten (10) recruits. Subsequently, three (3) recruits resigned from the program prior to its conclusion.
- Successful Completion of the Rigorous Curriculum: Seven (7) recruits successfully navigated the comprehensive ten (10)-week training program. This curriculum encompassed a broad spectrum of game warden fundamentals, including, but not limited to:
  - Wildlife Law: Comprehensive instruction in relevant legislation and legal precedents governing wildlife management and conservation.
  - Wildlife Investigations: Training in investigative techniques specific to wildlife crimes, encompassing evidence collection, analysis, and case preparation.
  - Search and Seizure: Instruction in the legal parameters and proper execution of search and seizure procedures in compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.
  - Interview and Interrogations: Development of proficiency in conducting effective interviews and interrogations to gather information and build cases.
  - Report Writing: Training in the preparation of clear, concise, and accurate official reports documenting investigations and enforcement activities.
  - Waterfowl Enforcement Techniques: Specialized training in the enforcement of regulations pertaining to waterfowl hunting and conservation.

- Wildlife Enforcement Techniques: Comprehensive instruction in the enforcement of regulations concerning various wildlife species.
  - Fisheries Enforcement Techniques: Specialized training in the enforcement of regulations pertaining to fishing activities and various species.
  - Wildlife Forensics: Instruction in the application of forensic science principles to wildlife crime investigations, including species identification, time of death, and DNA analysis.
  - Firearms Proficiency: Intensive training in the safe handling, maintenance, and proficient use of firearms for law enforcement purposes.
  - Defensive Tactics: Training in self-defense techniques to ensure officer safety and the ability to respond effectively to threats.
  - NASBLA Certified Inland Boat Operator & Marine Patrol Fundamentals: Instruction in the safe operation and navigation of watercraft for patrol and enforcement activities.
  - NASBLA Certified Officer Water Survival School: Training in water survival techniques to mitigate risks associated with water-based operations.
  - Man and Blood Tracking: Development of skills in tracking individuals and animals through various terrains.
  - IHEA Based Hunter Incident Investigations: Training in the investigation of hunting-related accidents and violations.
- Structured FTO Program Phases: The initial eight (8) weeks of the FTO program will be conducted consecutively, encompassing Phases 1 and 2 of the curriculum.
    - Extended Field Exposure and Seasonal Training: Phases 3 through 5 (weeks 9-14) of the FTO program will be strategically distributed throughout the remainder of the PGWs' first year of service. This approach aims to provide the trainees with exposure to diverse training experiences across all seasons, enabling them to adapt to the various challenges and demands of the profession throughout the year.
- Career Development Program: Upon graduation from the Field Training Officer (FTO) program, Probationary Game Wardens (PGWs) will officially transition to the title of Game Warden. However, their professional development will not cease; this cohort will be the inaugural participants in a comprehensive Career Development Program. This program will consist of several essential continuing education courses strategically distributed over a two-year period, ensuring the enhancement of skills and knowledge essential for effective wildlife law enforcement.