

SHARK (SHowing Animals Respect and Kindness)  
PO Box 28 • Geneva, IL 60134 • [630-557-0176](tel:630-557-0176)  
[www.sharkonline.org](http://www.sharkonline.org)

Videos can be accessed through SHARK's YouTube channel,  
[www.youtube.com/SHARKonlineorg](http://www.youtube.com/SHARKonlineorg), or on [www.InhofeCruelty.com](http://www.InhofeCruelty.com)

In the summer of 2014, a donor to Jim Inhofe, the senior United States Senator from Oklahoma, tipped us off that the senator was going to hold a live pigeon shoot as a political fundraiser. An investigator for SHARK paid to attend the event and filmed horrific acts of animal cruelty that occurred as 1,000 tame and banded pigeons were hand thrown into the air and then shot for fun.

Our video of the Inhofe pigeon shoot not only exposed severe acts of animal cruelty, but it revealed corruption and criminal activity associated with the fundraiser.

#### **Multiple Violations of the Law Committed on Federal Property**

The US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) saw SHARK's video and realized that the property Inhofe used, which is part of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, was federal land. They sent the following letter dated October 8, 2014, to Tom Buchanan, the manager of the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District, as well as Barry Mock, the Chairman of the district.

**• It is critical to note that BOR acknowledged in their letter that all the specific acts that occurred on the federal property violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). That means that the Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee violated environmental law when he held his pigeon shoot political fundraiser on that federal land.**



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Great Plains Region  
Oklahoma-Texas Area Office  
5316 HWY 290 West, Suite 110  
Austin, TX 78735-8931

IN REPLY REFER TO  
LND-8.00/WTR-4.00

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

OCT 08 2014

Mr. Barry Mock  
Chairman  
Lugert-Altus Irrigation District  
417 Paseo De Vida  
Altus, OK 73521

Subject: Coordination Requirements for Public Lands, W.C. Austin Project, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Mock:

The Bureau of Reclamation recently saw media reports that a "Pigeon Shoot" scheduled for September 5, 2014 at the Quartz Mountain Lodge & Resort (Resort) may have actually occurred on Federal land located immediately adjacent to the Resort. While the Resort is owned and operated by the Oklahoma Department of Higher Education (ODHE), based on media video footage, it appears the shoot may have occurred adjacent to the Resort's sewage lagoons which are located on Federal land administered by Reclamation as part of the W.C. Austin Project (Project). This Project land is managed by the ODHE under Contract Number 6-LM-50-05660, and managed in part by the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District (District) under Contract Number 11r-1375 where needed for water supply and irrigation operations.

Please remember activities other than routine operation and maintenance (O&M) of the Project must be approved by Reclamation and are subject to review and disclosure under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Holding an event for purposes other than routine O&M without Reclamation review and approval would be contrary to the requirements of our contracts.

Reclamation values and relies on the relationships developed over the years between our respective organizations. It is imperative that all activities at the W.C. Austin Project other than routine O&M receive proper Reclamation review and approval to ensure compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Please contact me at 512-899-4150 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Treviño  
Area Manager

cc: Mr. Tom Buchanan  
District Manager  
Lugert-Altus Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 520  
1421 West Ridgcrest  
Altus, OK 73522

Identical letter sent to persons on next page.

When BOR sent inspectors to the property, they uncovered a series of alarming and illegal acts ongoing on the property. These included:

- **The federal land was being used as a massive, illegal garbage dump that contained hazardous materials such as tires and electronic equipment as well as building materials.**

- **The land was also being used as an illegal private canned hunting preserve.**

BOR stated that, *"The site is littered with countless rotting pigeon carcasses, clay targets, shotgun shells..."* BOR also found a brick structure on the property that was built specifically to hold live pigeon shoots, as well as game feeders and hunting blinds.

On October 14, 2014, BOR sent the following letter, titled *"Restoration of Federal Lands Utilized for Unauthorized Old World Pigeon Shoot..."*

**This letter makes it clear that the land Inhofe used was federally owned and that there were significant violations associated with the Inhofe shoot.**



## United States Department of the Interior

### BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Oklahoma-Texas Area Office  
Oklahoma City Field Office  
5924 NW 2nd Street, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK 73127-6514

IN REPLY REFER TO:

WTR-4.00

OCT 14 2014

Dr. Terry Mosley  
Executive Director  
Quartz Mountain Nature Park  
43393 Scissortail Road  
Lone Wolf, OK 73655

Subject: Restoration of Federal Lands Utilized for Unauthorized Old World Pigeon Shoot,  
Quartz Mountain Nature Park (Park), W.C. Austin Project, Oklahoma

Dear Dr. Mosley:

As a follow-up to our letter to you dated Oct 8, 2014, Reclamation staff conducted a site visit to investigate the area reportedly used for the "Old World Pigeon Shoot" on September 5, 2014. During that investigation, we noted the following items which must be addressed by the Park:

- An unauthorized burn pit has been constructed on Federal property under the Park's administration. This pit currently contains a variety of building refuse and debris including shingles, tires, sheet rock, etc. The Park shall remove the contents of the burn pit along with all trash and debris in the surrounding area, and dispose of the materials off Federal property at an authorized disposal facility.

Please complete the above listed clean up no later than November 12, 2014 and leave the pit open so that our staff can conduct a follow-up inspection. Upon satisfactory inspection, Reclamation will authorize closing of the pit.

Reclamation has reviewed land records and contracts, and has determined that the Old World Pigeon Shoot occurred on land under the administration of Parks. However, access for the shoot was facilitated by the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District (District). Therefore, Reclamation has requested that the District complete the following restoration items:

- A brick and concrete structure has been constructed in the center of the field used for the Pigeon Shoot without Reclamation approval. The purpose of this structure is unknown, but it is clearly not related to operation of the reservoir or irrigation system. The District will remove this structure and dispose of all materials off Federal property at an authorized disposal facility.

- The site is littered with countless rotting pigeon carcasses, clay targets, shotgun shells, spent brass, empty water bottles, cardboard, plastic packaging, and other refuse. The District will remove and properly dispose of all this refuse off Federal property at an authorized disposal facility.
- The District will remove the portable bleachers from Federal property.
- At least two unauthorized game feeders and associated hunting blinds were observed. The District will remove all game feeders and hunting blinds from the Federal property under its administration.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 405-470-4800.

Sincerely,



Jeff Tompkins  
Supervisor, Land Resources Group

cc: Mark Trevino  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Oklahoma-Texas Area Office  
5316 Highway W, Suite 110  
Austin, TX 78735-8931

Mr. Tom Buchanan  
District Manager  
Lugert-Altus Irrigation District  
P.O. Box 520  
Altus, OK 73522



BOR took pictures of the site of the Inhofe pigeon shoot.

The first two pictures are of what is referred to as the "burn pit." A television set, tires and building materials are clearly visible in the dump site.







Rotting pigeon carcasses on the federal land:







The Brick structure used to hold pigeon shoots. Note the blood and body parts on the ground.



Other emails of interest from the BOR regarding the Inhofe pigeon shoot:

**Attachments:**

<Altus Letter-2.docx>

**From:**

"Trevino, Mark" [mtrevino@usbr.gov](mailto:mtrevino@usbr.gov)

**Subject:**

Re: W.C. Austin Pigeon Shoot - Link attached this time

**Date:**

October 02, 2014 at 4:10 AM JST

**To:**

Gary Campbell [gcampbell@usbr.gov](mailto:gcampbell@usbr.gov), Brian Cornell , Michael Ryan , John Soucy , James Allard

OOPS! here is the link to the extended video....AND, you have a bunch of folks arranged in a circle aiming shotguns towards the center? nothing dangerous there?

<http://www.thelostogle.com/2014/09/24/jim-inhofe-really-hates-pigeons/>

On Wed, Oct 1, 2014 at 2:04 PM, Trevino, Mark <[mtrevino@usbr.gov](mailto:mtrevino@usbr.gov)> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

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**Mark A. Treviño**

Bureau of Reclamation

Area Manager

Oklahoma-Texas Area Office

Office: 512-899-4164

Mobile: 512-423-2785

[mtrevino@usbr.gov](mailto:mtrevino@usbr.gov)

**From:** "Trevino, Mark" mtrevino@usbr.gov  
**Subject:** Pigeon Shoot Letters attached  
**Date:** October 16, 2014 at 12:02 AM JST  
**To:** Gary Campbell gcampbell@usbr.gov

Gary,

Attached are the two(2) letters that were sent out as a result of the recent "pigeon shoot".

One letter is to Dr. Terry Mosley, Executive Director of Oklahoma Department of Higher Education

The second letter is to Tom Buchanan with a CC to Board President Barry Mock, and to Dr. Mosley.

The deadline for getting these issues corrected is November 12. I just want you to be aware, that we are prepared to move forward if this doesn't get corrected. It is bad enough with the event taking place on federal land, but with the additional unauthorized construction, including blinds and setting up feeders on federal land without proper approval or authority, the next step to be taken if the deadline is missed is pretty clear. For now we have to wait and see how things play out.

--

**Mark A. Treviño**

Bureau of Reclamation  
Area Manager  
Oklahoma-Texas Area Office  
Office: 512-899-4164  
Mobile: 512-423-2785  
mtrevino@usbr.gov  
5316 Hwy 290 W, Suite 110  
Austin, TX 78735  
<http://www.usbr.gov/gp/otao>

**Attachments:**

<LugertAltusPigeonShoot.pdf>  
<ODHEPigeonShoot.pdf>

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Even though there are documented multiple violations of the law found to have occurred on the federal property, no criminal complaints were filed against Tom Buchanan or Senator Inhofe. Buchanan is a close ally of Senator Inhofe and he both facilitated and worked at Inhofe's 2014 pigeon shoot.

The following picture, which was taken at Inhofe's 2008 pigeon shoot fundraiser (found posted online), shows Tom Buchanan (hat and pony tail) standing next to Senator Inhofe.



SHARK asked the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior to investigate what happened on their property, however, on November 5, 2015, we received the following response:

*We evaluated your complaint. We also discussed the matter with USBR and confirmed that the federal land in question was restored back to its original condition.*

*We will not initiate an investigation regarding the alleged misconduct of non-Department of the Interior (DOI) employees affiliated with the pigeon shoot. This matter has a nexus to the Lugert-Altus Irrigation District (a State entity) and should be referred to the Oklahoma State AG or State/local law enforcement.*

*We appreciate you communicating this matter to us. Your commitment in helping the DOI improve the effectiveness of its programs and operations benefits not only the Department but also the public we serve.*

--

**A.J. Benavidez  
C, Intake Mgmt Unit  
Investigative Support Division  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of the Interior  
O: 703-487-5006**

SHARK is preparing a reply to the Inspector General, as, due to the hazardous materials burned and dumped on site, a full environmental review of the property must be undertaken, including to see if there are previous dump sites that have been covered up. In other words, the site has not been fully restored and won't be until a full accounting of the damage done is made.

More importantly, crimes were committed on federal property and there seems to be no desire to hold those responsible accountable. Shifting responsibility to state authorities is a dead end, as we have not been able to get state law enforcement to even acknowledge our requests for investigations for other related issues. No one, it seems, wants to investigate anything related to Senator Inhofe or his ally.

### **Illegal Shooting of SHARK's drone**

Once SHARK exposed that Senator Inhofe had been illegally using federal land to hold his political fundraisers, he needed to find another location. On September 11, 2015, Senator Inhofe held his pigeon shoot on a farm in Greer County, Oklahoma.

SHARK filmed the animal cruelty using a remote controlled drone. Someone in the Inhofe party shot the drone which, though recovered, suffered serious and costly damage. Shooting into the air and crippling a drone was also an extremely dangerous act that created a real safety hazard.

We called 911 on site and were told that the Greer County Sheriff would not send anyone out. Greer County Sheriff Devon Huckabay claimed it was not illegal to shoot down a drone. While it absolutely is illegal to shoot down a drone, that was the last communication we received from the Greer County Sheriff, who refused to respond to further calls and emails. Repeated letters sent to Michael Thompson, Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety, have been completely ignored as well.

As with other aspects of the Inhofe fundraiser, both county and state law enforcement have refused to take any action or even give the courtesy of a response.

The following is the bill for the damage done to SHARK's drone. This will be hand-delivered to Senator Inhofe's office after the press conference ends.



# SHARK: Showing Animals Respect & Kindness

*Dedicated to ending the abuse and suffering of animals everywhere.*

## INVOICE

**Senator James Inhofe**

205 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-3603

November 10, 2015

**Damage to SHARK's Angel UAV as a result of your party  
illegally shooting it at your pigeon slaughter fundraiser on  
September 11, 2015**

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
LiPo Battery 5450 mAh	6	\$ 162	\$ 969
CineStar Motor	2	\$ 60	\$ 120
CineStar450mm Boom	1	\$ 90	\$ 90
Plastic Standoff Bolts	10	\$ 1	\$ 10
Motor Mounting Kit	1	\$ 53	\$ 53
Propellor	2	\$ 12	\$ 24
Navigation Control Module	1	\$ 195	\$ 195
Labor Hours to Repair Damage	16	\$ 50	\$ 800
Shipping	1	\$ 13	\$ 13
Total			\$ 2,294

## **Federally Funded Employees Used as Workers for the Inhofe Pigeon Shoot**

Oklahoma game wardens were filmed working at the 2014 Inhofe political fundraiser.



In the following email from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC), it is specifically stated that wardens from the Shotgun Training and Education Program (STEP) had worked at Inhofe's fundraisers, and that there

were even questions if they should be working at a "...purely political fundraiser."

*STEP is federally funded:*

### **Federal Aid Project Numbers**

The STEP program is part of the hunter education federal aid project. Please charge all time, mileage and travel against F12AF00622-001-01.

> -----Original message-----

- > From: Rodefeld, Nels
- > Sent: Friday, August 31, 2012 12:07 PM
- > To: Free, Wade (wfree@odwc.state.ok.us)
- > Subject: FW: STEP Program Issues
- >
- > Wade, here is the best info we have on what was brought forward
- > yesterday at the step meeting.
- >
- > My suggestions are:
- >
- > 1. Have Damon specifically talk to event organizers prior to about
- > safety concerns. He will reiterate that we are going to need to select
- > the proper site (so we are not rained on by pigeon shooters) and that
- > we are going to stress "if you have had alcohol, you cannot walk up
- > and shoot our program."
- >
- > 2. We will be looking into some mechanical and logistical setup
- > changes for the other events (Grand National, Mo Betta) to make those safer.
- >
- > 3. There were questions about why ODWC is providing a "fun shoot" for
- > a purely political fundraiser...I say we keep doing all these kinds of
- > events but use them as an opportunity to try and provide a little
- > actual education to the folks to help them shoot better. So it's not
- > just a fun shoot....and we do not do events where the participants pay
- > a fee to "shoot a round" as a donation for some cause.
- >
- > 4. Lastly, we should tell the folks working the lines at these types



Though Oklahoma game wardens had illegally served as workers for Inhofe for a number of years, once SHARK went public with our evidence, they did not work at Inhofe's 2015 shoot.

In this email from ODWC, the danger of Inhofe's donors drinking and shooting at his pigeon shoot is discussed:

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Springer, Damon

> Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2012 4:31 PM

> To: Rodefeld, Nels

> Cc: Berg, Colin

> Subject: STEP Program Issues

>

> There has come to my attention that we are having some concerns about

> a few of our programs where higher ranking folks are in attendance.

> The first is the Senator Inhofe Dove shoot in Altus September 7th.

> From what I have been told there are three things going on at the same

> time. One european-style live pigeon shoot, OSU shooting sports and

> STEP. There were several folks walking around with alcohol and then

> shooting at each event. Most had their own shotguns and where very

> unsafe. Our guys were "rained-on" by the pigeon shoot folks at times as well.

>

## **Failure to Pay Sales Tax**

SHARK reviewed Senator Inhofe's campaign finance records for 2013 and 2014 and discovered that the Senator had paid Michael Daugherty of Anadarko OK, a total of \$10,000 for pigeons used in those shoots.

Pigeon shoots are notorious for their black market commerce where no taxes are paid, and based on the exact dollar amounts paid to Mr. Daugherty (\$3,000 in 2013 and \$7,000 in 2014) it is highly likely that no sales tax was paid. In other words, this appears to have been a very much cash under the table operation.

On August 25th, 2015, SHARK queried the Oklahoma Tax Commission to see if financial transactions involving the sale of pigeons was taxable. This was their response:

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tax Assist <TaxAssist@tax.ok.gov>  
Subject: RE: Question on selling live animals and sales tax  
Date: August 25, 2015 at 2:54:11 PM EDT  
To: "'Stuart Chaifetz'" <stuartchaifetz@gmail.com>

Stuart:

The sale of live animals are sales taxable, unless specifically exempt. From what you describe, you may need to apply for a sales tax permit if you are going to be reselling the birds.

The exemptions listed that might possibly apply were as follows:

*710:65-19-7. Animals and animal related, non-farm*

*(a) Sales of animals to a person who holds a valid sales tax permit and who is regularly engaged in raising animals for sale are exempt from sales tax. Purchases made by persons primarily engaged in raising animals for any other purpose or use other than raising animals for sale are subject to sales tax.*

*(d) Sales of animals that are not defined as "livestock" by Section 710:65-13-15 are subject to tax if the purchaser is not the holder of a valid sales tax permit who is*

*regularly engaged in the business of raising the animals for marketing or reselling the animals.*

*g) Sales of animals or items exempted by this section will qualify for exemption only where the purchaser certifies in writing on a copy of each invoice or sales ticket that "(The Purchaser) is regularly engaged in the business of raising animal life for marketing and that the items purchased exempt from sales tax will be used only in that business."*  
[Source: Amended at 11 Ok Reg 3521, eff 6-26-94; Amended at 15 Ok Reg 2827, eff 6-25-98; Amended at 17 Ok Reg 2708, eff 6-25-00]

The purchaser in this case, "Friends of Jim Inhofe" and the "Inhofe Victory Committee 2014" are PACs and clearly not "regularly engaged in the business of raising the animals for marketing or reselling the animals," or are "...regularly engaged in the business of raising animal life for marketing."

Therefore, Inhofe absolutely should have paid sales tax. Senator Inhofe, as a long time lawmaker, simply cannot plead ignorance to his responsibilities to pay his proper taxes.

**Though SHARK has repeatedly asked the Oklahoma Tax Commission to open an investigation into this complaint, they have refused to respond to phone calls, emails and even sign for a registered letter. As with all other complaints we have made, this is being ignored.**

### **Violations of Oklahoma Anti-Cruelty law**

**Video of the pigeon shoot can be viewed here:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDbN36abT0k>

SHARK contends that the acts of cruelty committed at the Inhofe pigeon shoots clearly violate Oklahoma State laws §1685, §1686 and §1691.

Pigeons have existed in North America since the 1600's, 300 years before Oklahoma became a state. That means they were native to Oklahoma at the time of its creation in 1907. Pigeons do not fall under the state Game Code nor are they excluded from the anti-cruelty statutes. That means they are a protected species.

*§ 1685. Cruelty to animals*



*Any person who shall willfully or maliciously torture, destroy or kill, or cruelly beat or injure, maim or mutilate any animal in subjugation or captivity, whether wild or tame, and whether belonging to the person or to another, or deprive any such animal of necessary food, drink, shelter, or veterinary care to prevent suffering; or who shall cause, procure or permit any such animal to be so tortured, destroyed or killed, or cruelly beaten or injured, maimed or mutilated, or deprived of necessary food, drink, shelter, or veterinary care to prevent suffering; or who shall willfully set*

*on foot, instigate, engage in, or in any way further any act of cruelty to any animal, or any act tending to produce such cruelty, shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary not exceeding five (5) years, or by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding one (1) year, or by a fine not exceeding Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00). Any animal so maltreated or abused shall be considered an abused or neglected animal.*

**• SHARK's evidence shows that pigeons were willfully kicked, mutilated, shot, wounded, destroyed and tortured.**

*§ 1686. Abandoned animals--Destroyed how*

*D. For the purpose of the provisions of this section and Section 1691 of this title, the term "abandon" means the voluntary relinquishment of an animal and shall include but shall not be limited to vacating a premises and leaving the animal in or at the premises, or failing to feed the animal or allowing it to stray or wander onto private or public property with the intention of surrendering ownership or custody over the animal.*

**• Numerous pigeons were abandoned at the shoot. Some birds were wounded, yet could fly away, while those who were not wounded dispersed to other areas outside the shooting field. As many of these birds appeared tame, they would most likely not have had any ability to survive on their own.**

*§ 1691. Abandoning of domestic animals along streets or highways or in any public place prohibited*

*Any person who deposits any live dog, cat, or other domestic animal along any private or public roadway, or in any other private or public place with the intention of abandoning the domestic animal upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.*

- **SHARK's documentation shows that some of the pigeons had bands on their legs, meaning they were owned and domesticated. Whether wild or domesticated, the abandonment of these birds is illegal under the law.**

**SHARK requested an investigation. It was ignored.**

### **Conclusion**

Senator Inhofe misused government property and employees to benefit himself and his election campaign. He did not pay proper taxes on birds used for his event and he and his donors violated state anti-cruelty law.

Inhofe's close ally, Tom Buchanan, facilitated Senator Inhofe's use of the federal land and, under his watch, a massive illegal garbage dump and canned hunting preserve were maintained on the property.

Someone in the Inhofe party illegally shot SHARK's drone, and it is without question that Senator Inhofe violated federal environmental law by holding a shooting event on federal property and not following NEPA rules. Yet no law enforcement will investigate these or the other serious violations of the law.

Though Jim Inhofe is a United States senator, his actions remind us more of an ancient Roman senator, where law enforcement acts as his personal Praetorian guard and public land and resources are there for his private use.

No one should be above the law. Senator Inhofe must be held accountable for his actions.