

OKLAHOMA

1. Does your agency give landowners big game permits or vouchers that they can use or sell to compensate landowners or offset crop damage? If so, are the permits for antlerless animals, bucks/bulls, or both? Please explain the details of these permits or vouchers?

(Yes) Damage Control Assistance Permits (DCAP)- Special antlerless permits may be made available to landowners or operators who have documented depredation to agricultural crops (completed complaint and damage investigation procedures). The permits allow additional antlerless deer to be taken above normal bag limits during rifle and muzzleloader seasons. They are free permits with the number based on acres, crop type, damage level, and other mitigating factors. They are valid for daytime only, and all season restrictions outside of bag limits are in force. They are valid for licensed or otherwise license exempt hunters. Oklahoma Title 800:25-30-5

There are also Depredation (DEPRED) permits available. These are permits that allow out of season take including night shooting if warranted. Removal details are to be individually determined and listed on the permit. Under this permit, the destruction of antlered animals may be allowed. Oklahoma Title 800:25-30-2

There are no costs to landowners for either program.

2. Are landowners allowed to remove big game animals depredating on private lands in an effort to protect their agricultural resources? If so, under what circumstances?

Yes, but under the circumstances and permitting described above. No other lethal take is allowed outside of these permits and big game seasons.

3. Does your agency call depredation hunts to target populations on private lands?

- (Yes) 2020 marked the first time that an ODWC selected group of hunters (youth) were hosted on a property in an effort to curb depredation complaints. This was a unique situation that does not occur elsewhere in the state.

4. Does your agency have “private lands only” permits that are issued to the public, or a similar program that promotes hunting on private property?

- (Yes) Private lands only elk season. Elk hunting is limited to private property only outside of a very small number of controlled draw (lottery) hunts on public property.
- There are also private lands youth deer hunts offered through a lottery draw. These are landowners that have contacted the ODWC and offered to host a small group of youth hunters, usually for an antlerless deer hunt.
- There are private lands only pronghorn lottery hunts where permits are issued by lottery to qualifying landowners. These permits are transferable.

5. What type of landowner incentive programs does your agency have that promotes wildlife and allows public hunters on private property (e.g., ranching for wildlife in CO or CWMU's in UT - programs where landowners financially benefit from big game)

- Deer Management Assistance Program -DMAP is a program aimed at intensively managing deer herds on private lands. It is designed to give cooperators (whether landowners, hunt clubs or lease operators) extra assistance in managing deer. Under the program, cooperators set their own management goals ranging from producing maximum numbers of harvestable deer to producing trophy bucks. Additional antlerless permits and an extended antlerless season are permitted on enrolled properties. Landowners are the sole entity determining the distribution of the DMAP permits to hunters. They may be transferred or sold. There is an annual enrollment fee for this program. [Landowner Programs | Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation \(wildlifedepartment.com\)](http://wildlifedepartment.com)
- The Oklahoma Land Access Program (OLAP) provides financial incentives to landowners who allow public access for hunting, fishing, stream access, and wildlife viewing opportunities on private lands. The ODWC received a \$2.26 million dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the 2014 Farm Bill, through the Voluntary Public Access – Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP). VPA-HIP programs are successful at simultaneously rewarding conservation on private lands and providing more opportunities for sportspersons <http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/lands-and-minerals/olap/intro>
- Private land landowner pronghorn permits- Provides permits to landowners to address crop depredation problems, assist with population controls, and provide additional hunting opportunity for hunters and landowners in Cimarron and Texas Counties. These permits are issued via a lottery draw to qualifying landowners in those two counties. The permits may be transferred or sold.

Refer to Oklahoma Title 800:25-9-11 for regulations on Cimarron & Texas County Landowner Antelope Permits.

6. Does your agency provide damage payments or fencing for big game on private lands? If so, how much per year is paid and how is it funded?

No, Oklahoma does not.

7. What mitigation measures does your agency employ to reduce big game damage (e.g., provide temporary fencing, hazing animals, agency removals of big game)?

Oklahoma provides technical assistance. We also maintain an inventory of propane cannons that may be loaned to private landowners for short term animal harassment. For chronic, wide spread issues, season length, bag limits, and method of take may be adjusted in the general regulations for the Management Zone impacted.

8. Does your agency have an urban deer program? If so, what does that entail?

No

9. What other programs does your agency have in place to promote tolerance of big game on private lands?

- Public outreach and education

10. Does your agency respond to all wildlife conflict calls or is it limited to specific species or guilds of species?

- Oklahoma shares responsibility with Wildlife Services to respond to conflict calls based on the species impacted as well as the depredation species. Typically, WS handles beaver and coyote conflicts, and most other species are the purview of ODWC.
- NOTE: WS typically handles feral swine conflict calls, and it should be noted that feral swine are **NOT** considered wildlife in the state of Oklahoma.

11. What program(s) in your agency provide response to negative wildlife interaction (wildlife conflict) complaints and depredation. If the responsibility is split or shared between programs (i.e. Wildlife Program/Enforcement Program) or contracted or referred to another agency or private party, please describe how the work is assigned or shared. (e.g. by species, commercial agriculture versus residential, public safety versus property damage, etc.)

- Oklahoma has the formal programs described above.
- We also have a nuisance bear program where ODWC staff will assist private landowners with trapping and relocating depredating bears. We have a northern Oklahoma and a southern Oklahoma response team based on the area of the conflict.
- The ODWC also operates a Nuisance Wildlife Control Officer program where private individuals are trained, tested, and permitted to respond to wildlife related conflicts for the following species: badger, beaver, jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, fox squirrel, gray squirrel, red fox, gray fox, mink, nutria, opossum, raccoon, striped skunk, resident Canada geese and weasel. When a complaint is received, it is first addressed with technical assistance over the phone or email. If further action is requested for issues with these species, a list of NWCO permit holders is provided for the reporting party to contact at their discretion. Oklahoma Title 800:25-37-12.
- Should we receive a mountain lion depredation or conflict complaint, the nature of the complaint determines the response agency. General conflicts are handled under ODWC policy. If the conflict involves domestic livestock, Wildlife Services has primary response responsibility.
- Conflict response is usually initiated by a phone call or email entering the agency. The receiving party then allocates the response accordingly. In most cases, the information is relayed to an ODWC Game Warden to investigate the complaint. Based on the

outcome of that initial investigation, the responding Game Warden either offers needed technical assistance or elevates the complaint along the proper pathway.

- Note, feral swine are NOT classified as wildlife in Oklahoma.

12. Please describe what funding sources support wildlife conflict response and depredation payments if applicable in your agency. Please include specifics regarding where the funding comes from for expenses such as staff and equipment, commercial crop loss compensation, livestock predation compensation, non-lethal deterrent programs, outreach and education, or any other services or materials provided in response to wildlife conflict issues.

Oklahoma does not provide any direct payments to any landowners for wildlife conflicts. Our response programs and conflict resolution are funded through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The ODWC does not receive any Oklahoma appropriated tax monies. None of our depredation work is part of any federal grant program.