

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



Land-grant universities receiving the grants are: Cornell University (NY), the University of Idaho, the University of Arizona, Oklahoma State University, the University of Vermont, Mississippi State University, the University of Hawaii, New Mexico State University, the Ohio State University, Fort Valley State University (GA), the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff, Kansas State University, and North Carolina State University.

Oklahoma State University will receive \$81,700 for its project, the Delivery of Weather-based Management Aids Using the Oklahoma Mesonet and OneNet. The project will involve the integration of a network of Oklahoma weather stations (Mesonet) and a telecommunications network (OneNet), providing weather-based management information via the World Wide Web. This will allow farmers and ranchers to obtain and analyze detailed weather information via the Internet.

Oklahoma's neighbor to the north, Kansas State University, will receive \$101,410 for its Great Plains Inter-University Consortium. The Consortium will develop an inter-institutional graduate program in the human sciences at Iowa State University, Kansas State University, the University of Nebraska, North Dakota State University, and Oklahoma State University, to be delivered at a distance.

Glickman said, "Land-grant universities play a key role in providing farmers with information; and, these grants will enable the universities to use computer technology to better provide farmers with data and technical materials. With the grants, the universities will focus on developing information packages useful for farmers; reaching out to farmers and letting them know the resources available through computer networks; and training farmers in the use of computers and the applications for their daily work."

—U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
10/31/96

*"Government is more than the sum of all the interests; it is the paramount interest, the public interest. It must be the efficient, effective agent of a responsible citizenry, not the shelter of the incompetent and the corrupt."*

Adlai E. Stevenson, Jr.  
speech in Bloomington, Illinois, 1948

## UTILITIES

### COMMENT PERIODS EXTENDED ON TWO PHONE INQUIRIES

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission has extended public comment deadlines and rescheduled technical conferences for two notices of inquiry concerning telephone matters.

The deadline for comments on whether the commission should require all telephone companies in Oklahoma to offer customers certain advanced-technology custom-calling features has been extended from Oct. 22 to Dec. 11. A technical conference scheduled for Oct. 24 was rescheduled for Jan. 8, 1997, and the deadline for reply comments was changed from Nov. 5 to Jan. 15, 1997.

The period for comments on how to encourage local-exchange telephone competition in areas of low profit potential was extended from Oct. 25 to Dec. 18. A technical conference scheduled for Nov. 7 was rescheduled for Jan. 15, 1997, and the deadline for reply comments was extended from Nov. 14 to Jan. 22, 1997.

A schedule revision order said a heavy Corporation Commission caseload made the changes necessary.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION  
10/28/96

## WILDLIFE

### KEY LEGISLATION COMES FROM CONGRESS

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Two key pieces of federal legislation passed by Congress before it adjourned, will both dramatically improve future hunting and fishing prospects for state sportsmen.

The first measure, Senate Bill 640, contains language which permanently guarantees water to maintain the Mountain Fork trout fishery.

The trout fishery, which began in 1988 on a trial basis as partial mitigation for the loss of the native stream fishery, has been tremendously successful. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers threatened to stop releasing water to support the fishery unless the Wildlife Department paid for the water, at a cost of about \$200,000 per year. The Wildlife Department contended the Corps should be providing the water as mitigation for the

loss of the downstream smallmouth bass fishery that occurred when the dam was constructed.

"Without Sen. Don Nickles' help, and support from concerned anglers, the entire fishery could have been lost," said Barry Bolton, assistant chief of fisheries in charge of management for the Wildlife Department. "We feel confident the lower Mountain Fork will develop into one of the premier trophy trout fisheries in the entire Mid-South."

Congress also approved legislation Oct. 3 which authorizes a land swap between the U.S. Forest Service and Weyerhaeuser Company, an exchange which will net hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts around 75,000 acres of public land in Oklahoma. President Clinton is expected to sign the bill.

The deal, which has been in the making for almost two years, provides for an equitable exchange of land based on appraised land values.

Sen. Don Nickles sponsored the legislation in the Senate and Rep. Bill Brewster sponsored the bill in the House. Both Nickles and Brewster were instrumental in getting the measure passed.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE  
10/28/96

### HUNTERS CAN DONATE DEER TO NEEDY

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Station of Safari Club International and the Wildlife Department are again offering deer hunters an opportunity to help provide nutritious meals for needy people throughout the state.

The program is simple. Hunters who legally harvest a deer check the animal at a hunter check station then deliver it to a co-operating meat processor. Once the deer is processed, the Feed the Children organization picks it up and distributes it throughout the state.

A complete listing of cooperating meat processors will be posted at hunter check stations throughout the state or hunters can obtain a list of cooperators by calling the Wildlife Department's Game Division at (405) 521-2739.

—OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE  
10/28/96

*"Extreme justice is often unjust."*

Jean Racine  
'The Thebaids,' 1664