



## STATE PARKS

Our state-operated parks, lodges and golf courses:

- motivate travel
- preserve natural resources, including water
- improve the quality of life for all Oklahomans



Oklahoma Tourism and  
Recreation Department



# STATE PARKS



- 11.1 million people visited Oklahoma state parks in 2010
- 1.3 million stayed in a state lodge, cabin, group camp or campground
- More than 79,000 total rounds of golf were played at state courses
- Over 50 private business concessionaires provided recreational services and support in state parks (marinas, horseback riding, canoeing, bicycle rental, water sports, groceries, and snack bars)



# PARK FACTS



- Most state park lands are leased, not owned.
- Most state park assets were built with Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF).
- There is a replacement requirement if LWCF projects are removed from the park system. If they are not replaced at current market value, Oklahoma would lose LWCF eligibility.
- Replacement obligations require no net loss of park lands so we are not going to get out of the park business.

# PARKS PROMOTE HEALTHY LIFESTYLES



## OKLAHOMA HEALTH RANKINGS IN POPULAR MEDIA

### OBESITY & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

- Oklahoma ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in adult obesity (31.4%)
- Oklahoma ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in adult physical inactivity (30.9%)
- Oklahoma ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in adult diabetes (10.5%)
- Oklahoma ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in adult hypertension (31.9%)
- Oklahoma ranks 1<sup>st</sup> in lowest level of fruit and vegetable intake (15.5%)
- Oklahoma has largest rise in obesity rates between 1995 and 2010 (18.5%)
- Oklahoma ranks 2<sup>nd</sup> in rise in adult diabetes (6.8%)
- Oklahoma ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in rise in adult hypertension (10.2%)

Trust for America's Health, "F as in Fat," July, 2011



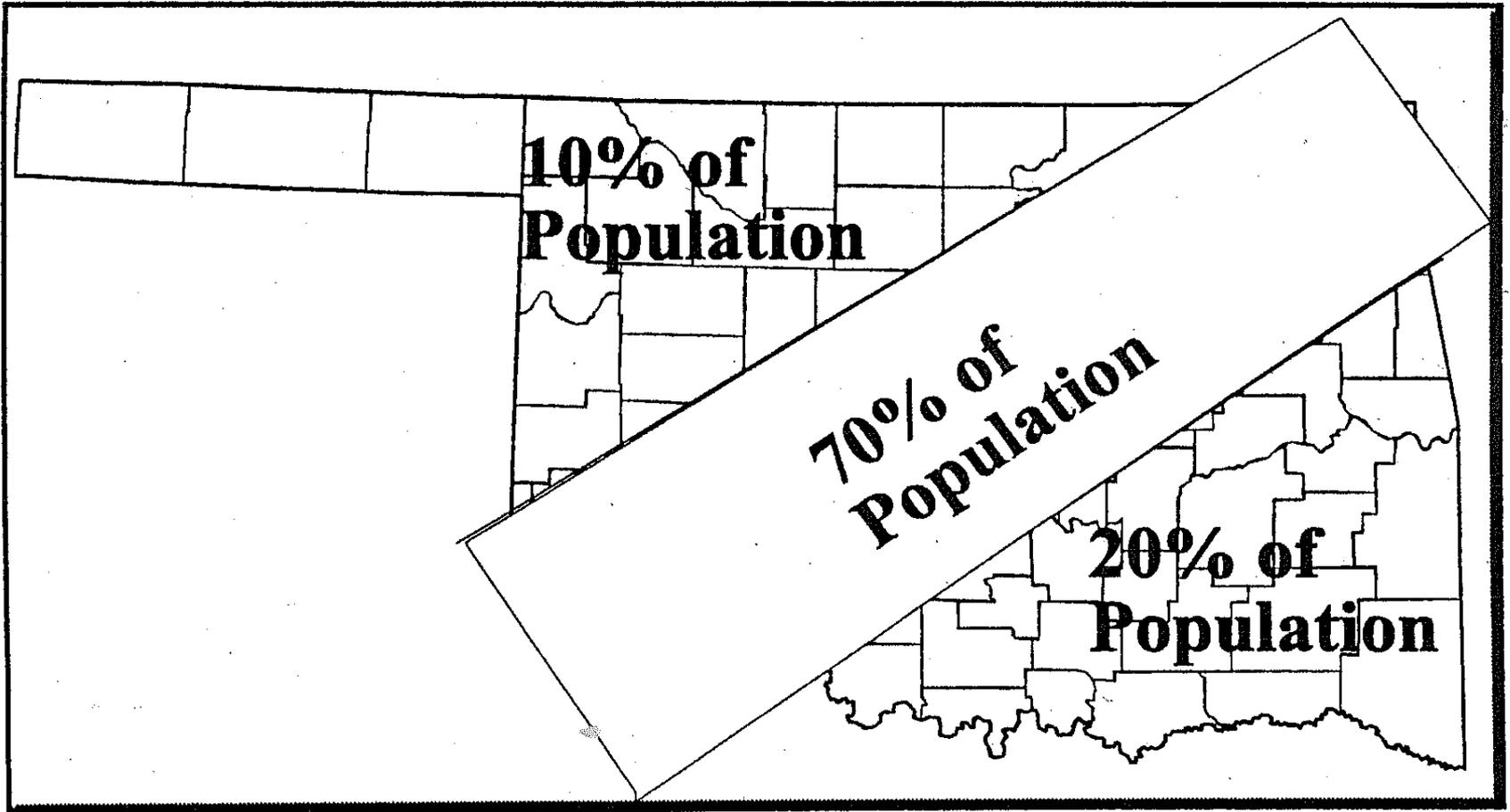


# PARK REALIGNMENT



- Prior to 2011, Oklahoma State Parks operated 42 properties, 11 were located west of I-35; 31 were east of I-35
- After October 1, 2011, the state will have 35 parks; 10 are located west of I-35, while 25 are located east of I-35.
- The majority of the population is located in six counties along the I-44 corridor; there are 2 parks in those 6 counties.
- Of the 35 parks, only 2 are located in counties of 50,000 or more people.
- The closest park to Oklahoma City is Lake Thunderbird in Cleveland County. The closest park to the city of Tulsa is Lake Keystone which straddles Tulsa and Creek counties.

# OKLAHOMA POPULATION DISTRIBUTION



# PARKS PER CAPITA COMPARISON



- Oklahoma has 35 state parks with a population of 3,724,447. This equates to 1 park per 106,413 and ranks us 22<sup>nd</sup> out of 50 in parks per capita or close to the middle.
- States with more parks per capita include Vermont, Iowa, North Dakota, New Mexico, Utah, South Dakota, West Virginia, Washington, and Minnesota.
- States with fewer parks per capita include Wisconsin, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Idaho, Georgia, Nebraska, Arkansas, Texas, Florida and Arizona.

# STATE LODGES



Two of the state lodges (Western Hills and Lake Murray) are in need of replacement or, at the very least, extensive renovation. OTRD has contracted with OSU to conduct a feasibility study of both properties. It will measure the impact of market conditions on the profitability of a private lodge vs. a state-owned lodge at each location. The study will be completed by the first of next year.



The current lodge at Lake Murray was constructed in 1949. It was Oklahoma's first state park and contains 12,496 acres. In contrast to many of the state's other parks, it is not leased. The state owns the land, water and minerals in fee title. It is located near the I-35 corridor.

In contrast, Western Hills is located in rural Sequoyah County. There are 2,258 total acres in the park, of which the state owns 190 acres; the remaining 2,258 acres are leased from the Corps of Engineers.



# STATE GOLF COURSES



- In FY 2010, the earned revenue from the golf courses was \$2,331,433
- Operating expenditures amounted to \$2,863,427
- State appropriation was \$306,357
- Overall, the golf courses are 81% self-sufficient; the goal is 100%. Self-sufficiency by course:

Arrowhead	103%
Cedar Creek	65%
Fort Cobb	84%
Grand Cherokee	98%
Lake Murray	91%
Roman Nose	69% *Lodge was being renovated
Sequoyah	48%

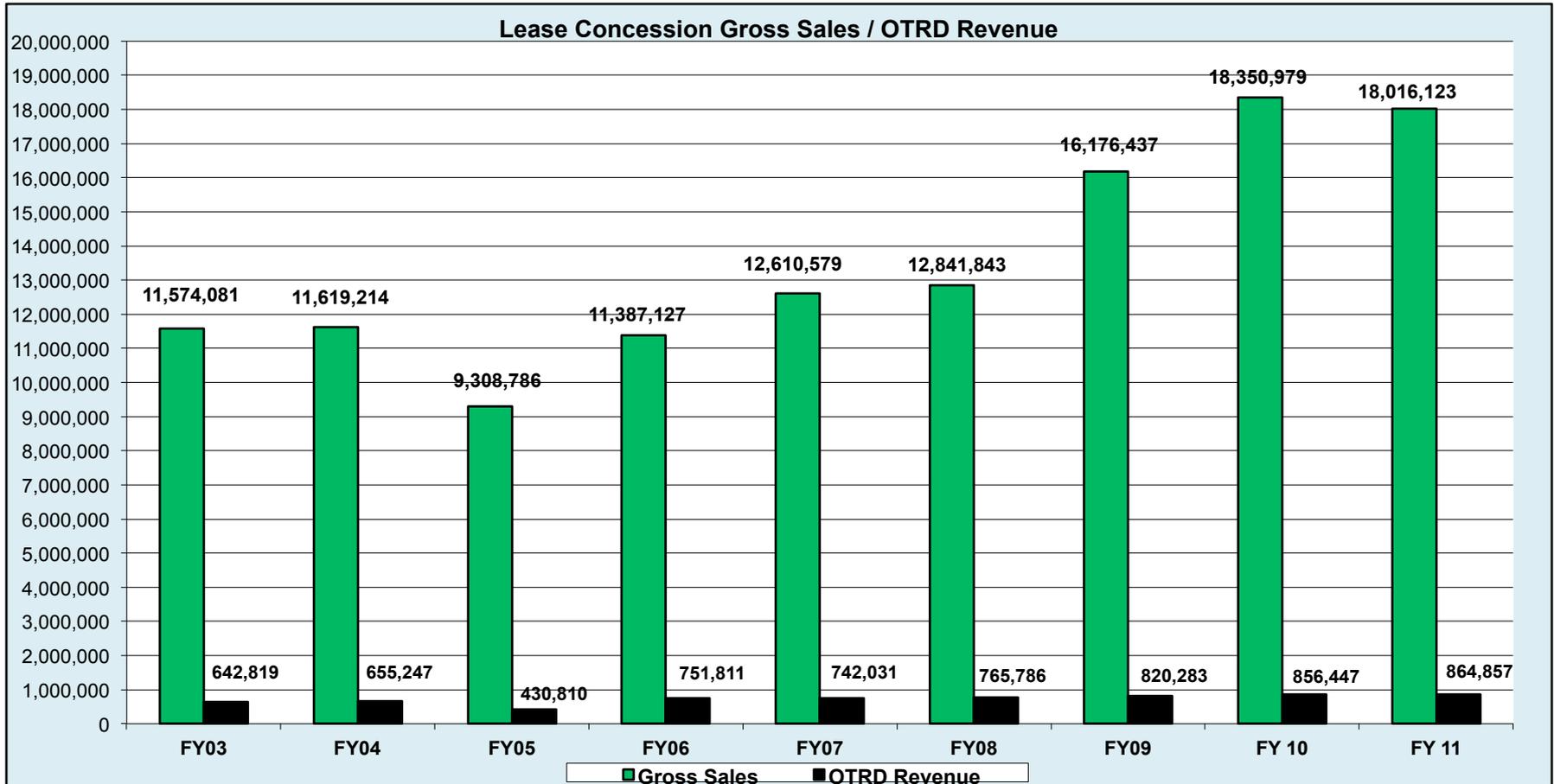
For fiscal year 2012 a 25-30% reduction in support funding is achievable due to improved course conditions at Cedar Creek and Sequoyah and reductions in cart related expenses.



# PRIVATE CONCESSIONS



- The state park system has privatized all concessions.





## 2011 PARK TRANSFERS



- Generally, the decision of the Parks Department to recommend removal of the parks from the state park system rested on the following: size, visitation, duplication of recreational services and self-sufficiency.
- This agency is not the first to recommend removal of these parks. In Governor Brad Henry's Executive Budget in 2004, 2005 and 2006, he recommended closure of "natural parks" including: Beaver Dunes, Heavener-Runestone, Boggy Depot, Brushy Lake, and Adair. Also included on Governor Henry's closure list: Walnut Creek, Arrowhead, Twin Bridges/Spring River, Cherokee/Snowdale/Spavinaw and Hugo/Raymond/Clayton.



# 2011 PARK LEASE TRANSFERS



**Five of the seven parks being transferred were leased properties.  
Three will be operated by the entities that actually own them:**

- Beaver Dunes was leased from Pioneer Memorial Park for 40 years (1971). The state owns 7.5 acres, which is a right-of-way. The park is now being managed by its owner, in conjunction with local city and county government.
- Brushy Lake (30 acres) was leased from the City of Sallisaw for 43 years (1968). It was transferred because the recreation it provides is redundant to Lake Tenkiller, which is 15 miles away. It's owner, the City of Sallisaw, has already assumed operation.
- Lake Eucha (31 acres) was leased from the City of Tulsa for 44 years (1967). It was transferred because it provides municipal services (swimming pool). The City of Tulsa has already assumed operation.
- Wah-Sha-She (189 acres) has been leased from the Army Corps of Engineers since 1973. It will be transferred to the Osage Nation on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The property was removed from the state park system because of its proximity to Osage Hills, which is 14.8 miles away.
- Adair has been leased from the City of Stillwell since 1967. It is being transferred from the park system because it primarily provides municipal services (city park). The City of Stillwell owns the park; beginning September 15<sup>th</sup>, Adair County will operate it.



# 2011 PARK LAND TRANSFERS



Next session, the Legislature will be asked to approve two land transfers:

- Boggy Depot is 630 acres. The state owns 558.5 acres in fee title plus an additional 40 acres with a reversionary clause (Wright family). Boggy Depot Park is currently being operated by the Chickasaw Nation. As soon as the Legislature approves the land transaction, the title will be transferred. Another 1.5 acres of the property is a cemetery that has been held in trust by the State Historical Society. They are in the process of executing an agreement with the Choctaw Nation.
- Heavener-Runestone (50 acres) is now being operated by the City of Heavener with financial support provided by the non-profit organization, Friends of Heavener Runestone. As soon as the Legislature approves the land transaction, the title will be transferred to the City.

# COMMISSION AND EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY



- Statutory authority to transfer or reduce properties is found in 74 O.S. section 2224– “The Commission may transfer to any city, county, or other agency of government, which is a willing recipient, its interest in real and personal property owned by the State of Oklahoma or the Department and operated and maintained under the jurisdiction of the Commission.”
- Additional authority is found in 74 O.S. §2212 which describes the Commission’s powers, rights and privileges related to state parks and gives them the ability to reduce any and all facilities of all kinds.
- The Executive Director’s powers are found in 74 O.S. § 2207. The Director shall: “Organize the Department in a manner to efficiently achieve the objectives of the Commission.” The Director shall also “... execute such instruments as in the judgment of the Commission are necessary or convenient to the exercise of those powers and duties of the Commission....”

# OKLAHOMA TODAY & DISCOVER OKLAHOMA



- 100% self funded is the goal for both Oklahoma Today and Discover Oklahoma.
- AAA is the new prime sponsor for Discover Oklahoma.
- Public–private partnerships are being sought and secured such as with the Oklahoma Ford Dealers. This partnership will benefit all Divisions within the Department including Oklahoma Today and Discover Oklahoma. Example benefits include segment sponsorship for Discover Oklahoma, ads in the Travel Guide, the Route 66 Guide and Oklahoma Today and a state park phone app.

# EXCITING WEBSITE CHANGES



- Genealogy information
- Searches based on interest and activities