

AGENDA
Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission
Regular Meeting

Public Meeting: **Monday, May 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also 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 Bruce Mabrey
2. Roll Call – Rhonda Hurst
3. Invocation – Nels Rodefeld
4. Pledge of Allegiance – Nels Rodefeld
5. Introduction of Guests

6. Consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on minutes of the April 5, 2021 regular Commission meeting.

7. Director's Report – J.D. Strong
 - a. Federal and Congressional Update
 - Oklahoma Legislative Update – Corey Jager, Legislative Liaison
 - b. Calendar Items – discussion of upcoming department calendar items.
 - c. Agency Update – an update on current activity within each division of the agency.

8. Presentation of the March 31, 2021 Financial Statement and consideration and vote to approve, amend or reject miscellaneous donations – Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration.

9. Presentation of a Certificate of Appreciation to three District 5 Wardens (Lt. Casey Young, Game Warden Ty Runyan, Game Warden Jaylen Flynn) for assisting USFWS Agent Matthew Bryant in March - Nathan Erdman, Chief of Law Enforcement and Phillip A. Land, Special Agent in Charge USFWS.

10. Presentation on the successful completion of new shooting range facilities through a joint project with Oklahoma Panhandle State University and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation - Lance Meek, Senior Communication and Education Specialist, and Dr. Tim Faltyn, President, Oklahoma Panhandle State University.

11. Presentation and consideration and vote to approve, amend, reject or take other action on a donation of \$7,250.00 from the Southeast Chapter, and \$2,000.00 from the Central Oklahoma Chapter of Pheasant Forever/Quail Forever in support of upland game conservation efforts on James Collins, Atoka, McGee Creek and Cross Timbers Wildlife

Management Areas – Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, Laura McIver, Oklahoma Regional Representative of Pheasants Forever/Quail Forever.

12. Update on 2020 Deer Season, and Antlerless Days and Bag Limits Resolution. Continuing resolution passed by the Commission in May 2020 remains in place with no changes in antlerless season, days, and bag limits and only changes for the 2021 season will be date adjustments for the calendar – Bill Dinkines.
13. Update on the Oklahoma Land Access Program. Bill Dinkines and Jeff Tibbits, Wildlife Biologist/OLAP Coordinator.
14. Appointment of a nominating committee for the FY22 Commission officers – Chairman Bruce Mabrey.
15. New Business – Discussion of any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.
16. Announce the date for the next regular Commission Meeting on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.
17. Adjourn

People with disabilities may request accommodations by calling 405-522-6279 at least three days before the meeting.

MINUTES

Of the Regular Meeting on April 5, 2021 of the

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Held at the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, April 5, 2021. Commission meeting dates are filed with the Secretary of State, Office of Administrative Rules before December 15, annually. The Agenda is listed on the Department's website and was posted at the entrance of the Wildlife Department Building on March 29, 2021 at 9:14 a.m.

Due to social distancing requirements, seating may be limited, but for additional public accessibility, in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, this meeting is also scheduled to be streamed live and recorded at www.youtube.com/user/outdooroklahoma

Chairman Bruce Mabrey called the Commission in session at 9:05 a.m.

Rhonda Hurst, Executive Assistant, called the roll.

MEMBERS PRESENT: BRUCE R. MABREY, Chairman
 ROBERT S. HUGHES II, Vice-Chairman
 LEIGH A. GADDIS, Secretary
 BILL K. BREWSTER, Member
 JAMES V. BARWICK, Member
 D. CHAD DILLINGHAM, Member
 JOHN P. ZELBST, Member
 C. RICK HOLDER, Member

J.D. Strong, Director, introduced the following guests: Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell and Rick Grundman, Executive Director of OWCF.

Director Strong introduced Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell who addressed the Commission as the new Cabinet Secretary for the Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Cabinet. Mr. Pinnell said that this reorganization offers a huge opportunity to work with the Department of Wildlife to enhance Oklahoma tourism and the great outdoors. The Lieutenant Governor's office has already partnered with the Wildlife Department on a number of projects. The Oklahoma Fishing Trail is one of the most popular tourism initiatives in the United States and gained success during a pandemic. Mr. Pinnell also mentioned the Lieutenant Governor's Turkey Hunt that has been an annual event for over 30 years. This event brings economic development to Oklahoma. He said the great outdoors is the front door for economic opportunities. He also offered to be an advocate to the Department regarding legislation, whether it be for concerns or exciting actions to benefit the Department. Lieutenant Governor Matt Pinnell said he is excited and looking forward to this partnership with the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Dillingham to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2021 regular Commission meeting with a revision that not only did the Legislative/Rules/Litigation Committee meet and review all rules, but add that they also recommended approval of proposed rules. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes".

Director Strong gave a brief update and highlighted the Congressional report submitted by Brittnee Preston, the Department's part-time Federal and Congressional Liaison. This report was sent to all Commissioners and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Director Strong went through the list of current wildlife bills still active in the 2021 Legislative Session. The bills are available to view and are kept updated on the ODWC website under Legislative Tracker. He gave a Director's Report on calendar items and agency updates. This report was given to the Commission and will be kept with the minutes of this meeting. Director Strong announced that the Outdoor Oklahoma Adventures raffle program has exceeded \$68,000 of sales to date. We expect that amount to go up with the Controlled Hunt applications and advertisement. He also reminded the Commission of the Legislative Fish Fry at the Capitol on May 12, 2021. Director Strong said that polling across the state indicates widespread support for a potential ODWC effort to restore wild elk in western areas of the Arbuckle Mountains. He said that conversations with local landowners is next on the list of priorities.

Commissioner Dillingham asked about the latest Federal stimulus package and if we have a list of projects shovel-ready if the funding becomes available to us. Director Strong stated that the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies has requested that states provide a priority list to be ready, but it is still unclear if wildlife agencies will qualify for consideration. Chairman Mabrey asked if staff would prepare a presentation for May on the OLAP program regarding acres enrolled and customer participation. This presentation will be added to the May agenda.

Rick Grundman, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Foundation, gave an update from the Foundation including plans for the first Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Hall of Fame induction event, scheduled for October 29, 2021 and sponsored by the Foundation. Mr. John Groendyke will be the first Hall of Fame recipient.

Amanda Storck, CFO and Chief of Administration, presented the Financial Statement for February 28, 2021. Ms. Storck explained that the almost 60 million dollar increase over last year was from an increase in the investment funds, increased license sales, federal funds and NRDA money. Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Ms. Gaddis to accept the statement as presented and approve miscellaneous contributions. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Nels Rodefelf, Chief of Communication & Education introduced Kelly Adams, Supervisor of Communication & Education division, who gave a presentation on the new initiative to recognize and promote the diversity of hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts through the agency's communication channels and education programs. This effort was first initiated as part of the agency's Strategic Plan to demonstrate that all Oklahomans are welcome in the outdoors. To reach out to diverse populations, ODWC has recently developed partnerships with many local and national groups including OKC Latina, Cherokee Nation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the National Wildlife Federation and others.

Bill Dinkines, Chief of Wildlife Division, gave a presentation on Wildlife Management Area planning and modernization. He stated that the planning and upgrading for wildlife management areas is outlined in the Department's Strategic Plan. The management plans are near completion for all of the 86 WMA's, almost 1.4 million acres. The plans specify habitat and infrastructure needs at each of these areas. A 2019 survey shows that license holders prefer ODWC spend 65 percent of WMA-targeted funds on improving fish and wildlife habitat, and 35 percent for improving the area's infrastructure. When asked about infrastructure improvements, license holders mentioned roads, signage, camping areas and shooting areas as the most important priorities. Mr. Dinkines presented examples of recent improvements at many WMA's, including new shooting ranges at six areas and shooting range projects underway at 17 more areas. Thanks to recent NRDA funding we were able to upgrade equipment on several WMA's. Director Strong also said the new full-time position for the Shooting Range/Boating Access

Coordinator should be filled soon and will help keep us on track with these projects. Mr. Brewster asked if there was a way to make sturdier signs to prevent vandalism. Mr. Dinkines said they are beginning to shift to pipe frames where it is applicable. Ms. Gaddis suggested surveillance cameras or signs regarding surveillance to deter vandalism. Mr. Zelbst suggested putting a QR code or instructions on how to download the Go Outdoors Oklahoma app on each sign to help WMA constituents utilize the area better with regulations and maps on their phone. Mr. Dillingham asked if there was a prioritized list of items to be completed in the next 36 months. Director Strong said with the new zero-based budget process, that there would be a specific list for the coming year for the capitol expenditures. He also suggested that quarterly in the Director's Report, divisions can incorporate high priority projects to be reported back to the Commission. Chairman Mabrey asked that updates be sent to all Commissioners so they can be aware of what is going on in their districts.

Motion was made by Mr. Zelbst, seconded by Mr. Hughes to enter into an Executive Session. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Motion was made by Ms. Gaddis, seconded by Mr. Holder to return to open session. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Gaddis to authorize the Director to pursue the purchase of 800 acres in Harmon County adjacent to the Sandy Sanders Wildlife Management Area at appraised value. Motion carried with Commissioners Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis, Zelbst, Dillingham and Mabrey voting "Yes." Mr. Brewster voted "No" and Mr. Holder "abstained".

Motion was made by Mr. Barwick, seconded by Mr. Hughes to authorize the Director to pursue the purchase and make the best deal possible for a 60 acre inholding in Haskell County landlocked inside the San Bois Wildlife Management Area. Motion carried with Commissioners Brewster, Barwick, Hughes, Gaddis Zelbst, Dillingham, Holder and Mabrey voting "Yes."

Chairman Mabrey announced the next Commission meeting is scheduled on Monday, May 3, 2021 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce R. Mabrey, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Leigh A. Gaddis, SECRETARY

***Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Financial Statement***

For the period July 1, 2020 Through March 31, 2021

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Balance Sheet - All Fund Types and Accounts Groups
March 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary	Account Groups			
	General	Capital Projects	Fund Types	General Fixed Assets	General Long-Term Debt	03/31/2021	03/31/2020
			Trust			Totals	Totals
Assets and Other Debits:							
Cash	15,460,195		3,758,982			19,219,177	11,381,268
Investments	0		268,586,093			268,586,093	201,982,641
Accounts Receivable	3,447,639					3,447,639	6,846,767
Monthly Lifetime License			339,950			339,950	181,800
Legacy Permit / Operation game Thief	4,828,967		7,000			4,835,967.00	3,680,732.00
Fixed Assets				69,907,406		69,907,406	68,997,853
Land				96,610,614		96,610,614	96,552,358
Other Debits:							
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Compensated Absences					3,394,103	3,394,103	3,256,954
Amount To Be Provided For Payment of Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
	23,736,801	0	272,692,025	166,518,020	19,949,646	482,896,492	400,715,884
Liabilities and Fund Balance:							
Liabilities:							
Accounts Payable (accrual)	385,393					385,393	300,695
Due to Other Funds (current month Lifetimes)	339,950					339,950	181,800
Compensated Absences Payable (leave accrual)					3,394,103	3,394,103	3,256,954
Net Pension Obligation					16,555,543	16,555,543	11,509,243
Total Liabilities	725,343	0	0	0	19,949,646	20,674,989	15,248,692
Fund Balance:							
Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			136,200,688			136,200,688	106,513,600
Reserved for Defined Contribution Benefits (DC)			5,237,652			5,237,652	2,996,862
Investment in General Fixed Assets				166,518,020		166,518,020	165,550,211
Fund Balance	23,011,458		131,253,685			154,265,143	110,406,519
Total Fund Balance	23,011,458	0	272,692,025	166,518,020	0	462,221,503	385,467,192
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	23,736,801	0	272,692,025	166,518,020	19,949,646	482,896,492	400,715,884

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Trust Funds

Combining Balance Sheets
March 31, 2021

	Expendable Trust	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust	03/31/2021 Totals	03/31/2020 Totals
Assets:						
Cash (Wildlife Heritage)	367,954	3,391,028			3,758,982	3,467,536
Investments	35,092,938	92,054,815	136,200,688	5,237,652	268,586,093	204,979,503
Due From Other Funds		339,950			339,950	181,800
Restricted Assets (OP. Game Thief)		7,000			7,000	7,000
	35,460,892	95,792,793	136,200,688	5,237,652	272,692,025	208,635,839
Fund Balance:						
Fund Balance Reserved for Employee Pension Benefits			136,200,688	5,237,652	141,438,340	109,510,462
Fund Balance	35,460,892	95,792,793			131,253,685	99,125,377
Total Fund Balance	35,460,892	95,792,793	136,200,688	5,237,652	272,692,025	208,635,839

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
All Governmental Fund Types and Expendable Trust Fund
For the Period July 1, 2020 Through March 31, 2021

	Governmental Fund Types		Fiduciary Fund Type	03/31/2021 Totals	03/31/2020 Totals	Percent of Inc. or Dec.
	General	Capital Projects	Expendable Trust			
Revenues:						
Licenses (without Lifetimes)	17,244,702			17,244,702	13,699,187	25.88%
Other Wildlife Sales	2,400,677			2,400,677	2,483,007	-3.32%
Agriculture and Oil Lease	483,565			483,565	896,488	-46.06%
Grant Revenue	18,099,389			18,099,389	23,567,078	-23.20%
Investment Income	213,696		48,358	262,054	367,988	-28.79%
Miscellaneous	2,969,524			2,969,524	1,006,127	195.14%
Total Revenues	41,411,553	0	48,358	41,459,911	42,019,875	-1.33%
Expenditures:						
Administration	4,949,580			4,949,580	4,937,616	0.24%
Wildlife	9,965,204			9,965,204	9,784,704	1.84%
Fish	7,333,155			7,333,155	7,832,245	-6.37%
Law Enforcement	8,317,768			8,317,768	8,997,654	-7.56%
Information and Education	2,137,236			2,137,236	2,278,427	-6.20%
Capital Improvements	5,818,032			5,818,032	8,948,541	-34.98%
Land Acquisitions		1,201,917		1,201,917	6,679,892	-82.01%
Total Expenditures	38,520,975	1,201,917		39,722,892	49,459,079	-19.69%
Excess(deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	2,890,578	(1,201,917)	48,358	1,737,019	(7,439,204)	-123.35%
Other Financing Sources(uses):						
Sale of General Fixed Assets	2,178,565			2,178,565	882,695	146.81%
Operating Transfers In	146,920	1,201,917	19,250,484	20,599,321	3,871,182	432.12%
Operating Transfers Out	(1,201,917)		(146,920)	(1,348,837)	(11,318,122)	-88.08%
Operating Transfers Out (215)			0	0	0	0.00
Total Other Financing Sources(uses)	1,123,568	1,201,917	19,103,564	21,429,049	(6,564,245)	426.45%
Excess of revenues & other financing sources over expenditures & other financing uses	4,014,146	0	19,151,922	23,166,068	(14,003,449)	265.43%
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year:	18,997,312	0	16,308,970	35,306,282	35,919,682	-1.71%
Fund Balances March 31, 2021:	23,011,458	0	35,460,892	58,472,350	21,916,233	166.80%

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Combined Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Changes in Fund Balances
Trust Funds
For the Period July 1, 2020 Through March 31, 2021

	Fiduciary Fund Types			03/31/2021 Totals	03/31/2020 Totals
	Nonexpendable Trust	Pension Trust	DC Trust		
Operating Revenues:					
Licenses (Lifetime)	2,696,250			2,696,250	1,915,075
Other Sales (Senior Citizen Licenses)	145,770			145,770	121,450
Interest and Investment Income	0	20,300,873	1,002,659	21,303,532	-8,253,186
Employer Contributions		3,457,866	355,457	3,813,323	2,593,631
Employee Contributions		423,375	253,883	677,258	665,707
Total Operating Revenues	2,842,020	24,182,114	1,611,999	28,636,133	(2,957,323)
Operating Expenses:					
Administration		206,071	2,437	208,508	223,148
Benefits and Participant Refunds	0	6,247,337	74,719	6,322,056	6,019,194
Total Operating Expenses	0	6,453,408	77,156	6,530,564	6,242,342
Operating Income	2,842,020	17,728,706	1,534,843	22,105,569	(9,199,665)
Nonoperating Expenses:					
Transfers Out	0	0	0	0	0
Total Nonoperating Expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Net Income	2,842,020	17,728,706	1,534,843	22,105,569	(9,199,665)
Fund Balances, Beginning	92,950,773	118,471,982	3,702,809	215,125,564	210,874,145
Fund Balances, March 31, 2021	95,792,793	136,200,688	5,237,652	237,231,133	201,674,480



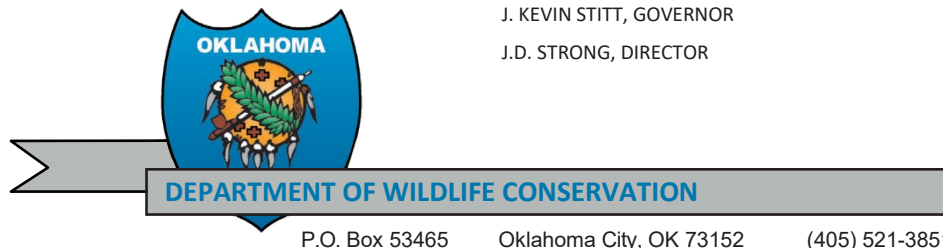
Wildlife Contributions Report

March 2021

Order ID	Order Date	Total Payment Amount	Name Of Individual Or Business	Description Of Contribution
20356930	3/22/2021 11:48 AM	\$20.00	Ira Little	General Donation
20345445	3/19/2021 3:16 PM	\$50.00	Dallas Cooper	General Donation
20341838	3/18/2021 3:00 PM	\$100.00	Misty Seagle	In Memory of Broderick Stearns
20341834	3/18/2021 2:58 PM	\$2,500.00	Fidelity Charitable/Dittner Family Fund	Fish Division/Blue River Trout stocking program
20318919	3/9/2021 3:37 PM	\$25.00	Mark Slagle	In Memory of Lowell Schneberger
20318915	3/9/2021 3:36 PM	\$100.00	Mickey Hart	In Memory of Broderick Stearns
20318913	3/9/2021 3:35 PM	\$50.00	LaTrice Sherman	In Memory of Broderick Stearns
20318909	3/9/2021 3:34 PM	\$3,720.00	OnX Maps	Result of Collaborative Marketing
20301730	3/2/2021 11:31 AM	\$50.00	Carolee Willsey	In Memory of Lowell Schneberger
20301716	3/2/2021 11:24 AM	\$25.00	Arnetta Kelly	In Memory of Lowell Schneberger
20301710	3/2/2021 11:22 AM	\$50.00	JoAnne Graham	In Memory of Broderick Stearns
20301704	3/2/2021 11:19 AM	\$50.00	Uwannah Watts	In Memory of Broderick Stearns
20301698	3/2/2021 11:17 AM	\$50.00	Kent Emmert	Donation included with survey
	Total	\$6,790.00		

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bruce Mabrey CHAIRMAN	Bill Brewster MEMBER
Robert S. Hughes II VICE CHAIRMAN	D. Chad Dillingham MEMBER
Leigh Gaddis SECRETARY	Rick Holder MEMBER
James V. Barwick MEMBER	John P. Zelbst MEMBER



MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 24, 2021

TO: OK Department of Wildlife Commission and Staff

FROM: Brittnee Preston

RE: Report March and April Federal and Congressional Issues for May Commission Meeting

State of Play:

President –

- > Biden is urging Congress to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Congress has been at odds on which direction to go on gun legislation but expect something to come down the pike in the near future.
- > President Biden unveiled his \$2 trillion infrastructure plan. The plan includes funding for the nation's roads, waterways, airports, electric grid and broadband. The President argued that a literal rebuilding of the nation's infrastructure would lead to an economic boom, help fight climate change, advance racial equity and advance American competitiveness. The President's plan promises to pay for it through a series of business tax code changes, including an increase in the corporate rate, that his administration says will pay for the infrastructure improvements within 15 years.
- > A potential infrastructure package has been a major part of the conversations in DC lately. It is unclear how exactly the package will move as Dems and Republicans are not seeing eye to eye on this issue right now. There is discussion of a slimmed down package as well as discussion about splitting the President's plan into two bills. I am keeping my eye on this as last Congress the Recovering America's Wildlife Act was passed in the House infrastructure bill.
- > President Biden [announced](#) a series of executive actions aimed at curbing gun violence. The EOs include provisions on ghost guns, community violence interventions and requiring an annual report on firearms trafficking from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF.)
- > President Joe Biden released his first budget request of \$1.5 trillion. The request includes \$769 billion for non-defense programs and \$753 billion in national defense funding for the upcoming fiscal year. His request includes:
 - DOI: \$17.4 billion for DOI, a \$2.4 billion or 16-percent increase from the 2021 enacted level
 - provides an additional \$550 million over the 2021 enacted level to decrease climate pollution, accelerate clean energy deployment, and expand efforts around climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience among all the Department's land management agencies
 - increases support for science at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and other bureaus by investing an additional \$200 million to provide information about the impacts of climate change and how best to implement mitigation, adaptation, and resilience efforts.
 - The discretionary request invests in USGS science and staffing, and the core operations for national parks, wildlife refuges, and public lands.
 - USDA: includes \$27.8 billion for USDA, a \$3.8 billion or 16-percent increase from the 2021

enacted level.

- Provides an increase of \$161 million above the 2021 enacted level to support a multi-agency initiative to integrate science-based tools into conservation planning in order to measure, monitor, report, and verify carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas reduction, wildlife stewardship, and other environmental services at the farm level and on Federal lands.
- In support of the goal of conserving 30 percent of land and water by 2030, the discretionary request includes significant investments within the Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to support the health and resilience of public and private lands.

Congress –

> General Congressional Actions:

- The House and Senate were in recess for two weeks for Easter break.

> House:

- House has begun holding hearings their appropriations consideration next week. Hearings on the President budget will be examined and will be followed by bill drafts in the next couple of weeks and markups.
- The Recovering America's Wildlife Act was introduced on April 22nd.

> Senate:

- The Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee held a hearing to examine the viability of incorporating natural infrastructure in western water management and policy to support economic development, protect watershed health, and build more resilient communities. In coordination with this hearing, Sen. Manchin introduced S. 953, the Water for Conservation and Farming Act of 2021, to connect water availability to water needs in the West. Here are some highlights pertaining to conservation in the bill:
 - Establishes a \$3.5 million waterbird and shorebird habitat program to provide incentives to farmers to create temporary habitat for bird migration;
 - Authorizes \$40 million for the Department of the Interior's Cooperative Watershed Management Program, for water and conservation projects that support disadvantaged communities and generate environmental benefits, such as benefits to fisheries, wildlife and habitats;
 - Establishes a grant program for any Reclamation States, Tribes, nonprofit conservation organizations, irrigation or water districts, and regional and local authorities to complete habitat restoration projects that improve watershed health and mitigate climate change;
 - Improves drought planning and preparedness by requiring federal agencies to prepare a plan to sustain the survival of critically important fisheries during eras of drought.
- The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee confirmed Janet McCabe's nomination for deputy EPA administrator. Her nomination now heads to the Senate floor.
- The Senate Parliamentarian advised Senate Democrats that they may be able to use Section 304 of the 1974 budget law to revise the FY 2021 budget resolution for a second-round reconciliation. Dems are considering using reconciliation to pass the President's infrastructure plan.

Agencies –

> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS)

- The USFWS have received applications for permits to conduct activities intended to enhance the propagation or survival of endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The USFWS is asking for comments on the permit applications. Below is a list of those affecting OK.

We manage and protect fish and wildlife, along with their habitats, while also growing our community of hunters and anglers, partnering with those who love the outdoors, and fostering stewardship with those who care for the land.

- PER0003405 - Crystal Griffin in Overland Park, KS for the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long eared bat, Ozark Big eared bat, Virginia big eared bat
- PER0003488 - Brooke Hines, Littlejohn, CO for the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long eared bat, Ozark Big eared bat, Virginia big eared bat
- PER0003355 - Josiah Maine, Kansas City, MO for the Gray bat
- PER0003135 - Katie Baker, Arlington Heights, IL for the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long eared bat, Ozark Big eared bat, Virginia big eared bat
- PER0003373 - Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., Columbus, OH for the gray bat, Indiana bat, northern long eared bat
- PER0003201 - Braden Hoffman, Daniels, WV for the gray bat, indiana bat, northern long eared bat, Virginia big eared bat
- PER0002967 - Donald Solick, Fort Collins, CO for the gray bat, indiana bat, northern long eared bat
- The USFWS announced a [grant opportunity](#) on White-Nose Syndrome Grants to States and Tribes. The deadline for applications is June 1, 2021.
- The USFWS issued a [notice](#) advising the public that LPC Conservation LLC (applicant) has applied to the USFWS for an incidental take permit (ITP) supported by the Renewable (Wind and Solar) Energy, Power Line, and Communication Tower Habitat Conservation Plan for the Lesser Prairie-chicken; Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas (HCP). The requested ITP, if approved, would authorize incidental take of the lesser prairie-chicken resulting from activities covered by the HCP (*e.g.*, wind, solar, transmission lines, and communication towers) and incidental take resulting from conservation actions taken to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts of the incidental take of the LEPC that result from covered activities. Comments on this ITP are due by May 14, 2021.

Coming up...

- Recovering America's Wildlife Act to be introduced
- House will work through FY22 appropriations bills
- Infrastructure package to be introduced

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
J.D. Strong, Director

Personnel Actions
April 2021

New Hires

Zane Arnold – Game Warden, Delaware County, 4/12/2021

David Garrett – Game Warden, Adair County, 4/12/2021

Dylan Langford – Game Warden, Muskogee County, 4/12/2021

Tucker Rolf – Game Warden, Cimarron County, 4/12/2021

Jake Rowland – Game Warden, McIntosh County, 4/12/2021

Promotions

Rebecca Fillmore – Hatchery Technician, Durant SFH to Assistant Hatchery Manager, Durant SFH, 4/1/2021

Transfers

Matthew Pallett – Fish Technician, North Central Region, to Fish Technician, Streams Emphasis, 4/1/2021

Resignations/Terminations

Retirements

2021 antlerless season dates and bag limits

ZONE 1 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zone 1 is closed to antlerless muzzleloader harvest and has a one antlerless white-tailed deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1-Jan. 15
 - Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 15-17
 - Muzzleloader Season.....No antlerless days
 - Deer Gun Season.....Nov. 20 – Dec. 5
- The harvest of antlerless mule deer is prohibited.**
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season..... Closed

ZONES 2, 7 & 8 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zones 2, 7 and 8 have a four antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a four antlerless deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1-Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 15-17
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 23 – Oct. 31
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 20 – Dec. 5
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.....Dec. 18 –31
 - The bag limit for **the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season** is 2 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested during the holiday antlerless deer gun season are bonus deer and do **not** count against the season bag limit.

ZONES 3, 4, 5, 6 & 9 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zones 3, 4, 5, 6 & 9 have a two antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a two antlerless deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies.

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1-Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 15-17
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 23 – Oct. 31
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 20 – Dec. 5
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season.....Dec. 18 -31
 - The bag limit for **the Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season** is 2 antlerless deer. Antlerless deer harvested during the holiday antlerless deer gun season are bonus deer and do **not** count against the season bag limit.

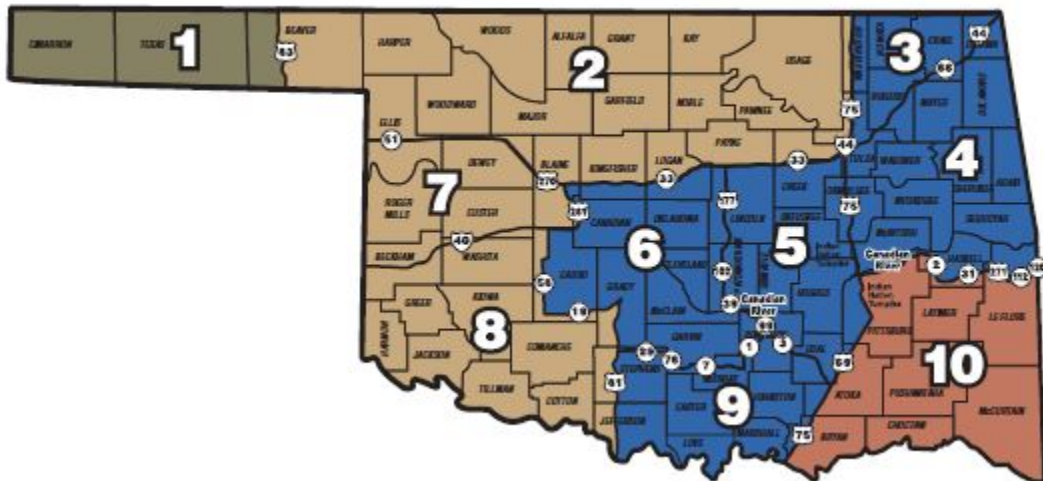
ZONE 10 ANTLERLESS DAYS:

Zone 10 has a one antlerless deer limit for deer muzzleloader season and a one antlerless deer limit for deer gun season.

Combined season bag limit of no more than six antlerless deer applies

- Archery Season.....Oct. 1-Jan. 15
- Youth Deer Gun Season..... Oct. 15-17
- Muzzleloader Season..... Oct. 23 – Oct. 31
- Deer Gun Season..... Nov. 20 – Dec. 5
- Holiday Antlerless Deer Gun Season..... Closed

Figure 4: Antlerless Deer Management Zones



2020-21 Deer season harvest data

County	Archery		Gun		Muzzleloader		Total
	Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered	Antlerless	Antlered	
County Total	14559	17756	29893	40246	4968	10683	118105
WMA Total	1591	1431	1544	1856	861	902	8185
Grand Total	16150	19187	31437	42102	5829	11585	126290

Archery Season

- New Harvest total of 35,337
- 46% antlerless
- Record Participation GHS estimated 141,472 (includes tribal licenses)

Muzzleloader Season

- Harvest total of 17,414. Highest since 2009
- 33% antlerless
- 97,000 estimated participants (highest since 2012)

Gun Season

- Records in Harvest (73,539) and participation (218,548)
- 37% antlerless

Overall

- New overall harvest record, 126,290
- Last year's harvest was 106,337
- 42% antlerless (highest since 2009)
- First time within antlerless goals since 2015
- 53,416 total antlerless deer, an all-time high
- Previous harvest record was 2006 at 119,349