Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Enforcement Program Overview

Bruce Bjork | Chief/Assistant Director

Enforcement Program Overview

Part I

- Role in fulfilling the agency mission
- Challenges we face
- A look at what we do

Part II

- How we're organized
- Our budget
- Authorizing environment

WDFW Mission

Preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems they depend on while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Enforcement Program's Role

We serve the public by providing professional natural-resource law enforcement, protecting public safety, responding to emergency incidents, and building partnerships within our communities.

Challenges We Face

NEARLY TWO DECADES OF DECREASED STAFFING

- Since 1994, Fish and Wildlife Police Officer staffing levels have decreased nearly 20%, while the state's population has grown by a slightly higher rate.

- Officers provide a police presence for over 1 million acres of agency owned and protected land, 5 million acres of DNR lands, and thousands of acres of private lands and water.

Challenges We Face

NEARLY TWO DECADES OF DECREASED STAFFING

1993-95 Biennium: 175 Officers

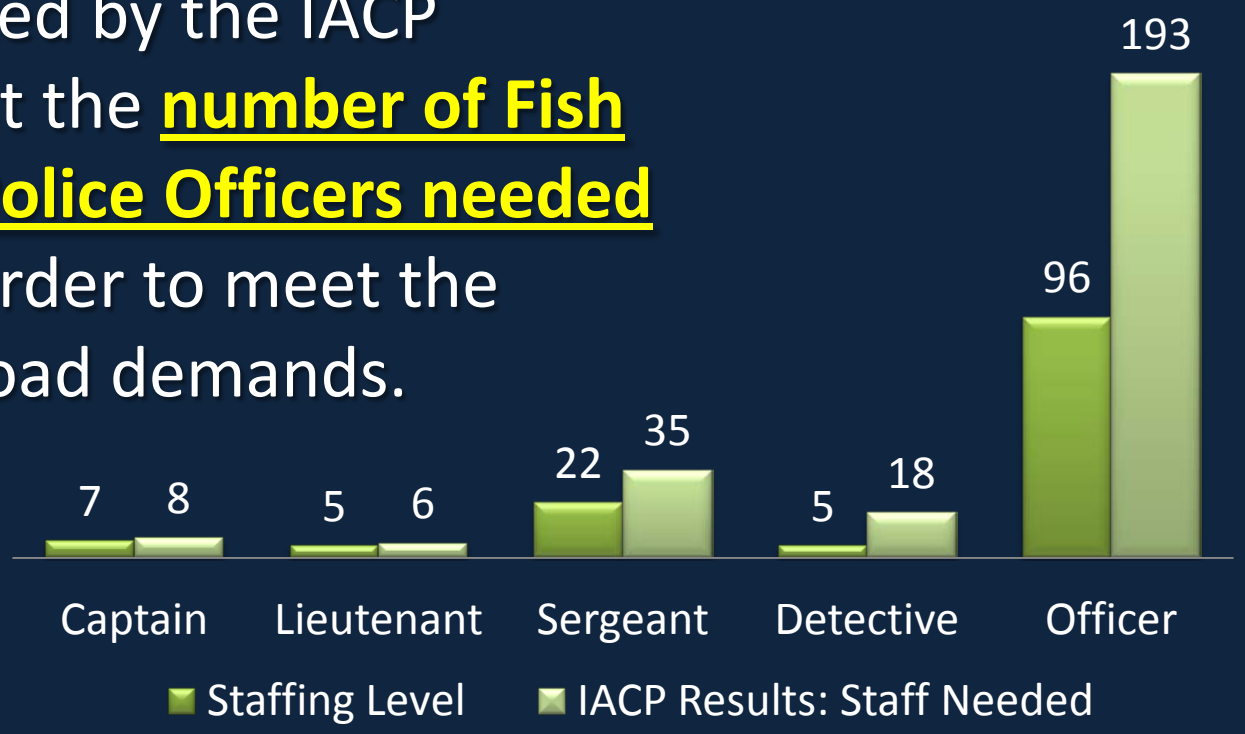
2011-13 Biennium: 142 Officers

RATIO OF OFFICERS TO:	
State Population	1 to 47,559 people
Land Area	1 to 469 square miles
Water Area	1 to 302 square miles
WDFW Licenses Sold	1 to 12,393 licenses

Challenges We Face

NEARLY TWO DECADES OF DECREASED STAFFING

In 2008, a staffing and allocation study conducted by the IACP concluded that the **number of Fish and Wildlife Police Officers needed to double** in order to meet the current workload demands.



Challenges We Face

POACHING AND SPREE KILLING

Challenges We Face

PROTECTING A GROWING NUMBER OF ESA-LISTED SPECIES

- The number of ESA-listed species in Washington State has doubled since 1994.

- 47 fish and wildlife species are WDFW-listed for protection and 43 are federally listed in WA.

Challenges We Face

Challenges We Face

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Challenges We Face

LARGE SCALE TRAFFICKING OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Challenges We Face

ENSURING SAFE PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF SHELLFISH

Challenges We Face

INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES

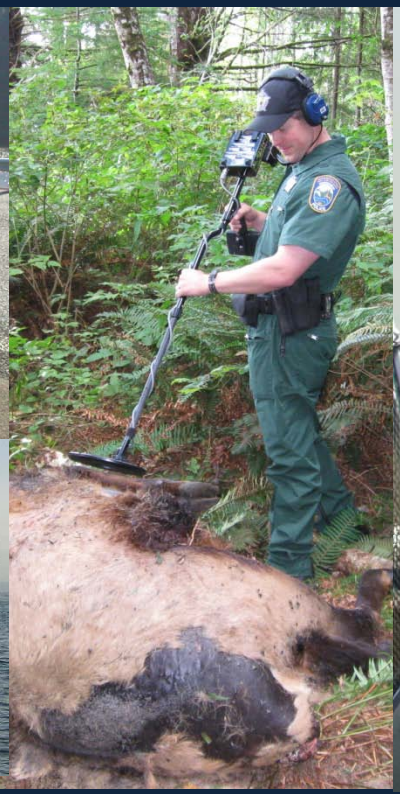
Not the Jet Ski itself……..What is being transported on its hull ☺

Challenges We Face

PROTECTING OUR LANDS

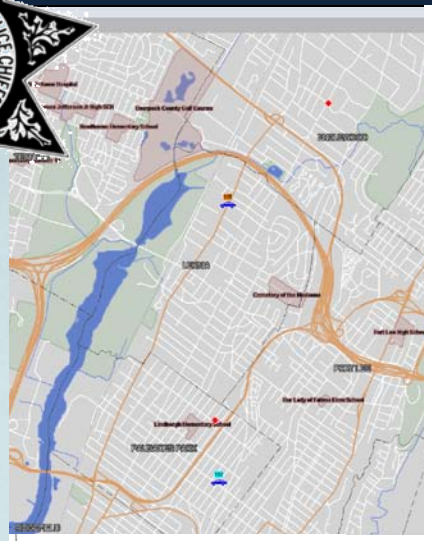
A Look At What We Do

PROMOTE COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS FOCUSED ON PROTECTING WASHINGTON'S NATURAL RESOURCES



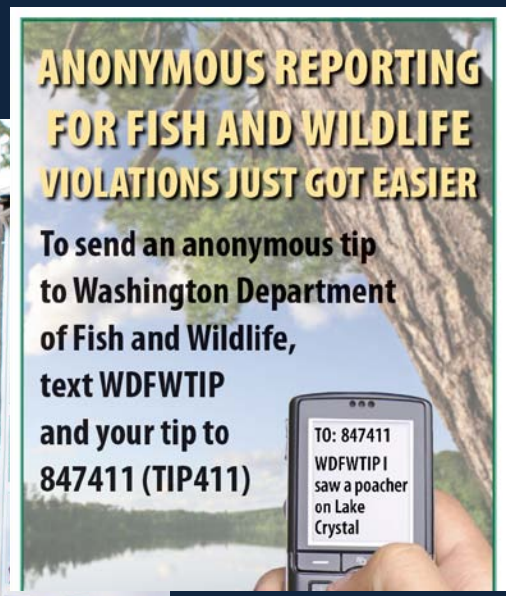
A Look At What We Do

PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



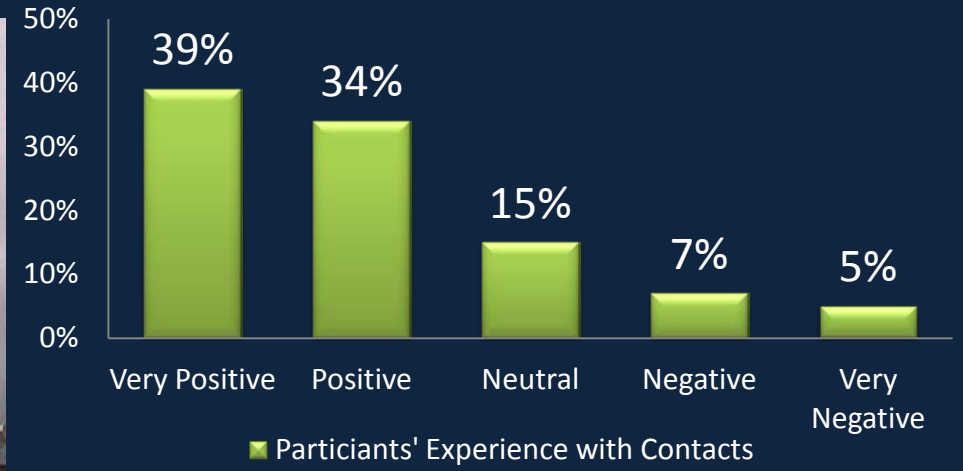
A Look At What We Do

RAISE THE LEVEL OF APPRECIATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCES THROUGH ENHANCED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION



A Look At What We Do

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS



A Look At What We Do

ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY RESPONSE

The Enforcement Program was named the ***Washington State Marine Law Enforcement Program of the Year*** *in 2011*

Enforcement Program Overview Part II

- **Authorizing environment**
- **How we're organized**
- **Our Budget**

Authorizing Environment

- The mission and responsibilities of the Enforcement Program arise from several RCW and WAC Titles, primarily:
  - RCW Title 77 – Fish and Wildlife
  - RCW Title 9 and 9a – General Crimes
  - RCW Title 10 – Criminal Procedure
  - WAC 220 and 232
- Officers also enforce a number of laws pertaining to other criminal acts, boating safety, motor vehicles, vandalism, etc.

Program Organization

- **164 full-time budgeted FTEs, including:**
  - **142 Commissioned Staff**
  - **11 Administrative Support Staff**
  - **3 Dispatchers**
  - **5 Hunter Education Staff**
  - **3 Fleet Maintenance Staff**

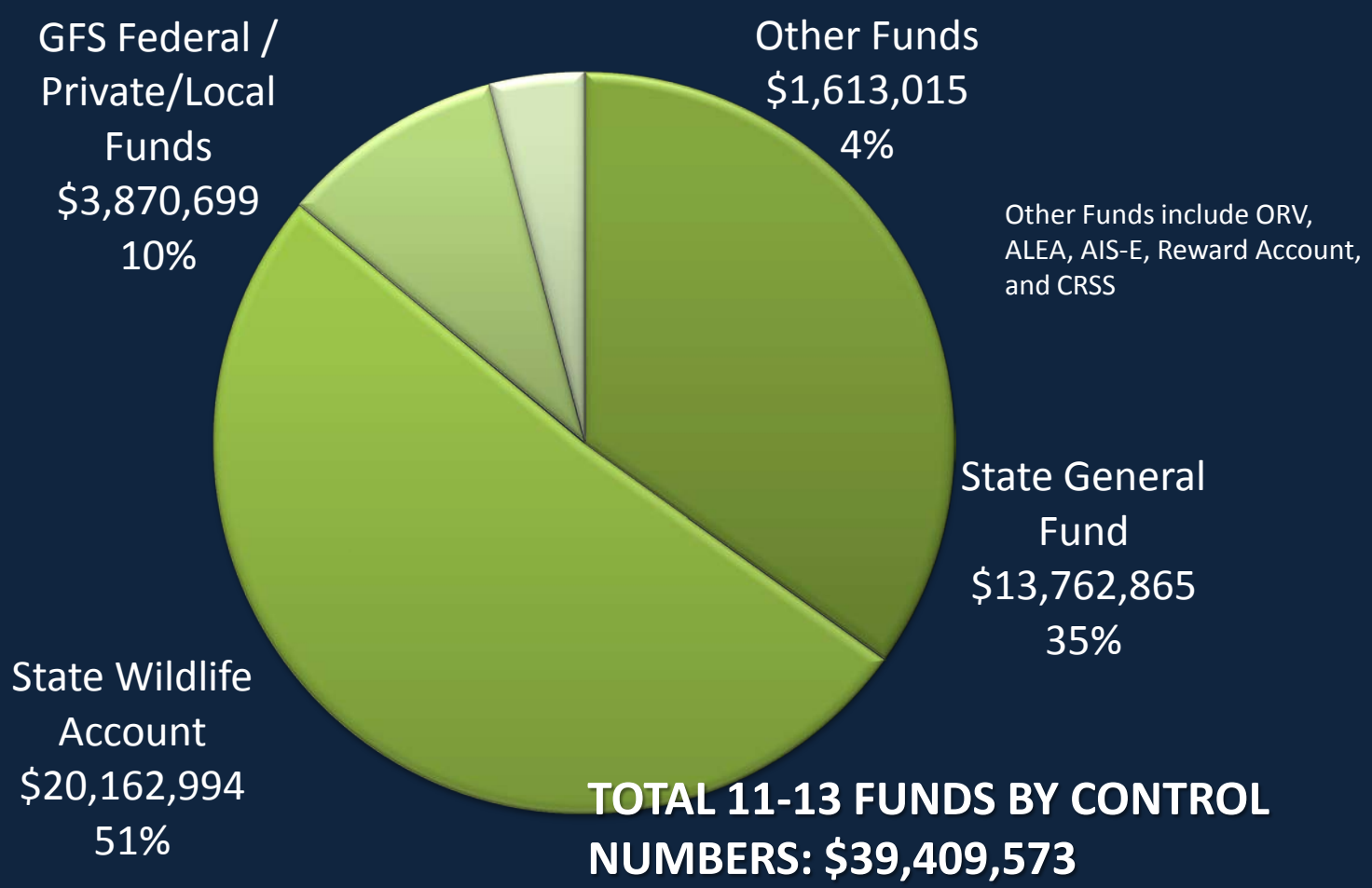
Program Organization

- **Headquarters**
  - **Budget and Records**
  - **Professional Standards**
  - **Fleet Management**
  - **Legal Services**
  - **Recruitment and Training**
- **Field Operations**

Program Organization

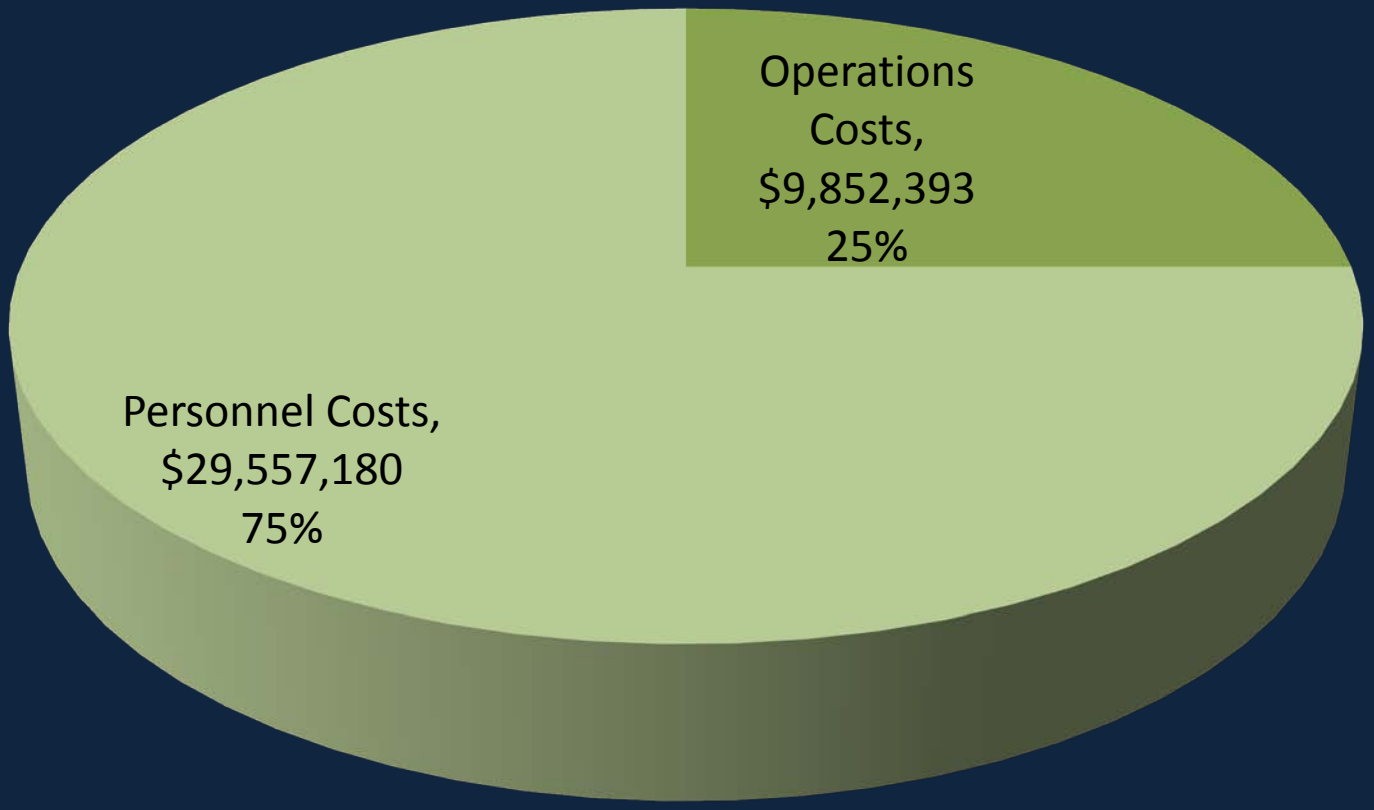
FIELD OPERATIONS			
Region	**Captain**	**Sergeants**	**Officers**
1	Michael Whorton	3	17
2	Chris Anderson	3	12
3	Richard Mann	2	10
4	Bill Hebner	4	26
5	Murray Schlenker	3	17
6	Dan Brinson	4	19

2011-13 Enforcement Program Budget



TOTAL 11-13 FUNDS BY CONTROL NUMBERS: $39,409,573

2011-13 Enforcement Program Budget



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Questions?