A simple “thank you” cannot express the extent of appreciation for those who go above and beyond to lend a hand. Such is the case with the many groups that have become invaluable Partners in Conservation for Oklahoma’s tremendous natural resources. Contributions and support for the Wildlife Department, from quality organizations like these, ultimately benefits sportsmen and women and the conservation of wildlife and habitat in Oklahoma. Partners listed here contributed at least $5,000 in 2017.

The Wildlife Department also extends sincere gratitude to the many other groups and individuals who provide support through monetary gifts or in-kind products and services in support of all Department activities. This list does not include our partners who contribute to the Department’s Wildlife Expo. Thank you, partners!

- Quail Forever Oklahoma Chapters for support of ODWC projects focused on habitat enhancement on WMAs.
- National Wild Turkey Federation for support of habitat enhancement on public and private lands statewide (including several WMAs open to public hunting), plus major support for ODWC outdoor educational programs.
- Natureworks for support of management on public lands in Oklahoma.
- Oklahoma City Zoological Park, Oklahoma Zoological Society and Botanical Garden for conservation field study projects and to help with expenses for various projects.
- Toby and Emily Thomas for an in-kind donation of a rebuilt airboat for use by the Wildlife Department’s Law Enforcement Division. The boat is used not only for normal game warden operations but also for special efforts such as when the ODWC sent game wardens to provide hurricane relief assistance in the Houston, Texas, area.
- Blue River Fly Fishers for the purchase of trout for the catch and release portion of the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area and for general improvements to the area.
- Larry and Brenda Potterfield, founders of MidwayUSA, for their support of the Oklahoma Scholastic Shooting Sports Program and state tournament shooting events.
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for its support of habitat work on WMAs open to public hunting.
- The National Rifle Association helped fund renovations to the shooting range at Lexington Wildlife Management Area. The renovated range will include covered shooting benches, backstop, target stands, side berms, a fence, new walkway, parking, signs and lead management. This as well as other renovated or newly constructed ODWC shooting ranges will be ADA compliant. Our sincere thanks to the NRA for participating in this project.

**PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION**

**YOUR DOLLARS WORK FOR CONSERVATION**

If you’ve ever bought a hunting or fishing license, motorboat fuel, fishing tackle, ammo or bows and arrows, you’re a part of the most successful effort to conserve fish and wildlife in America: The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program.

Anglers, hunters and outdoors enthusiasts pay a special excise tax whenever they buy items related to the outdoors, and that tax revenue is distributed back to the individual states. So each time an Oklahoman buys a license or outdoors-related merchandise, he or she is supporting important conservation efforts such as installing boat ramps or increasing hunting access.
Do You Care About Wildlife? Help Us Protect Them...

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation designed specifically to stop illegal killing of the fish and game which belong to you, whether you’re an angler, sportsman or outdoor enthusiast. It’s a big problem with no simple solution. Help from public sportsmen and sportswomen makes all the difference.

Here’s why:

• One day before the opening of a recent deer season, two poachers killed four whitetail bucks.
• Late one summer night, three men steered their boat across a state reservoir, stopped at their illegal net site and hauled in a load of striped bass and other open-water fish they could sell for $1 a pound on the commercial market.

In each of these examples, you were the loser. You lost hunting and fishing opportunities or the chance to view wildlife in their natural surroundings. At the same time, law-abiding sportsmen received a bad reputation from those who fail to distinguish between legal and illegal hunting. OGT is something everyone can do to help wildlife and help us apprehend the poachers.

The OGT toll-free phone number is (800) 522-8039. Callers can remain anonymous.

Operation Game Thief trailer is on the move!

Thanks to generous contributions from the Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International and Safari Club International, the Department has equipped a traveling trailer to highlight the importance of obeying game laws. The Operation Game Thief trailer is hitting the roads and educating Oklahomans young and old about wildlife conservation. Keep your eyes peeled; the trailer may be coming to an area near you!

DON’T MISS THIS DEAL!

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