

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, December 8th, 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 Holder
2. Roll Call – Tammy St. Yves
3. Invocation – Bill Dinkines
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Bill Dinkines
5. Introduction of Guests – Tammy St. Yves
6. Presentation of Awards – Wade Free

Daniel Griffith, Property Manager – 20 Years
Weston Storer, Wildlife (Northwest) Regional Supervisor – 20 Years

7. Recognition of the Department’s Leadership Development Program’s (LDP) 2025 graduating class – Director Wade Free
8. Presentation, consideration, and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on a donation of \$92,912.00 from the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation (OWCF). – Sean McCabe, OWCF Executive Director
9. Presentation, consideration, and vote to approve or take other action on the donation from Quail Forever for timber improvements on Cherokee WMA of \$10,000 - Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife and Adam Ray, Pheasant Forever/Quail Forever.
10. Presentation, consideration, and vote to approve or take other action on donations of \$92,395.53 and \$20,000 from Ducks Unlimited. These funds will be used for land acquisition at Drummond Flats WMA and for the purchase of a Wildlife Development Unit hydraulic pump unit at Waurika WMA - Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife, Kevin Hartke and Alan Stacey, Ducks Unlimited.
11. Presentation of the FY2025 Actuarial Valuation Report for the Wildlife Defined Benefit Plan – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration and David Sawyer, Definiti LLC.

12. Presentation of the September 30th and October 31st, 2025, Financial Reports and consideration and vote to approve, amend, or reject miscellaneous donations – Andrea Crews, Chief of Administration.
13. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on minutes from the October 6th, 2025, regular Commission meeting.
14. 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
15. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on (29 O.S. Section 3-103a) authorization of special permits for certain designated species by order of the Commission. – Director Wade Free
16. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Nels Rodefeld, Assistant Director.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 1. Operations and Procedures

Subchapter 13. Hunting and Fishing License Dealers [AMENDED]

The rule change proposal for **Chapter 1 Operations and Procedures** corrects the spelling of fishing in Subchapter 13 title.

17. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 10. Sport Fishing Rules

Subchapter 1. Harvest and Possession Limits

800:10-1-3. Additional definitions [AMENDED]

800:10-1-4(2B). Size and Bag limits on fish [AMENDED]

800:10-1-4(6C). Size and Bag limits on fish [AMENDED]

Subchapter 3. Methods of Taking

800:10-3-3. Additional definitions [AMENDED]

800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grab-hooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling, and netting [AMENDED]

Subchapter 5. Area Restrictions and Special Fees

800:10-5-1.1 Definitions [AMENDED]

800:10-5-2. Department fishing areas (1)(A) [AMENDED]

800:10-5-3 Designated trout areas [AMENDED]

800:10-5-6 (1). Lakes, reservoirs, rivers, and streams [AMENDED]

The rule change proposals for **Chapter 10 Sport Fishing Rules** would clarify wording in Title 800 and perform housekeeping measure aligning definitions. Removes the 14-inch minimum length limit of spotted bass at Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area (BRPFHA) to align with statewide rivers and streams black bass regulation. Adjusts the 18-inch minimum length limit to Walleye, Sauger, and Saugeye to the statewide minimum size limit of 14-inch for Shell Lake and Bluestem Lake. Saugeye are no longer stocked in Shell Lake and Bluestem Lake. Modifies the applicability of terms defined in subchapters of Chapter 10 – Sport Fishing Rules to make them legally valid throughout Title 800. These changes would not change any actual regulation but attempt to preserve original intent. Clarifies Kiamichi River from Hugo Dam downstream to first railroad bridge is closed to snagging and clarifies wording in Title 800 and performs multiple housekeeping measures to correct wording and terminology. Modifies the applicability of terms defined in subchapters of Chapter 10 – Sport Fishing Rules to make them legally valid throughout Title 800. These changes would not change any actual regulation but attempt to preserve original intent. Differentiates Echota and Stunkard Access Areas from Upper Illinois GRDA Agreement Access Areas. Makes permitted number of days of allowed camping consistent with other fishing areas. Removes the names and seasons of designated trout areas out of statute and simply defines the term to be a list of managed trout waters which will be further outlined in Oklahoma Fishing and Hunting Regulations booklet. Prohibits possession and uses of cast nets on all Oklahoma Streams east of Highway 69, except the Arkansas, Neosho, Grand, Verdigris, Poteau, and Red Rivers and their tailwaters and from the south boundary of the lower Illinois River Public Fishing Area (Simp and Helen Watts Area) downstream to the Highway 64 bridge. Also excluding Kiamichi River downstream from Hugo Dam. This change would not change any actual regulation but attempt to preserve original intent.

18. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Ken Cunningham, Chief of Fisheries Division

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 20. Restrictions on Aquatic Species Introduction

Subchapter 1. Restricted Exotic Fish

800:20-1-2 List of restricted exotic species [AMENDED]

Subchapter 2. Introductions of Fish and Aquatic Organisms

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

800:20-2-5 Propagation, Sale, and Release of Fish by Licensed Aquaculturist in Closed Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) [NEW]

800:20-2-6 Broodstock Transaction Process [NEW]

The rule change proposals for **Chapter 20 Restriction on Aquatic Species Introduction** would update and add to list of restricted exotic species to match the Federal Injurious Wildlife list under the Lacey Act. Define and establishes guidelines for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems in Oklahoma as they relate to wild and native fishes in Oklahoma. Defines and establishes guidelines for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems in Oklahoma as they relate to wild and native fishes in Oklahoma. Defines and establishes guidelines for Recirculating Aquaculture Systems in Oklahoma as they relate to wild and native fishes in Oklahoma.

19. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 25. Wildlife Rules

Subchapter 3. Hunting on Corps of Engineers Lands

800:25-3-2 Areas open to archery equipment and shotguns with pellets only:

(3)(A) Hugo Lake [AMENDED]

800:25-3-2 (9)(R) Lake Texoma [AMENDED]

800:25-3-2(11)(C) Eufaula Lake [AMENDED]

800:25-3-2 (18) (A - E) Pine Creek Lake [AMENDED]

800:25-3-3 Areas open to Archery Equipment Only

800:25-3-3 (5)(A)(B) Heyburn Lake [AMENDED]

800:25-3-3 (6)(D)(E) Skiatook Lake [AMENDED]

800:25-3-3 (8) Pine Creek Lake [REVOKED]

800:25-3-3 (11)(F) Lake Texoma [AMENDED]

Subchapter 4. Hunting on Other Non-Dept. Land [NEW]

800:25-4-1 Purpose [NEW]

800:25-4-2 Areas Open to Archery Equipment and Shotguns with Pellets Only (1)

Atoka Lake (A – E) [NEW]

Subchapter 5. Migratory Bird Hunting Season Part 11. Waterfowl Hunting Blinds

800:25-5-48 Purpose [AMENDED]

800:25-5-49 Permits for seasonal or daily blinds (a-f) [REVOKED]

800:25-5-50 Drawing Process (a-c) [REVOKED]

800:25-5-51 Blind Construction (a-g) [REVOKED]

Subchapter 7. General Hunting Seasons Part 1. General Provisions

800:25-7-3(e) General Provisions [AMENDED]

800:25-7-4 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) Usage (a-g) [NEW]

Part 5. Upland Game

800:25-7-22. Quail (bobwhite and scaled) (a) Dates [AMENDED]

800:25-7-22v2.Quail (bobwhite and scaled) [REVOKED]

Part 15. Furbearers

800:25-7-61. Dates, open areas, bag limits, and legal means of taking (4) Legal means of taking (E) (i – viii). [AMENDED]

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 (1 – 19) [NEW]

Part 25. Oklahoma Land Access Program

800:25-7-181 OLAP walk-in hunting areas, seasons, and equipment restrictions

(b) (1, 2, 4) [AMENDED]

Subchapter 24. Import of Cervids

800:25-24-3(1)(F) Requirements [NEW]

Subchapter 26. Scientific Collector Permits Part 1. Scientific Purposes

800:25-26-3 Use (e) [AMENDED]

Part 3. Authorization Letter

800:25-26-6 (a) Application process and reporting [AMENDED]

800:25-26-7 (c) Uses and specifications [AMENDED]

Subchapter 30. Wildlife Depredation on Agricultural Crops

800:25-30-5 (a)(b) Damage Control Assistance Permits [AMENDED]

The rule change proposals for **Chapter 25 Wildlife Rules** would move the October Kiamichi Park controlled youth deer hunt from the second weekend in October to the first weekend in October. The second youth-controlled hunt in December will benefit from a “cooling down” period with no disturbance the week before that hunt. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) request change on non-licensed USACE property that is open to hunting. Opens new restricted portion, approximately 220 acres, within the June Hill area of lake Texoma. USACE request rule change on non-licensed USACE property that is open to hunting. Combines acres in 2 areas to simplify regulations. This will clean up language in Title 800. USACE request rule change for administrative adjustment of previous rule change. Opens 103 acres of archery only hunting on non-licensed Corps lands at Heyburn Lake. These lands are currently closed to hunting. USACE rule change request. Opens 45-acre and 23-acre island to archery. USACE rule change request on non-licensed USACE property. Removes a 50-acre unit within Lake Texoma area for safety concerns and to limit conflicts between hunters, campers, residential areas. USACE rule change request on non-licensed USACE property. Add rules to allow hunting with archery and shotgun with pellets only on Atoka Lake property, approximately 11,000 acres, to be consistent with existing Oklahoma City code. Eliminates seasonal blinds and go to daily blinds only on all United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) waterways. Changes the burden of possessing wildlife taken by another without the required information from being solely on the person receiving said wildlife to placing it on both the receiver and the one who harvested and gives away said wildlife. Establishes rules to dictate when and how UAV(Drone) can lawfully be used in scouting for and recovering downed wildlife. Administrative correction to correct season dates from 2002 where two different versions were created. Adds cable restraints as a legal trapping device for furbearers. Establishes resident only hunting seasons and dates on Herron Family WMA. Adds language to allow falconry as a legal means of take on OLAP properties. Falconry rules on OLAP will follow statewide Department regulations. Also add other means of take (i.e., slingshot) as an allowable means. Currently OLAP properties are restricted to archery or shotgun with pellets only. Allows importation of cervids going to a taxidermist in good standing with the Secretary of State and that follow proper disposal procedures of carcasses. This rule change proposal would add more species to the list of wildlife that must be applied for and covered under Letter of Authorization (LOA) and no longer under Scientific Collectors Permit authorization. The additional species are quail, pheasant, prairie-chicken, prairie dog, squirrel, rabbit, fox, bobcat, and mountain lion. Changes language to include species that are eligible for DCAP permit issuance.

20. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject, or take other action on Permanent Rules – Bill Dinkines.

Title 800. Department of Wildlife Conservation

Chapter 30. Department of Wildlife Lands Management

Subchapter 1. Use of Department Managed Lands

800:30-1-1(b) Purpose [AMENDED]

800:30-1-3 License Requirements and Wildlife Conservation Passport (d)(e) [AMENDED]
 800:30-1-4 Camping (f)(19) [NEW]
 800:30-1-5 Vehicles (l)(m) [NEW]
 800:30-1-20 (e) Restricted Public Use Areas [NEW]
 800:30-1-22. Hunting Equipment on Wildlife Management Areas (b) [NEW]
 800:30-1-23 Removing edible plants from Wildlife Management Area [NEW]
Subchapter 3. Mineral Exploration and Production
 800:30-3-2 (12) General Provisions [REVOKED]
 800:30-3-7 Damage and use charges (2)(B)(3)(E)[AMENDED]

The rule change proposals for **Chapter 30 Department of Wildlife Lands Management** would give authority to signage posted on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) such as road closures, temporary closures for WMA management, restricted uses, etc. Adds requirement for a non-resident game bird permit and non-resident_user check-in for WMA. Adds camping, Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, and dog regulations for the new Herron Family Wildlife Management Area. Regulates the use of night vision, thermal devices, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) on WMAs. Updates rules and regulations pertaining to mineral exploration on Department land to address changing technology in oil and gas industry. Allows for multiple well sites per drilling pad at an additional fee of \$5,000 per additional well. Updates pipeline rates to \$100 per rod minimum for new pipeline fee. Prices will be adjusted in accordance with similar transaction assessments. Places a \$30 per rod for renewal rates. Allows limited removal of portions of some plants and/or fungi for personal use during specified dates.

21. Consideration and vote to confirm, ratify, approve, amend, reject, or take other action in connection with the job descriptions and qualifications of all assistants and employees of the Department, including those being considered for employment as referenced in Title 29 Sections 3-103 D. 3 and 3-105 A. 2. – Commissioner Diehl, OWCC Personnel Committee Chairman.
22. Discussion of the appraisal and/or purchase of certain real properties located in Creek County, which the Commission by majority vote may decide to discuss in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. 307(B)(3); with any action thereon to take place through discussion, consideration, and vote in Open Session – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division
 - a. Vote to enter Executive Session
 - b. EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Title 25 O.S., § 307(B)(3).
 - c. Vote to exit Executive Session
 - d. Possible action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session
23. Proposed Executive Session pursuant to Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4), and consistent with 2005 OK AG 29, ¶ 13, for the purpose of confidential communications between the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission and legal counsel for the purpose of conducting Attorney-Client communications regarding recent pending litigation, *Cherokee Nation v. Free*, 4:25-cv-00630-CVE-JFJ (N.D. Okla. filed Nov. 18, 2025)

and trial, *Janus v. ODWC*, CJ-2018-6438 (District Court Okla. County filed Dec. 16, 2024).

- a. Vote to enter Executive Session Title 25 O.S. § 307(B)(4)
 - b. Exit Executive Session and vote to re-enter Open Session
 - c. Discussion and possible action regarding matters discussed in Executive Session
- 24. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about, or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
 - 25. Announce the January 5th, 2026, Commission meeting will be in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
 - 26. 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 Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C St. NW, Washington, DC**

DECEMBER 2025 DIRECTOR'S REPORT



OKLAHOMA
DEPARTMENT OF
**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**

CALENDAR ITEMS:

Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Meeting. Henderson, NV
Dec. 10 - 12

AGENCY UPDATE ADMINISTRATION

Accounting

Accounts Payable:

- # of Claims Audited and Paid: 656
- Total Dollar Amount of Claims Paid: \$1,663,445.25

Purchase Card Program:

- Total # Agency Cardholders: 208
- Total # Agency Approvers (no cards): 12
- Total Agency Monthly Standard Spending Limits: \$543,000
- Total Agency Spending Limits w/ Approved Increase Requests: \$611,000
- # of PCard Spending Limit Increase Requests Approved: 43
- # of P/Card Transactions Processed: 860
- # of ODWC In-depth Audited Transactions: 411
- OMES documentation requests for PCard transactions: 9
- Total Dollar Amount of P/Card Purchases: \$352,366.19
- PCard Program Refresher Training: 30
- New Approver Training at OMES: 0
- New Cardholder Training at OMES: 0

Risk Management:

- OMES Surveys or Premiums Completed: 1
- New Cases Reported: 3

Purchasing:

- # of Purchase Orders/CO issued: 64
- IT Acquisitions Processed: 17

Meetings/Milestones:

- Staff attended a webinar with OMES-CAR Payment Cancellations, Celonis Training, and CP Listens
- Staff worked toward understanding HB2164 and planning for implementation of the new form CP005.

Federal Aid

- Federal Reimbursement Request: \$3,067,462.42
- Program Income: \$36,191.67
- In-Kind Contributions: \$29,000.00
- New Grants or Amendments Submitted: 3
- Grant Reports Submitted (performance and financial): 22
- Subrecipient FFATA Reporting: 0
- Reviewed 770 P-card charges with grant-related transactions, for a total of \$289,658.01 charged to grants
- Subaward Invoices Processed: 6
- Planning meetings related to the upcoming USFWS-State FAC Regional Meeting in Oklahoma (March)
- Working on annual audit with Finley & Cook
- Grant Assistant and Grant Specialist positions are vacant

Human Resources

Recruitment:

- Open Positions 29
- Positions Announced 3
- Applications Screened 610
- Positions Interviewed 5
- Candidates Interviewed 25
- New Hires 2
- Promotions 1
- Transfers 0
- Resignations / Terminations 2
- Retirements 0
- Temporary Employees Processed 4

Payroll:

- Full Time Employees on Payroll 345
- Temporary Employees on Payroll 49
- DB Plan Members 136
- DC Plan Members 209

Benefits:

- Retirement Meetings and/or Calculations 4

Training:

- # in orientation 5

Miscellaneous:

- FMLA Requests 1
- Worker Comp Injuries 1

Activities:

- Submitted HR Corner article for the Oct WOG

- Attended Workday@OK Agency Learning Admin webinar
- Attended Workday@OK Office Hours webinar
- Processing data for Finley & Cook Audit
- Processing data for Korn Ferry pay study
- Processed invoices for payment
- Completion of Census Data Audit for Definiti.
- Follow-up for LDP presentations
- Planning for LDP Graduation
- Follow-up for DB Retirement Seminar
- Benefits Open Enrollment Processing

License

- Processed 664 orders, including 491 licenses/permits and 471 hard cards (mail and walk-in orders) - \$123,459 in revenue.
- Shipped 390 in-house merchandise items (patches, books, etc.), totaling over \$4,200 in revenue.
- Processed over \$155,000 in miscellaneous revenue, such as fines, restitution, oil & gas, etc.

October License Review

- Recreational Licenses were up 5% for the month compared to October 2024, with revenue up 12%.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Resident Combo	+16% (1,815)
Resident Hunting	+12% (7,085)
Nonresident Hunting	+4% (3,118)
Resident Fishing	+14% (4,696)
Nonresident Fishing	+16% (2,506)
Resident Deer Archery	+8% (11,548)
Nonresident Deer Archery	+26% (2,406)

Lifetime License sales volume was down 4% for the month compared to October 2024, with revenue down 18% for the category and 905 sold.

Notables include:

License Type	Pct Change MTD (# Sold)
Lifetime Combo	-19% (167)
Lifetime Fishing	-39% (23)
Senior Citizen Combo	+20% (363)
Senior Citizen Fishing	+9% (236)

There are some positive takeaways with deer licenses showing increases from FY25. However, cumulative revenue increases are roughly 5% (just under \$500k) so a big deer gun and waterfowl season is needed to provide a boost for FY26.

Information Technology

- Processed 43 support tickets over the last 30 days.
- Patched Pure Storage Arrays to maintain security and performance.
- Met with OMES's Amazon Connect team and the License Section to plan the call center migration to AWS Connect.
- Deployed all scheduled laptops for this cycle.
- Continuing development on migrating BTG Fed Aid to a web application.
- Oklahoma Room – Phase 2 discussions are ongoing.
- IT audit scheduled for early next year.

Property

- Completed orders of all new vehicles for FY26 for all divisions.
- Researched parking lot drainage and worked with CMS complete repairs at no cost to agency. Repairs consisted of redoing the 450 ft run of corrugated pipe that drains ground water under the parking lot out.
- Continued auction preparations with staff submissions and review of items. Some items were claimed by other staff to be used in other regions/areas.
- Completed daily routine checks of central office building grounds and equipment. Made minor repairs as needed.
- Conducted normal mailroom and building/grounds maintenance activities. 666 pieces of mail were sent out in the month of October in the mailroom.

FISHERIES

Director highlights

Statewide Fish Stocking, October 2025			
Species	# Fish	Size	# Locations
Brown Trout, Wyoming State	5,124	6+"	1
Channel Catfish, ODWC	15,052	7-12"	8
Hybrid Sunfish, ODWC	250	5"	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	10,367	9+"	1
Rainbow Trout, Commercial	514	14-25"	1
Rainbow Trout, USFWS	18,703	9+"	2
Total:	50,010		

Meetings

- Attended the 79th Annual Seafwa Conference in Biloxi, MS, participating in meetings and presentations.
- The biologist attended the catfish committee meeting at the Arcadia office.
- We had that meeting with John Doerner and friends about trout in Stillwater, Okla.
- Met with the County Commissioner to discuss the side ditch maintenance issue to help with water drainage on Bryon Hatchery.

- Personnel attended the Friends of Reservoirs Conference in Texas. Many states send representatives to discuss habitat projects and the effectiveness of different habitat types.

Activities

- Received and held 5,000, 8–10-inch brown trout from Wyoming. These trout were then distributed and stocked in SE Oklahoma trout streams. In return, BFH harvested and loaded approximately 70K bluegill fingerlings that were sent back to Wyoming.
- Staff received 100 tons of gravel that was used to maintain hatchery roads.
- BFH received 40K fertilized rainbow trout eggs from Tenn. that were successfully hatched and are currently doing well. These fish are approximately 1 inch and are feeding well.
- Staff completed the production pond reshaping project on 5 ponds. These ponds were worked to improve drainage and fish harvest.
- Installed a new tank on the truck and aerators in the sunfish ponds.
- Assisted Central Reg with concrete work.
- Completed HACH water quality testing SOP and quick reference sheet.
- Completed YSI EXO sensor calibration and use SOP.
- Installed YSI software and trained personnel at Durant State Fish Hatchery.
- Biologist continued administrative work for scientific collectors permits and letters of agreement.
- Continued creel survey at Lake Burtschi.
- Cut concrete to assess drainage issues in HQ parking lot.
- Continued fire guard maintenance at Jap Beaver Lake.
- Check N. Boundary fence at Vanderwork.
- Purchased and installed a new motor on Bluewave.
- Installed Doc at Jap Beaver Lake.
- Assist Hatchery with harvesting ponds.
- Supervisor attended prescribed fire training workshop.
- Staff conducted fishing clinics with Hughes County NRCS (5 schools and 150 kids) and Langston University/4H (~100 kids).
- Staff built 10 reef balls and deployed two test reef balls in Eufaula Lake (First Ever Reef Balls in the State of Oklahoma). Habitat Coordinates were submitted for the online fish attractor map.
- Completed SSP trap netting at Durant Lake and Atoka Lake.
- Staff oversaw construction activities at the Regional Shop, including the installation of overhead doors and an electric door opener.
- Staff completed installation of roll-up doors on the habitat building.
- Preparation for passive gear survey (jug lines) at Lake Texoma.
- Submitted comment letter regarding HWY70 bridge construction.
- Snorkeled Hughes Crossing to look at damage or erosion underneath.
- Certified state record Spotted Gar.

- Assisted DFH staff with PIT tagging 286 Lone Star Bass for future broodstock.
- Prepared, planted, and fertilized all wheat fields at BRPFHA.
- Continued the creel survey project on Greenleaf Lake, conducting 4 additional interviews and 4 pressure counts over two days in October, for a total of 252 interviews for the survey to date.
- Placed multiple Shelbyville Cubes into Stigler and Vian Lakes as fish habitat enhancement and refurbishment.
- Performed Trap Net sampling on Stilwell City Lake to determine crappie population age and growth. Collected data was entered, verified, analyzed, and submitted for uploading to ODWC OFAT database.
- Participated in Catfish Committee meeting in Arcadia, OK, to discuss catfish stocking and management issues across the state.
- Reviewed environmental review requests and drafted and submitted responses related to projects that could impact fish and wildlife resources across the state.
- Reviewed and compiled compliance documents for a new shop building at Durant State Fish Hatchery and a predator fence at Holdenville State Fish Hatchery. Drafted Section 7 documents for the upcoming SFR Statewide Fish Management and Hatchery grant applications and submitted them for review.
- Verified presence and mapped Alligator weed extent on Upper Illinois River.
- Submitted Invasive carp interim report to ODWC Federal Aid.
- Contacted “Don’t Let it Loose” program partners to confirm ongoing participation and sent an informational letter to continuing cooperators.
- Finalized and submitted the Invasive carp grant application to ODWC Federal Aid.
- Finalized and submitted ANS grant application to ODWC Federal Aid.
- Updated HACCP procedures document, created SharePoint site, and shared with Regional Fisheries personnel.
- Processed candidates, scheduled interviews, prepared questions, and conducted invasive carp technician interviews.
- Conducted Lower Arkansas River trapnetting for invasive species monitoring.
- Presented the Leadership Level 2 project to the Executive Leadership Team at OKC HQ.
- Hauled or facilitated 8 total rainbow trout stockings and one brown trout stocking in the Lower Mtn Fork River.
- Met with Broken Bow HS environmental class and presented on the history of the Trout fishery and ongoing research.
- Attended SARP barrier meeting in NE Oklahoma.
- Placed new signage at Lower Mtn Fork.
- Downloaded data from Lower Mtn Fork HOB0 temperature loggers and redeployed.
- Brush hogging and area maintenance at Watts and Bamberger properties.
- Porter field office routine maintenance and upkeep.
- Continued with creel on Wister Lake. Contacts have been relatively few, with low water and few people on the lake.
- SER biologist David Bogner completed LDP training.

- Conducted fall trapnetting and gillnetting on Raymond Gary, with average catch rates for crappie, but good numbers of quality redear.
- Staff began a large-scale, lake-wide crappie pop survey on Wister Lake, with 42 nets and approximately 360 net nights scheduled. Initial catch rates were high, and we look forward to reporting the results of this important and interesting project during the next report period.
- Continued sampling black bass in streams and collecting fin clips and otoliths.
- Assisted with section 7 for the streams grant and worked on the 2026 streams grant.
- Attended streams connectivity meeting/workshop and surveyed approximately 20 stream crossings.
- Staff fyke-netted Crappie on Ten Acer, Choctaw Creek, Jones, and Veterans Park CTHF ponds. Staff fyke-netted Crappie on Thunderbird (finished) and Arcadia (ongoing) lakes. Staff assisted the Southeastern Region with a large lake population estimate for Crappie on Lake Wister and a large-scale age-and-growth sample for the lake.
- Staff attended training on creating creel surveys for the fish division and assisted in the creation of a study for the North Central Region. Staff prepped and poured a concrete pad for Holdenville Regional Mgmt.
- Staff assisted Hatchery with hauling trout from Heber Springs, Arkansas to the Mountain Fork River.
- -Staff continued work on Goldeye Ageing, Catfish sampling bias, and Countrywide Smallmouth Bass Growth Papers. Work continued on the Flathead Catfish electrofishing bias project. Staff worked on the close-to-home portion of the R3 plan with C&E.
- Maintenance is ongoing at the Department Lake areas. Lakes Elmer and American Horse were mowed, and trash was collected. American Horse roads were maintained, while roads at Elmer were prepared for additional gravel.
- Two creel days were completed at Ft. Supply. Pressure was low, but most anglers surveyed were successful in harvesting fish.
- Hoop nets were run at Meadow Lake in Enid, a Close to Home Fishing Area. Catch rates were high with a good distribution of fish sizes. Data analysis is ongoing.
- Staff met with upper administration and our representative from the AG's office on an encroachment issue of a house at Watonga. A subsequent meeting with the adjacent landowner was held, and ODWC was permitted to remove the house. ODWC staff plans to remove the structure to resolve the encroachment issue in the near future.
- Personnel conducted Fall SSP trap netting on Grand, Hudson, and Keystone Lakes. Crappie otoliths were pulled for age and growth data.
- Personnel took part in Bass Tournament fish care education meetings discussing the joint project between ODWC, BASS, MLF regarding the upcoming media that will be available to the public discussing the importance of fish care.

- Personnel conducted habitat projects on Claremore City Lake and Oologah Lake. Shelbyville cubes were built and placed in both lakes, 10 in Claremore and 14 in Oologah.

C&E DIVISION

- Construction of the City of Altus – Bitter Creek Shooting Sports Complex has begun with a groundbreaking ceremony was held on November 6 with more than 75 attendees.
- The third pilot year of the Special Family Hunts wrapped up the first weekend in December. In total, about 2,400 people applied. Women made up 37 percent of the applicants.
- Outdoor Oklahoma is set to premier 13 new segments beginning Jan. 4 on OETA. This year marks the 50th anniversary.
- C&E met with Fisheries to review the Close to Home Fishing program survey results. The action items from that meeting will be outlined in the draft ODWC R3 Plan.
- In the last six months the number of paid Outdoor Oklahoma subscribers has increased by more than 10 percent.
- C&E has continued to work with HR to promote vacancies primarily through social media channels to make potential candidates aware of agency openings.
- C&E's annual Gar Week concluded in November. This annual event aims to raise awareness of Oklahoma's "living fossils" and other native non-game fish.
- The fall airing of ODWC's hunting commercial ended in November. Results will be available soon.
- C&E met with Fisheries to discuss the proposed Angler Recognition Program for possible implementation in spring 2026.
- The ribbon cutting for the Optima WMA Shooting Range was held on October 23, with more than 20 attendees, including our partners from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Ongoing construction projects include Copan, Canton, and Lexington, each showing steady progress and on schedule. Engineering projects are underway at Pushmataha and Cherokee. Environmental assessment projects are ongoing for Fort Gibson, Texoma/Washita Arm, Hickory Creek, Sandy Sanders, Hulah, Waurika, and Arcadia.
- Education section led by Damon Springer and Colby Cook, ran the FFA Shotgun Training Education Program modified four stand sporting clays regional and state shoots. Nearly 300 teams of High School and Junior High students participated in the five regional and state shoot, with the finale held at Oklahoma City Gun Club.
- Kelly Boyer kicked off the OKNASP and Varsity Archery qualification period with the state shoots scheduled for Feb. 18 and 19 at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds and Feb. 25 and 26 at the Tulsa Expo Square.
- Colby Cook organized two cedar clean-up work days at the Arcadia Conservation Education Area, involving local FFA chapters and C&E staff.

WILDLIFE DIVISION

Wildlife Management Area Highlights

- 31 acres of woody vegetation cut/masticated.
- 228 acres of food plots were planted.
- 174 miles of roads maintained (mowed and/or bladed).
- 1,107 tons of gravel spread.

- 7 acres invasive species control (sericea, musk thistle, and johnsongrass).
- 30 acres received herbicide treatment.
- Parking areas, heavy use sites and campgrounds maintained.
- Signs installed or maintained.
- Multiple miles of fence repaired/maintained.
- 126 acres brush-hogged/mowed.
- Multiple WDU's had water manipulations.
- Shooting ranges maintained.
- Firebreak maintenance on multiple areas.
- County quail roadside counts wrapped up in October. Survey results are trending upward. Fall covey counts were done on various WMA's.
- Controlled hunts were conducted – deer archery, gun, youth deer, youth waterfowl
- Okmulgee WMA hosted duck hunter field day.
- Quail season opener hunter use surveys were conducted.
- Duck hunter use surveys were conducted.
- Deer gun hunter use surveys were conducted.
- WDU pumping/flooding in progress on various areas of the state.
- Wildlife staff participated in Today in Ag radio program for KECO.
- Grazing lease bid openings for Packsaddle, Cross Timbers WMA's.
- Staff remain busy with hunting seasons and assisting WMA users.
- Swift fox track surveys completed in Beaver County (tracks detected in 25 of the 27 townships surveyed).
- WAFWA Interstate Working Group participation continues with plans to update the Range Wide Lessor Prairie Chicken Plan.
- Continued coordination with different divisions concerning fall whooping crane migration.
- Collecting deer genetic samples for the genetic improvement act sampling.
- Furbearer season underway.
- Confirmed mountain lion sighting on Skiatook WMA.
- Case study completed on ODWC trapping workshops.
- Coordinated appraisal and boundary survey work for a variety of parcels.
- Coordinated with oil and gas companies on surface damages for a well site and pipeline.
- Completed land closing for 40 acres at Sans Bois WMA in Haskell County.
- Completed land closing for 402 acres at Deep Fork WMA in Okfuskee and Creek Counties.
- Various shooting range meetings were attended.
- Shooting range opening at Optima WMA.
- Started shooting range work at Canton WMA.
- Construction on Copan shooting range nearing completion.
- Held WMA planning group meeting for streamlining data entry on the WMA planning application.
- Cedar cutting projects underway soon at Canton and Ft Supply WMA's.
- Acoustic bat survey conducted.
- Assisted with STEP program.
- Careers with ODWC presentations at a high school & a college.
- Monitored CWD sample drop off freezers in SSA's.
- Staff had presentation to Woodward Lion's Club.
- Technical Assistance was given to 15 landowners.

- 99 WHIP applications so far (application period Sep 1 – Dec 31).
- OLAP work continues in developing landowner contacts.
- Processing program income for ag/hay/grazing lease payments.
- Monthly bird survey conducted at Drummond Flats.
- Overcup Bottom WDU pump has been delivered and installed.
- Private Land Youth Hunts ongoing, reporting good success so far.
- Prairie dog relocation efforts continue with the City of Lawton, have moved some to Sandy Sanders, Cimarron Bluffs WMA's and some private lands in Washita County.

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Dist. 1 - Capt. Hank Jenks

- Warden Green caught an adult who killed a deer during the youth season with a muzzleloader and proceeded to check it in on a youth license
- Warden Rolling participated in the Glenpool Elementary Career Day where she conducted 12 presentations about Game Warden work for approximately 800 kids.
- Warden Rolling participated in the Trunk or Treat Event for the Maxwell Park Library in Broken Arrow
- Osage County Wardens have been busy trying to keep hunters that are not involved in the controlled hunt on Western Wall from entering the area when it is closed. These are new hunts this year, that combined with the limited signage that has been installed has made it hard to control.
- Warden Stauffer caught a subject that snuck into hunt on the Port of Catoosa property without permission, the appropriate citations were issued
- On October 18, Warden Tilley participated in the Fall Festival in Chelsea. During the event, he handed out candy and hunting regulations, met more than a hundred community members, and answered a variety of wildlife-related questions, helping strengthen connections within the small community.
- On October 21, Warden Jackson gave an educational presentation to 7th-grade students at Ketchum Schools on wildlife identification using skins and skulls. The students were highly engaged and gained a better understanding of Oklahoma's native wildlife.
- On October 23, Wardens Morris, Moore, and Lt. Alexander participated in the Mayes County Conservation Days, where they presented on wildlife identification using skins and skulls. Over the course of the day, they delivered 14 presentations to groups of local students, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for conservation.
- On October 25, Warden Moore provided a firearms safety talk to a group of adult hunters during the muzzleloader special hunt on Spavinaw WMA. The discussion focused on safe firearm handling.
- On October 31, Wardens came together for a district meeting and safety meeting in Nowata County, covering recent topics and reinforcing the importance of safety during nighttime driving. Lt. Alexander and Capt. Jenks prepared a hearty chili lunch for the Wardens to enjoy during the cool fall day.
- On October 31, Warden Adair assisted with a special veterans' hunt held on Dalrymple Farms in Ottawa County. The event, sponsored by several local partners including the River Bottom Sportsman Association, provided licenses, meals, and a quality hunting experience for the attending veterans.
- Also on October 31, Wardens Moore and Morris participated in a Trunk or Treat event at Lincoln Elementary School in Mayes County. They visited with families,

handed out candy, and shared information about Oklahoma's wildlife and outdoor opportunities.

- On November 1, Wardens Moore, Morris, Jackson, Willman, Stauffer, Rolling, Lt. Alexander, and Capt. Jenks took part in the Youth Special Muzzleloader Hunt on Spavinaw WMA. The Wardens conducted a safety briefing and helped make the young hunters feel welcome and excited for their opportunity in the field.
- On November 7, Wardens Moore, Morris, Willman, Jackson, Lt. Alexander, and Capt. Jenks assisted with the Youth Special Rifle Hunt on Spavinaw WMA. The team grilled burgers and hot dogs for the participants, ensuring everyone enjoyed a great meal and fellowship after a full day outdoors. A special thank you goes to the Oklahoma State Game Warden Association for sponsoring the food for the youth hunters.
- The district also proudly welcomed home Warden Chris Newkirk from his long deployment with the U.S. Air National Guard. His dedication and service are greatly appreciated—welcome home, Warden Newkirk!
- Wardens from across D1 implemented a Night Hunter saturation and flight with the assistance of OHP Troop O. The flight covered portions of Craig, Delaware and Ottawa Counties. One subject was caught spotlighting, and two other contacts with coyote and pig hunters let the sportsman know we were out and about!
- Warden Tilley contacted a subject with an illegal turkey, and no licenses.

Dist. 2 – Capt. David Robertson

Public Outreach Events

- Warden Stanley assisted with Cherokee WMA's 40th Annual Non-Ambulatory Controlled Hunt.
- Wardens Garrett and Youngblood provided a Fishing Simulator program for the Cherokee Elementary School's "Hero Night".
- Lt. Cramer, Warden Garrett, and Warden Stanley provided a Fishing Simulator program for the Keys Elementary School's Fall Festival.
- Lt. Cramer participated in a career fair at Rocky Mountain School's Family Night.
- Lt. Cramer provided teachers and administrators of the Stilwell School District with their annual CLEET Firearms Qualification
- Wardens Couch and Henry assisted with a controlled youth hunt at Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge. Their assistance was needed due to the Government shutdown. They answered questions and assisted in deer retrieval.
- Warden Couch assisted with the Regional FFA Shotgun Shoot.
- Warden Couch set up an in-person hunter check station during youth rifle season and answered questions from the public at the event.
- Warden Bailey and Lt. Matlock assisted the wildlife division at the Okmulgee GMA-controlled hunts throughout the month.
- Warden Bailey and Lt. Matlock hosted a public outreach event at the OSU Okmulgee Campus. The event centered on regulations, license requirements for non-resident students, and hunting locations in the Okmulgee area.
- Warden Bailey and Lt. Matlock assisted C&E with the Okmulgee Field Day event at Okmulgee GMA. Wardens covered what licenses needed to be purchased as well as general waterfowl regulations.
- Warden deMontigny put on a public outreach event at a local church on shotgun shooting and general firearms safety.
- Notable Cases

- Wardens Henry and Couch, utilizing the District's new surface drive boat, were able to apprehend some individuals illegally hunting deer on the islands within the Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge. One individual was taken into custody with \$50,000 worth of outstanding warrants for his arrest.
- A call from the public enabled Warden Henry to catch several hunters from Arkansas hunting deer with rifles out of season, hunting without permission, and had harvested an 8-point buck.
- Warden Henry made over 40 waterfowl hunting contacts during the season opener on Sequoyah NWR and Kerr Lake.
- Warden Youngblood made an arrest involving operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.
- Warden Youngblood made a case against a non-resident who illegally obtained resident hunting licenses by using a family member's address as their own.
- Wardens Youngblood and Garrett, with tips from archery deer hunters, were able to catch a group of people who were illegally riding UTVs on Fort Gibson PHA.
- Wardens Youngblood and Garrett utilized their deer decoy to catch a road hunter during the deer muzzleloader season.
- Wardens Youngblood and Garrett received a tip about a potential baited site on Cherokee PHA. They were able to apprehend the deer hunter who had been hunting over the bait.
- Warden Youngblood responded to a complaint about illegal baiting on the Cherokee GMA. He was able to catch two deer hunters who were both hunting over bait at two different locations.
- Lt. Cramer was able to make a hunting without landowner permission case against a deer hunter who had been photographed by a cellular game camera.
- Wardens Couch, deMontigny, Henry, Langford, and Lt. Matlock worked special emphasis on the opening day of duck season on Sequoyah National Wildlife Refuge and Kerr Lake, resulting in 107 compliance checks. Two juveniles were issued warnings for an unplugged shotgun and failing to have a youth super license, and one individual purchased a temporary waterfowl license.
- A call from a landowner resulted in Wardens Langford and Rowland catching two hunters from Arkansas taking a deer illegally with a rifle during muzzleloader season. An eight-point buck was confiscated, and the two individuals failed to possess any Oklahoma state licenses.
- While out on patrol, Warden deMontigny caught two individuals hunting waterfowl past legal shooting hours on Lake Eufaula. Both were issued administrative fines.
- On a call out on a boundary issue, Warden Rowland located a baited area on Eufaula WMA. The individual had also destroyed trees and created his own roadway to drive his UTV into the management area. He was able to make contact with the responsible party and was issued appropriate citations.

Training

- All District wardens completed rifle qualifications, low light firearms training and safety meeting.

Dist. 3 – Capt. Todd Tobey

- Pittsburg County Warden Penwright was involved in a pursuit of a side-by-side UTV on Eufaula WMA where ATV's/UTV's are prohibited. The UTV crashed (no injuries) and the suspects were charged with several violations.

- Warden Penwright was also involved in a roadside wrestling match while assisting Haileyville PD. The individual apparently was having a mental breakdown of sorts and assaulted the PD officer. Matt was able to take the individual into custody and transport the PD officer to the hospital for treatment of minor injuries he received in the scuffle.
- Lt. Kenny Lawson and McCurtain County District Attorney's investigator Clay Hattabough caught some night hunters near Red Slough WMA. Both suspects were on DA's supervised probation at the time, and the supervisor is investigator Hattabough. One suspect was revoked the next day and will likely face some jail time.
- Lt. Lawson received a call from the manager of a large ranch on Red River who stated someone stole 2 firearms from their truck and attempted to steal the ranch truck as well. The ranch hands gave chase, and the suspect tossed the guns out the window where the ranch hands stopped to retrieve them. It was determined the suspect had stopped in a local convenience store in the area earlier that morning, so Lt. Lawson was able to obtain security camera photos of the suspect vehicle and the suspect. While trying to locate and identify the suspect, Lt. Lawson was contacted by a Texas DPS trooper who had stopped the suspect and issued a ticket for possession of drug paraphernalia. Lt. Lawson sent the photos to the trooper, who then obtained a confession from the suspect. Lt. Lawson provided a PC statement and statements from the victim/witness and is filing third-degree burglary charges against the suspect who has a lengthy criminal history. It's just another example of how having great relationships with local landowners pays off and benefits all of us. The local landowners most often call the local game wardens when they need help even when it may not be wildlife related because they know we will respond and take care of business.
- Wardens Springwater and Kannady made two separate night hunting stops and issued citations for hunting with the aid of a motorized vehicle, headlighting, shooting from a public roadway, possession of wildlife not legally taken.
- D3 wardens issued 33 citations, 2 field licenses, 9 written warnings and collected 4 administrative fines this 28-day period.
- D3 wardens conducted 169 compliance checks, participated in 14 programs and 3 outreach events this 28-day period.
- D3 wardens logged 203 assisting hours, 323 training hours, 96 investigation hours and 887 patrol hours during this 28-day cycle.
- Warden Springwater and Lt. Polk along with D3 Commissioner Diehl arrested a man who happens to be a Choctaw tribal member for lewd acts in public and possession of alcohol outside a designated parking area on WMA area located at WD Mayo Corps property in Leflore County, Lt. Polk issued the suspect a citation for the administrative alcohol violation and contacted the Choctaw tribal police who jailed the suspect for the lewd acts.

Dist. 4 – Capt. Tom Cartwright

- Wardens Taylor and Johnson did a career day program for Seminole Middle School.
- Wardens Johnson and Taylor completed an extensive investigation, which included a license fraud case. The individuals were nonresidents and had been killing and checking deer under an elderly lady's senior citizen lifetime license to avoid buying a nonresident license. This had been going on for many years. After the

investigation, Wardens issued citations for 15 counts of illegal possession of wildlife, 15 counts of falsifying information to a check station, and 11 counts of hunting without a license. All charges are pending in the district court.

- Wardens Taylor, Johnson, and Lt. Harley assisted in the Oklahoma Youth Hunting program in Hughes County. Warden Taylor guided one youth hunter on a doe hunt and explained the deer cleaning process to the youth. Wardens also spoke about the Wildlife Department's mission, the vital role of a Game Warden, and answered general questions.
- Warden Taylor assisted with a fishing clinic at Holdenville Lake for Holdenville Public Schools.
- Warden Johnson completed an investigation that led an individual to confess to killing a large 16-point buck without a deer license. The suspect was issued citations for illegal possession of wildlife not legally taken and Hunting without a valid deer archery license.
- Wardens Wagner and Johnson assisted with two Oklahoma Youth Hunting programs, where they answered questions from the public and spoke to the youth about the Wildlife Department and being a Game Warden.
- Warden Wagner assisted with a lost hunter on Heyburn WMA. He found the older man, safely escorted him back to his vehicle, where he was treated and released by EMS.
- Wardens Arnold and Hale completed training to become Basic Instructor Development (BIDS) Instructors. Once they complete the remaining certification, they can certify officers to become CLEET instructors.
- Wardens Walker, Beam, and Arnold assisted the Wildlife Division by presenting a safety briefing to youth and non-ambulatory deer hunters for controlled hunts at the Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge.
- Wardens Hale and Arnold investigated a Louisiana man for hunting deer without a deer license. The subject purchased a non-resident deer archery license 5 minutes before e-checking the deer. The subject was interviewed and admitted that he did not want to buy a license and waste money if he did not kill a deer. The subject was charged and pleaded guilty to Illegal possession of a white-tailed deer under 29:5-411 and hunting without a valid Deer Archery License.
- Wardens Hale and Arnold worked on an incident involving a vehicle accident on the Tishomingo Wildlife Management Unit. A hunter reported that a vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree head-on. Upon arrival, the wardens determined the man was having a medical episode and requested EMS. The subject refused treatment and was released to a friend of the subject. The wardens later determined that the driver drove through a locked metal gate, a few miles away, at high speed before striking the tree.
- Warden Arnold conducted a traffic stop on a driver driving at night without their headlights turned on. Warden Arnold observed signs of impairment from the driver of the vehicle. Warden Arnold and a Tishomingo Police Officer administered the state's field sobriety test, which indicated the driver was impaired. The driver refused the state's blood test and was arrested and charged with Driving Under the Influence, Operating a Motor Vehicle without a Valid Driver's License, and Driving without Headlights. The driver has a court date set for late November.

- Wardens Jones and Beam conducted a public outreach at Eisenhower State Park. The wardens spoke with the public about the role of a game Warden and displayed the RHIB patrol boat.
- Warden Beam assisted with a Make-A-Wish Foundation deer hunt for six youth at the Spotted Ridge Ranch. Warden Beam gave a presentation on the role of a game warden and answered questions from the attendees.
- Warden Jones assisted the Corps of Engineers with a youth-controlled hunt at the West Burns Run area on Lake Texoma.

Dist. 5 – Capt. Gary Emmons

- The fifth District experienced a substantial increase in hunting activity, both lawful AND unlawful.
- Lt. Young and Warden Gillham caught two Texans who were road hunting at night using a spotlight and thermal scope with two suppressed rifles in Carter County. They shot a buck from their truck and then a landowner pursued them until they abandoned their truck and ran into the woods. The GWs found a cleaned goose breast in their abandoned truck and found an antlered deer with a .30 caliber slug in it where the landowner saw them spotlighting. The Texans had deer hunted the day before and goose hunted that morning. They didn't purchase any Oklahoma licenses and were waterfowl and gator guides in SE Texas.
- Warden Hanson checked a guy deer hunting at Thunderbird State Park who had deer parts in the bed of his truck. After an interview, GW Hanson received a full confession from the man that he had harvested an antlered deer but checked it in as an antlerless so he could kill another antlered deer. A few days later GW Hanson caught a guy unlawfully harvesting a deer inside the Safety Zone on Lexington WMA. He also made numerous hunting without the required safety orange, license violations, unlawful dumping of a carcass and a hunting without consent. GW Harriet made 2 carcass dumping cases as well.
- Lt. Strang and Warden Murray investigated an OGT report about a deer shot with a rifle and checked in as an archery kill after the suspect shot a crossbow bolt into the original bullet wound. They were able to recover the bullet from the deer at the processor. Lt. Strang made several cases of hunting waterfowl on Lex WMA during closed season. He and Warden Meskimen also issued some administrative fines for unauthorized use of the shooting range while it is closed for being under construction.
- Warden France investigated a bull elk checked in well after the quota had been reached. The elk turned out to be a large whitetail buck. The hunter had his buddy's teenage son check it in for him since he was technologically challenged. He had told them it "Was as big as an ELK".
- Warden Buley received a call about some guys fishing a pond in downtown OKC and the owner said they always ran when they saw people. Buley and an OKC officer arrived at about the same time and were able to catch them trying to leave. The owner pressed charges for fishing without consent. GW Buley also found a guy coming out of the woods with a muzzleloader on the evening of Nov 14 who was hunting deer and turkey (he did have hunting license and turkey tag though).
- Wardens Harriet and Buley caught 2 guys running hog dogs on places they didn't have permission on in Lincoln County. One of them had been issued hunting without

landowner consent in Grady County before. They were using a thermal scope from the roadway and had a .22 rifle and spotlight also.

- Warden Harriet received a trail camera photo of a man dragging a buck with a rifle at night in a remote area in Pott County. He found several areas and trails leading to a neighboring encampment. GW Harriet is currently working on a phone location warrant for the area. Harriet is also currently investigating a hunting without consent case in Payne County after the landowner found corn and a tree stand on his property.
- Wardens Harriet and Hanson investigated a nice antlered deer checked in as a muzzleloader kill close to the end of legal hunting hours. A fellow hunter's trail cam pic showed the same deer very much alive and well 30 minutes after legal hunting hours. The Wardens' necropsy of the body only revealed a bullet wound in the lower part of one of the front legs. No trauma was found anywhere in the vitals. The next day the Wardens went and seized the head and cape and after an X-Ray, they discovered a .30 caliber slug in the back of the head. A .30 caliber suppressed rifle with a thermal scope, a thermal drone and the suspect's phone are currently at OSBI awaiting forensic examinations.
- On the night of Nov 13, Warden Harriet received a call from his neighbor who told him a truck was shining his field and was driving towards Harriet's property. Warden Harriet jumped in his truck and drove to the end of his driveway, hid his truck and walked out to a hilltop and watched them shine the bottom of this field while he put his duty belt keepers on. They then shined Harriet's driveway and caught a glimpse of his truck but didn't seem to notice it was a Game Warden Truck. As they continued on their spotlighting adventure, Warden Harriet flew out behind them and activated his emergency lights and siren. They did not yield but "exited" the area a high rate of speed down the not very well-maintained rural Lincoln County dirt/gravel/rock roads. In the bed of the truck was 1 man who could possibly be a star bull rider in the PBR. He somehow managed not to get bucked out of the bed of the truck for over 4 miles before the driver screeched to a stop and ran into the woods with a rifle which initiated an hours long manhunt involving multiple agencies. Warden Harriet recognized the driver as someone he went to high school with. The father was the guy in the bed of the truck with a rifle and a spotlight with about a 10-foot extension cord attached to it. The truck was covered in blood. The girlfriend of the driver was still in the cab of the truck and gave a full confession she had shot the deer with her boyfriend and then checked it in with the dad's license. The driver was a convicted felon who was on the phone with his parole officer vowing he would rather die than go back to prison. Eventually the suspect's phone died, and the sheriff office's drone battery died as well. He was not apprehended yet.
- Lt. Strang and Wardens Buley and Hanson worked the OGT Trailer at the Lake Thunderbird fall festival.
- Warden France spoke at two OYHA deer hunts in Wanette and Stroud. GW Campbell spoke at the Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau on ODWC career opportunities. GW Harriet did public outreach programs for the Lincoln County Conservation District, a youth hunting organization, the Warwick Co-Op Native Wildlife Program and the Kickapoo Nation Youth
- Hunt as well as a Warden talk podcast with C&E and an interview on News 9 for the Adult Mentored Hunt.

- All Wardens in D5 and Col. Erdman attended a LEFR refresher class on major trauma in Shawnee. D5 Wardens also qualified with their duty rifles and received training on the use of their new red dot magnifiers purchased with the generous donation from the Goddard Foundation 2 years ago.

Dist. 6 – Capt. Mark Walker

- Warden Cornett and Lt. Carroll attended SEAFWA in Biloxi, MS so that Warden Cornett could be recognized at Warden of the Year for Oklahoma.
- D6 wardens have been fielding some calls from tribal members wanting clarity on what they need to be doing to stay legal. Waterfowl numbers are low right now so not much waterfowl hunting activity yet.
- Warden Taylor completed a case from February 2025 involving a hunting guide that was guiding hunters at night for hogs and coyotes. They were driving down the road using a truck mounted thermal. The judge gave the defendants a 3 year deferred sentence, dismissed the fines and gave them back their thermal device.
- Warden Pearson assisted a New Mexico game warden by seizing a pronghorn antelope and turning it over to the New Mexico game warden.
- Warden Pearson and Warden Flynn attended the Watonga Lions Club luncheon and talk to them about all things ODWC.
- Warden Pearson attended the Kingfisher High School Veteran's Day assembly.
- Warden Flynn investigated a report of a man that shot a deer from the road. This was witnessed by the person that farmed the land. The RP identified the vehicle as a Petra work truck. Warden Flynn contacted the nearest Petra field office that he could locate online which was in Lubbock, TX. The person he contacted there advised Warden Flynn that all of their trucks had GPS units on them and he could tell who was at that location at that time. A short time later the Petra representative called Warden Flynn back and advised him that the person had been identified and that his supervisors were on their way to his current work location to fire him and give him a ride home. Warden Flynn was contacted by this individual shortly after he was fired from his job and said "I hear you are looking for me". Warden Flynn met with the individual to issue citations and seize the firearm that he used as evidence. The individual had basically given the firearm to someone else to try to hide it. Warden Flynn was eventually able to collect the firearm.
- Warden Flynn witnessed some individuals hunting quail outside of quail season. When he contacted them one of the individuals advised Warden Flynn that he was operating a commercial hunt and the rest of the hunters were paid clients. The problem was that the person did not have a commercial hunt area license and the birds that he said he released and they killed were not tagged. Warden Flynn cited the man for operating a commercial hunt area without a license. The paid hunters were just victims of circumstance who thought that they were legal. They were not cited.
- Warden Cornett did a Poacher Mystery program at Lookeba-Sickles Schools.
- Warden Taylor and Warden Clem did programs at Big Pasture Schools during DARE week where they talked about what game wardens do and participated in "touch a truck" public outreach.
- Lt. Howser did a firearms safety program for Caddo county commissioners and county employees.
- Lt. Howser did a hunting safety program at Binger Schools

- Warden Taylor and Clem participated in Red Ribbon week activities at Temple Public Schools and Big Pasture Schools.
- Warden Zimmerman investigated a complaint of illegal possession of an alligator.
- Wardens King, Pearson and Flynn assisted fisheries division with gill net surveys at Canton Lake.
- Warden King attended BID instructor school
- Warden King took OGT trailer to touch a truck event in SW OKC.

Dist. 7 – Capt. Jeff Headrick

- Lt. J. Edwards is working with landowners that are finding hunting blinds and or cameras on their properties without consent. One of those being where a fence was cut so that a utv could be driven in on the property.
- Lt. J. Edwards investigated three separate juveniles hunting during youth season without adult supervision. One of those had killed a doe but never checked it in and it was already processed and in the freezer.
- Lt. J. Edwards had a trooper report two 20-year-olds he stopped around midnight had a thermal scoped rifle and claimed that they were going to scout for deer for their morning hunt. Further investigation revealed one of them had harvested wildlife previously but never checked it in.
- Wardens T. Blackburn, A. Vaughan, C. Carpenter, D. Jones, Lt. J. Edwards assisted Roger Mills SO with a subject driving around recklessly shooting an AR rifle attempting to create a "suicide by cop" situation. Fortunately, the incident ended with the subject being taken into custody without any bloodshed.
- Warden D. Jones had an adult lie about killing two deer on Sunday morning 15 minutes after purchasing his license. The man finally admitted that he killed the deer the previous evening and that he'd done the same thing the year before.
- Warden D. Jones had a juvenile do pretty much the same thing as the previous statement in addition to the adult with him make a comment, "So if we'd have waited to check it in until tomorrow, you wouldn't have known and wouldn't have caught us"!!!
- Warden A. Vaughan caught a non-resident killing a deer prior to purchasing a license.
- Warden T. Blackburn and Lt. J. Edwards attended the Unlimited Outdoor Adventures Foundation youth hunt luncheon and auction. More than 50 people (adults and kids) participated.
- Warden C. Carpenter and Lt. J. Edwards taught a Skins and Skulls to Elk City 5th graders and multiple home school kids of all ages. 180 participants in total attended the event put on by North Fork Conservation District Outdoor Classroom.
- Lt. J. Edwards finalized an illegal elk dumping case where the elk was harvested legally but illegally dumped along a public road.
- Muzzleloader season started out pretty slow with the heavy rainfall the night before season started and into opening day. Several hunters were checked on public land in Roger Mills, Ellis, and Beckham counties. Saturday evening of muzzleloader there was a hunting related shooting incident on Sandy Sanders WMA, weapon/smokeless powder failure causing the weapon to blow up in the shooters left hand. Lt. J. Edwards, Warden B. Lehrman, and Lt. D. Smith worked that accident.

- Warden A. Vaughan worked a Hunting Without Permission complaint in Custer County which turned into a license case investigation. The individual had purchased the license well after he had started hunting.
- Lt. J. Edwards worked an investigation on a license purchased after the harvest deer.
- A complaint was worked on trespassing by hog doggers west of Taloga.
- Lt. J. Edwards assisted Beckham Co. SO with a manhunt on felony pursuit, suspect ditched the motorcycle west of Sayre.
- Warden T. Blackburn and Lt. J. Edwards worked Black Kettle units opening morning of quail season. Only 15 hunters were contacted, 1/3 of those were nonresident. Compliance was 100% on check-in by nonresidents and Gamebird Permits.
- Wardens D. Jones and C. Carpenter worked opening morning of quail season on Packsaddle. They checked 28 hunters total with only a few nonresidents. Compliance was 100% of those checked.
- There were 70 vehicles estimated at Black Kettle, 33 vehicles at Packsaddle, and 15 vehicles at Ellis WMA.
- Wardens D. Jones and A. Vaughan worked an investigation on illegal night hunting. At least one of the individuals was a convicted felon. The investigation the next morning produced .22 short brass and shotgun hulls, and evidence of an illegally killed rabbit. The two suspects were cited for headlighting and no license. The felon was taken to jail.
- Wardens A. Vaughan worked Canton WMA for waterfowl hunters with 26 hunters checked, six deer hunters, and three fishermen. It was a 50/50 split between nonresident hunters and resident hunters. Citations/ADF were issued for no Gamebird permit and TNH/nonresident hunting without a license.
- Lt. D. Smith spent a lot of time working elk hunters. Elk Season had several nice bulls taken although LE wise it was a bust due to the hot weather causing hunter numbers to be on the low side.
- Lt. Smith worked several complaints of 4 wheelers being on Altus Lugert WMA and the harassment of hunters by other hunters.
- Lt. D. Smith, Warden B. Lehrman, and Lt. J. Edwards worked an investigation on a shot fired at night call coming from OHP in Kiowa County. The incident was reported by a landowner which chased the individuals at high speed. Citations were issued for shooting from a public roadway, failure to pay taxes due to the state, and driving without illumination on a public roadway after dark.
- Warden B. Lehrman responded to a landowner/hunter dispute about retrieving a downed deer north of Granite.
- Wardens T. Raasch, J. Brothers, and Lt. D. Smith have been spending a lot of time working night hunters. Warden T. Raasch is working an individual that has made statements that he is after a specific 14-point buck and is suspected to be hunting him at night.
- Warden B. Lehrman has been working waterfowl guides a lot near Russell and patrolling Altus Lugert WMA looking for 4 wheelers.
- Lt. D. Smith assisted a man with his boat that got swamped and sank at Tom Steed Lake, recovering his gear, equipment, and finding his wallet.
- Lt. D. Smith and Warden J. Brothers investigated a report of a baited watershed lake in the Gotebo area, no bait was found.

Dist. 8 – Capt. Ben Bickerstaff

- Muzzleloader opener and the season in general was quiet and very warm for the most part. Not much to report as deer movement was stifled.
- Warden's B. Cottrill and M. Reigh assisted and observed the North American Falconers Association field meet that took place in Enid, Oklahoma, from November 9 to 14, 2024. This event is a significant gathering for falconers from across the United States, Canada, and several foreign countries. The meeting will be hosted by the Oklahoma Falconers Association and is one of the largest member-based falconry organizations in the world. One member even brought a Golden Eagle to hunt rabbits with, and it was quite a sight to see.
- Wardens B. Cottrill, M. Reigh, Lt. Paul, and Captain Bickerstaff assisted with the Grand National Quail Club shooting event in Enid. The Grand National Quail Hunt is an invitational celebrity quail hunting event that has been held annually since 1967. It was conceived by U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon and others during a hunting trip in Wyoming, where they discussed the potential for a similar event in Oklahoma to showcase the state's quail hunting heritage and attract industrial leaders. The hunt has grown into a classic event, drawing participants from various backgrounds, including business and community leaders.
- Warden T. Leonard made a good case on a Non-Resident deer hunter who obviously made a costly licensing mistake. The hunter bought a Deer gun license and claimed that he thought it was good for Oklahoma's deer muzzleloader season. When the error was brought to his attention, he bought the correct license thus causing our license system to throw up a red flag, as he had already checked in the trophy buck and doe deer.
- Wardens were busy and reported moderate-good hunter success during the quail season opener for the hunters that showed up. Wardens reported that hunter numbers were way down, with early estimates of less than ¼ of the normal nonresident upland hunters showed up. Hopefully as the season progresses the hunter participation will grow.
- On the other end of the stick the waterfowl opener seemed to be good in the central part of the district, but very slow (duck numbers not hunters) in the east part of the district. The hunters showed up but not the ducks.
- The deer rut is kicking full throttle in the district, as deer vs vehicle incidents are a nightly and daily occurrence.
- Warden Reigh investigated a shooting from the road complaint near Medford and quickly apprehended 1 adult and a juvenile for road hunting and shooting nearly anything that moved or didn't move. Charges are pending.
- Warden Reigh and B. Cottrill assisted with a fishing clinic in Enid.
- Wardens League and Rolling caught a guy at Salt Plains that had misidentified a cormorant for a speckled belly goose.
- Warden Menefee and Badley assisted local FFA shotgun shooting teams with judging competitions and keeping the firing line safe. Safety is always top priority when we assist with those competitions.
- Wardens Badley, Gearhart, and Lt Baker are busy dealing with hunter harassment investigations on Optima WMA, specifically drones hovering 20-30 yards above hunters while in the stand. And investigating a drone being used to spotlight and locate deer on private property before returning to neighboring property to land after checking a wheat field. The hunter harassment complaint we can issue

citations for with heavy fines and license suspension penalties, if we can locate the drone pilot. But the trespass of drones looking at deer without permission is not currently statutorily covered.

- Warden B. Cottrill is assisting Colorado wardens with an investigation of an Enid man that killed an illegal antelope in their state. He has seized the illegal evidence and facilitated an interview with the accused.