

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations
2013-2014 Performance Report
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is the management, protection, and enhancement of wildlife resources and habitat for the scientific, educational, recreational, aesthetic, and economic benefits to present and future generations of citizens and visitors to Oklahoma.

Lead Administrator

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Governance

The Wildlife Conservation Commission is the eight-member governing board of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. Commissioners serve eight-year terms and are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The Wildlife Commission establishes state hunting and fishing regulations, sets policy for the Wildlife Department, and indirectly oversees all state fish and wildlife conservation activities. The Commission also governs all Department operations and financial transactions and meet the first Monday of each month to conduct business.

The Commission appoints the Department's Director who is responsible for all other personnel appointments. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is organized into five major divisions: Administration, Fisheries, Information and Education, Law Enforcement and Wildlife.

Governance Accountability

The Commission meets the first Monday of each month to conduct business. There is no attendance policy for Commissioners.

Modernization Efforts

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation has undertaken a number of modernization efforts aimed at providing more efficient services to constituents. Two examples of these efforts follow.

All hunting and fishing license are now sold through an efficient, web-based system. The internet point of sale system allows approximately 600 retailers to use any personal computer with an internet connection and a printer to provide timely and fool-proof licenses to hunters and anglers.

Previously, books of hunting and fishing licenses were printed by the Wildlife Department, and mailed to approximately 600 license dealers across the state. Next, when a license was sold, the license was handwritten and mailed back to the Department for entry into a computer database.

The old system had high costs associated with printing and postage, and was relatively labor intensive and time consuming. The internet point of sale system is faster, more convenient and more accurate for everyone involved including the license buyer, the license dealer and the Wildlife Department.

Additionally, the agency has transformed a once labor-intensive and paper-hungry process into a streamlined effort. The public can now share their comments 24-hours a day on the agency's web site, as well as view the specific strike out and underline proposals. This year more than 1,800 people took the opportunity to provide their input, a number much higher than recent years. Those comments will be e-mailed to Commissioners. Other comments received at the public hearing in Oklahoma City as well as scanned letters from constituents will also be compiled and e-mailed to decision makers. This paperless process saves the agency time and money, and simultaneously makes it easier and more convenient for the public to provide their comments.

Core Mission

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is the only state agency responsible for managing fish and wildlife. The ODWC issues hunting and fishing licenses and makes sure the public has important information about outdoor recreation and that rules and regulations are followed. Agency staff do not routinely work outside of these core missions.

Private Alternatives

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation works within its mission and does not compete with the private sector. The agency has not been approached by any foundation, for-profit, or not-for-profit corporation with efforts to privatize the functions of the agency.