

Your Side of the Fence

A publication of the ODWC's Private Lands Section

Landowner Assistance Contacts:

Kyle Johnson.....(405) 590-2584
Alva Gregory.....(580) 334-4459
RosaLee Walker.....(918) 607-1518

Deer Management Assistance Program

Biologist.....(405) 396-2503

Okla. Wildscape Certification Program:

Melynda Hickman.....(405) 990-4977

Streams Management

Jim Burroughs.....(918) 683-1031

Farm Pond Technical Assistance; Farm Pond Fish Stocking Program:

NW Region - Chas Patterson.....(580) 474-2668
SW Region - Ryan Ryswyk.....(580) 529-2795
NE Region - Josh Johnston.....(918) 346-3220
EC Region - Jim Burroughs.....(918) 683-1031
SE Region - Don Groom.....(918) 297-0153
C Region - Keith Thomas.....(405) 325-7288

Other ODWC Contacts:

Operation Game Thief.....(800) 522-8039
License Section.....(405) 521-3852
Website.....wildlifedepartment.com

"Your Side of the Fence" is published twice annually to promote wildlife and fisheries management on Oklahoma's private lands. Articles may be reprinted with permission from the editors:

Jena Donnell.....(405) 496-0350
jena.donnell@odwc.ok.gov
Kyle Johnson.....(405) 590-2584
kyle.johnson@odwc.ok.gov

This program receives Federal 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 VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (as amended), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. To request an accommodation or informational material in an alternative format, please contact (Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, (405) 521-3851). If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or service, please contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Diversity and Workforce Management, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

the pen to the amount of grass available to livestock and wildlife.

With this method, management decisions can be made without delay. When the grass growing inside the pen is the same height and density as that growing outside the pen, landowners know they have enough forage for both livestock and wildlife. When the grass inside the pen is twice as tall and dense as that

outside the pen, producers can then begin considering reducing grazing pressure in that pasture.

For smaller pastures, or those uniformly grazed, only a few grazing exclosures may be needed. Consider installing additional exclosures in large pastures, or where heavier grazing pressure occurs year after year. Exclosures should be moved each winter.

OLAP Creates Opportunities for Landowners and Sportsmen

By Jeff Tibbits, Wildlife Biologist

The Oklahoma Land Access Program is the Wildlife Department's new program that provides financial incentives to landowners that allow public access for hunting, fishing, stream access, and wildlife-viewing on private lands. Landowner payments will vary based on enrolled acres, location, access type, and contract length. Additional compensation will be available for properties enrolled in conservation programs, such as the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Program, and landowners forming cooperatives.

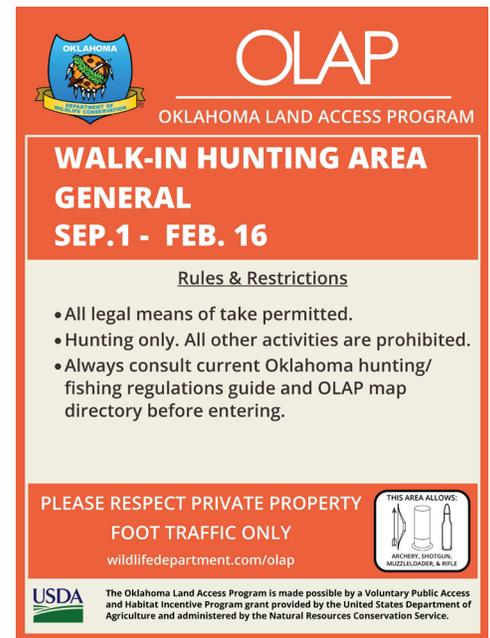
Both privately-owned and leased lands qualify for the program. Ideal properties include CRP-enrolled grassland, native rangeland, weedy crop stubble, forests, wetlands, and wildlife-friendly field buffers. Enrolled property boundaries will be posted with signs.

Enrolled landowners will be accorded limited liability by existing state laws, and Oklahoma state game wardens will periodically patrol OLAP properties. Landowners retain

Example OLAP sign.

the right to temporarily deny public access while ranching or agricultural activities are occurring. Public access is limited to foot traffic only; vehicles are prohibited.

Opening September 1, 2017, the OLAP is a great way to earn extra income and support Oklahoma's conservation heritage. Learn more at wildlifedepartment.com/olap or contact Jeff at jeff.tibbits@odwc.ok.gov or call (405) 535-7382.



The image shows a graphic of an OLAP sign. At the top left is the Oklahoma state seal. To its right is the OLAP logo and the text 'OKLAHOMA LAND ACCESS PROGRAM'. Below this is a red banner with white text: 'WALK-IN HUNTING AREA GENERAL SEP. 1 - FEB. 16'. Underneath is a section titled 'Rules & Restrictions' with a list of three bullet points: 'All legal means of take permitted.', 'Hunting only. All other activities are prohibited.', and 'Always consult current Oklahoma hunting/fishing regulations guide and OLAP map directory before entering.' At the bottom left of the sign is the text 'PLEASE RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY FOOT TRAFFIC ONLY' and the website 'wildlifedepartment.com/olap'. At the bottom right is a small icon with the text 'THIS AREA ALLOWS ARCHERY, SHOOTING, Muzzleloader, & Rifle'. At the very bottom left is the USDA logo and text: 'The Oklahoma Land Access Program is made possible by a Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program grant provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.'