



Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

J.D. Strong, Director

Wildlife as Public Trust



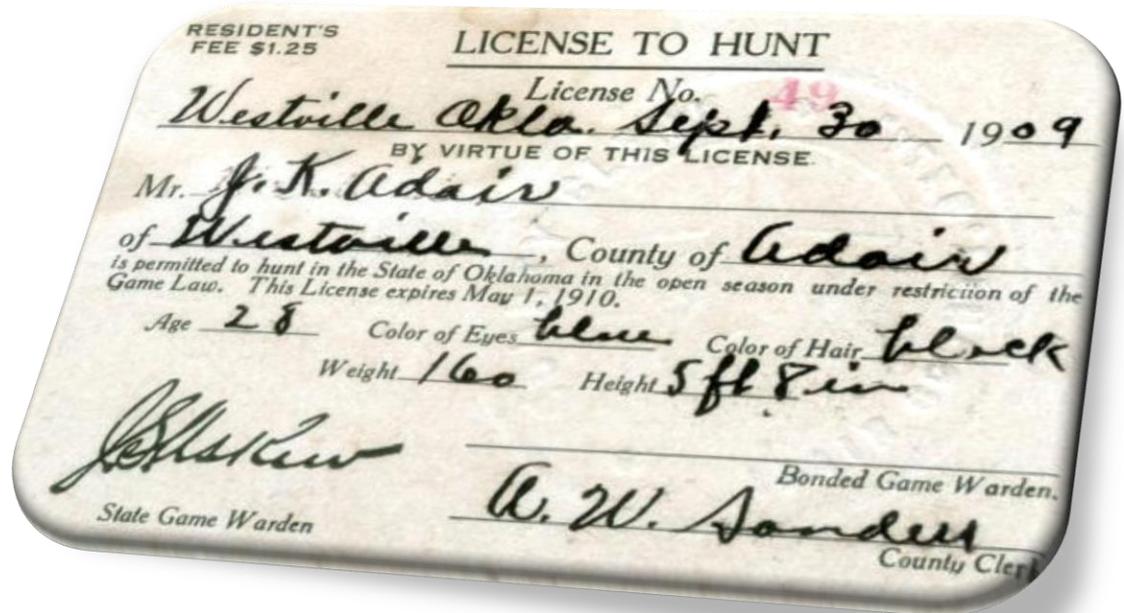
Oklahoma fish and wildlife belong to **all Oklahomans** as common public natural resources and are managed by the ODWC to ensure that current and future generations always have wildlife and wild places to enjoy.



Legacy of Conservation



- The Wildlife Department was **created in 1909**.
- The first hunting license to fund the Department cost **\$1.25**, setting the precedent of a non-appropriated, user-pay/user benefit agency.



Constitutional Agency



In 1956, state voters passed a **constitutional amendment** establishing the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation as the constitutional agency it is today.



Wildlife Commission



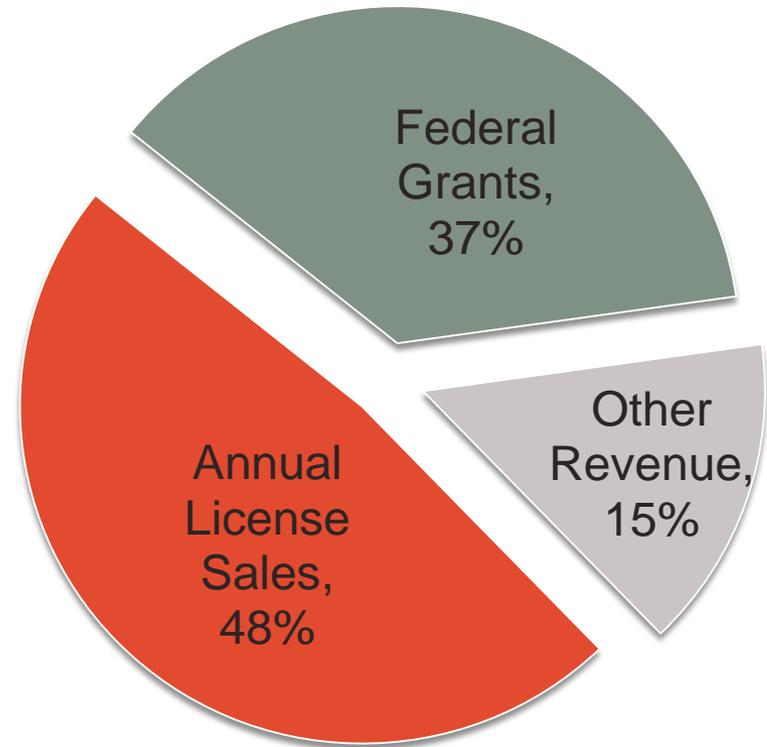
- Eight members that serve eight-year terms
- Appointed by Governor; confirmed by Senate
- Establish state hunting and fishing regulations, set policy for ODWC and indirectly oversee state wildlife conservation activities



How we are funded



- ODWC was created based on a **user-pay, user-benefit** principle whereby hunter and angler license fees and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment fund department operations.
- ODWC receives **no state appropriations.**

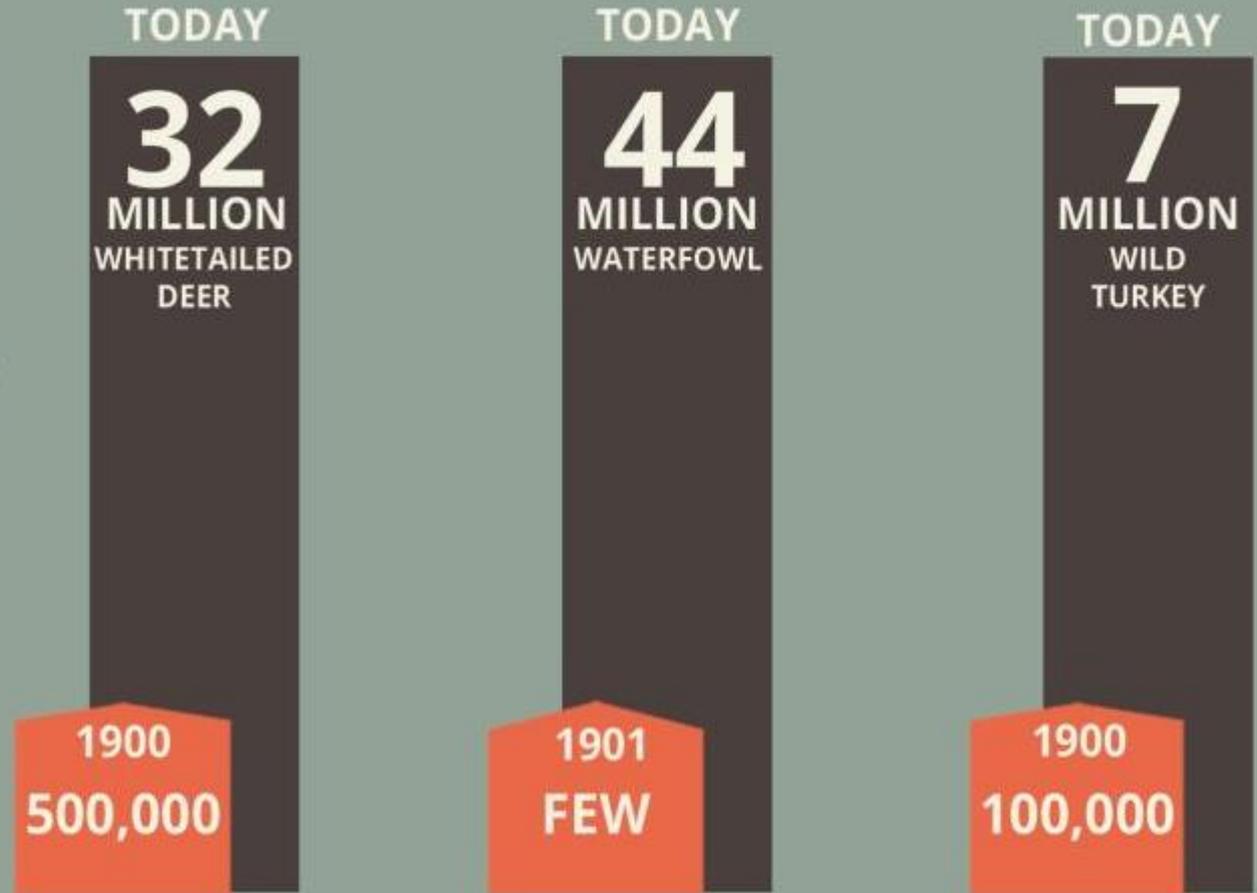


**ODWC FY 2016 Revenue
(\$50.37 million)**

Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act



Sportsmen pay for conservation that benefits Oklahoma's wildlife. When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, guns and ammunition, or fishing equipment, you're funding conservation.



Fishing in Oklahoma



675k

Oklahoma anglers

12

Days spent
fishing

\$730 M

Dollars spent on
fishing in Oklahoma

Fisheries Division



- Provide fishing opportunities and access
 - ▣ Fisheries management
 - ▣ Aquatic habitat management
 - ▣ Aquatic nuisance species
 - ▣ Farm pond management
 - ▣ Paddlefish Research Center
 - ▣ Streams management
 - ▣ Research

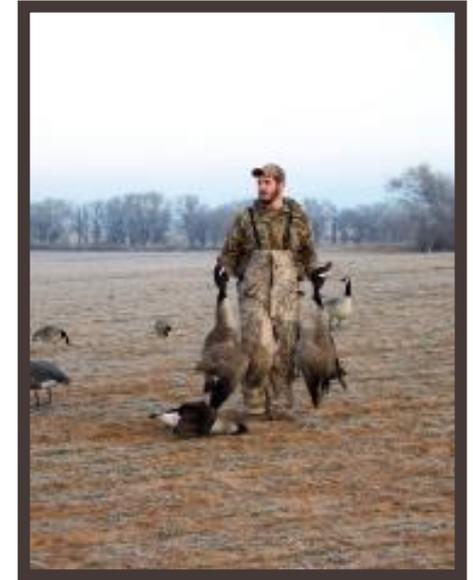


Fishing Opportunities



The ODWC has **four state fish hatcheries** that produce most of the **15 million fish stocked annually** in public waters, plus manages **16 Department – owned lakes** and **45 “Close to Home” fishing areas.**

Hunting in Oklahoma



420k

Oklahoma hunters

20

Days spent
hunting

\$355 M

Dollars spent on
hunting in Oklahoma

Wildlife Division



- Provide hunting opportunities and access
 - ▣ Wildlife management
 - ▣ Habitat management
 - ▣ Landowner programs
 - ▣ Wildlife Diversity Program
 - ▣ Research
 - ▣ Wildlife Management Areas



Wildlife Management Areas



ODWC manages more than **70 public hunting** areas totaling **1.6 million acres**.

Law Enforcement



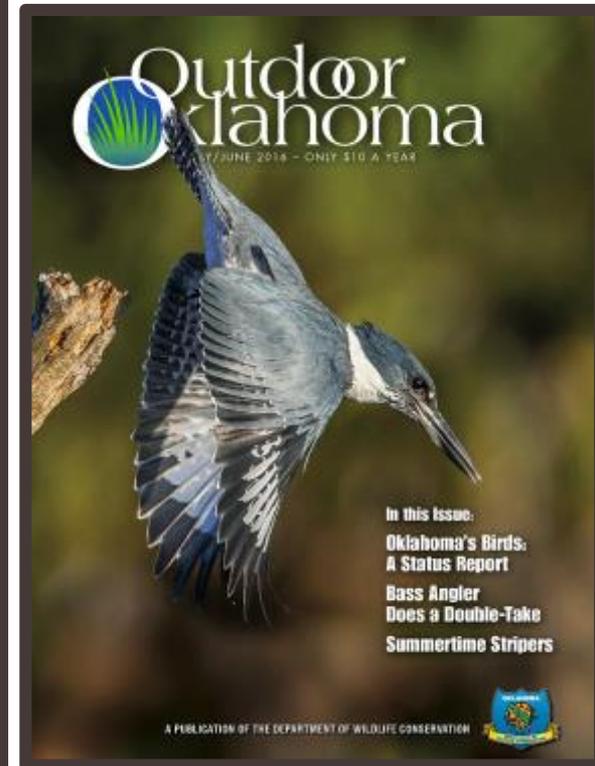
- Guardians of fish and wildlife for the state
- Provide landowner assistance
- Provide assistance to other divisions and agencies
- 120 wardens, with at least 1 in each of Oklahoma's 77 counties
- Main point of contact with private landowners and sportsmen



Wildlife Information



- ❑ Outdoor Oklahoma Magazine
- ❑ Outdoor Oklahoma Television Show
- ❑ Social Media
- ❑ Email campaigns



Wildlife Education



- ❑ Hunter Education
- ❑ Aquatic Education
- ❑ Archery in the Schools
- ❑ Scholastic Shooting Sports Program
- ❑ Explore Bowhunting
- ❑ Explore Bowfishing



Wildlife Education



ODWC Education Programs are taught in **550 Schools** and reach over **50,000** Oklahoma students annually.

Future challenges



- More shooters, less hunters
- More urban society detached from outdoors
- Finding the balance between hard data and social interest
- Look for common ground, not our differences
- Build relationships with our colleagues and customers

Questions?

