



OKLAHOMA
COMMISSIONERS
OF THE LAND OFFICE

Invasive Woody Species

Presenting Today

Secretary Dan Whitmarsh

Assistant Secretary John Fischer

Director of Legislative Affairs & Public Relations Tristan Newbold



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CLO Lands

Over 725,000 acres

42 Counties

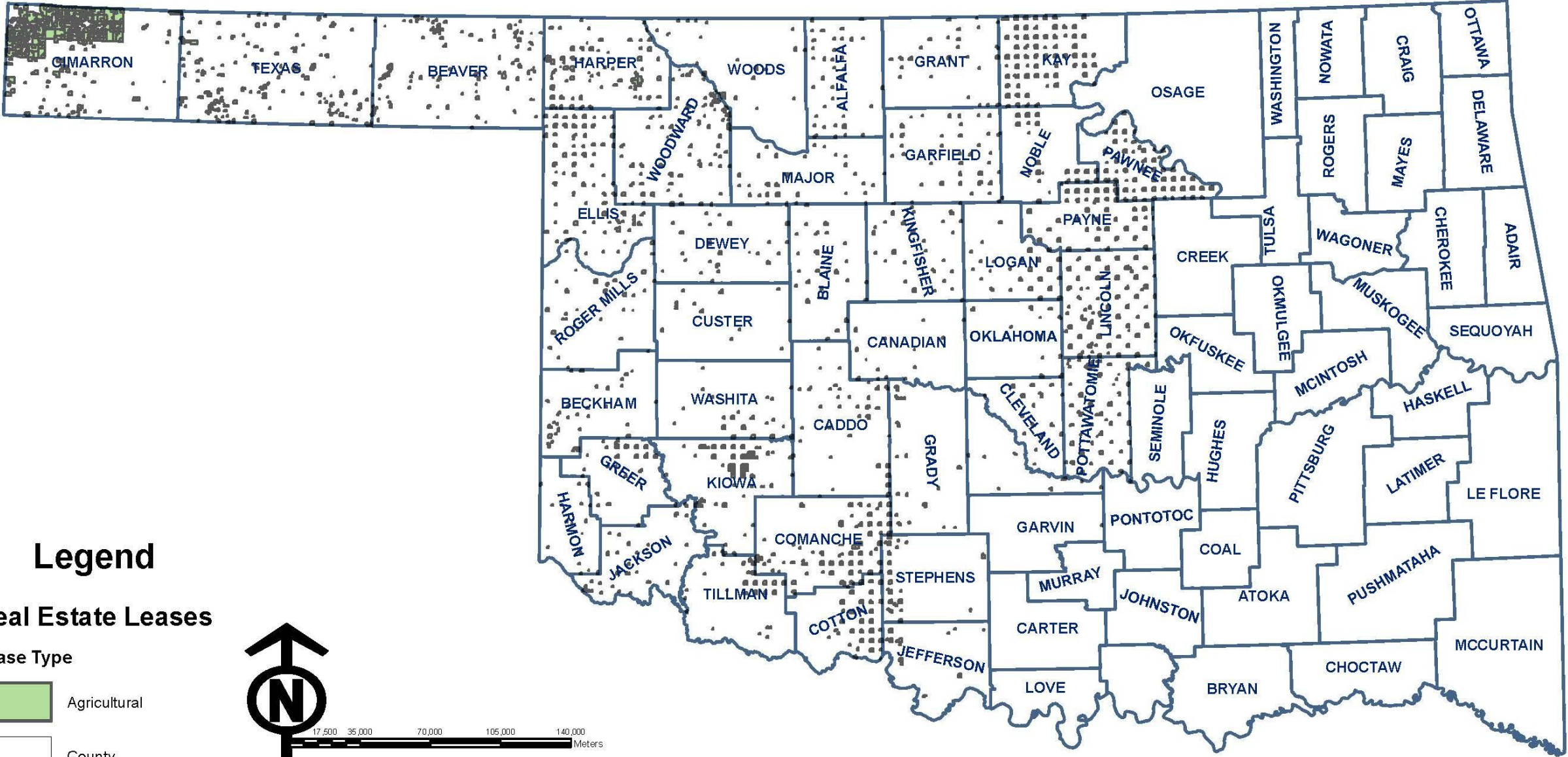
Predominately in Western Oklahoma

About 65% of these lands are Rangeland, which are susceptible to
Invasive Woody Species



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CLO Agriculture Land



Legend

Real Estate Leases

- Lease Type
- Agricultural
 - County



17,500 35,000 70,000 105,000 140,000 Meters

Recent Accomplishments

In the past three years, the CLO has invested over **\$674,500** fighting Invasive Woody Species

This represents over 40% of available conservation project funds

Over 12,800 acres impacted

More than 80 individual conservation projects on CLO lands



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Inter-Agency Cooperation

- July 16th- Meeting with Conservation Commission. Discussed cost share programs, lease language improvements, county burn associations, and shared employees.
- July 25th- Meeting with ODWC. Mainly discussed CLO's problem with fire as main way to remove IWS.
- September 16th- Meeting with ODAFF. Discussed burns and satellite technology to identify IWS on CLO land.



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Long-Term Challenges

- Invasive Woody Species have been Growing Worse Since the 1950s
- Developing a Survey for all CLO Lands Cost Prohibitive
- CLO has Fewer Field Staff Due to Tight Labor Market Combined with Budget Challenges
- Ongoing Drought Requires Water Wells and Pond Maintenance to be a Greater Portion of Conservation Project Budget
- Limited Availability of Contractors to Willing to Bid On and Complete Projects in a Timely, Cost-Effective Manner



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Fiscal Year 2025 Plans



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Public / Private Conservation Partnerships

Special Conservation Requirements

Conservation Projects to be Completed by Winning Bidders (Lessees) at Their Cost during the Tenure of the Lease

Projects Often Initiated in Conjunction with CLO-Funded Conservation Projects

Crucial to Maintaining Integrity of the Land when Dealing with Large Tracts

May impact the lease rate obtained at auction

Local and Federal Cost-Share Programs

Lessees Encouraged to Participate in Cost-Share Programs

Completed at No Cost to the CLO



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Hiring a Forester

- The Forester will work alongside CLO REMD staff and other Agency staff to identify Invasive Woody Species (IWS) problems on Trust lands, analyze the scope of these problems, design solutions to these problems, and implement those solutions. Working remotely in the field on individual projects along with others as part of the overall REMD Soil Conservation Program, the Forester will coordinate supporting personnel, if applicable, and oversee contracted vendors.
- Position was posted July 24th, working with ODAFF for the job description. An offer of employment has been made with anticipation of a start date within the next few weeks.
- CLO's Subject Matter Expert to advise the agency and other stakeholders on solutions which will obtain the highest impact with the limited resources available.
- Point of coordination with key contacts in the environmental arena such as: Oklahoma Conservation Commission, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Biological Survey, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Farm Service Agency, local Conservation Districts, and more.



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Core Values



Be good stewards of the land, minerals, and investments the agency manages



Actively manage Trust assets, ensuring every dollar owed to beneficiaries is paid timely and accurately



Create and maintain an investment policy consistent with Oklahoma Constitutional mandates



Keep records of preservation to ensure accuracy and transparency



Create efficiencies in operations, hiring and retaining professional and qualified staff



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