

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program



2008 Annual Report

Policing the outdoors since 1887

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/>

Message from Chief Bruce Bjork

This report acknowledges the great work of the 160 employees of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program in 2008. Studies from several states indicate that the general population, hunters, and anglers hold wildlife law enforcement officers in very high regard. Overall, Officers are considered professional, friendly, courteous, and knowledgeable. We continue to make improvements in order to achieve our mission of protecting citizens and our state's precious fish and wildlife resources.

Our Officers are responsible for enforcing a myriad of laws and regulations related to health and public safety, dangerous wildlife/human conflicts, fish and wildlife protection, hunting and fishing license regulations, habitat protection, and commercial fish and shellfish harvest. In addition, we enforce federal laws, Oregon state statutes, and county ordinances through memorandums of agreement. We conduct boating law enforcement on state and federal waters, and law enforcement in state and federal parks and forest lands. Our Officers conduct search and rescue operations on both land and waters. Because of our unique capabilities, assets, and jurisdiction, our Officers are often called upon to respond during severe weather to natural disasters and other critical incidents, to perform public-safety and search-and-rescue duties.

We are challenged with huge changes in the number and diversity of people who participate in the services we provide. There are more people who want to use public lands and waters for a growing number of recreational purposes besides viewing or harvesting fish and wildlife. Off-road vehicles and personal watercraft users, birders, and equestrian enthusiasts all want to be included.

Our natural resources and their protection are critical to the future economic vitality of our state. In 2006, more than 87 million Americans spent over \$120 billion on wildlife-related recreation, nationwide. At the same time, the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife parts is second only to the money earned by the illegal drug trade in this nation.

With new opportunities, has come a changing delivery system. We have changed the way we do business and invested heavily in technology to make us more efficient and to provide better service to our public. We have turned to our federal, private, and non-governmental partners for additional funding to try to accomplish our mission. We are a driven people in fish and wildlife enforcement. Given a challenge, we find a way to get the work done. 2009 will bring new energy to our commitment to education and technology; a further strengthening of our ties with industry; and new innovations and techniques.



Chief Bruce Bjork

It is a privilege and an honor to serve as your Chief. I look forward to representing every member of the Enforcement Program and serving the citizens of this great state. I pledge to do my part in helping the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and our partners work closely together over the issues and unlimited opportunities of our time.

Please contact me at enforcement-web@dfw.wa.gov if you have any comments or questions regarding this report.



Table of Contents

<u>Introduction</u>	1-7	<u>Marine Division</u>	36-39	Challenges.....	50
Statewide Map	1	History.....	36	Officer of the Year.....	50
Fallen Officers.....	2-3	Priorities.....	36	Region 3 Activity	51
Program History.....	4-5	Accomplishments.....	36-37	<u>Region 4</u>	52-55
Program Present.....	5-7	Challenges.....	37-38	History.....	52
<u>Headquarters</u>	8-30	Officer of the Year.....	38	Priorities.....	52
Headquarters Highlights	8-10	Marine Division Activity	39	Accomplishments.....	53
JEA Highlights.....	11-12	<u>Region 1</u>	40-43	Challenges.....	54
Budget.....	12	History.....	40	Officer of the Year.....	54
Statewide Activity.....	13-15	Priorities.....	40	Region 4 Activity	55
Legislation.....	16-17	Accomplishments.....	41	<u>Region 5</u>	56-59
Training.....	18	Challenges.....	42	History.....	56
C.O.R.T./Eyes in the Woods	19	Officer of the Year.....	42	Priorities.....	56
Wildlife Control	20-21	Region 1 Activity	43	Accomplishments.....	57
Damage Claims.....	22-23	<u>Region 2</u>	44-48	Challenges.....	57-58
Hunter Education	24	History.....	44	Officer of the Year.....	58
Master Hunter Program.....	25-26	Priorities.....	44	Region 5 Activity	59
Aquatic Invasive Species	27-28	Accomplishments.....	44-46	<u>Region 6</u>	60-63
Vessel Safety	29-30	Challenges.....	46-47	History.....	60
<u>Statewide Investigative Unit</u>	31-35	Officer of the Year.....	47	Priorities.....	60
Introduction.....	31	Region 2 Activity	48	Accomplishments.....	61
Accomplishments.....	31-32	<u>Region 3</u>	49-51	Challenges.....	61-62
Challenges.....	32-33	History.....	49	Officer of the Year.....	62
Case Results	33-34	Priorities.....	49	Region 6 Activity	63
Detective of the Year.....	34-35	Accomplishments.....	50		



WDFW Regional Map



—In Memoriam—

“Big” Jon Jeschke

On May 28th, 2008, long time WDFW Officer Jon Jeschke was on duty in the Randall, Washington area when he sustained a heart attack, leading to his untimely passing. Officer Jeschke will always be remembered as an extremely dedicated Fish and Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer, watching over Washington’s natural resources and helping to keep a fair playing field for 30-plus years. A memorial was held in Pierce County on May 19, 2008. The abundance of law enforcement from agencies across the state and public support was a testament to the respect everyone had for Jon. Jon never ducked difficult tasks. He was known as firm but fair. His work ethic reminded us to never give up, no matter how tough the investigation or how slick the bad guy. That was the case with Jon, all the way to the end. May you be in a better place, maybe Game Warden Heaven: where we always catch the crook, convict the guilty, and get to pick the sentence.





—In Memoriam—



United States Forest Service Officer Kristine Fairbanks

On September 20, 2008, we received tragic news that a long-time friend and fellow law enforcement officer with the U.S. Forest Service had been shot and killed during a contact in the Dungeness Recreation Area in Clallam County, Washington.

Officer Kristine Fairbanks was the wife of Washington Fish and Wildlife Officer Brian Fairbanks. A 22-year veteran, Kris and her K-9 dog, Radar, had a large patrol beat that included Clallam, Grays Harbor, and Jefferson counties. We have all relied on Kris's help on many occasions and thought of her as one of us. In fact, given the similarities of the job and all of the poachers she apprehended, she was one of us, only in a different uniform.

Kris had been working alone and miles from back-up when she contacted Sean Roe. Roe was a convicted felon and under active supervision by Department of Corrections. At some point, a struggle ensued, and she was shot and killed. Roe later shot and killed a citizen in order to steal his truck and further evade authorities. The citizen, Mr. Richard Ziegler, was a retired Corrections Officer from California. The suspect was identified at the Seven Cedars Resort convenience store hours after the shooting. Two Clallam County Sheriff's Deputies arrived to investigate, when Roe opened fire and was shot and killed.

During the memorial service, friend and Forest Service colleague Tom Lyons said, "We have lost one of our best, and that leaves a void that we will never fill. With her death, we all died a little."

Despite the sadness of it all, Headquarters was proud of the law enforcement response in catching the killer, and the show of support for the families of the victims, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Over 3,000 people attended the memorial service, including law enforcement entities from tribal, state, and federal agencies, and the Chief of the California Department of Fish & Game.



By the conclusion of the services, Officer Kristine Fairbanks signed out of service for the last time. When the USCG helicopters flew overhead and broke into a "Lost Officer Formation," we all thought, "Yes, she is lost...but she will never be forgotten as a friend, a partner, and a steadfast guardian of our public lands and natural resources." We keep Mr. Ziegler's family, Kris's husband Brian, and Brian's young daughter in our thoughts and prayers.



Introduction

Program Past

The chronology of fish and game enforcement began in 1868 when the Washington Territorial Legislature adopted the first game law. They made it illegal to kill deer for sale between February 1 and July 1 of each year.

In 1887, the Legislature established the Fish Commission and the first Fisheries Inspector. The Fish Commission was empowered to set seasons, harvest limits, and fishing gear restrictions (primarily concerning commercial salmon on the Columbia River). The Fish Inspector enforced these regulations, thus making this position the oldest state law enforcement officer.

Washington achieved statehood in 1889 and immediately created the Department of Fisheries and Game. There were just three Game Deputies that began work in 1890.

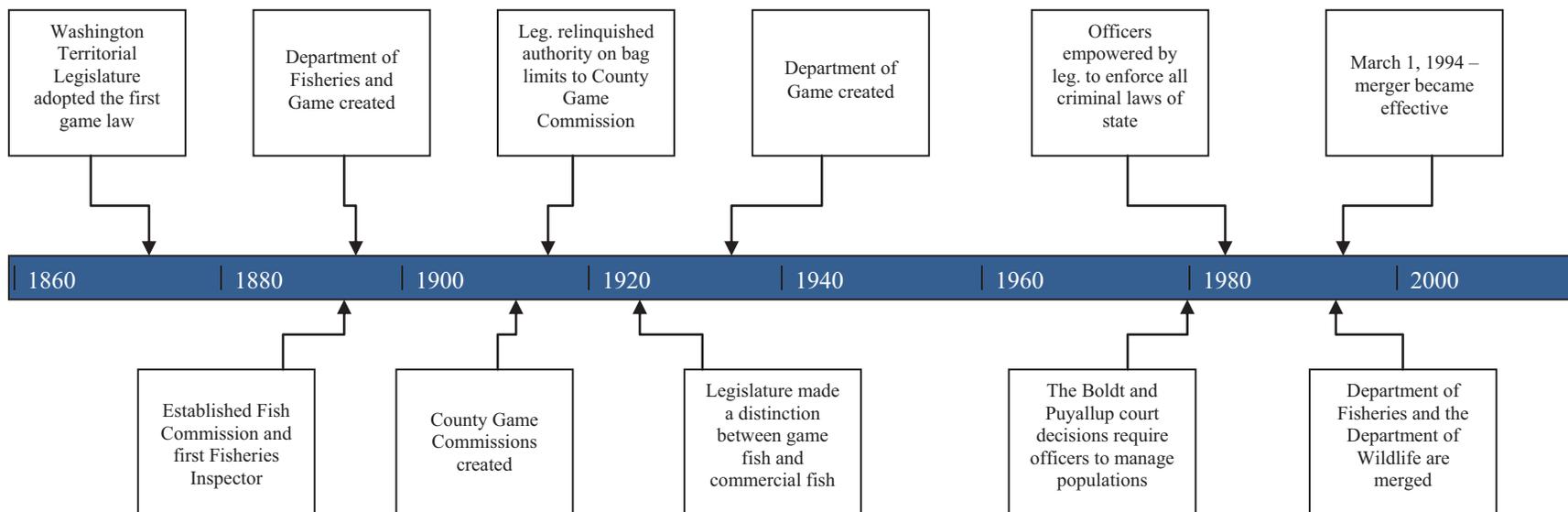
The laws of 1913 created the County Game Commissions, consisting of three residents from each county. In 1917, the Legislature relinquished its authority to the Commissions to set seasons and bag limits.

A major change occurred in 1921 when the Legislature made a distinction between game fish and commercial fish. They created the Department of Fisheries and mandated it manage the state's food fish. The Legislature also established the Office of the Supervisor of Game and Game Fish, which was guided by a five-person board.

In 1932, the voters approved Initiative 62, which created the Department of Game, effective January 21, 1933. Ironically, the

state began with a combined Department of Fisheries and Game, with Fish Wardens and Game Deputies. By 1933, there were separate departments, with Fish Inspectors and Game Protectors. This separation continued while the departments pursued their separate mandates: one focusing on the commercial food fish industry, and the other on recreational game and game fish.

The Boldt and Puyallup I, II, & III federal district court decisions of the late 1970s and early 1980s forever changed the status of the Fisheries Patrol Officer and the Game Agent. These court decisions firmly thrust them into the spotlight of very controversial and dynamic issues surrounding tribal fishing rights. Dealing with this new reality required unprecedented expertise in law enforcement and people management. Officers no longer managed just the resource; they now managed the population that relied on the resource.



In 1985, the Legislature enacted a police powers act that empowered Officers to enforce all criminal laws of the state. This expansion of authority required extensive training, equipment modernization, and procedure development.

In 1993, Governor Lowry signed legislation that merged the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Game into a current single Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). The merger became effective March 1, 1994. Merger of the two agencies provided tremendous opportunity to maximize efficiency and pool the knowledge and expertise of a larger workforce.

Program Present

As a general-authority entity, the Enforcement Program provides protection for the state's fish and wildlife habitats and species, prevents and manages human/wildlife conflicts, provides public safety, and conducts outreach and education activities for both the citizens and resource users of Washington State.

Commissioned Fish and Wildlife Officers (FWOs) stationed in six regions throughout the state work with a variety of state and federal agencies to enforce all fish and wildlife laws, general authority-laws, and WDFW rules. Officers also increase public safety by responding to dangerous wildlife conflicts, enforcing sanitary shellfish restrictions set by the Department of Health (DOH), enforcing boater safety laws, and providing policing services in remote locations.

Enforcement Program Values

- » **Professionalism** – We take pride in our chosen profession and ourselves. We are adaptive and progressive, investing in continuous learning, development, and innovation to accomplish our mission.
 - » **Respect** – We value diversity, fairness, and teamwork. We believe in respectful, open, and honest communication in our relationships. We treat everyone as we would like to be treated.
 - » **Integrity** – Our conduct always befits the Public Trust. We live by the standards we set for ourselves and the public expects us to uphold. We have the courage to hold each other accountable. We lead by example.
 - » **Dedication** – We have a sense of purpose and are selflessly committed to protecting Washington's natural resources, a cause larger than any of us. We value commitment, yet recognize the need to achieve balance in our lives.
 - » **Excellence** – We value efficiency and effectiveness, and are customer oriented. We are strategically oriented to achieve results that advance our mission.
-

Enforcement Program staff educate both residents and visitors of the state through the Hunter Education and Master Hunter programs. The Program also trains volunteers through the “Eyes in the Woods” Crime Observation Reporting Training (C.O.R.T.) program on how to identify and report fish and wildlife crimes.

The Program is committed to continuous improvement and reaching the highest levels of professional excellence. The Program is accredited through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and has twice received “Recognition” status from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®). The Program has applied for full accreditation through CALEA, and will have its on-site assessment in 2010.

Enforcement Program Vision

Safe, orderly, and quality experiences for all who enjoy natural resources.

Enforcement Program Mission

We serve Washington's citizens by achieving compliance with laws focused on fish, wildlife, habitat, and public safety; providing responsive public service; promptly resolving conflicts between humans and wildlife; and forming partnerships with the public and other agencies and governments to benefit our natural resources.

The mission and responsibilities of the Enforcement Program originate with statutes promulgated in several titles of the Revised



Code of Washington (RCW) and Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Primary among these is RCW Title 77 - Fish and Wildlife, and Title 10 - Criminal Procedure. Commissioned staff are also responsible for enforcing a number of other laws and rules pertaining to criminal acts, boating safety, motor vehicles, natural resource protection, and litter.

In addition to these statutes, which encode agency and legislative direction and expectations, the Enforcement Program has further obligations arising from:

- The mission and responsibilities of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).
- The goals, objectives, and priorities of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission and the agency Director.
- Public safety issues.
- The needs and priorities of the agency's resource Programs (Wildlife, Fish, Habitat).

Fish and Wildlife Officers (FWOs) hold commissions from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA-OLE), and therefore have jurisdiction over specific federal violations. The most important of these are the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Lacey Act.

Officers work joint patrols and coordinate with these federal agencies as well as with the United States Coast Guard, United States

**AS OF 2008, 57%
OF PROGRAM STAFF
HAVE A 4-YEAR
COLLEGE DEGREE**

Forest Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Land Management, tribal police, and the Department of Homeland Security. FWOs frequently participate in United States Bureau of Customs and Border Protection smuggling interdiction patrols at ports of entry and on marine waters along the United States-Canada border.

Officers also hold county commissions to enforce county ordinances as they relate to trespass, no shooting zones, boating safety, boating noise restrictions, and off-road vehicle restrictions.

With increasing threats of domestic terrorism, emergency preparedness is an increasingly important aspect of an Officer's job function. FWOs work with local law enforcement agencies on a daily basis and in the event

**32% OF OUR
WORKFORCE HAS
20+ YEARS OF
SERVICE WITH THE
PROGRAM**

of a major state or national emergency. The Enforcement Program has critical responsibilities as a part of the Washington Department of Emergency Management's Operations Center (EOC).

Workforce Profile

The Enforcement Program has a funded workforce of 165 full- and part-time employees.

- 84% of the workforce are Commissioned Fish and Wildlife Officers (FWOs), while 16% are non-commissioned employees.
- FWOs operate out of one of six regional offices across the state or are members of the Program's Marine Division or Special Investigations Unit.
- The Headquarters Staff consists of the Chief, Deputy Chief, Lieutenants, Sergeants, administrative support and professional staff, WILDCOMM staff, and the Hunter Education Division.
- The majority of the staff (57%) have a four-year college degree. Two percent have a Master's Degree, while 11% have an Associates or Vocational/Business Degree.
- Currently, all newly hired FWOs must have a Bachelor's degree; or a two-year college degree, and two years of paid, full-time, natural resource experience; or a two-year college degree, and two years of paid, full-time, commissioned law enforcement experience; or a two-year college degree, and three years of active military duty, within the last 8 years.



- The workforce is 90% male and 10% female.
- The average age of the workforce is 43.7, while the median employee age is 44.
- The average years of service in the Program are 12.5, while the median years of service are eight.
- Ninety-six percent of the workforce is Caucasian/non Hispanic, 3% is American Indian/Alaskan, and 1% is Asian or Pacific Islander.

Strategic Challenges

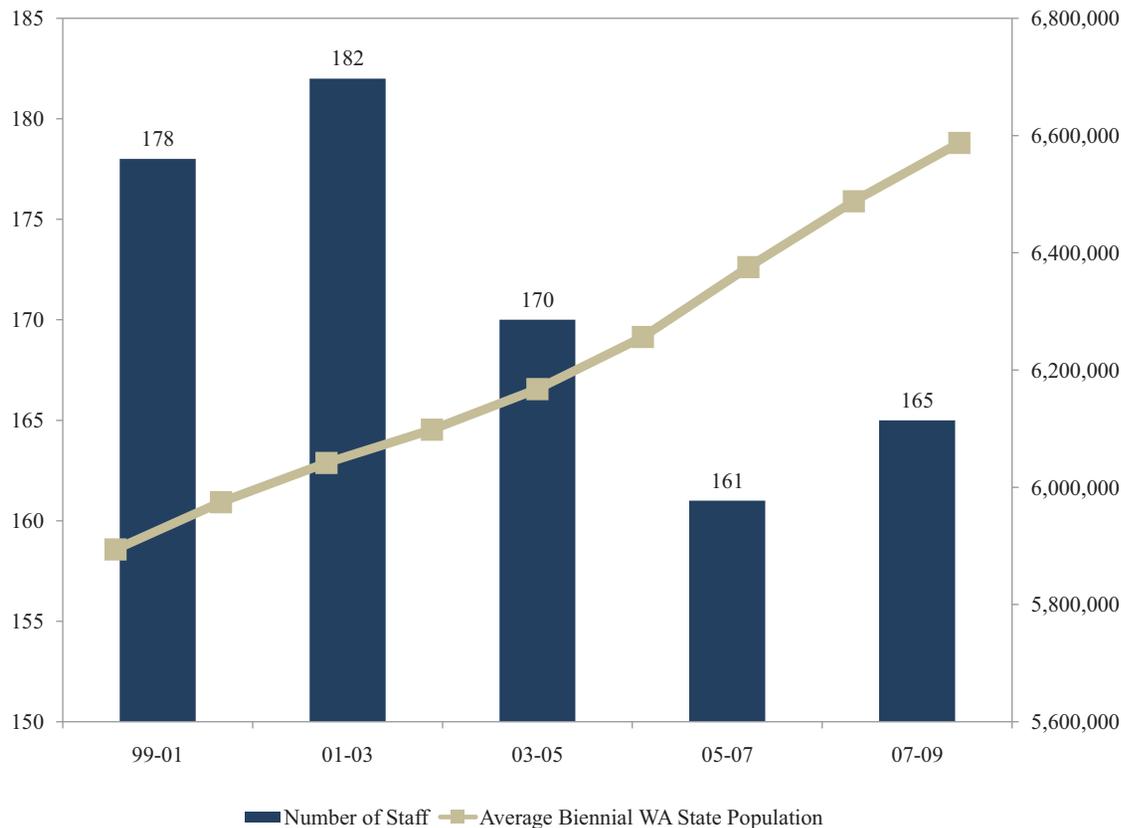
- The Enforcement Program must have sufficient staffing to effectively enforce the natural resource laws and regulations of the state while also providing public safety.
- Consistent funding is critical to making improvements in technology, equipment, and facilities.
- Sufficient staffing and consistent funding are integral to keeping pace with problems caused by the growing population and urbanization of the state’s wildlife areas.

- The Program must maintain effective working relationships with other state and federal law enforcement agencies to protect fish and wildlife habitats and populations.

Strategic Advantages

- The Enforcement Program is part of a progressive, state-of-the-art agency that strives to preserve, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats, while providing sustainable recreational and commercial opportunities.
- The Program has a dedicated, well-educated, and highly trained staff that believes in what they do for a living and takes great pride in their performance.
- The Program is in a constant state of improvement through activities such as accreditation, the acquisition of new equipment and technologies, and the implementation of new and improved recruiting, hiring, and training techniques.

Program Staffing and State Population Trends



Officer Mike Hobbs checking a fisherman along the Yakima River.



Headquarters

1111 Washington St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504
Telephone (360) 902-2936

HQ

The Enforcement Program’s headquarters, located in Olympia, Washington, houses an administrative/professional staff that supports Officers, the Marine Division, and the Statewide Investigative Unit. Headquarters is also home to the Program’s pilot Communications/Dispatch Center (WILDCOMM).

The Program’s Aviation Division and Logistics staff are located at the Olympia Airport. This location houses three airplanes, patrol trucks and vessels, office space, and equipment.

Headquarter Highlights

IACP Staffing Study Completed

In 2008, the Enforcement Program contracted with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to conduct a staffing study for the Program.

The IACP has over 50 years of experience in allocation and deployment of law enforcement personnel and has conducted similar studies across a broad array of agencies throughout the U.S. In 2004, the IACP completed a staffing and deployment study for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and in 2006, it conducted a

similar staffing and deployment study for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The purpose of this study was to:

- Determine workload by enforcement function and geographical area.
- Determine number of Officers needed to address workload.
- Determine deployment and allocation strategies for the Program.
- Provide a dynamic model that can be used for future allocation and staffing needs.
- Identify alternative/supplementary staffing options.
- Optimize deployment of current Officers.

The IACP study produced staffing requirements for the following units of the Enforcement Program:

- All WDFW Regions (1-6)
- Statewide Marine
- Fleet/Aviation
- Statewide Investigative Unit
- WILDCOMM Dispatch Unit
- Headquarters Administrative Staff

To quantify the Program’s current workload, the IACP examined workforce variables including:

- **Land Variables:** Workload driven by the amount and nature of the land patrolled.

- **Water Variables:** Workload driven by the amount and nature of the waters patrolled.
- **Population Variables:** The size and nature of the population addressed that has important implications for workload.
- **Regulatory Variables:** Workload driven by the amount and nature of regulatory activities that Officers must undertake.

Headquarter’s Staff

Chief.....	Bruce Bjork
Deputy Chief.....	Mike Cenci
Communication/Logistics	
Lieutenant	John McIntosh
Training Lieutenant.....	Steve Crown
AIS Sergeant	Eric Anderson
Chief’s Administrative	
Assistant.....	Bobbi Monk
Administrative Assistant.....	Jera Fazekas
Rules Coordinator/Legal Liaison.....	Lori Preuss
Hunter Education Program	
Coordinator	Mik Mikitik
Master Hunter Program	
Coordinator	Mike Kuttel
Problem Wildlife Coordinator.....	Sean Carrell
Customer Service Specialist	Jan Ulijohn
Customer Service Specialist	Tracy Loveless
Supply Control Tech	Steve Svach
Supply Manager/Hunter ED	John Wisner
WILDCOMM Supervisor	Tina Hamilton
Management Analyst	Jonathan Neville
Research and Planning Manager	
(Budget/Accreditation)	Garret Ward



The results of the study recommend that the Program's workforce double in order to meet the workload requirements currently placed on it. The study proposed staffing levels for Officers (193), Detectives (18), Sergeants (35), Lieutenants (6), and Captains (8), and administrative staff (45).

A special thanks to Jon Neville for his coordination and collection efforts in relation to the IACP report.

For a complete look at the 2008 IACP staffing study, visit the Enforcement Program's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/>.

Program Receives WASPC Accreditation

Over the past few years, the Enforcement Program has been preparing to apply for accreditation through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA®). To receive accreditation from these organizations, the Program had to develop a comprehensive, well thought out, uniform set of directives in order to meet identified professional standards for law enforcement agencies.

On July 1, 2008, the Enforcement Program hosted its first WASPC onsite accreditation assessment. In order to receive WASPC accreditation, the Program had to show compliance with approximately 141 professional law enforcement standards. The Program received its accreditation award at the WASPC Conference November 17-20, 2008, in Pasco, Washington.

The Program is now busy preparing for its CALEA accreditation onsite assessment in the spring of 2010. The Program has twice been recognized by CALEA, but 2010 will be the Program's first full accreditation assessment onsite.

A special thanks to former Accreditation Manager Kim Flowers for all her hard work, dedication, and organization skills in preparing for the WASPC onsite and CALEA assessments.

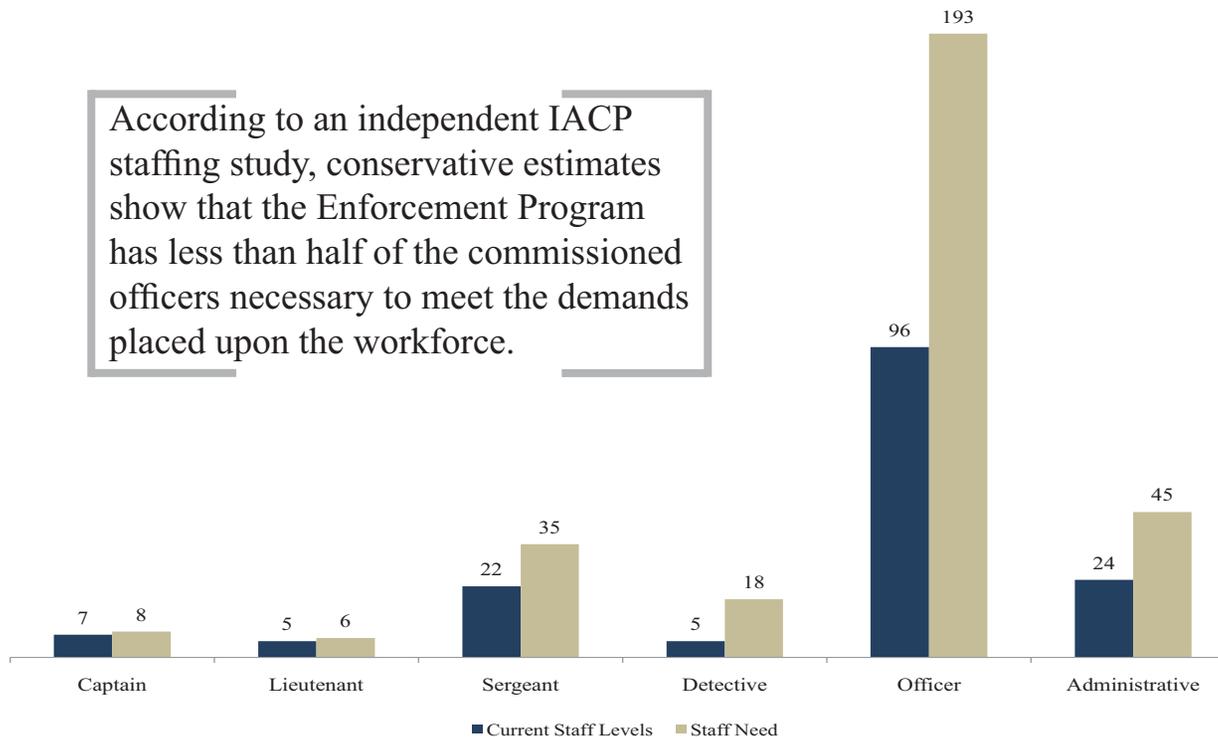
Vendor Selected for CAD/RMS

In December 2008, the Enforcement Program selected CODY Systems Inc. as the vendor for its new Computer-Aided Dispatch/Records Management System (CAD/RMS).

The system will allow commissioned and administrative staff statewide to access, store, and analyze information from multiple sources. The RMS will centralize a number of stand-alone databases within the Enforcement Program. It also will allow data-entry

2008 IACP Staffing Study Results

According to an independent IACP staffing study, conservative estimates show that the Enforcement Program has less than half of the commissioned officers necessary to meet the demands placed upon the workforce.



personnel to input information in one module and have that information be accessible by any other module when performing keyword searches.

The Mobile Data Terminal component of RMS will support Officer field operations, communications, data access, and dispatch. The CAD component will support central dispatch and communications functions.

The Program expects to begin testing the CAD/RMS system by April 2009, with a full implementation in fall 2009.

About CODY Systems Inc.

For over 25 years, CODY has brought the rugged, pioneering spirit and rock-solid reliability of the Pony Express to the public-safety solutions market. This approach has made CODY an industry leader in the collection, protection, and management of sensitive mission-critical information for law enforcement, public safety, and federal agencies. CODY's proprietary technologies power an integrated product suite that continues to revolutionize the integrated solutions market.

Program Participates in the Chief for a Day Program

In August 2008, Chief Bruce Bjork and Lieutenant Steve Crown attended the **“Chief for a Day”** ceremony at the Criminal Justice Training Commission.

WDFW's selection was Gavin Houk. Gavin is 11 and a close friend of Brandy Chin in



“Chief” Gavin Houk (age 11) with Chief Bruce Bjork, participating in the “Chief for a Day” program.

WDFW Human Resources Program. Gavin was born with a rare genetic disorder known as Smith-Magenis syndrome (which is similar to Autism), which causes moderate mental retardation, delayed speech and language skills, and behavioral problems.

Program Gets the Word Out With Newsletters

During each quarter, the Enforcement Program distributed a newsletter to its staff, customers, and stakeholders that highlighted the Program's enforcement activity. The real-life events summarized in each newsletter were meant to provide a snapshot of what the Program had accomplished during that quarter.

For a complete look at the Program's 2008 quarterly newsletters, visit the Enforcement Program's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/newsletter.html>.

Enforcement Leads Agency in WSQA Application Project

In 2005, the Washington State Legislature approved House Bill 1970, creating a requirement for each state agency to receive an external performance assessment once every three years. Governor Christine Gregoire signed the bill into law, RCW 43.17.390, which states that the Washington State Quality Award (WSQA) or a similar organization may conduct the assessment, starting no later than 2008. The purpose of the assessment is to recognize best practices and to identify improvement opportunities.

This project was a comprehensive application that provided responses to the WSQA Lite Assessment Application questions regarding the Enforcement Program's processes and practices. Application questions focused on the areas of leadership, strategic planning, customers, data collection and analysis, workforce, and process management.

The outcome of this project will be a feedback report from WSQA Examiners that will identify areas where the Enforcement Program is excelling and areas that could use improvement. The Program is expecting to receive its results in April 2009.

For a complete look at the 2008 WSQA Lite Assessment Application, visit the Enforcement Program's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/>.



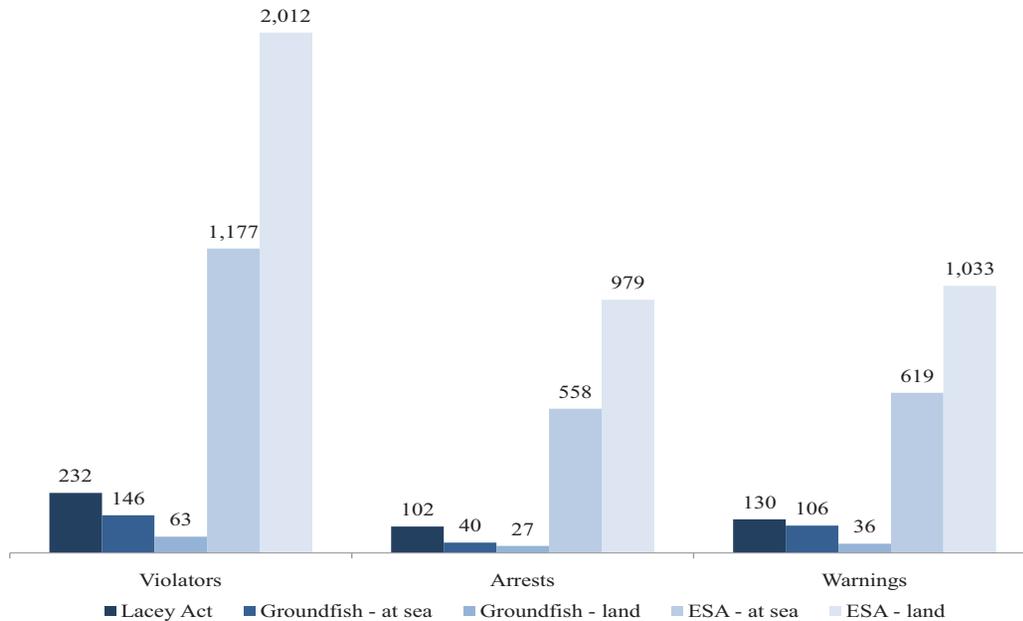
JEA HIGHLIGHTS

The Enforcement Program has multiple, overlapping, Joint Enforcement Agreements (JEAs) with the federal government. These JEAs require the Program to patrol and enforce federal fisheries and endangered species rules and regulations. By JEA Contract with NOAA, the Enforcement Program is required to provide uniformed, high-frequency contacts on land and water patrols to enforce federal and state statutes and regulations relative to fisheries under federal fisheries management plans. The agreement sets three priorities.

- **Priority 1: ESA (Endangered Species Act) Salmon and Steelhead Protection/WOC (Washington, Oregon, California) Salmon Off Shore/ At Sea Activities.** The Program will patrol, by vessel, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), inland marine areas, river estuary, and inland rivers for illegal ESA take, with particular attention paid to selective commercial and recreational fisheries. Officers will patrol, on foot, rivers and creeks to ensure ESA protection. Salmon landings will also be monitored.
- **Priority 2: WOC Groundfish/Halibut Off Shore/At Sea Activities.** The Program will patrol fathom and rockfish conservation restrictions for both recreational and commercial fishery activities. Officers will enforce other federal groundfish and Halibut regulations at sea. Officers will monitor offloads of halibut and groundfish at dock and buying stations and will also conduct investigations of illegal groundfish and Halibut take.

HQ

JEA Enforcement Activities For 2008



The enforcement activity displayed in the above graphs represents data from 01/01/2008 through 12/31/2008, including 06-08, 07-09, and 08-10 Joint Enforcement Agreements.



WDFW Vessel number 20 patrolling Puget Sound.



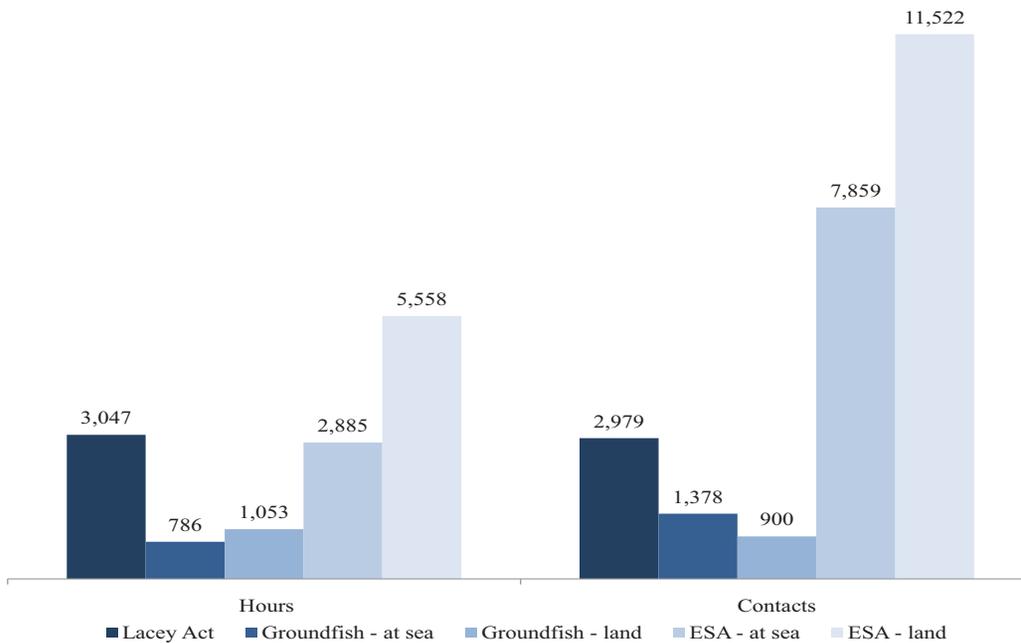
- Priority 3: Dealers/Markets/Border/Airport (Lacey Act Enforcement)**
 WDFW Officers physically inspect wholesale fish dealers and buyers, along with secondary receivers such as cold storage, retail markets, and restaurants, to ensure that federally regulated species have been legally harvested, documented, and marketed. The U.S./Canada Border is also monitored for illegal foreign fishing activity and smuggling. Some of these patrols will be by water. Shore patrols will include cargo/document inspections at border crossings and at the airport.

few years, the number of hours required to fulfill the contracts in a calendar year averaged about 7,500 hours. In terms of patrol hours, the last three contracts required: **2006-2008** – 3,145 hours, **2007-2009** – 9,300 hours, and **2008-2010** – 7,024 hours.

Funding from these agreements has been used to purchase equipment such as two undercover vehicles, two outboard vessel motors, an 18' JEA vessel, a forensics computer, seven dry-suits, and tens of thousands of dollars worth of surveillance equipment and vessel repairs.

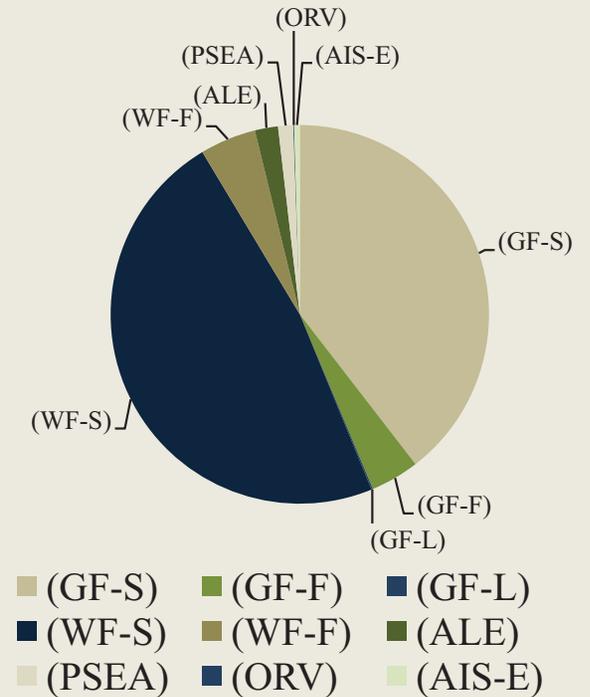
The 2007-2009 JEA contract required a total of 2,300 vessel hours and 7,000 hours of land patrols. JEA contracts overlap, so over the last

JEA Enforcement Contacts and Hours For 2008



07-09 Program Biennial Budget

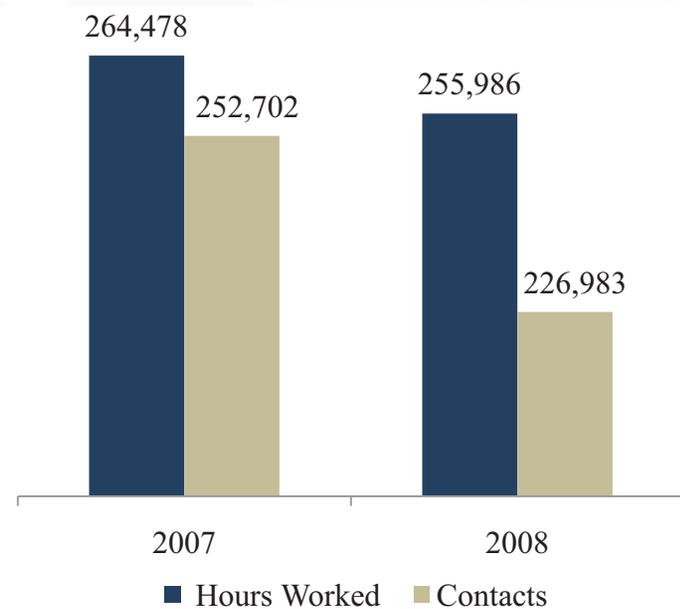
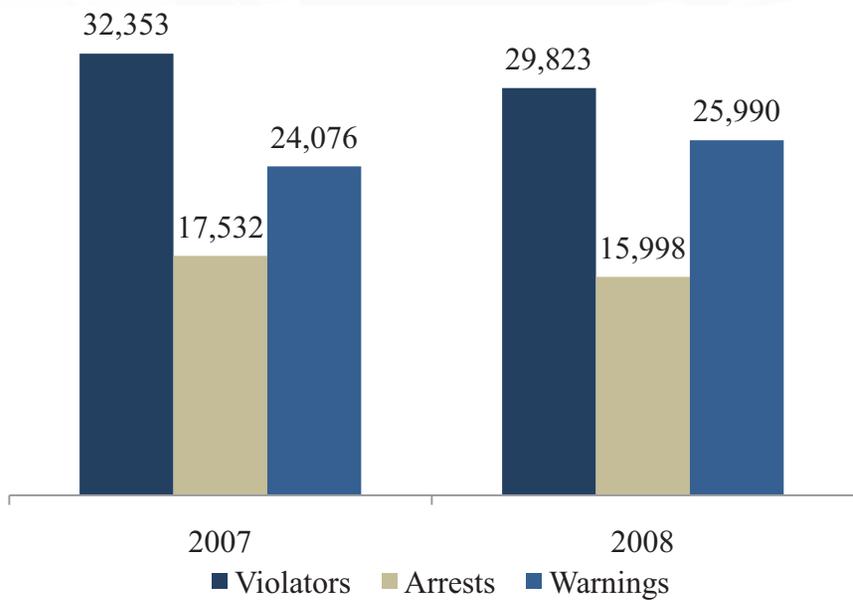
Funding Source	Amount
General Fund - State (GF-S)	\$14,861,341
General Fund - Federal (GF-F)	\$1,564,974
General Fund - Local (GF-L)	\$47,259
Wildlife Fund - State (WF-S)	\$17,886,465
Wildlife Fund - Federal (WF-F)	\$1,803,103
Aquatic Lands Enhancement (ALE)	\$742,498
Public Safety Education Account (PSEA)	\$478,548
Off-Road Vehicle (ORV)	\$24,720
Aquatic Invasive Species Enforcement (AIS-E)	\$181,334
Total 07-09 Biennium	\$37,559,242



TOTAL STATEWIDE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY FOR 2008



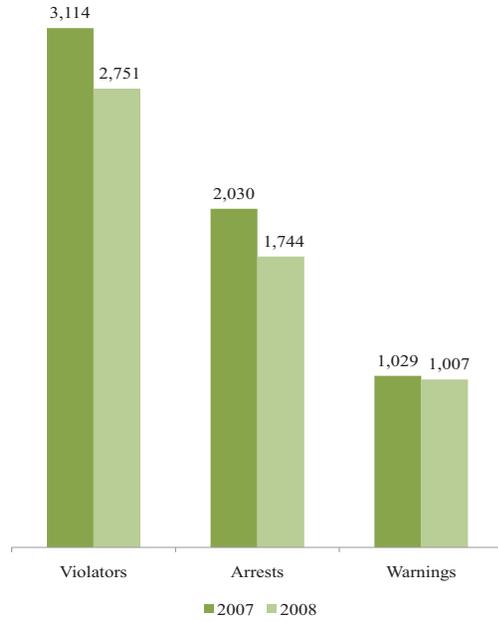
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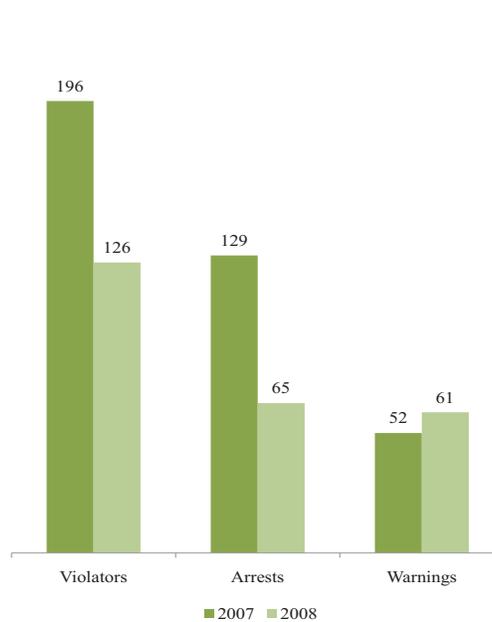
2008 STATEWIDE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY BY SPECIES CATEGORY

HQ

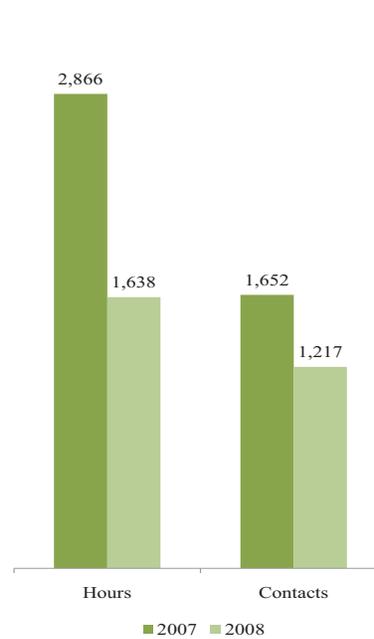
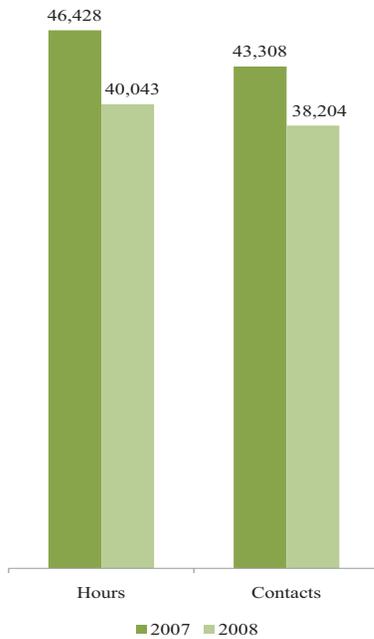
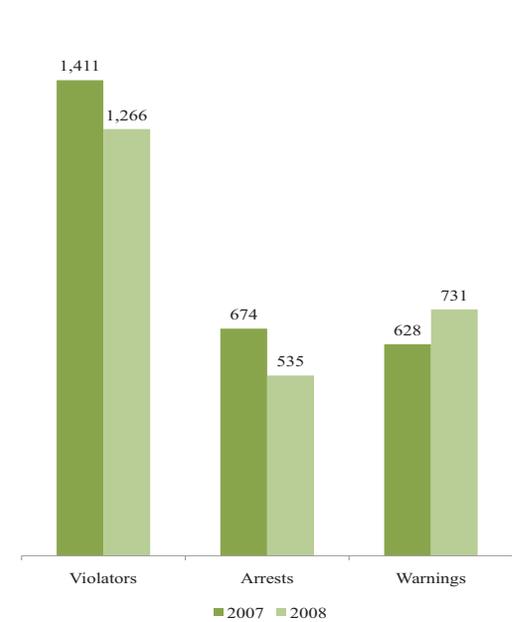
BIG GAME



SMALL GAME



OTHER SPECIES



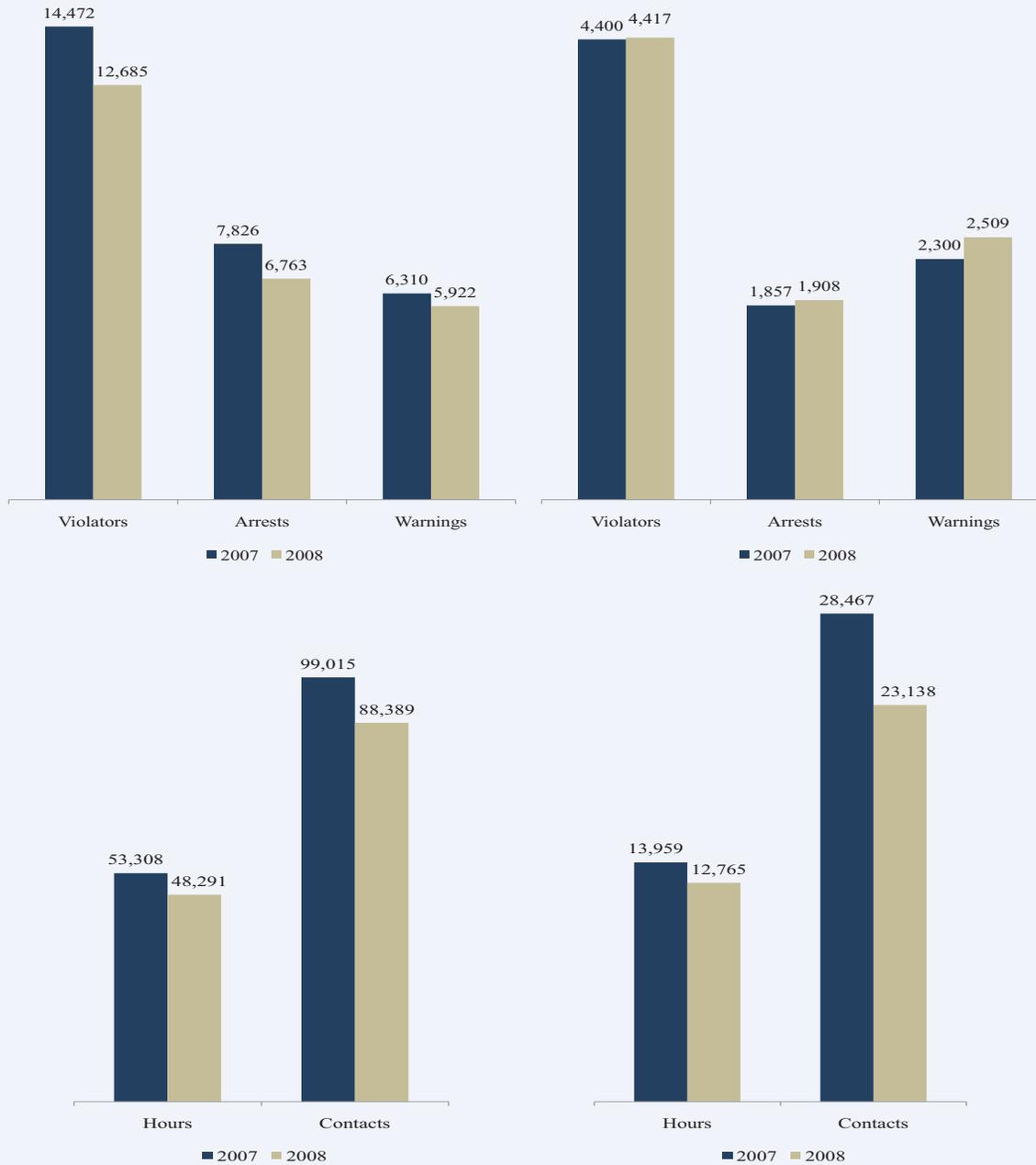
Other species include: game bird, migratory bird, marine mammals, and protected species.



MARINE SPECIES CATEGORIES

FISH

SHELLFISH



Makah Indians working to resume gray-whale hunts

The Makah Indian Nation has requested a waiver of the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the tribe to hunt up to four whales a year for five years. To determine the impact of such hunts, the National Marine Fisheries Service conducted a study, released May 9, 2008, comparing five alternative actions to the Makah's proposal. NMFS concluded that the tribe's proposal had the fewest negative impacts of the six actions considered in the federal study.

Washington and Oregon suspend sea-lion removal at Bonneville Dam

On November 25, 2008, a U.S. District Court judge ruled that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) complied with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) when, in March 2008, it granted Washington, Oregon, and Idaho permits to remove up to 85 sea lions per year for 5 years to reduce the animals' impact on endangered salmon. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) appealed the court's ruling. The lawsuit will now go to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Both parties are seeking a final decision by March 1, 2009, when the Columbia River's spring salmon run begins.

Department will allow hunters to donate special permits to terminally ill people

Substitute Senate Bill 6260, which was signed into law during the 2008 legislative session, allows the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to provide to terminally ill people free licenses, tags, permits, and stamps; donated special permits, raffle tags, auction tags, and multiple season opportunities; and special hunting and fishing opportunities granted by private landowners for their land. This bill amends two current statutes that prohibit people from transferring licenses, permits, tags, and stamps to another person, and using another person's licenses, permits, tags, and stamps. This spring, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is expected to adopt rules to put the new law into action.

Department imposes an administrative penalty for failure to report crab harvests

Senate Bill 6289, which was passed during the 2008 legislative session, allows WDFW to impose a \$10 administrative penalty on anyone who does not report data from Puget Sound Dungeness crab catch-record cards. Violators must pay this penalty and complete their catch-record-card report before being allowed to purchase a Dungeness crab endorsement for the new year. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted rules on January 6, 2009, to implement the new requirements and assess the administrative penalty.

Department to establish seaside, small-scale prospecting and mining pilot program

Substitute Senate Bill 6343, enacted during the 2008 legislative session, requires WDFW and the State Parks and Recreation Commission to establish a pilot program for small-scale prospecting and mining at three or more beach areas along Washington's coast. WDFW Enforcement is responsible for monitoring prospectors' and miners' compliance with the individual hydraulic project approval permits WDFW issues to them to engage in the activity. This pilot program is different from the work that the department conducted in 2007-08, in conjunction with other state and federal officials and mineral prospectors, to propose new rules for small-scale mineral prospecting in Washington's waterways. In December 2008, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted those rules.

Active-duty military personnel get break on fishing license fees

Senate Bill 6465, passed by the 2008 Legislature, allows active-duty military personnel to purchase temporary combination fishing licenses at the resident rate. Such personnel must be able to show a valid military ID card at the time of purchase to qualify for the resident rate.

Legislature exempts fishery conservation and management information from disclosure

The 2008 Legislature passed Engrossed Senate Bill 6821, which exempts from public-



disclosure information that WDFW receives or accesses under the Magnuson-Stevens Act of 2006 and must be kept confidential.

Orca whales now protected under state law

Second Substitute House Bill 2514, which was signed into law during the 2008 legislative session, protects Washington's southern resident Orca whales from impacts from vessels and people. The law makes it a natural resource infraction to approach or to cause another vessel to come within 300 feet of a southern resident Orca, to intercept a southern resident Orca, to feed a southern resident, etc. It also directs WDFW and the State Parks and Recreation Commission to disseminate information about the law and about whale and wildlife viewing.

Legislature adds new tool to combat identity theft and other crimes

In House Bill 2637, the 2008 Legislature recognized that many businesses and individuals who conduct activity in Washington keep their records in other states or countries. This makes it difficult to bring such entities and individuals to justice. Therefore, the legislature approved the issuance of criminal process (warrants, subpoenas, subpoenas duces tecum, etc.) to recipients outside the state. The legislature also approved the use of out-of-state records in court. An unintended benefit of these actions is that they promote the policies and procedures of the Wildlife Violator Compact under RCW 77.75.070.

Non-conviction data allowed for peace-Officer commissioning or certification

House Bill 2955, which was passed during the 2008 legislature, allows the Criminal Justice Training Commission to receive criminal-history records, including non-conviction information, for "any purpose associated with employment by the commission or peace Officer certification." This will aid WDFW in screening Officer candidates.

COURT DECISIONS

State supreme court allows property owners to kill game without license

In *State v. VanderHouwen*, 163 Wn.2d 25, 177 P.3d 93 (2008), the Washington Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals by holding that a property owner can kill game to protect himself or his property if the killing is reasonably necessary. To determine what is "reasonably necessary," the judge or jury can consider what assistance WDFW gave the person beforehand. It is WDFW's burden to prove the killings were not reasonably necessary.

To avoid similar outcomes in the future, WDFW now documents damage complaints and our responses to them more assiduously. If we receive word of a VanderHouwen-type violation, the Officer(s) will include in the report(s):

- The type and extent of damage to crops
- Statements by the landowner re: the necessity of killing the game

- The landowner's attempts (short of killing) to control the damage, e.g., letters, phone calls, damage claims, etc.
- WDFW's previous responses to the landowner
- Any other proof that the killing was not reasonably necessary

Superior Court to decide whether WDFW's 2008 rules for salmon gillnetters were arbitrary and capricious

In 2007, the Puget Sound Harvesters Association (PSHA) successfully sued WDFW and the Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association in Thurston County Superior Court for allocating Puget Sound salmon to gillnetters (versus purse-seiners) "arbitrarily and capriciously." In 2008, PSHA moved for a preliminary injunction to force WDFW to allocate "an equitable share" of the 2008 non-tribal commercial chum salmon run to the gillnet fleet. The Thurston County Superior Court denied PSHA's preliminary injunction, finding that the Department had a rational basis for its 2008 allocations. PSHA is now suing WDFW based on the department's 2008 allocations. The department has meticulously documented the basis for the 2008 allocations, which it developed through the North of Falcon process. This process involves the collaboration of numerous government and industry specialists in predicting annual salmon abundance based on prior years' numbers. The court's decision is expected in the spring of 2009.



TRAINING

During 2008, high demands were placed on the Program and its instructors to meet the training needs of the Enforcement Program. These training needs were driven by professional standards, state mandated training requirements, employee liability, and Career Development Plans.

Program boating instructors certified all current Officers in the Basic Marine Law Enforcement (approximately 130). The classroom portion of the BMLE was addressed by the Program's eight boating instructors at the 2008 In-Service Training. Approximately 100 agency-wide employees were trained by boating instructors in the Motorboat Operator Certification Course (MOCC). Officer Dan Klump attended the National Association of State Boating Law Administrator's (NASBLA's) Boating Under the Influence Instructor Course.

All commissioned Officers attended Emergency Vehicle Operation Center (EVOC) training in Hanford, Washington at the HAMMER Training and Education Center.

Program EVOC instructors also have the dual role of training Officers in ATV operation. These instructors trained 27 Officers that operate ATVs across the state in 2008.

In addition to the above training, the WDFW Enforcement Program entered into the Homeland Protection and Security arena with its inclusion in the "Puget Sound Small Vessel Preventative Radioactive/Nuclear Detection Pilot Project" (PSR/NDO). This is a pilot project designed to expand and enhance maritime radiological/nuclear detection capabilities for federal, state, municipal, tribal and private stakeholders. The focus of PSR/NDO is to prevent illicit radiological/nuclear



Sergeant Ken Jundt during ATV Operations Training.

weapons or materials from entering Puget Sound while having minimal impact on the law-abiding boating community. In 2008, 17 WDFW Officers were trained for inclusion in this project.

In response to retirements, there has been a greater emphasis placed on recruiting efforts and the hiring process. In 2008, 11 Officers were hired to replace vacancies left by retirements. In an attempt to attract experienced resource law enforcement personnel, a lateral hiring process was added to the existing new-hire process.

Modifications in the hiring process were implemented to limit the number of visits by the applicants, while enhancing the background investigation process to more thoroughly screen the candidates. The Program placed a nationwide advertisement in the International Game Warden magazine. The Program has hired one lateral in response to this advertisement.



C.O.R.T. TRAINING

The Eyes in the Woods' Crime Observation Report Training (C.O.R.T.) program instructs citizens in the methods of accurately identifying, documenting, and reporting natural resource crimes; increasing the quality of citizen reports to WDFW Officers, creating a deterrent to potential criminal activity, and connecting the local field Officer with the citizens who care.

Hundreds of wildlife supporters are trained by Enforcement Officers on how to effectively report fish and wildlife crimes. The role of Eyes in the Woods is similar to that of Neighborhood Watch. The Program's role is to train the Eyes in the Woods volunteers in how to become an effective, non-confrontational witness, and how to use the most efficient channels for the reporting of fish and wildlife crimes. The Program uses that information to investigate and prosecute those crimes.

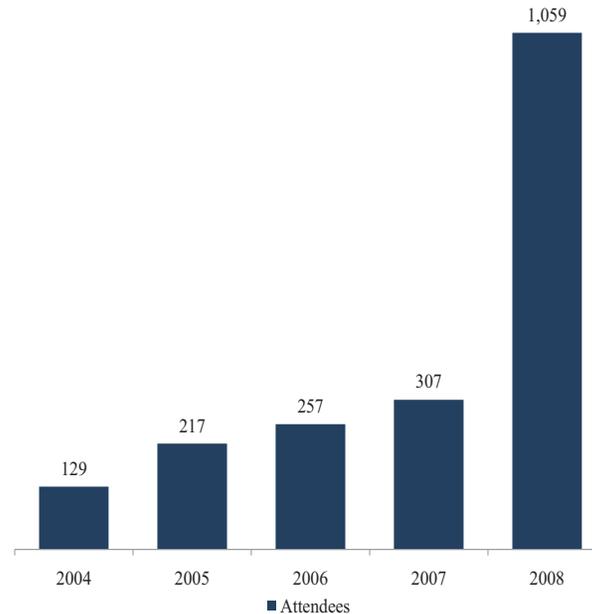


C.O.R.T./Eyes in the Woods training class.

The EITW - C.O.R.T. program does several things for WDFW and the public. The most important are:

- Providing a cache of trained volunteers willing to testify on witnessed fish and wildlife crimes, vandalism on private property, or other related crimes.
- Providing private landowners more security for their property and equipment. This will help to ensure access to property for outdoor recreation.
- Acting as a deterrent to potential violators.
- Mentoring and providing information in the field.
- Build support for Enforcement and WDFW.

Statewide C.O.R.T. Attendance



C.O.R.T./Eyes in the Woods volunteers posting warning signs.

Last year produced a huge increase in C.O.R.T. attendees when the WDFW Master Hunter Program included the C.O.R.T. class as part of its requirements. Working "in cooperation" with the WDFW Enforcement Program, EITW increased their Training Committee infrastructure and class schedule, successfully handling the new WDFW Master Hunter Program demand. The 2008 C.O.R.T. program certified 1,059 citizen volunteers, far surpassing expectations. As of December 2008, over 2,500 conservationists have attended the C.O.R.T. class.



C.O.R.T./Eyes in the Woods property watch and land access clean-up volunteer group.



WILDLIFE CONTROL

With human populations continuing to expand into traditional black bear and cougar habitat, combined with an increased bear and cougar population, human conflicts with wildlife are inevitable. When human conflicts occur, citizens regularly call WDFW offices seeking assistance.

Conflicts between people and cougars and bears are increasing dramatically. The number of confirmed cougar and black bear complaints reported to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife by the public has increased by 31% since 2003. WDFW received 382 confirmed cougar and 441 confirmed bear complaints in 2008. With the complaints come more property damage, livestock and pet depredations, and



Cougar caught in a culvert trap.

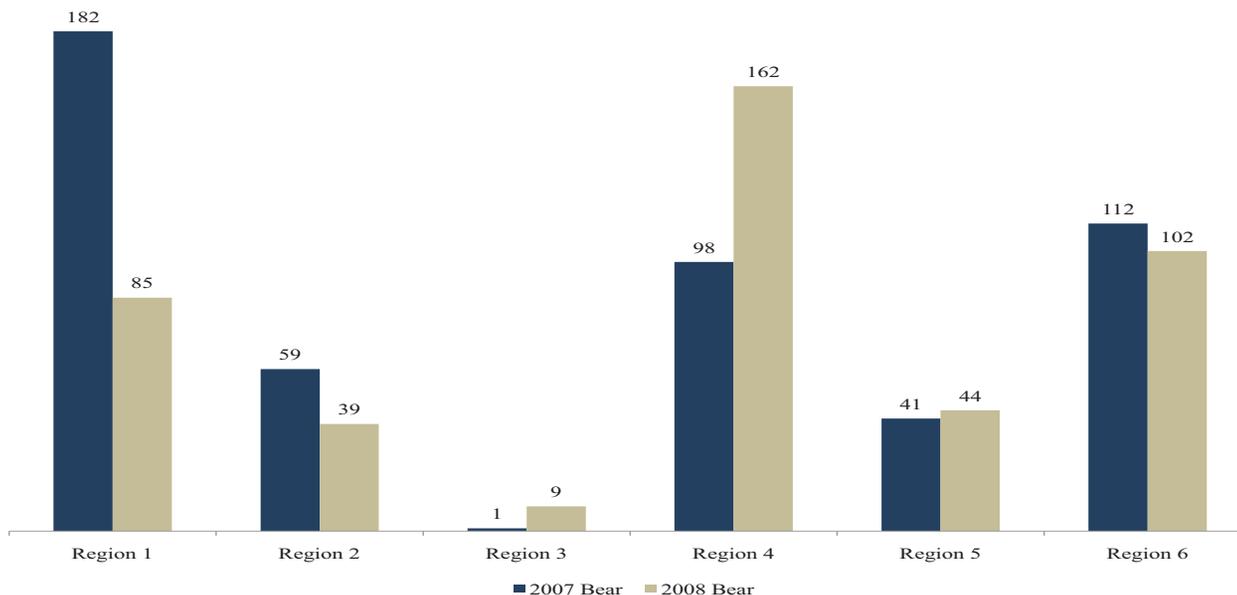
human safety issues.

The WDFW Enforcement Program is responsible for responding to and assisting the public with human/dangerous wildlife complaints.

2008 Highlights

- Decreased cougar complaints in northeastern Washington in historical areas that received high human or pet/livestock vs. wildlife interactions.
- Extended the cougar pilot removal project for additional three years and expanded it in other counties to address cougar vs. human & pet/livestock interactions.
- Participated in and reviewed dangerous wildlife educational materials, including a survey on public perception of cougars.
- Developed of an interagency agreement between WDFW and the US Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services, for future collaborative projects regarding problem wildlife incidents.
- Deployed two new aluminum bear/cougar culvert traps to the Regions.
- Collaborated with the Department of Health regarding on monitoring for plague through program volunteers.

2007 & 2008 Confirmed Bear Complaints By Region



Officer relocating a bear using a culvert trap.





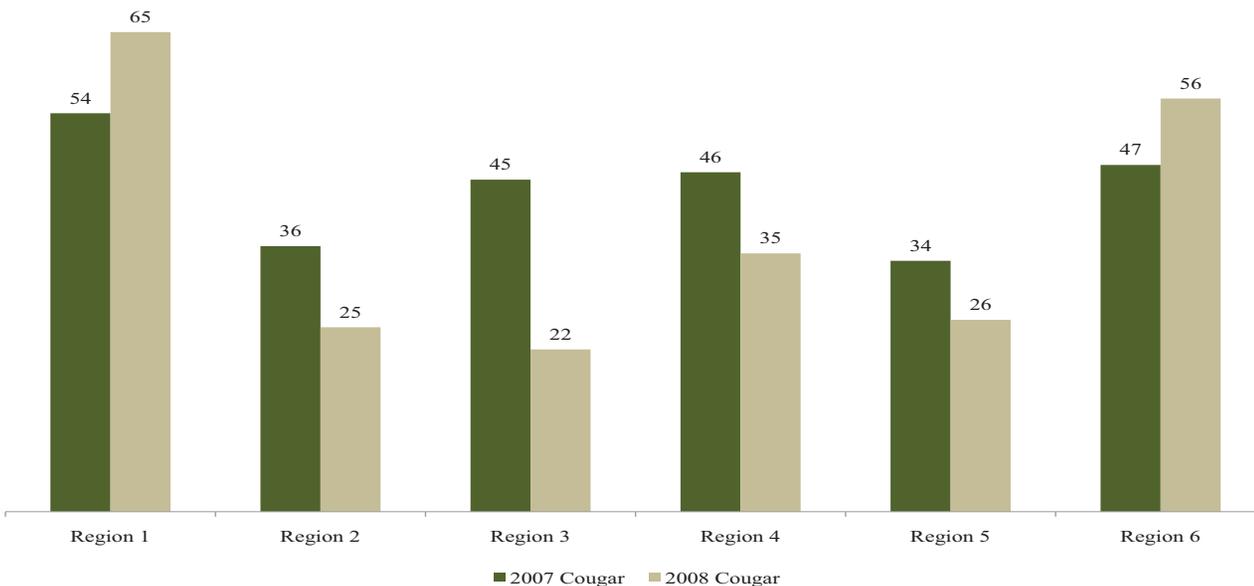
2008 Challenges

- Continued growth is increasing urban vs. wildlife complaints, but there are few management tools to address wildlife populations.
- There is decreased funding for special services or other cooperative agreements for dealing with wildlife conflicts; including purchasing/developing new educational materials or other explorative alternatives.
- There are increased impacts on Fish & Wildlife Officer time and workloads responding to dangerous wildlife incidents.

Future Recommendations

- Continue outreach & education using existing materials to teach the public how to coexist with wildlife and avoid incidents.
- Analyze regional budgets and shift purchasing priorities towards headquarters funds for hazing/conditioning equipment for staff.
- Expand the authority of nuisance wildlife control operators to assist with big game.

2007 & 2008 Confirmed Cougar Complaints By Region





Damage Claims

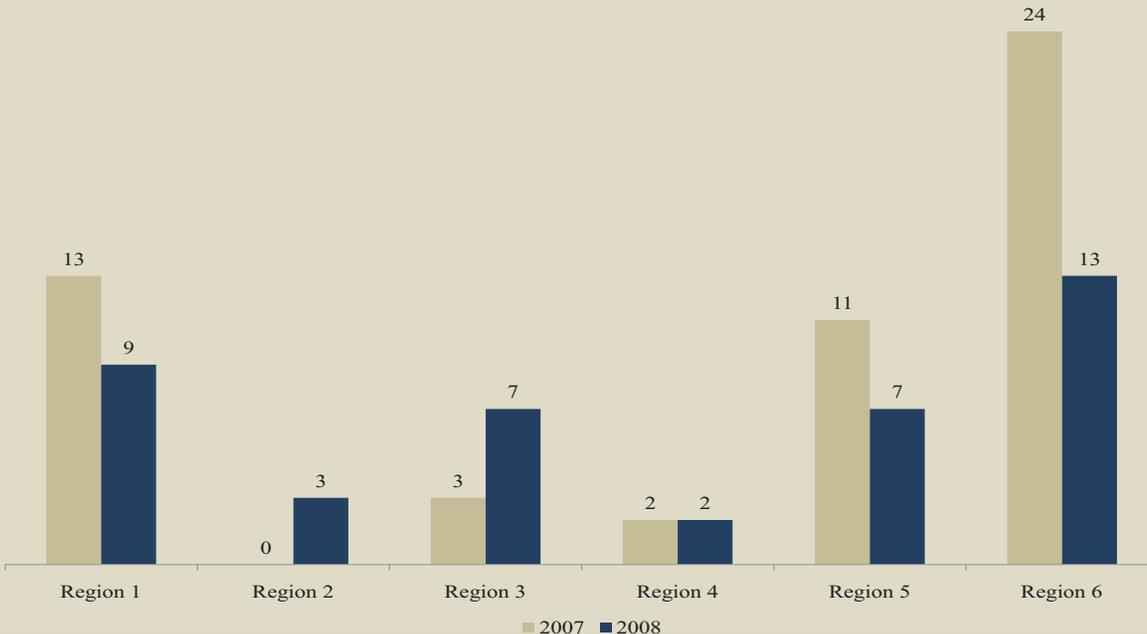
WDFW is legislatively mandated to maintain, preserve, and perpetuate Washington’s wildlife. However, we must be able to coexist with wildlife and create a balance. Sport hunting, special tags and permits, and damage hunts can solve some problem-wildlife issues, but there are areas where these methods can’t be used. Currently, liberal estimates for deer populations

are 320,000, and elk populations are 56,000 in the state.

The Problem Wildlife Program has been around since the early 1940s. When we talk about a “commercial crop,” we mean a commercially raised horticultural and/or agricultural product, which includes growing or harvested product, but does not include livestock. For the purposes of this program, all

parts of horticultural trees shall be considered a crop and shall be eligible for claims. This can be found in RCW 77.36.010 “Definitions.” A commercial damage claim can range from orchards, oats, and alfalfa, to Christmas trees, among other things.

2007 & 2008 Damage Claims Submitted By Region



2008 Highlights

- Provided proactive vs. reactive cooperative damage prevention materials; purchased 32,350 linear feet of fence to exclude deer/elk from commercial agricultural/horticultural croplands.
- Purchased \$10K worth of cooperative materials, such as cracker shells, fuse rope, and other hazing/conditioning supplies for the regions, to help deter deer/elk.
- Participated in the Wildlife Conflict Policy Review Committee.
- Expanded the licensed crop adjuster program to evaluate crop damages and free up Officer time.
- Continued development of a deer/elk damage-claim database for increased data collection for WDFW.

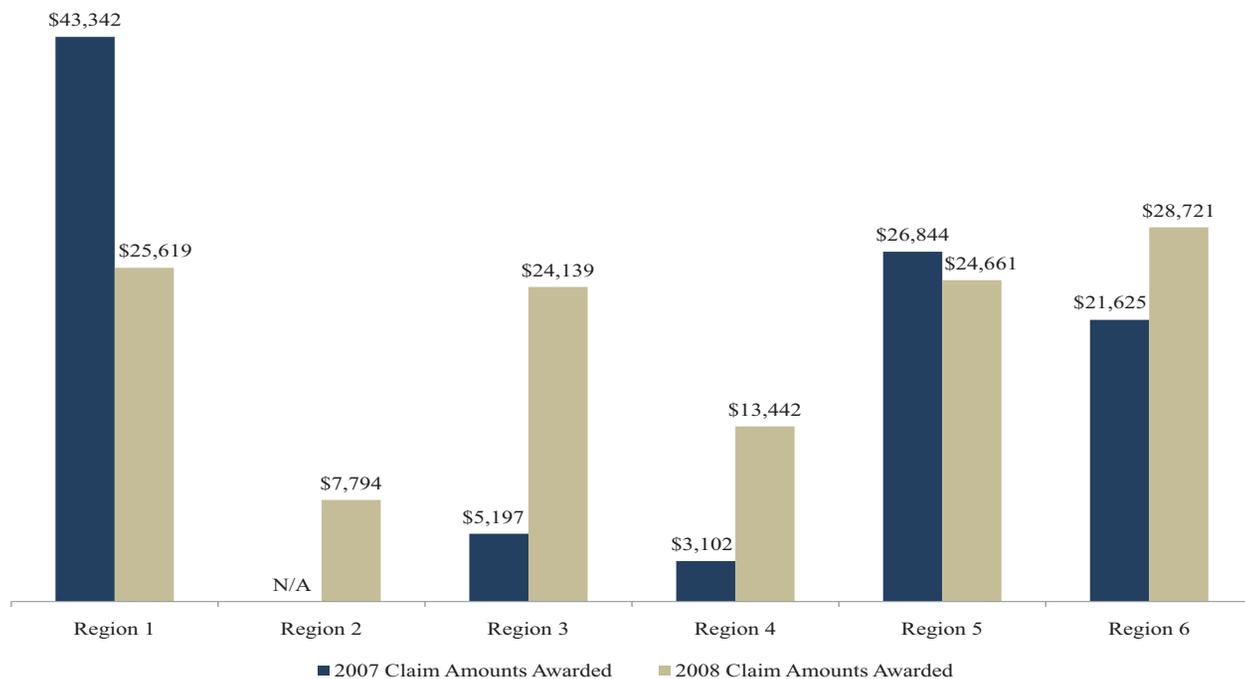


FY08 DAMAGE CLAIMS STATEWIDE (DEER AND ELK)

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Deer	0	3	1	0	0	1	5
Elk	0	0	6	2	0	12	20
Deer and Elk	9	0	0	0	7	0	16
Damage Claims Filed	9	3	7	2	7	13	41
Dollar Amount	\$89,934.12	\$30,674.60	\$48,641.28	\$16,214.29	\$30,979.23	\$59,109.69	\$275,553.21
Damage Claims Awarded	\$25,618.81	\$7,794.35	\$24,138.97	\$13,442.39	\$24,661.13	\$28,720.89	\$124,376.54
\$ Percentage Awarded	28%	25%	50%	83%	80%	49%	45%

Damage claims data is tracked on a fiscal year basis. The information provided in this report is based on FY07 and FY08 data.

2007 & 2008 Damage Claim Amounts Awarded



2008 Challenges

- Dealing with increased land use for commercial agricultural/horticultural crops.
- Juggling inflationary costs & increasing operating expenses that have not been adjusted.
- Balancing limited proactive vs. reactive alternatives.
- Decreasing budgets limit WDFW in purchasing or exploring additional cooperative alternatives to damage by wildlife.
- Trying to decrease the investigative burden on Fish & Wildlife Officers in evaluating crop damages.

Future Recommendations

- Continue to analyze current WDFW procedures/policies to improve business practices that may redirect fiscal impacts to alternative sources of funds.
- Utilize peer-review of crop damage evaluations, techniques, & permits issued by WDFW in lieu of deer/elk damage assistance.
- Develop a new crop-evaluation program, including permits.
- Continue and expand the deer/elk damage pilot program from Region 3 to Regions 1-2.
- Expand the use of Master Hunter participants, as well as nuisance wildlife control operators, in deer/elk damage incidents across the state.



Hunter Education Program

The Enforcement Program's Hunter Education Division is designed to promote hunter awareness, knowledge, and skills so that the Program may work together with hunters and continue the state's proud hunting tradition.

Approximately 17,000 individuals benefited from the umbrella of hunter education services during FY 2008. The Hunter Education Division includes both legislatively mandated training programs, such as basic hunter education and trapper education, to voluntary programs such as bowhunter education and the Master Hunter Program.

Hunting Education Participants and Courses - FY05-FY08

Fiscal Year	Total Participants	Total Basic Courses	Total Instructors
2008	16,882	646	932
2007	14,888	586	865
2006	15,227	620	779
2005	15,331	574	699

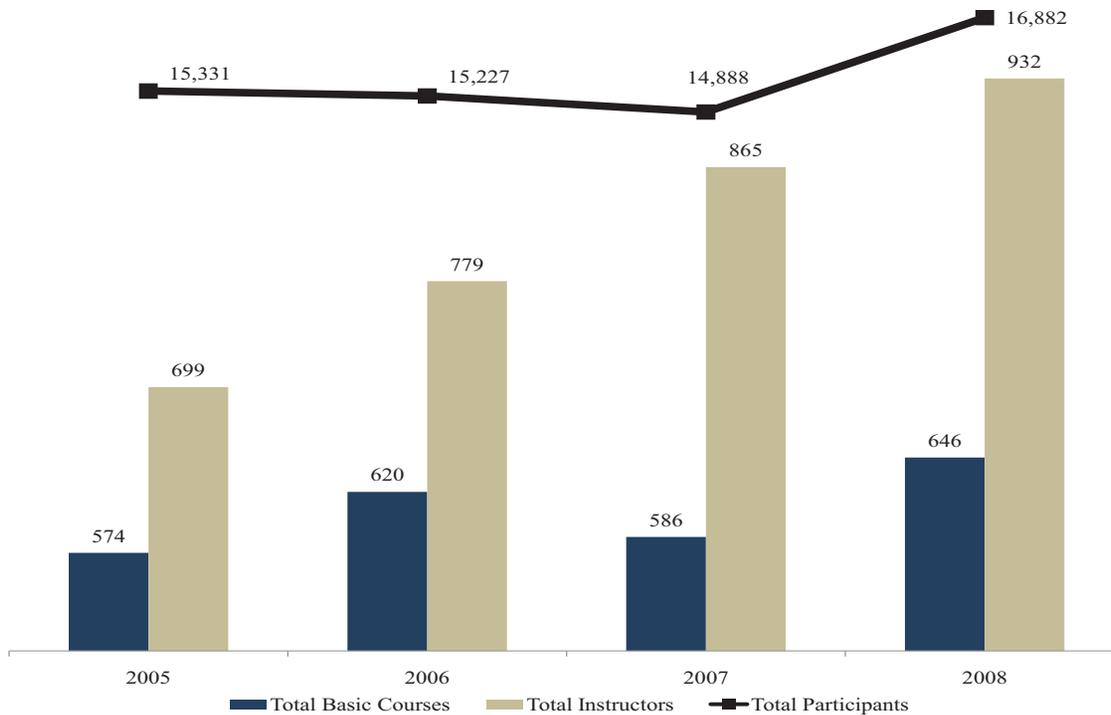
Enhanced public service was the principal focus for the year, with renewed agency emphasis on the Master Hunter Program, the implementation of a new hunter education deferral program, restructured staffing patterns, and a gradual transition to a decentralized approach within the Hunter Education Division. All changes

were designed to improve administrative and operational capabilities.

Key trends within the past few years:

- Increasing numbers of public participants.
- Increasing numbers of certified instructors.
- Increasing numbers of classes offered.

Hunter Education Participants and Courses



Hunter Education students at an outdoor class session.



Master Hunter Program

Background

On January 11, 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Commission formally amended WAC 232-12-073, the Master Hunter Program. The amended rule effectively terminated the former Advanced Hunter Education (AHE) Program and launched the transition into the new Master Hunter Program. Policy and programmatic changes and related initiatives are summarized in the June 2008 Master Hunter Program Progress Report, which is posted on the Department's Master Hunter web site (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/masterhunter/>).

Participant Update

- As of 12/09/2008, there were 1,514 certified Master Hunters in good standing.
- As of 12/09/2008, only 75 of the 1,034 hunters submitting applications to join the Master Hunter Program during the 2008 open enrollment period had completed all necessary steps and been certified (7.25%).
- Thirty-two percent of applicants passed the Master Hunter examination on the first attempt; 75% of applicants passed the Master Hunter examination on the second attempt; and 75% of applicants passed on the third attempt.
- There were 291 former Advanced Hunter Education (AHE) members that did not submit required information and forms, and consequently were not transitioned into the

new Master Hunter Program.

- During the transition from the AHE program to the Master Hunter Program, 51 individuals that submitted required information and forms failed to meet criminal background-check standards and were excluded from entry into the new program. Each was notified of his or her right to appeal, and 24 did so. Eleven of those appealing were reinstated into the Master Hunter Program.

Master Hunter Advisory Group

- The Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG) conducted four business meetings during the second half of calendar year 2008.
- A recruitment process to fill five vacancies on the MHAG began in August. Five certified Master Hunters were appointed to the MHAG in November 2008.
- A three-year replacement rotation has been implemented for the MHAG.



Master Hunter fence construction and repair in eastern Washington.



Master Hunters helping with the management of elk herds in eastern Washington.

- The MHAG is discussing potential future focus areas or niches to best achieve its vision statement and responsibilities while helping the Department address high-priority wildlife, habitat, and hunting constituency needs.

Outreach and Partnerships

- Postcards were sent to 940 hunters who applied to join the Master Hunter Program during the previous 2008 open enrollment period, reminding them of the time each had left to complete the certification process.
- A survey was conducted by the Department regarding the opinions of landowners in the Yakima/Kittitas and Benton/Franklin counties about recent changes in the Master Hunter Program. The results are posted on the Master Hunter website.
- Development continues on the Master Hunter website. It now serves as the primary source of information for certified Master Hunters and Master Hunter applicants.



Program Update

- The MHAG is developing a new 100-question Master Hunter examination for use during 2009.
- A study guide has been developed by the MHAG to assist 2009 Master Hunter applicants preparing to take the examination. The study guide has been posted on the Master Hunter web site.
- The Hunter Education Student Manual has been added to the basic curricula for Master Hunter applicants beginning in 2009.
- A Master Hunter hunting license designator will be implemented beginning in 2009.
- The MHAG plans to conduct three Master Hunter orientation public meetings during 2009.
- The open enrollment period for applying to become a Master Hunter will be January 1 – March 31, 2009. This will be the only opportunity during 2009.



The construction of a wildlife feeder by Master Hunters.

- The MHAG plans to conduct three Information and Outreach public meetings during 2009.
- A data bank of 300-400 questions is being developed so that the task of creating additional Master Hunter examinations will be simplified.
- A new Master Hunter logo design and shoulder patch have been approved by WDFW's Director.

Opportunities and Challenges

- An email group account should be developed for the Master Hunter Program to improve routine communications with certified Master Hunters and Master Hunter applicants.
- The MHAG needs to determine future areas of focus to best achieve its Roles and Responsibilities and its Vision Statement, and to assist the Department in addressing the high priority needs of wildlife, habitat, and the hunting constituency.
- The State Legislature can adopt a Master Hunter statute.
- The Fish and Wildlife Commission has to adopt rule amendments that reflect the Master Hunter statute and that address existing issues with the Master Hunter Program and WAC 232-12-073.
- The Department needs to develop an alternative to a Peer Review Committee to address ethical complaints about Master Hunters.



Wildlife feeder constructed by Master Hunters.

- One of the most frequent complaints by Master Hunters continues to be the lack of access to property during established Master Hunter hunts. The Department should evaluate this issue and develop recommended solutions.
- Hunt Masters are used to facilitate Master Hunter hunts in many portions of the state. The Department should develop protocols for Hunt Masters so that hunting access opportunities are provided in a consistent, transparent and fair fashion.
- The Department needs to continue to facilitate conservation-project partnerships with Eyes In The Woods, the Yakima Training Center, USFS, and USFWS, as well as additional non-profit conservation organizations, so that specific volunteer opportunities can be posted.
- The Department should maintain its partnership with the Eyes In The Woods organization to provide C.O.R.T. sessions.



Aquatic Invasive Species

Introduction

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) infestations have harmed the economy, environment, and public health throughout the United States. AIS infestations threaten native fish and wildlife resources, usually through an unchecked population growth due to the lack of natural predators.

AIS out-compete native fish and wildlife species, and this usually results in an alteration of the ecosystem. Many native species are irreversibly harmed or pushed to the brink of extinction. One of the primary methods of AIS introduction and spread is contamination from watercraft that are transported from one body of water to the next, across the U.S.

AIS Enforcement's Core Mission

- Prevent AIS from entering Washington State.
- Minimize expansion of established AIS populations in Washington State.
- Develop effective working relationships with stakeholder groups.
- Promote public knowledge of AIS threats and laws.
- Enforce Washington State AIS laws.



Vessel being inspected by Officers for AIS.

2008 Accomplishments

Operation "Plymouth Rock"

On August 22-23, 2008, WDFW Enforcement conducted an important "first." This was the operation of a mandatory AIS watercraft check station. The check station was operated out of the WSP "Plymouth" Port of Entry weigh station on Highway 395 at the Oregon/Washington border. Overall, the comments from the public during the check station suggested an overwhelming support of this type of action.

Motorists transporting watercraft were informed of the check station by portable road signs and a large electronic sign on Highway 395. Any motorist transporting watercraft who failed to enter the check station was pursued, stopped by WDFW Enforcement Officers, issued a written warning for failure to stop at the check station, and the watercraft was inspected. WDFW decided issue only warnings for the "failure to stop," since to this was the first check station of this nature in the state. Over the course of the

check station, WDFW inspected 85 watercraft, wrote 16 warnings for failure to stop, and wrote four written warnings for transportation of AIS (Eurasian milfoil). WDFW did not issue any citations at the check station.

Ridgefield Quagga

On February 4, 2008, WDFW received a Quagga Mussel alert. A boat was in route to British Columbia, Canada, contaminated with live Quagga mussels. The vessel had been stopped and inspected at the Yermo, California, Agriculture check station at 9:00 p.m. on February 3, 2008, and Quagga mussels were detected at that time. But the check station's power washer was not available for decontamination, and the vessel was allowed to leave. Fortunately, the California inspector forwarded the information about the vessel to WDFW Enforcement.

The vessel arrived at the Ridgefield WSP Port of Entry weigh station and was quickly inspected. During the inspection, live Quagga Mussels were found on the outdrive, trim



AIS Sergeant Anderson decontaminating a vessel.



tabs, trim tab hydraulics, and depth sounder transducer. Samples of the mussels were collected for biological, educational, and evidentiary use. Sergeant Eric Anderson decontaminated the vessel with the Region 5 hot-water pressure-wash unit. Anderson issued a written warning to the vessel and released the owner and vessel.

Invasive Soft Shell Turtle Case

On April 4, 2008, Officer Erik Olson received information concerning a shipment of Florida Soft Shell Turtles that were inbound from Tampa Bay, Florida, into Washington State. Officer Olson recognized the company from previous fish and wildlife violations.

hold on the shipment. Officer Olson obtained the airway bill, which documented the shipment of 421 pounds (16 boxes) of “live turtles.” Officer Olson investigated further and discovered that this was not an isolated incident. Previous turtle shipments had entered Washington once per week. Officer Olson seized the entire shipment of live turtles and waited until someone arrived to pick up the turtles.

Officer Olson issued the owner a citation, and the turtles were euthanized and placed into evidence for the pending criminal court proceedings.

Watercraft Checkstations

In 2008, WDFW’s Enforcement Program began utilizing its authority to conduct Mandatory AIS Watercraft Check Stations. As detailed earlier in this report, the inaugural check station was conducted in operation “Plymouth Rock.” However, an additional nine check stations were conducted at various locations, including;



Officer Olson seizing invasive turtles.

Florida Soft Shell turtles are classified as a prohibited aquatic animal species in Washington State. It is illegal to possess, import, purchase, sell, propagate, transport, or release a prohibited aquatic animal species.

Officer Olson proceeded to the Air Freight terminal at SeaTac Airport, where he placed a



AIS highway sign.

- Kettle Falls – 44 watercraft inspected.
- Lake Washington – 84 watercraft inspected.
- Columbia River/Marine Park (Vancouver) – 27 watercraft inspected.
- Lake Roosevelt/Fort Spokane – 53 watercraft inspected.
- SR 101/Indian Valley weigh station – 78 watercraft inspected.
- Hwy 503 – 16 watercraft inspected.
- Chief Joseph Dam/Lk Rufus Woods – 7 watercraft inspected.
- Col. River/Chinook – 5 watercraft inspected.
- Big Lake/Skagit Co. – 12 watercraft inspected.



Region 1 Officers conducting an AIS watercraft check station near lake Roosevelt.

For more information on the WDFW AIS Enforcement Program, visit the Enforcement Program website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/>.



VESSEL SAFETY

The Enforcement Program excelled in the area of boating safety enforcement in 2008. Where many of the state's County and Municipal counterparts had already winterized their patrol boats, WDFW Officers were out on the water ensuring the safety of the boating public.

The most common vessel-safety violations were invalid/expired vessel registrations, no sound-producing device, no carbon monoxide warning sticker displayed, and no lifejackets. In the majority of contacts, Officers addressed many of these violations through warnings. The Enforcement Program completed more vessel-safety inspections than the combined total of all the Marine service units throughout the state.

Training

In regards to training, all of the Program's Officers received boat training in 2008. However, to address the projected budget shortfalls, the level of boat training in 2009 will be drastically reduced in intensity. New Officers will not attend the Basic Marine Law Enforcement (BMLE) course until they enter their final phase of career development from an Officer 1 to an Officer 2. Instead, new Officers will initially attend the three-day Motorboat Operation Certification Course (MOCC) so they get some basic boating skills. They will complete more advanced BMLE training after they hone their skills with managing hostile subjects. Additionally, a BUI course and a swift-water jet boat course are training goals

the Program would like to pursue. But these courses remain on hold until more urgent training priorities are addressed.

Seafair

Officer Olson and Sergeant Krenz coordinated involvement in the Boating Safety Emphasis for Seafair. WDFW provided four vessels and six Officers to the multi-agency police presence. The vessel operators for the four vessels were Officers Olson, Johnson, Clementson, Czebotar, and Stephenson. A fifth vessel was added and operated by Sergeant Chandler and Captain Hebner. WDFW boat patrol teams accounted for 32 of the 46 Boating Under the Influence (BUI) arrests made in two days, resulting in numerous vessel impounds and jail bookings.



Officers enforcing vessel safety laws for 2008 SeaFair.

Burn Victim

While on marine patrol in the San Juan Islands, Sergeant Mullins and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Special Agents responded to a marine distress call on



Drug smuggler sets own boat on fire after encounter with joint law enforcement patrol (not related to case below).

the north end of Decatur Island. An individual was trying to restart his 1970s twin gas engine boat by pouring gas into the carburetor when the engine compartment exploded. A mayday call went out, and numerous vessels, including the San Juan County Sheriff's Office and the United States Coast Guard, responded. Upon arrival, the fire was out. The victim had severe burns to his hands and chest. Sergeant Mullins and the special agents transported the victim to Anacortes for treatment. He was in fairly stable condition on arrival, but was later transported to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle for burn treatment.

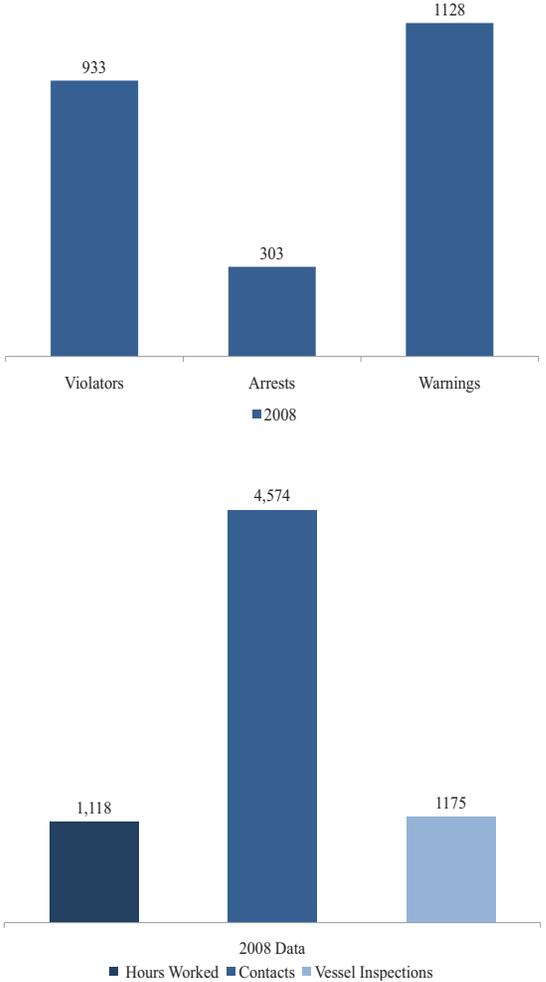
Flipped Kayak

Sergeant Chandler helped rescue an individual who flipped and lost his kayak on the Snoqualmie River. He was pulled out of the water about a half mile from where he dumped it over and is lucky to be alive, with the 38-degree water running at near flood stage.





2008 Vessel Safety Enforcement Statistics



Search & Rescue	4
Media & Outreach Events	7
Boating Under the Influence	49



Statewide Investigative Unit

Introduction

The Statewide Investigative Unit (SIU) is comprised of five Detectives and one Lieutenant. SIU Detectives work statewide and collectively and individually conduct, monitor, develop, and bring to prosecution major investigations. These include illegal trafficking; excessive harvest; illegal possession; and harvest, sale or purchase of food fish, shellfish, wildlife, threatened and endangered species, deleterious and exotic wildlife, and other marine products.

Detectives also investigate habitual violators and complex habitat or environmental abuse violations. The types of cases SIU Detectives investigate are the most egregious violations committed by well-organized conspiracies of individuals, businesses and corporations operating both in and out of state or country. These types of violations, which inflict the most serious damage on state resources, are usually conducted for profit and with complete disregard for the resources themselves.

As a result of the severity of crimes committed by these criminal conspiracies, SIU Detectives often investigate crimes outside of the Fish & Wildlife Code (chapter 77.15 RCW) including violations of Title 9 RCW. These crimes include theft, trafficking in stolen property,

extortion, racketeering (RICO), and arson, as well as federal felony violations.

Federally, SIU Detectives investigate crimes including violations of the Lacey Act and Magnuson Act, tax evasion and fraud, drug trafficking, wire fraud, mail fraud, and public corruption. The nexus for all these investigations are the fish and wildlife resources being used as commodities for these violations.

SIU investigations may be covert or overt and are confidential and sensitive in nature. These investigations are the most difficult to conduct because of the numerous and complex federal, state, and tribal laws and rules. Detectives operate undercover vehicles and vessels and work in various covert capacities. They are experts in working with and managing informants.

Some investigations may last for a year or more, and the Detectives must be available for duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to deal with problems as they arise.

SIU has a Computer Crimes Unit (CCU) responsible for the forensic recovery and analysis of evidence from electronic storage media devices. The forensic Detective is proficiently trained and certified to recover electronic evidence from both SIU investigations and FWO cases throughout the state. Requests from field Officers, for evidence recovery by the CCU, is done through a "Request" form process.

The SIU Forensic Detective provides training at

annual WDFW Enforcement In-Services as well as expertise relative to criminal prosecutions during court processes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2008, the SIU Forensic Detective analyzed more than 37 electronic storage mediums, including computer hard drives, cell phones, camera cards, and USB thumb drives, for Detectives and FWOs across the state. The recovery of electronic evidence resulted in convictions for Officers and Detectives alike.

SIU Detectives regularly employ wireless video surveillance cameras regularly as a part of their investigations. Like forensics, technology is the primary assignment of another SIU Detective. The Technology Detective is a member of the National Technology Investigators Association (NATIA), and travels throughout the state, working with DEA, ATF, NMFS, many multi-agency law enforcement task forces, several city police departments, installing surveillance cameras, trackers and various technology for investigations. In 2008, the SIU Technology Detective installed and later removed more than 45 cameras.

Detectives/Officers monitored surveillance cameras during the course of investigations. This work resulted in dozens of arrests and hundreds of violations. These surveillances cameras drastically reduce man-power hours, improve surveillance and video documents of violations, and improve investigative capabilities. The expertise of the SIU





Technology Detective was highly sought by other law enforcement agencies in 2008, and he helped instruct technology classes in Tacoma and Houston for various state and federal law enforcement Officers and technology experts. In 2008, the Technology Detective also instructed a “Search Warrant” class at the WDFW Enforcement annual In-Service.

In addition to criminal violations, SIU Detectives conduct background investigations on new Officer applicants. In 2008, SIU Detectives completed 17 new-hire background investigations, as well as five background checks for Headquarter’s office staff and the Aviation Unit. All Detectives have completed or will be completing “Background Investigations” training.

In 2008, SIU provided In-Service instruction to Enforcement Program Officers, Sergeants and Captains in the areas of: (1) Computer Hard-Drive Forensics, (2) Drafting Search Warrants, (3) A Practical Exercise/Scenario writing Search Warrants, and (4) Investigative Forensics (Falsified Identification Detection, Casting Tire Treads/Footprints, and GPS Tracker warrants, installations, maintenance and removals). SIU also briefed Officers on two SIU investigations where Detectives interactively worked with Officers in two separate WDFW Regions.

Ballistics training for US Army Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Investigators:

Two Detectives instructed 50 US Army CID Investigators and Officers regarding field ballistics testing in conjunction with a murder investigation that occurred during hunting season on the Fort Lewis military base. At the end of the instruction class, the Detectives tested the CID Investigators to ensure each soldier understood and was able to perform field ballistics tests. This was training that none of the CID Investigators had ever had previously.

Following the training, Investigators went to the field, applied their training to the 50 potential suspects, which SIU had worked up in background investigations, and immediately determined that 47 of the 50 were no longer suspects. The networking opportunities realized by SIU Detectives as a result of this training will continue to open doors in many areas now and in the future. The Detectives’ efforts were so appreciated and valuable to the US Army CID that they awarded a plaque to recognize the Detectives’ valuable contribution, enhancing their Investigators’ abilities beyond what they realized even existed.

CHALLENGES

Unique challenges that regularly face SIU include the fact that the five Detectives need to work statewide, regularly attend individual



Detachment meetings throughout the state, are involved in various multi agency/jurisdictional task forces, and investigate jointly with NOAA OLE, USFWS, DEA, ATF, IRS, ICE, and occasionally the FBI. Prosecutorial venues include county prosecutor's offices as well as the U.S. Attorneys (AUSA) offices on both sides of the state.

Other challenges include travel time, which often has a huge impact on a Detective's work time. However, since investigations involve conspiracies inside and outside the state, the travel time is necessary for the successful completion of cases.

SIU, in addition to Detective expertise in the fields of forensics and technology, is also expected to mentor Officers on search warrants, felony investigations outside of Title 77 RCW violations, covert investigations, racketeering investigations, and conspiracy prosecutions, to address the most egregious natural resource violations. Such violations seriously affect the sustainability of our natural resources and hinder the accurate reporting of harvests to resource managers.

Other challenges to SIU include:

- The retirement of one veteran Detective.
- The transfer of one Detective to a Sergeant position.
- The promotion of another Detective.
- Rising technology expenses, including training costs, upgrades, license renewals, forensics updates.

CASE RESULTS

In 2008, SIU Detectives completed several criminal investigations, some of which were carryovers from 2007 (2007 investigations that resulted in 2008 prosecutions). Examples of those investigations include:

Operation Flash: This case involved a group of hound hunters who called themselves the "Kill'em all Boyz." They extensively poached bear, elk, cougar, bobcat, and deer throughout western Washington and Idaho.

Outcome: All defendants pled guilty in one to four western Washington counties (Wahkiakum, Cowlitz, Jefferson, Lewis), and each paid several thousands of dollars in fines/penalties and served from 30 days in jail to 13 months in prison. Hunting privileges in all cases were either suspended or forfeited for life, and firearms, vehicles, hound dogs, and wildlife were forfeited to the state.

Operation Shortstick: A joint investigation with NOAA OLE involving two individuals commercially harvesting crab and salmon in Skagit and San Juan counties and marketing the salmon in Florida where one of the two were residents.

Outcome: The two individuals currently have charges pending in two Washington counties and in Florida, including several felonies and gross misdemeanors related to commercial crab fishing, reporting, and felon in possession of firearms. Federal charges are possible.

Approximately 80 commercial crab pots were forfeited to the state. The state received \$9,000 for the pots.

JAX Market: At a Spokane market, the owner was illegally buying bear gall bladders for the purpose of selling them to customers overseas for medicinal purposes.

Outcome: Multiple Felony Trafficking in Wildlife (bear gall bladders) charges are pending in Spokane.

Geoduck: A Tacoma resident was charged with the theft of \$55,000 worth of geoduck in Pierce County.

Outcome: Class B and C felony charges have been filed in Pierce County Superior Court, and the defendant is scheduled for arraignment in the near future.

Dungeness Crab House: A licensed wholesale fish dealer failed to report 495 purchases of commercially harvested tribal and non-tribal crab, recorded on Fish Receiving Tickets over a 15-month period, from 2006–2008, and totaling 164,000 lbs of Dungeness Crab.

Outcome: Husband and wife defendants have pled guilty in state courts and been fined \$1,500, sentenced to three years in jail (all but eight days suspended), and assessed a \$29,000 fine by Department of Revenue. Resource managers are working with the SIU Detective to analyze the impact on crab harvest management.



Lacey Act Investigation: SIU participated in a joint Lacey Act investigation with NOAA OLE, in which a Seattle company had been importing, exporting, buying, and selling seafood, in volumes worth in excess \$2.6 million, without a Washington State Wholesale Fish Dealers license. The company also committed federal Bankruptcy Fraud.

Outcome: The Seattle Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) charged two defendants in federal court. The substantial Bankruptcy Fraud investigation resulted in a dismissal due to the Statute of Limitations, despite strong objection by the AUSA, who at last check is considering an appeal. An SIU Detective and federal agents arrested one of the defendants as he departed his plane at SEATAC Airport. The defendant pled guilty to Lacey Act violations stemming from the state violation (no Wholesale Dealer's License), and served three months in the federal detention facility in Burien, WA.

Olympic Peninsula Wood Theft: A forensic examination of an individual's cell phones, requested by the AUSA to a joint investigation with the USFS, Jefferson County, and SIU revealed cedar/hard wood thefts on the Olympic Peninsula.

Outcome: There are federal theft charges of natural resources are pending at the AUSA Office.

Tribal Salmon: SIU investigated six Puyallup tribal salmon gillnetters poaching outside their U&A into Skokomish U&A waters in Mason County.

Outcome: Two of the identified Puyallup gillnetters have been charged with 1st degree closed season fishing (a felony) by the Mason County Prosecutor's Office and will be arraigned in the near future.

In addition to these cases, SIU Detectives are currently investigating several other companies, corporations, conspiracies and/or individuals who are violating serious resource and other Title 9A RCW crimes within Washington State, in other states/provinces and/or in countries tied to Washington State laws. These cases are anticipated to be completed and prosecuted in 2009, in either state or federal courts.

DETECTIVE OF THE YEAR

Photo and name have been purposely omitted due to the nature of ongoing investigations.

This year's Detective of the year is on the Field Training Officer Advisory Board. He is a Critical Incident Counselor and has completed complex investigations. He is helping to rewrite regulation changes, many of which have been implemented or are part of WDFW Enforcement's legislative package.

The following cases provide an example of the excellent work this Detective has accomplished:

Operation Zeppity (on-going): This is a statewide investigation involving multiple conspirators and two primary targets who have, for two decades, been involved in manipulating

permits. They substitute look-alikes, which biologists believe are real, and then smuggle the items, enmass, to foreign countries. In this investigation, the Detective is Lead Detective, as well as one of two covert operatives who have made several covert sales of wildlife parts to one of two targets. He also has drafted the state search/arrest warrant for the other primary subject (assuming of course that the final prosecution choice is to proceed through the state courts rather than through the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Operation Flash: The Detective's major role in this conspiracy, involving seven main suspects, was as "Control Detective for a Confidential Informant" and as the primary covert operative. Based upon his abilities as a covert investigator, the Detective was avidly accepted into the group of hound hunters who killed pretty much anything on four legs that crossed their paths.

Operation DIME: In this Decatur Island investigation, the Detective was Lead Investigator. In concert with the SIU Lieutenant and ATF, he pursued the case, which involved big-game poaching, recreational fishing violations, littering, drug possession, and marijuana grows and sales. The Detective wrote the operation plan, five search warrants, and managed the informant and two covert Officers throughout the case. There were nine suspects, of which only one pled Not Guilty. The lead suspect has been sentenced to 13 months in prison.



Operation Shortstick: The Detective was the Lead Investigator on this case, which he coordinated with NMFS agents. He also managed the ex-wife reporting party.

In addition to his case work, the Detective instructed several classes in Olympia on

investigations for new hires, prepared and instructed a 2008 In-Service class (bullet/firearms/ballistics forensics) and instructed a “Meth Lab” class at the JEA Conference in Astoria, Oregon. He also attended Detachment meetings throughout eastern Washington as the SIU conduit to field operations. At these

meetings, he gleaned valuable information related to conspiracies, some of which SIU turned into active investigations. The Detective also networks regularly with agents from ATF, DEA, NOAA, USFWS and ICE.



Marine Division

HISTORY

The former Washington State Departments of Fisheries and Game were merged in 1994 to form the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as it is known today. This action extinguished what was known as the state's oldest law enforcement agency, the Washington State Fisheries Patrol. After merger, it became evident that the specialization offered by that former agency in marine law enforcement needed to continue. Therefore, the Statewide Marine Division was formed.

Marine Officers provide patrol coverage from the Oregon – Washington border to the U.S.-Canada border, to include federal waters within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone 200 miles offshore. The complex and multi-jurisdictional nature of marine enforcement requires this division to maintain partnerships with entities that have similar and overlapping missions. Cooperative enforcement projects are common with Oregon State Police, California Fish and Game, Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, United States Coast Guard, National Marine Fisheries Service, and United States Customs and Border Protection.

PRIORITIES

- ESA species enforcement in the lower Columbia River, and Coastal and Puget Sound waters, to include salmon, steelhead, green sturgeon, and Southern Resident Orca Whales.
- Protection of overfished groundfish species.
- Coordination with west coast state fish and wildlife enforcement entities to address commercial and recreational fisheries-protection in federal waters.
- Coordination with federal agencies and Canadian officials to address cross-water border smuggling and illegal commercial and recreational fishing.
- Emphasis on recreational and commercial fisheries that have associated selective harvest rules for wild fish protection.
- Emphasis on illegal commercial fish trafficking.
- Emphasis on marine boater safety regulations and marine search and rescue.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Contributed four patrol vessels and Officers to complement the boating safety emphasis during the 2008 Seafair event. WDFW boat patrol teams accounted for 32 of the 46 'boating while under the influence' arrests made in two days.
- The North Sound Marine Detachment

FY08 Rec. Fishing Licenses:822,481
Estimated Commercial Licenses: 6,000
State Registered Vessels.....273,125

Sea Ports75
Federal Marine Sanctuaries.....1
State Marine Sanctuaries5
ESA Listed Fish Species.....52

Major Bodies of Water: ...Puget Sound
..... Strait of Juan de Fuca
..... Pacific Ocean coastal waters

Deputy Chief:Mike Cenci
Number of Sergeants:4
Number of Officers:17

Tidal Shoreline3,025 miles
General Coastline.....360 miles
Area of Responsibility.....4,721 miles
Economic Exclusive Zone: 3 to 200 miles
off the Pacific coastline.

coordinated "operation walk the line," involving a multi-agency anti-smuggling emphasis, at all U.S.-Canada ports of entry. This led to 300 recreational and commercial fishery contacts by WDFW Officers in two days.

- The Central Sound Marine Detachment coordinated a cold-storage inspection emphasis involving 25 personnel from WDFW and NOAA and focusing on tracking the legitimacy of commercial fish at 12 facilities. Over 30 follow-up investigations resulted.



- The North Sound Marine Detachment investigated a subject who had 12 prior fish and wildlife violations for fishing on a suspended commercial crab license and failing to legally account for his commercial harvests. Three search warrants were served on the prime suspect and associates, resulting in the seizure and forfeiture of 100 commercial crab pots, 10 shrimp pots, his commercial crab vessel, and two vehicles, all used in the violations. Several hundred thousand pounds of crab were not reported as required, and six suspects face dozens of felony and misdemeanor charges.
- Officers conducted 30 anti-harassment patrols during the peak whale-watching season in an effort to protect the Southern Resident Orca Whale population. While many warnings were given, three notices of violation under a new state anti-harassment law were issued to commercial whale watching operators.
- Officers were involved with NOAA in serving a federal search warrant that ordered the seizure of approximately 90% of



56' patrol vessel, the Corliss, and crew.

240,000 pounds of frozen chum salmon that was shipped into Washington by a Canadian company. Catch accounting documents had not been completed per Washington State law. The investigation alleged that Canadian wholesale dealers conspired to purchase and export Chum and Chinook salmon that were illegally taken during closed season with gillnets.

- Officers collaborated with National Marine Fisheries Service and used surveillance technology to apprehend a two-time ESA-listed Spring Chinook poacher using a gill net on the South Fork of the Nooksack River. Only 15-20 adult salmon were expected to return at the time.
- Officers networked with Oregon State Police during commercial coastal halibut openers and issued numerous citations for illegal sized halibut and possession of overfished rockfish species.
- A tri-state enforcement effort in the commercial marketplace resulted in 250 inspections and the discovery of 43 state fish and wildlife violations. The West Coast states shared enforcement personnel. WDFW Officers checked markets in Portland, and in three major cities in California, in concert with those states' Officers, to send a message to violators that protection efforts do not stop at the border.

CHALLENGES

- The presence of seven overfished coastal rockfish populations has affected healthy commercial and recreational fisheries,



Commercial fish inspections at the border.

resulting in closed conservation areas that change seasonally, caps on the amount of overfished species that can be caught as by-catch during other fisheries, and gear restrictions. Catch accounting and closed area enforcement efforts will need to increase and be more important than ever if stocks are to rebuild.

- The presence of 52 populations of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead in marine waters has forced fisheries managers to either close seasons or develop selective commercial and recreational harvest strategies. Selective fisheries allow for greater regulatory complexity. Providing the appropriate amount of enforcement presence to ensure high compliance given thin staffing levels will be a continued challenge.
- As fisheries stocks decline worldwide, the value of those resources goes up, providing great financial incentives for illegal traffickers. For every species with harvest constraints, a legitimate avenue for that same species exists somewhere, making it easy for poachers to launder illegally taken

fisheries resources. The sheer complexity of the commercial fisheries universe provides Officers with incredible challenges in violation detection and requires increasing specialization in marketplace enforcement. Officers will need to continue to be innovative to fill the gap left by limited enforcement on the water.

- There appears to be a growing problem with illegally taken or undocumented fisheries resources leaving the state, illegal foreign commercial fishing in Washington waters, and drug smuggling. Smugglers have figured out how to integrate with commercial fisheries, often used as a cover for other illegal activities. The U.S.-Canada Border is relatively porous and often WDFW Officers are the only law enforcement presence.

In other words, not only do they have to be well versed in general criminal law, but also federal and state laws related to the harvesting of specialized forest products, recreational fishing, commercial fisheries, and U.S. Customs and Tribes. Due to his specialty position in the Statewide Marine Division, he must also be familiar with vessel operations and working in hazardous ocean conditions. After only four years in a uniform, Officer Hopkins is able to handle all of this with ease. In fact, his involvement in a number of complex investigations is a testament to his strong ability to bring difficult projects to a successful resolution.

- Officer Hopkins Consistently strives to understand complex commercial fisheries and apply effective enforcement strategies, and is known as “an expert” in commercial groundfish enforcement.
- He was the lead investigator on a major and long-term commercial groundfish case involving multiple suspects and an elaborate scheme to exceed strict limits at an estimated retail value of \$200,000.
- He was a large contributor to a team

expected to respond to enforcement issues offshore, often under challenging conditions.

- He consistently networks with other law enforcement agencies and commonly responds to threats to human life and safety. Three examples last year included him being the first responder and subduing a suicidal, armed man, a suspected burglary in progress, and an armed robbery at a local bank. Other local law entities have reciprocated by becoming more engaged in fish and wildlife enforcement issues.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Bret Hopkins

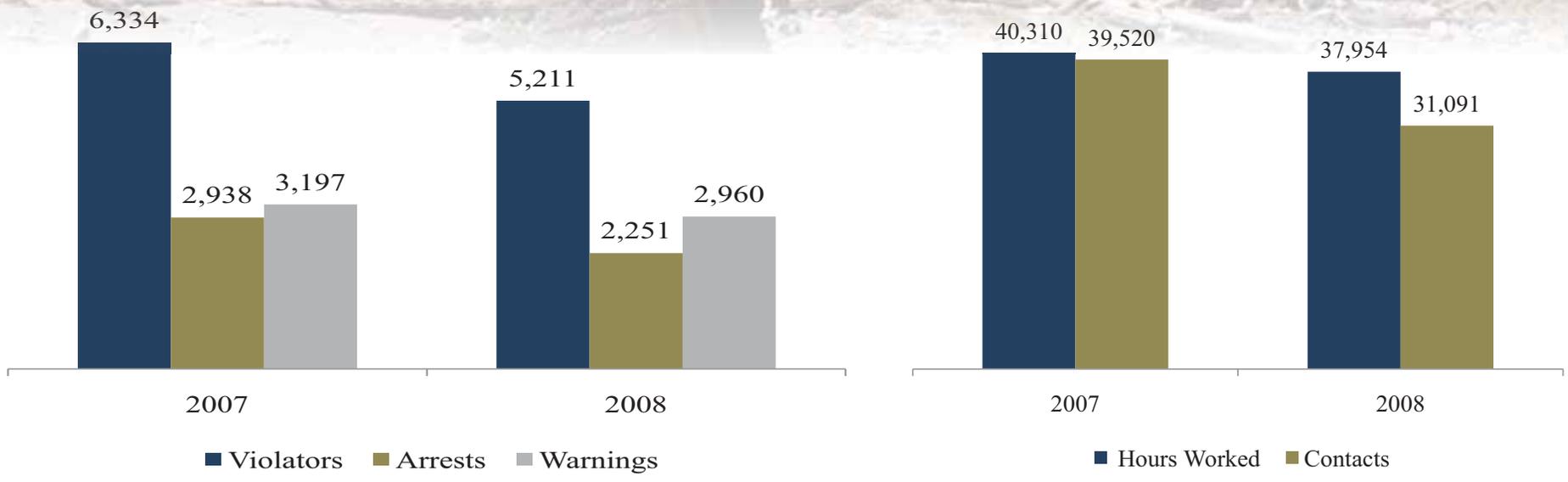
Fish and Wildlife Officers like Officer Bret Hopkins are general authority police officers.



2008 STATEWIDE MARINE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



R 1



Region 1

2315 North Discovery Place
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-1566
Telephone (509) 892-1001

DEMOGRAPHICS

Region 1 consists of the 10 eastern-most counties in Washington State, covering more than 16,000 square miles and stretching from the Canadian border to the Oregon border. The Region is diverse in habitat, fish, and wildlife species. Within the Region there are 1,522 lakes, 11 reservoirs, 39 fishing access sites, and thousands of acres of publicly owned or controlled lands.

Habitats include mixed conifer forests that are home to cougar, black bear, forest grouse, trout, endangered grizzly bears, and caribou. In the mixed agricultural and pasture areas of northeastern Washington, there are some of the state's largest whitetail and mule deer populations. As you move south, ponderosa



Boat inspection for aquatic invasive species.

pine woodlands become the dominant habitat. Spokane County is home to numerous types of wildlife, including a large population of moose that frequently wander the streets of Spokane. The southeastern portion of the region is home to one of the state's largest elk herds. The Snake River runs through the region and provides significant fishing opportunities for steelhead and salmon. Unfortunately, several salmonid fish stocks are listed as endangered in this area.

PRIORITIES

- Increase enforcement emphasis on WDFW properties and access sites.
- Enforce ESA salmonid species protection on the Snake River and tributaries.
- Intercept Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- Enforce snowmobile laws in concert with other law enforcement agencies.
- Coordinate with Oregon State Police game troopers and Idaho Fish and Game Officers to address joint jurisdictional border issues.
- Conduct emphasis patrols to address the illegal harvest of sensitive mule deer populations.
- Conduct emphasis patrols on newly rehabilitated lakes in the Spokane area to ensure fish-management success.
- Emphasize enforcement of commercial wildlife laws.
- Institutionalize response protocols for wolf poaching and reports of wolf depredation on livestock.



Population (as of 2007): 653,400
Five-Year Population Increase: 34,900
Counties: Asotin (406,400 acres)
 Columbia (555,520 acres)
 Ferry (1,409,920 acres)
 Garfield (454,400 acres)
 Lincoln (1,479,040 acres)
 Pend Oreille (896,000 acres)
 Spokane (1,128,320 acres)
 Stevens (1,585,920 acres)
 Walla Walla (812,800 acres)
 Whitman (1,381,760 acres)
Regional Acres: 10,110,080

Climate (relative to WA State): Drier weather, warmer summers, colder winters with heavy snow, less precipitation

Major Bodies of Water: Columbia River (reservoir- Lake Roosevelt), Snake River, Pend Orielle River, Tucannon River, Touchet River, and over 110 managed lakes

Captain: Mike Whorton
Number of Sergeants: 3
Number of Officers: 14
Vacancies: 1
Average acres per Officer: 532,110
Citizens per Officer: 34,389

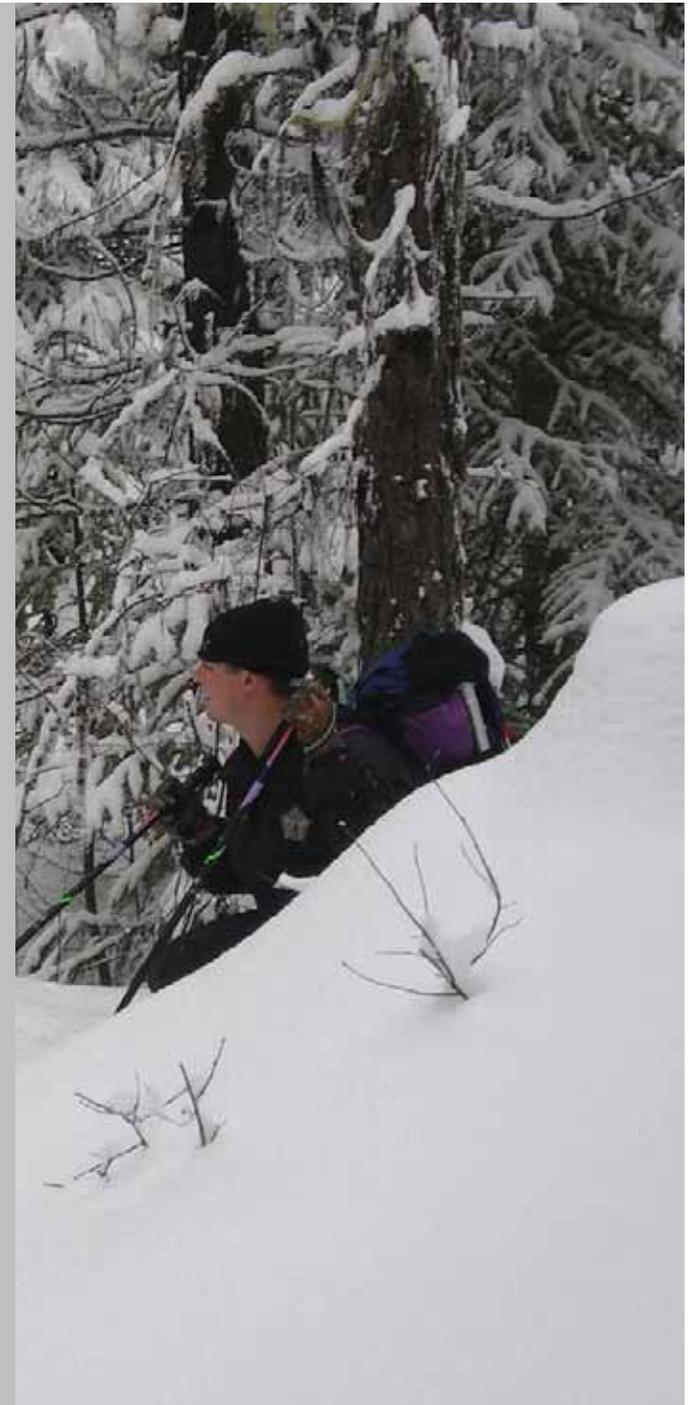




Officers about to begin a snowmobile patrol.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted 34 emphasis patrols directed at priority enforcement issues.
- Served a search warrant on a Spokane business where the owner was reported to be trafficking in illegal bear gall bladders.
- Served search warrants at multiple locations and seized 79 animals that have questionable or illegal origins.
- Officer Weatherman developed a grizzly bear case that resulted in the apprehension of three individuals.
- Officers, assisted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Agents and Federal Customs and Immigration Officers, served two search warrants for a monkey that was smuggled into the country from Thailand. The monkey was prohibited from importation due to acute disease threats to humans. Drugs and cash were also discovered in the search.
- Conducted an emphasis patrol in the upper Snake River to address illegal take of threatened fish stocks. Eleven arrests were made.
- Officer Taylor responded to a call where witnesses watched a subject shoot a trophy mule deer during the closed season. Officer Taylor was able to intercept the subject on the road, recover the deer, and make the arrest.
- Sergeant Rahn contacted an individual in the field with a duplicate deer tag. He noticed blood on the tag and questioned the individual. Eventually, Sergeant Rahn was able to obtain a confession from the man that he had previously killed a 5X6 whitetail buck.
- WDFW Officers, in concert with Officers from Idaho, Montana, and Alaska, served search warrants on several Spokane residents. Multiple defendants are being charged for various violations, including closed season, fraudulent licenses, and illegal guiding that occurred out of state.
- Responded to over 50 moose calls within the Spokane urban area.



Officer Hahn working a poaching case in winter conditions.



CHALLENGES

- Large block holdings of WDFW lands are experiencing a rapid increase in non-traditional use, such as Off Road Vehicles, snowmobiles, and camping. Due to the remote nature of most of these properties, they have been perceived as safe havens by some segments of society as places to conduct illegal activities such as dumping, marijuana growing, methamphetamine manufacturing, and theft of natural resources and agency equipment. Additionally, rising demand for enforcement services on Department access sites in the Spokane vicinity is intensifying.
- A growing problem of illegal water withdrawals in watersheds with threatened and endangered salmonid species continues.
- With the economy slowing, there appears to be an increase in violation reports for poaching of big game species.
- The escalation of verified wolf sightings within the region has resulted in an increase in public inquiries related to perceived public safety and potential property loss.
- Continued human population growth into wild lands will multiply dangerous wildlife conflicts and damage complaints, and unrealistic public expectations of Fish and Wildlife Officer services. Changing demographics and urbanization have resulted in greater public demand for response to injured and distressed wildlife.
- Land fragmentation has resulted in

escalating complaints from competing entities such as hunters and non-hunters regarding trespass, harassment of lawful hunting and fishing activities, land use, and wildlife harassment. These new dynamics have resulted in an exponential growth for calls for service from Fish and Wildlife Officers.

- Region 1 is the front line for intercepting Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) coming into Washington State from contaminated areas east of our border. The unintentional introduction of AIS species into Washington State waters will have a profound deleterious impact on aquatic resources and property. It is imperative that we have enhanced enforcement resources for AIS interception. Unfortunately, current staffing levels severely limit our effectiveness.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Don Weatherman

Fish and Wildlife Officer Don Weatherman has worked for the Department for 33 years. Don exemplifies professionalism in all manners of the job and exhibits the traits most desirable in a Fish and Wildlife Officer. His tireless and consistent performance is unmatched. Don deeply cares about those Officers who will follow his generation and works to mentor new Officers. In addition to teaching the required Officer skills, he imparts those aspects of the job that are more art than technical, which can make the difference between a good Officer or

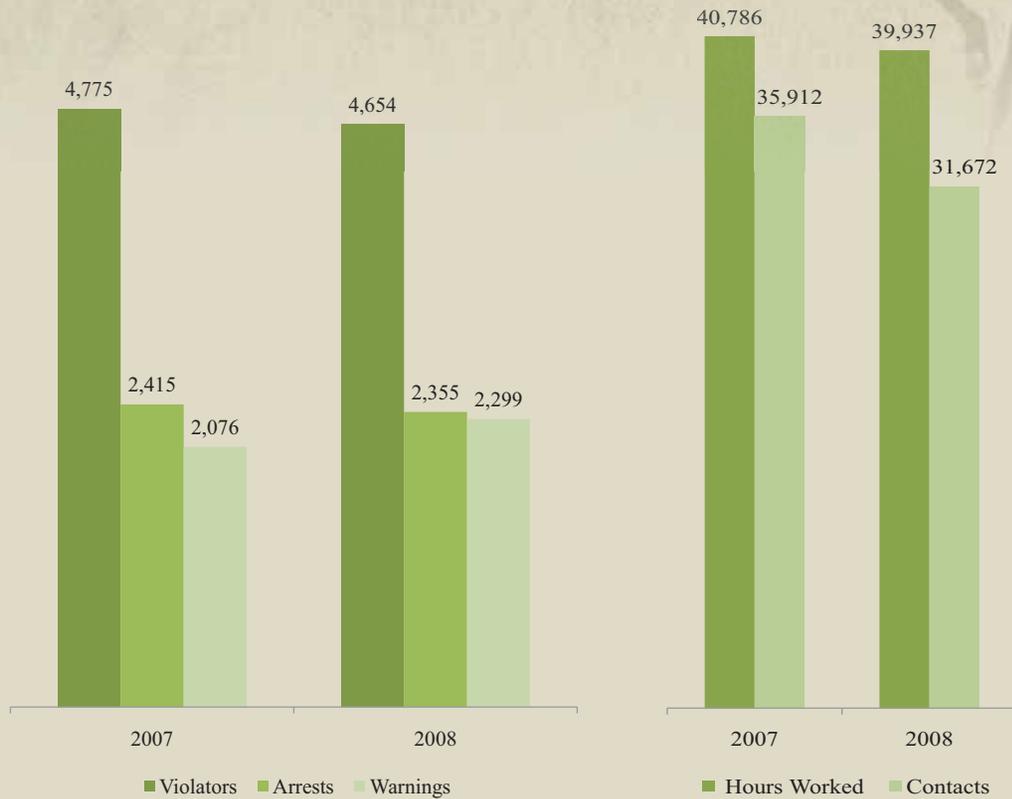
an excellent Officer. Don has set the standard to which we encourage new Officers to aspire.

- He consistently generates complex investigative cases primarily involving big game species.
- He was instrumental in detecting and developing a joint state/federal grizzly bear case that resulted in the apprehension of three individuals.
- He was instrumental in the successful prosecution of three individuals on a complex bear-baiting case.
- He is consistently responsive to dangerous wildlife complaints.



REGION ONE STATISTICS FOR 2008

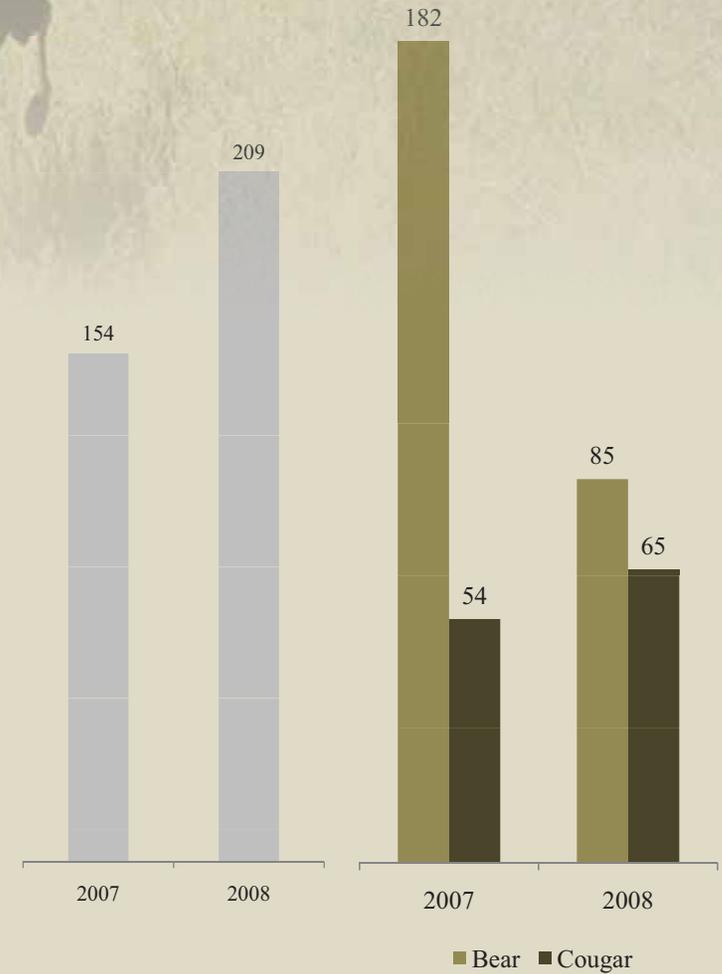
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



WILDLIFE STATISTICS

PROBLEM WILDLIFE

DANGEROUS WILDLIFE



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to confirmed bear and cougar complaints.



Region 2

1550 Alder Street NW
Ephrata, Washington 98823-9699
Telephone (509) 754-4624

DEMOGRAPHICS

Region 2 is located in north central Washington, and it is a diverse geologic wonderland that ranges from the treed Cascade Mountains to the semi-arid shrub steppe habitat located in the Columbia Basin. It features wide-open spaces teeming with wildlife, spectacular scenery, and charm. The region is filled with hundreds of lakes, rivers, and streams. Throughout the region, hunting, fishing, whitewater rafting, boating, hiking, camping, rock climbing, and cycling are very popular destination pastimes. Winter offers lots of opportunities for fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. The primary industry in the region is agriculture and livestock.

Some of the finest hunting and fishing opportunities in the Pacific Northwest abound in the region. Thousands of acres of federal and state public land make Region 2 one of the most premier venues available anywhere for all types of recreational opportunities. In the region, WDFW either owns or manages numerous wildlife areas and other large tracts of public property. There are thousands of additional acres owned by other public entities, including the US Forest Service, US Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

The region features some of the finest trout and warm water fishing opportunities available anywhere in the state. Migratory waterfowl and upland bird hunting draw thousands to the area every fall and winter. Off-road vehicle use, recreational boating, and bird watching are also responsible for bringing thousands of people to the region every year.

PRIORITIES

- Protect ESA-listed species, including steelhead and salmon.
- Protect agency lands and wildlife areas.
- Develop a strong outreach program with stakeholders and other resource managers.
- Provide proactive law enforcement services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Lieutenant Crown and Officer Zuchlewski responded on a January evening to the area of Soap Lake to assist the Grant County Sheriff's Office with an investigation into the shooting of an off-duty Grant County Deputy who was shot while hunting coyotes near Ephrata by an illegal deer hunter. These Officers were instrumental in developing on-site information, with a potential suspect list of all area deer permit holders, from their laptop computer. The suspect was shortly identified and contacted later that evening at his home in Moses Lake, where he was taken into custody.

Officer McCormick received some sketchy information that a suspect in the Okanogan



Population (as of 2007):247,400

Five-Year Population Increase:13,900

Counties: Adams (1,232,000 acres)
..... Chelan (1,869,440 acres)
..... Douglas (1,164,800 acres)
..... Grant (1,715,840 acres)
..... Okanogan (3,371,520 acres)

Regional Acreage:9,353,600

Climate (relative to WA State):

Dryer weather, warmer summers, colder winters, less precipitation

Major Bodies of Water: Wenatchee River, Methow River, Columbia River, Lake Chelan, Banks Lake, Potholes Reservoir, Moses Lake, and Sprague Lake

Captain:Chris Anderson
Number of Sergeants:3
Number of Officers:7
Officer Vacancies:4
Average acres per Officer:623,573
Citizens per Officer:16,493





Officer Christensen, with spotting scope on patrol.

area may have killed up to three deer in the span of several weeks. The Officer checked numerous databases and was able to develop enough information to learn the identity of the man. The man was confronted, and eventually confessed to killing a nice buck in early November on a special permit, then tagging it with his girlfriend's tag (she does not even hunt). The following week, he killed a second nice buck and tagged it with a duplicate tag he had purchased illegally. The man's rifle was seized for forfeiture.

Officers in the basin had received numerous reports of subjects netting the East Low Canal near the town of Soap Lake in Grant County in late November. Sergeant Erhardt and Captain Anderson conducted surveillance after dark using night vision gear. Captain Anderson observed a Ford pick-up truck in the bottom of the 30-foot deep canal, driving in the shallow water herding the fish ahead of the vehicle. One man could be seen sitting on the front of the truck using a long handled dip net to catch fish that were being herded with the vehicle. When contacted, they were found with nearly 25 large rainbow trout in their possession. A second group was later observed also netting. Officers seized and donated 50 large trout to the Moses Lake food bank.

Officer Grant, Officer Oswald, and Sergeant Ward worked the deer decoy in a remote part of Chelan County in early October. Late one night, a vehicle pulled up slowly to the decoy, stopped, and the driver got out with a compound bow. He shot one arrow at the



Fish seized on Rufus Woods.

decoy. He was in the process of notching another arrow for a second shot when the Officers approached and arrested him. His equipment was seized for forfeiture.

Sergeant Ward and Officer Grant responded to a report of an elk that had been poached in the Tarpiscan area of the Colockum Wildlife Area. The Officers located the carcass and were able to obtain physical evidence at the scene, including photographs of several boot prints. They then started contacting people in the area and found one individual whose boots matched the evidence at the scene. The man finally admitted to shooting the bull and leaving it.

Sergeant Jewell and Captain Anderson responded to the town of Coulee Dam after a cougar attacked an 11-year-old boy playing in his backyard. Officer Christensen and Biologist Rich Beausoleil responded with some hound hunters from Omak. The boy had received only two or three superficial wounds to his scalp requiring only first aid.



Officers spent the night searching for the cat with the hound hunters, but were unable to find it. Depredation permits were issued, and the cat was eventually found and removed.

Sergeant Brown responded to a report of a significant hydraulics violation occurring on Deep Creek in North Douglas County. Upon arrival the Officer saw that several hundred yards of the creek had been dug up by a backhoe and dam had been built. The suspect admitted that he had no permit to dig up the creek. A restoration plan was developed prior to the case being sent to the prosecutor for charging.

CHALLENGES

Some of the unique regional challenges we face today are to maintain an acceptable level of compliance with resource regulations and to proactively and fairly mitigate claims for damages resulting from deer and elk

populations harming commercial agricultural crops. Increasing calls for service and dangerous wildlife calls involving cougars and bears are continuing to escalate as more people populate the area, resulting in more human and animal conflicts.

In 2008, Region 2 Officers spent over 622 hours responding to 110 dangerous wildlife complaints. Another unique and dangerous trend is the proliferation of large outdoor marijuana grows being established on many of our state wildlife areas. These grows represent a direct threat to the environment and public safety. It is also important that Officers protect critical habitats and ensure protection of endangered or threatened fish and wildlife species.

Region 2 Fish and Wildlife Officers serve a large role in ensuring these mandates are met through proactive, visible patrols and investigations into all reported wildlife and habitat crimes. As general authority police Officers, fish and wildlife Officers often find other violations of state law that can include



Illegal dam investigated by Officers.

possession of stolen property, domestic violence protection orders, felons in possession of firearms, alcohol and drug offenses and arrest warrants.

Officers are also responsible for enforcing other public safety regulations, controlling unlawful off-road vehicle travel, investigating illegal garbage dumping and removing large outdoor marijuana grows. Many times fish and wildlife Officers are the only available law enforcement Officers in some rural Eastern Washington counties.

With large big game populations throughout the region, Officers routinely focus on big game poaching that results in complex investigative cases. Throughout the year, regional Officers have directed emphasis patrols in areas where we receive numerous violation reports or where Officers are aware of ongoing wildlife crimes. Some of the finest waterfowl hunting in the Pacific Northwest can be found in the Columbia Basin. Officers are responsible for developing directed emphasis patrols to address large harvests of ducks and geese, and to ensure regulation compliance on many of the high priced gun clubs and waterfowl hunting outfits.

The region is also committed to community outreach and developing strong collaborative partnerships with our constituents. In 2008, Region 2 Officers devoted over 627 hours towards our public outreach program.



Many times fish and wildlife Officers are the only available law enforcement Officers in some rural Eastern Washington counties.

Another unique challenge in the region has been the controversy and jurisdictional issues between the Colville Tribe and the state on boundary waters surrounding the reservation. These boundary waters are very popular recreational destination areas and are heavily utilized by recreational boaters and fishermen. The state and the tribe spent over two years negotiating a historic joint management and enforcement agreement that addresses jurisdictional protocols, license reciprocity, and joint enforcement patrols.

These jurisdictional issues have been controversial for years, and a source of confusion for many. This historic agreement has been in place for over a year now, and has resulted in the two sides working closely together for the first time to implement parallel fishing regulations on the boundary waters.



An "interesting" looking vessel.



Bear in a cougar trap.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

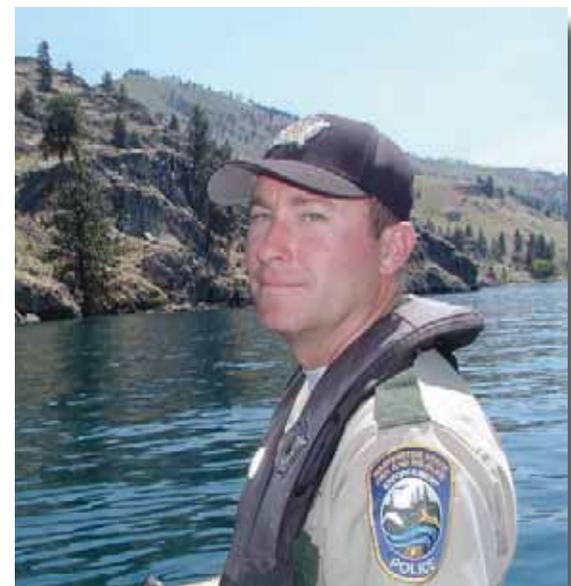
Officer Eric Oswald

Officer Oswald transferred from the Othello station to the Chelan duty station in June of 2005, where he is responsible for all enforcement activities in north Chelan County, parts of south Okanogan County and northwest Douglas County.

- Officer Oswald has an excellent working relationship with the Chelan County Sheriff's Office.
- He attends and participates in discussions and activities with local sports groups, the news media, and other recreational user groups associated with fish & wildlife issues.
- He handles the fish and wildlife responsibilities in his patrol district in a highly professional and organized manner.
- He developed a great working relationship

with all residents of the valley, including the National Park Service.

- He worked hard to overcome the hard feelings that have existed for many years between government representatives and the citizens of the valley.
- He improved the agency patrol cabin located in the Stehekin Valley.
- He was a valuable addition to the cadre of MOCC instructors.
- He works extremely well with the other programs, and he volunteers to assist them whenever his enforcement duties will allow.
- He works closely with the local prosecutors to ensure that resource cases are adjudicated in a prompt and aggressive manner.



REGION TWO STATISTICS FOR 2008

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



WILDLIFE STATISTICS

PROBLEM WILDLIFE

DANGEROUS WILDLIFE



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to confirmed bear and cougar complaints.



Region 3

1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, Washington 98902-5720
Telephone (509) 575-2474

DEMOGRAPHICS

Region 3 encompasses over 7.3 million acres in south central Washington, and includes Benton, Franklin, Kittitas, Klickitat, and Yakima counties. The area extends from the alpine eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains to the semi-arid shrub steppe habitat of the lower Columbia Basin, and supports a variety of fish and wildlife. The region is bisected by the Yakima River system and bordered on the south and east by the Columbia and Snake rivers.

Numerous small lakes and streams along with thousands of acres of WDFW, Forest Service, DNR, and other public lands, provide recreational opportunity for hunting, fishing, rafting, boating, hiking, camping, rock climbing, snowmobiling, and alpine and cross-country skiing. The region has an increasing population of over 520,000 people, with about 80% clustered in the major metropolitan areas of Yakima, Richland, Kennewick, Pasco, and Ellensburg. Much of the industry is irrigated agriculture, producing a wide variety of fruits, wine grapes, hay, grain, and livestock.

Within Region 3, WDFW owns or manages over 400,000 acres of wildlife habitat and access sites, including several wildlife areas: the Colockum (91,603 acres), LT Murray (51,793

acres), Oak Creek (45,473 acres), Wenas (105,060 acres), Sunnyside (13,229 acres), and Klickitat (14,700 acres). These wildlife areas plus thousands of acres of national forests and parks, and land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Washington Department of Natural Resources, are used by the public for a variety of outdoor recreational activities, including hunting and fishing.

The region features some of the finest trout fly-fishing opportunities in Washington, along with salmon, steelhead and sturgeon fishing. Migratory waterfowl, dove, upland birds, deer, and some of the largest elk herds in the state draw hunters from across the state to the area every fall and winter. Thousands of wildlife viewers flock to the region annually to view elk and bighorn sheep at winter feeding sites in the wildlife areas.

PRIORITIES

- Protect sturgeon populations on the Columbia River, and ESA-listed Bull trout, salmon, and steelhead fish populations.
- Keep aquatic invasive species out of the state.
- Apprehend big game poachers.
- Protect agency lands.



Population (as of 2007):522,700

Five-Year Population Increase:.....44,700

Counties:Benton (1,089,920 acres)
Franklin (794,880 acres)
Kittitas (1,470,080 acres)
Klickitat (1,198,080 acres)
Yakima (2,749,440 acres)

Regional Acreage: 7,302,400

Climate (relative to WA State): 87° high
 40° low
 70° average
 Less than 1 inch per month precipitation

Major Bodies of Water: Snake, Columbia, Yakima, and Klickitat rivers. Bonneville, John Day, and McNary pools. Rimrock, Bumping, Keechelus, Kachess, and CleElum lakes

Captain:Richard Mann
Number of Sergeants:3
Number of Officers: 11
Officer Vacancies 1
Average acres per Officer:.....456,400
Citizens per Officer:.....32,669

R3



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Concerns for sturgeon populations resulted in greater efforts on the Columbia River during tribal commercial seasons. Officers made several arrests for unlawful take and retention of undersize sturgeon.

Across the region, investigative efforts resulted in prosecutions for the unlawful receipt and sale of hundreds of pounds of salmon; trafficking in big game; unlawful purchase of licenses; and illegal hunting by a foreign national. One case involved spotlighting and wastage of at least 35 big game animals.

Officers also took part in several marijuana eradication efforts on public lands within the region. One felon received 57 months in federal prison for the unlawful sale of a firearm, resulting from a big game trafficking investigation. Officers seized several vehicles for forfeiture along with guns and other equipment used in the commission of major fish and wildlife violations.



WDFW Officers assist in a marijuana eradication effort on public lands.

A significant effort was made at ports of entry and at major water recreational sites to educate boaters about and detect aquatic invasive



Captain Mann showing youth how a decoy works at the Washington Outdoor Youth Expo.

species. Officers staffed educational displays at the 2008 Youth Expo in the Tri Cities, reaching over 5,000 participants in a two-day period. They also attended 35 Hunter Education courses, conducted 18 school presentations, attended sportsmen shows and youth fishing events, and contacted local media outlets on regional fish and wildlife issues.

CHALLENGES

- There is a need for increasing protection of Columbia River sturgeon from commercial exploitation.
- Officers must provide a continued presence to protect endangered or threatened fish species.
- There is a constant need for ensuring public safety and compliance on department lands.
- Officers must provide timely responses to large carnivore conflicts.
- There is a proliferation of outdoor marijuana grows on state wildlife areas, which presents a direct threat to the environment and public safety.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Mike Hobbs

Officer Hobbs continues to demonstrate excellent performance in all his duties. Officer Hobbs has matured into an exceptional Fish and Wildlife Officer. He leads the detachment in arrests, complex investigations, and writing search warrants.

- He is a Field Training Officer and Defensive tactics Instructor.
- He continually steps forward and accepts additional responsibilities.
- He is very knowledgeable on RCWs and WACs .
- He has participated in numerous community and stakeholder events.
- He develops and maintains positive working relationships with government agencies, such as Puget Sound Energy, Department of Natural Resources, Washington State Patrol, and the Kittitas County Sheriff's Office.



REGION THREE STATISTICS FOR 2008

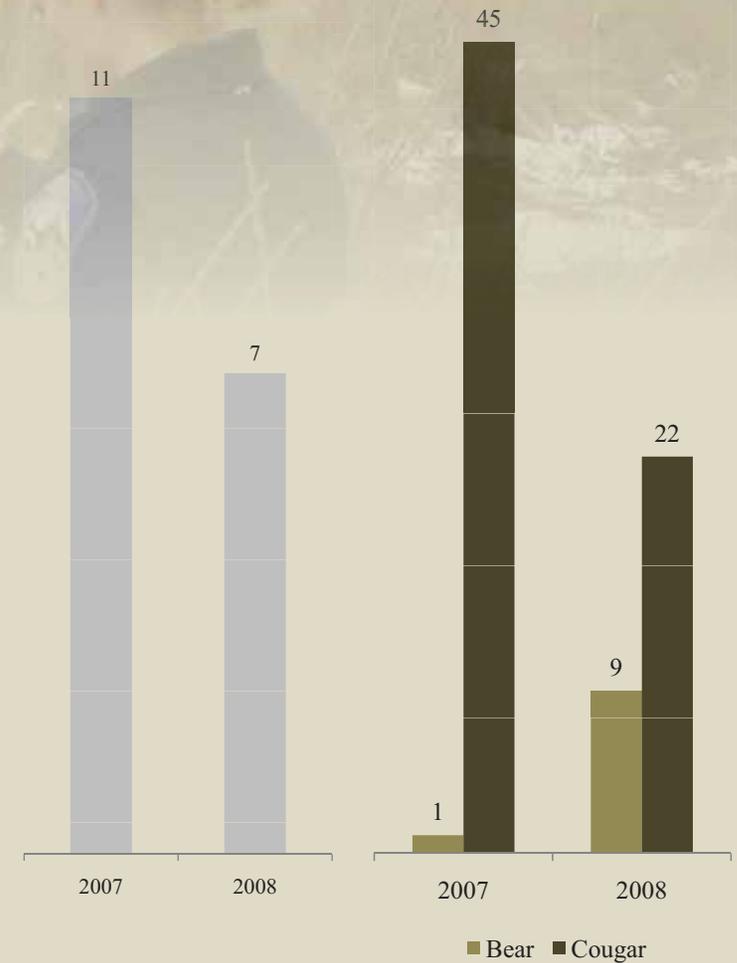
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



The 2008 statistic totals were accomplished with one less Officer position compared to 2007.

WILDLIFE STATISTICS

PROBLEM WILDLIFE DANGEROUS WILDLIFE



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to confirmed bear and cougar complaints.

R3



Region 4

16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, Washington 98012-1541
Telephone (425) 775-1311

DEMOGRAPHICS

In early 2008, as a budget savings strategy, two marine detachments were merged into Region 4. As a result, the Region 4 Enforcement staff now includes 21 Officers, five Sergeants, and a Captain. Their area of responsibility includes King, Snohomish, Skagit, Island, Whatcom, and San Juan counties. The biggest challenges facing Officers are increases in population. The majority of the state's population lives within the region, and more than 40% of all WDFW licenses sales are to Region 4 residents.

Region 4 contains a diverse area of fish and wildlife habitat, ranging from marine waters to alpine meadows at the Cascade crest. Region 4 contains 1,022 alpine lakes (33% of the state's total), 1,222 lowland lakes (25% of the state's total), 3,974 miles of anadromous streams (29% of the state's total), and 2,367 miles of resident streams (17% of the state's total). Several salmonid fish stocks are listed as threatened species in the region's waters.

PRIORITIES

- Respond to increasing calls from the public regarding human-wildlife conflicts in a timely manner to ensure public safety.

- Explore new and innovative non-lethal wildlife control techniques.
- Enforce the federal Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act rules and regulations, as part of a cooperative agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement.
- Patrol Northern Puget Sound and all of its recreational and commercial marine activities.
- Provide public education and enforcement for boaters.
- Monitor the myriad of fishing seasons (Dungeness crab, shrimp, salmon, steelhead, squid, bottom fish, etc.).
- Maintain an enforcement effort during the snow goose season.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Officer Bruce Richards was asked to experiment in a pilot program to determine the potential benefits of using a Karelian Bear Dog (KBD). Some states and provinces are also experimenting with KBDs and, like us, are discovering the dogs to be extremely useful in tracking bears and aiding in "hard releases" (a technique that reconditions and reestablishes a bear's natural instinct to fear humans). Officer Richards found his KBD, Mishka, to be very beneficial. As a result, WDFW is in the process of securing and deploying a second KBD in King/Snohomish county, providing Officers with yet another tool to help manage the ever-increasing calls for help.



Population (as of 2007):2,945,500
Five-Year Population Increase:..... 178,188

Counties: Island (133,120 acres)
.....King (1,360,640 acres)
.....San Juan (111,360 acres)
.....Skagit (1,110,400 acres)
.....Snohomish (1,336,960 acres)
..... Whatcom (1,356,160 acres)

Regional Acreage: 5,408,640

Climate (relative to WA State): Cool and dry summers, mild winters, wet and cloudy.

Major Bodies of Water: northern Puget Sound, Pacific Ocean, Nooksack River, Skagit River, Skyomish River, Lake Washington

Captain: Bill Hebner
Number of Sergeants: 5
Number of Officers:23
Officer Vacancies2
Average acres per Officer:..... 186,505
Citizens per Officer:..... 101,569





WDFW Biologist Rich Beausoleil and Officer Bruce Richards with KBDs and an immobilized black bear.

Region 4 hosts thousands of acres of habitat for big game animals, including Mountain Goat, Black Bear, Black-tailed Deer, and Rocky Mountain Elk. Over the past decade, Region 4 Enforcement Officers have worked diligently and cooperatively with agency wildlife-management staff and the local tribes to re-establish the Nooksack elk herd.



2008 Nooksack elk harvested in Skagit County.

As a result of these efforts, 15 lucky special permit holders were authorized to hunt bull elk in Skagit County. These permit holders were

treated to some of the most successful and rewarding elk hunting opportunities the state has to offer, with hunters reporting a nearly 100% success rate for two years in a row.

Elk aren't the only animals that seem to thrive in our urban environment. In 2008, Officers Nick Jorg and Lance Stevens closed a case involving the illegal taking of a trophy black-tailed deer in Duvall. After a two-day trial, a jury found the primary suspect, Chad Leonard, guilty of numerous Fish and Wildlife violations resulting in fines and civil penalties of \$6,840, two days in jail, three days of work crew, and forty hours of community service.

Region 4 was once again asked by our law enforcement partners to provide enforcement support for the annual SeaFair festivities on Lake Washington. WDFW deployed five vessels and eight Officers to assist the Mercer Island Police and Washington State Patrol with a Boating Under the Influence (BUI) emphasis on the lake for four days. Fish and Wildlife vessels were responsible for 70% of the BUI and vessel-safety arrests on the lake during the three-day event.

Fish and Wildlife Officers regularly encounter other criminal activity during the course of their Fish and Wildlife work, particularly in Region 4. This past fall, Officer Wendy Willette spearheaded a license fraud investigation that culminated in securing and executing a search warrant on a Kirkland residence. Felony charges were filed for identity theft, license fraud, possession of stolen property, a warrant arrest, and the deportation of an illegal alien.



A BUI suspect under arrest during Seafair on Lake Washington.

Historically, snow geese winter in Skagit and parts of Snohomish County. The only snow goose hunting in the state occurs in Region 4. Unfortunately, this very unique and traditional hunting opportunity has been threatened by unethical and illegal hunting activity. Over the past several years, in addition to increased enforcement patrols, WDFW Officers have participated in a collaborative process, resulting in a written, comprehensive snow goose hunting management plan for Fir Island.



Successful snow goose hunters on Fir Island in Skagit County.

R 4



CHALLENGES

Enforcement Officers in Region 4 are no doubt exposed to diverse resource and enforcement challenges. With the uncertainty of gasoline prices and worsening economic conditions, it is expected that more people to be recreating closer to home as opposed to spending scarce resources on traveling. Simply put, that means 2009 will be even busier than last year. Officers in Region 4 are up to the challenge.

North Bend and Snoqualmie residents are also experiencing a unique urban wildlife situation. During the past several years, a small group of elk has taken up year round residence on the old Meadowbrook farm, currently owned and managed by King County Parks. With no hunting or predator mortality, this herd has exploded to a population of over 300 animals. In addition to the increased elk damage complaints, this herd has provided some spectacular elk viewing opportunity, especially during the breeding season in September.

Sergeant Kim Chandler and Officer Chris Moszeter are participating in an agency-initiated, collaborative effort that includes representatives of cities, the county, local residents, elk viewers, and hunters, to develop a comprehensive herd management plan that no doubt will feature future hunting opportunity as a population-control measure.

2008 was an unusual year, in that Region 4 customer service staff and Enforcement Officers were confronted with an astounding number

of urban coyote complaints originating from within the city limits of Seattle and Bellevue. These calls ranged from nothing more than reports of someone observing a coyote crossing a busy city street or coyotes depredating on neighborhood house cats, to one instance of an actual bite to a human. Whatever the degree of risk, the emotional concern and fear expressed by our urban public is very real, and the result is that our already thinly spread Enforcement staff is spending an increasing and inordinate amount of time away from their regular law enforcement duties to instead respond to calls for service, attend community meetings, and answering media requests, all related to urban coyotes.



The intentional and unintentional feeding of animals causes them to lose their instinctive fear of humans, further exacerbating the urban coyote problem.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Lance Stevens

Officer Lance Stevens is assigned to the North Seattle station in King County, one of the busiest stations in the state. He is an avid

hunter and fisherman and knows his way around the field and water, which is a huge advantage when dealing with fish and wildlife violators. Officer Stevens has initiated several big game investigations on his own. Even though King County is not generally known for elk poaching violations, Officer Stevens made an excellent case that not only resulted in an illegally taken elk, but several illegal deer as well. The entire investigation started from a casual conversation with a hunter, and Officer Stevens developed the case basically from scratch.

- Officer Stevens enrolls in numerous online courses to enhance his career.
- He shows exceptional leadership skills when it comes to taking over crime scenes and investigations.
- He has good interpersonal skills when it comes to talking to hunters and fishers at various meetings and functions and in the field.
- He is active in hydraulics cases and offers recommendations to the local habitat biologists.



REGION FOUR STATISTICS FOR 2008

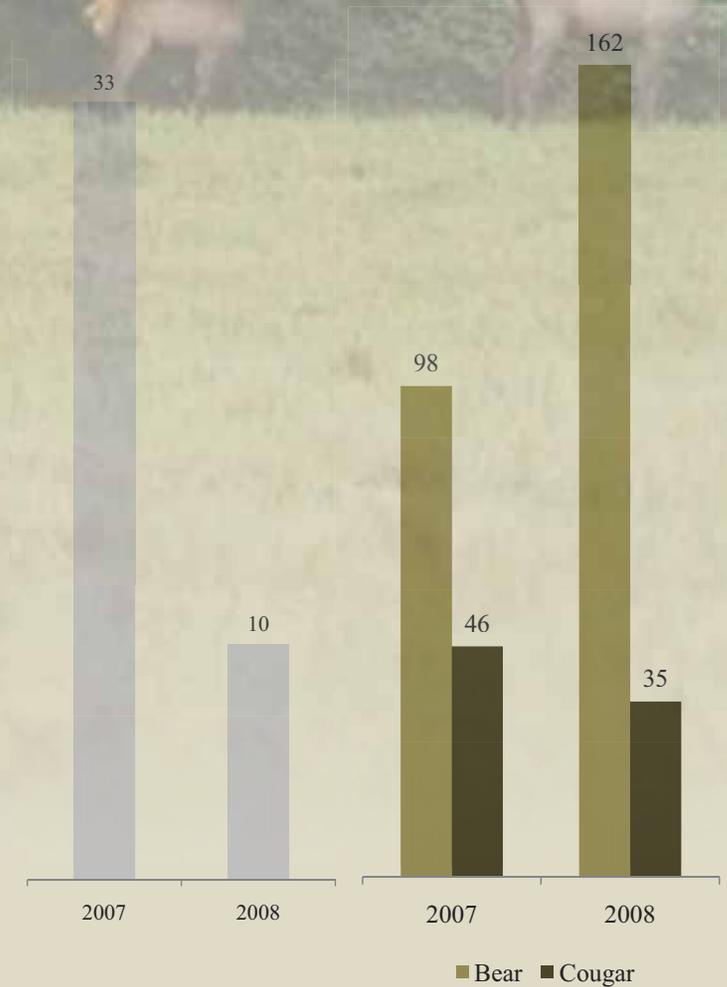
ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



WILDLIFE STATISTICS

PROBLEM WILDLIFE

DANGEROUS WILDLIFE



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to conformed bear and cougar complaints.

R 4



Region 5

2108 Grand Boulevard
Vancouver, Washington 98661
Telephone (360) 696-6211

DEMOGRAPHICS

Region 5 is comprised of four counties: Lewis, Cowlitz, Clark, and Skamania. Major urban areas include the cities of Centralia, Chehalis, Longview, Kelso, Vancouver, and Stevenson. The Region is dominated by industrial ports along the Columbia River, which is a major transportation route and recreation/commercial fishing destination; National Forest lands and industrial timberland; and rural farms/open space.

Significant features include the Mount St. Helens National Monument, and hydroelectric projects on the Cowlitz River, Lewis River, and Columbia River. These dams create seven major reservoirs that attract hundreds of thousands of boaters, recreationalists, and fishers each year.

The Columbia River and its tributaries contribute to some of the finest salmon and steelhead fishing in the state. Seven species of ESA-listed salmon and steelhead, and one species of ESA-listed Bull trout, run through the area. Unique fisheries, such as sturgeon and smelt, are also found here. The Gifford Pinchot and Mt. Adams National Forests, along with state lands and industrial timberlands, provide extensive outdoor, hunting, camping, ORVing, hiking, and other recreational opportunities.

PRIORITIES

- Monitor the commercial, sport, and tribal fisheries on the Columbia River for both salmon and sturgeon.
- Monitor the extensive big game hunting of the Mount St. Helens elk herd.
- Monitor salmon and steelhead fishing in the tributaries of the Columbia River. These tributaries are home to wild and ESA-listed stocks that snaggers prey heavily upon.
- Provide Officer assistance during the controversial trap, transfer, and removal of California sea lions at Bonneville Dam.
- As human populations/housing developments grow and encroach on wildlife habitat, respond to the ever-increasing number of calls for service relative to human vs. wildlife conflicts. Urban elk are fast becoming an issue for the Region.
- Respond to feral deleterious wildlife species, such as fallow deer and mute swans. Resolutions to these issues are typically emotionally charged.
- Provide assistance to local law enforcement and the community during natural disasters, such as floods and wild fires.
- Provide Officer presence at the many sportsmen club meetings, kid's fishing derbies, sport shows, fairs, public meetings, government meetings, and other events, ignore where the public wishes to see and interact with Officers.



Population (as of 2007):601,600

Five-Year Population Increase:59,900

Counties: Clark (401,920 acres)
 Cowlitz (728,320 acres)
 Lewis (1,540,480 acres)
 Skamania (1,059,840 acres)

Regional Acreage: 3,730,560

Climate (relative to WA State): Cool and dry summers, mild winters, wet and cloudy.

Major Bodies of Water: Cowlitz River, Lewis River.

Captain:Murray Schlenker

Number of Sergeants:2

Number of Officers:12

Officer Vacancies:1

Average acres per Officer: 196,345

Citizens per Officer:31,663





Officer receives personal instructions on how to catch a steelhead from a “veteran” fisher.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The addition of one Officer position was achieved by securing funding from a hydroelectric project re-licensing agreement. This project position serves the greater Lewis River watershed hydroelectric project and is funded by contract through PacifiCorp.
- Provided oversight and security to tribal fishers fishing for ceremonial and subsistence salmon under agreement with the state below Bonneville Dam for the first time in the history of *US. vs. Oregon and U.S. vs Washington*.
- Successfully interacted and assisted local farmers and businesses in resolving and reducing damage to commercial crops at a minimal expense to the state.
- Provided law enforcement oversight and monitoring to commercial and sport fisheries unique to the state, such as shad, smelt, and sturgeon.

- Assisted other state and federal law enforcement agencies with the eradication of marijuana grows on state and federal lands. The DEA ranks Southwest Washington as having some of the highest numbers of outdoor marijuana grows in the state.
- Provided public outreach through various events, particularly through the seven kid’s fishing derbies that occur in the Region.

CHALLENGES

Controversy about herd size has lead to increased (3,000) special permits in the Region. Additionally, a portion of the Mount St. Helens mudflow has now been opened to hunting. This area in the Loo-Wit GMU had been closed to hunting since the eruption of Mt. St. Helens in 1980. Unique opportunities have now been created for senior and disabled hunters on WDFW lands on the mudflow.

The interstate and international unlawful harvest and export of sturgeon roe and sturgeon meat is intensifying. The eggs and meat of sturgeon are highly prized in some communities. The Columbia River offers some of the last sturgeon available in the nation. Commercial, sport, and tribal fishers heavily fish this resource, with ample opportunities for unlawful harvest to occur in the wide expanses of the Columbia River.

The Region 5 staff has been insturmental in providing safety and security to staff and



federal property associated with the trapping, transfer, and removal of California sea lions at Bonneville Dam. This highly controversial trap and relocate effort required more than 2,500 Officer hours in 2008. An Incident Command structure was utilized to coordinate the many Officers and multiple jurisdictions that were involved.

Region 5 has arguably the most complex Canada goose hunting seasons in the state. These regulations are necessary to protect the Dusky Canada goose and prevent that subspecies from becoming another ESA-listed species.

Freshwater clams are a popular food item for some cultures. However, harvesting freshwater clams on the Columbia River is prohibited. These clams are contaminated from centuries of industrial waste that has entered the Columbia River.

Language barriers have hampered educational efforts, leaving enforcement as the tool used to educate and spread the word. An influx



Provide emergency assistance to other law enforcement agencies. I-5 fire/closure 08/15/2008.

of refugees and immigrants from the break up of the former Soviet Union has created language barriers that Officers must overcome on a daily basis as they try to enforce and educate newcomers regarding natural resource regulations. There are few outreach resources available in the local community for these users, which results in a misunderstanding of the regulations necessary for the preservation of natural resources.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Scott Schroeder

Officer Schroeder is stationed in Chehalis and works primarily in central Lewis County. He came to Chehalis from Forks about six years ago. He has adapted to an extremely busy station and is constantly on the go. In the years prior to Officer Schroeder transferring to Lewis County, there was quite a lot of turnover in Officers and Sergeants. As a result, the community lost its connection with the Enforcement Program. Officer Schroeder has been successful in re-connecting central Lewis County with the Enforcement Program and garnering support for our program from both the civilian and law enforcement communities.

- Officer Schroeder policed an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access fishing area open only to those confined to a wheelchair at Blue Creek near the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery.
- He engaged user groups in some of the GMUs in Lewis County that have the

highest elk harvest and hunter success rates in the state.

- He handled complex Tribal hunting issues with tact and consideration of the resource.
- He has made numerous big game contacts and arrests.
- He led the Region in damage claims.
- He led the detachment in responding to problem wildlife complaints.
- He issued 87 Notice of Infractions; 128 Misdemeanor and 16 Gross Misdemeanor citations; and made five warrant arrests.
- He has taken on several very complex commercial game damage claims over the past year and done an excellent job.
- He severed as a Property/Evidence Custodian for Detachment 4.
- He is a Regional Representative for the Washington Game Warden Association.



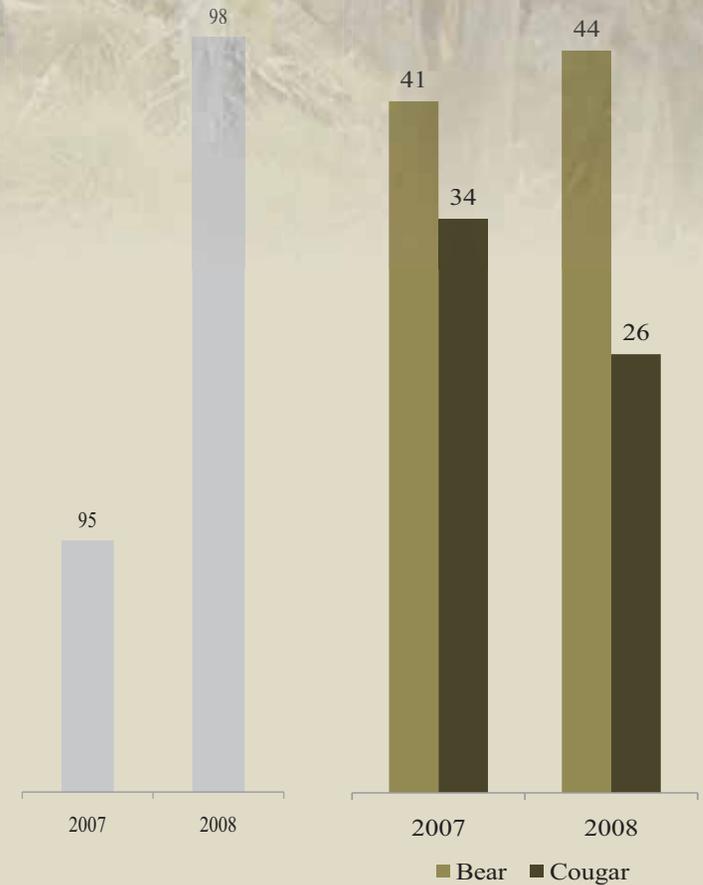
REGION FIVE STATISTICS FOR 2008

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



WILDLIFE STATISTICS

PROBLEM WILDLIFE DANGEROUS WILDLIFE



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to confirmed bear and cougar complaints.

R5



Region 6

48 Devonshire Road
Montesano, Washington 98563
Telephone (360) 664-0689

DEMOGRAPHICS

Region 6 is a unique and diverse geographic area comprised of nine counties that include the mouth of the Columbia River, the Pacific Ocean coastline, the Olympic Mountain Range, the Strait of Juan de Fuca, central and south Puget Sound, and a portion of the western slope of the Cascades and Mount Rainier. Included in Region 6 are the large metropolitan and urban areas of Tacoma, Olympia, Bremerton, and Port Angeles. However, the Region is most noted for its rich resources of the mountainous and rural areas, rivers and streams, bountiful shellfish beaches, and marine environment.

The Enforcement Program in Region 6 consists of two components: Land and Marine.

The Marine Division in Region Six includes two detachments where Officers are specialized in the field of marine issues and commercial fisheries enforcement. These Officers are deployed in stations along the coast and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The Coastal Marine Detachment is staffed by a field Sergeant and four Officers. The Straits Marine Detachment is staffed by a field Sergeant and three Officers. These detachments are responsible with ensuring compliance for a wide variety of complex rules and regulations pertaining to the commercial salmon, bottomfish, and shellfish

industries. These detachments also patrol recreational fisheries and respond to land-based calls and complaints.

The three remaining detachments in Region 6, although not without a significant marine and commercial fishery responsibility, are considered the “land,” or more traditional fish and wildlife enforcement detachments. Grays Harbor County has a Sergeant and three Officers; Mason and Thurston Counties have four Officers and a Sergeant; and Kitsap and Pierce Counties have a detachment of six Officers and a Sergeant.

PRIORITIES

- Enforce federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Lacey Act rules and regulations, as part of a cooperative agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement.
- Monitor and enforce recreational and commercial marine activities.
- Provide public education and enforcement for boaters.
- Monitor the myriad of fishing seasons (Dungeness crab, shrimp, salmon, steelhead, squid, bottom fish, etc.).
- Maintain a focus on protecting several stocks of salmon and wild steelhead as they make their way through the spawning grounds.
- Protect public safety and health by



Population (as of 2007): 1,517,400
Five-Year Population Increase:..... 114,702

Counties: . Grays Harbor (1,226,240 acres)
 Jefferson (1,160,960 acres)
 Kitsap (252,800 acres)
 Mason (615,040 acres)
 Pacific (596,480 acres)
 Pierce (1,073,920 acres)
 Thurston (465,280 acres)
 Wahkiakum (168,960 acres)

Regional Acreage: 6,672,640

Climate (relative to WA State): Cool and dry summers, mild winters, wet and cloudy.

Major Bodies of Water: Puget Sound, Pacific Ocean, Columbia River, Strait of Juan de Fuca, central and south Puget Sound, Chehalis River, Nisqually River

Captain:Dan Brinson
Number of Sergeants: 5
Number of Officers:20
Officer Vacancies4
Average acres per Officer:.....238,309
Citizens per Officer:..... 54,193





Officer Brian Fairbanks teaming up with the Clallam County sheriff's office marine patrol.

patrolling areas in the Puget Sound where the harvest of clams, oysters, and mussels is prohibited due to pollution.

- Respond to dangerous wildlife complaints.
- Protect crops from damage due to the Region's population of large herds of elk.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Region 6 and Marine Officers organized and conducted 31 separate "Emphasis Patrols" during 2008. These patrols focused on a variety of priority resource protection issues. Some of the interesting highlights of the enforcement activity are captured below:

Commercial Clam Patrol Discovers Methamphetamine Lab on Shellfish Beach: While conducting a sanitary shellfish patrol in Hammersly Inlet for illegal clam poachers, Officer Jewett noticed someone about 200 feet away on the upper beach next to the bank. The individual quickly stepped back against the bank to hide. Officer Jewett immediately

started walking toward the spot where he had noticed the person obviously hiding. While approaching, approximately fifty feet away, two individuals stepped out and started walking towards Officer Jewett. As they were approaching him, one of the individuals stated that they were just checking out some garbage on the beach. When asked why they were hiding, the individual stated they weren't hiding. Assuming the individuals were hiding shellfish, Officer Jewett asked them to walk back over to where they were hiding.

When they got to the location, Officer Jewett noticed two very full large black plastic garbage sacks and one green tank of some sort. He opened both black bags and noticed several items inside the bags that could be used in the production of methamphetamine. The two individuals were taken into custody, and Mason County deputies arrived shortly thereafter. Mason County Detectives gathered the portable meth lab for further processing. Both individuals also had several warrants, and one had a history of meth use.

Man Denying Identity Arrested on \$200,000 Warrant, and Wood Theft: Officer Maschhoff responded to a report of firewood theft and trespass on the Buckley Tree Farm. Officer Maschhoff was able to locate the two individuals and ask them for their permits to be on the farm. Neither subject had a permit, and when asked about the trailer attached to the truck, the driver said he forgot to take it off before he left. Officer Maschhoff informed the men that he believed they were out looking to steal some firewood. The passenger had no

identification on him and gave a name and DOB that came back with no record. Maschhoff recontacted the subject and asked for his real name and DOB. The subject emphatically replied that he was not lying and that he had an Oregon driver's license. Yet again the subject came back with no record. However, radio did locate a similar individual with a different middle initial and year of birth. This man had \$200,000 worth of warrants out of Enumclaw. After confirming scars on the subject's neck and left leg, Maschhoff took the subject into custody and transported him to the tree farm gate. The subject was none too happy to see Enumclaw Police waiting with a previous booking photo.

CHALLENGES

Marine: Protecting stocks of salmon and groundfish listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act requires specially trained Officers with a dedicated enforcement presence on the grounds where these species are fished commercially and recreationally. The overfished status of many groundfish



Sergeant Anderson inspecting an offload of Sea Urchins.



species severely constrains opportunity, forcing fisheries managers to close certain areas and shorten season lengths, apply strict catch limits, and restrict the type of gear that can be used. These strategies can only be effective if the rules are enforced.

Land: Recovering salmon and wild steelhead stocks poses the same and similar challenges to the Officers in the land detachments. During fall and summer months especially, Region 6 Fish and Wildlife Officers are prioritizing their activities to maintain a focus on protecting several stocks of salmon and wild steelhead as the fish make their way through the marine waters of Hood Canal and the Puget Sound to return to their spawning grounds in Region 6 rivers and streams.

Fish and Wildlife Officers in Region 6 also play an important role in protecting public safety and health by patrolling areas in the Puget Sound where harvest of clams, oysters, and mussels is prohibited due to pollution. Officers work all hours of the day and night, depending on the tide, patrolling these polluted beaches, conducting surveillance, and doing investigations to apprehend and prosecute poachers attempting to harvest potentially harmful shellfish from polluted beaches and sell them on the market to innocent and unsuspecting consumers.

Region 6 is host to large herds of elk that cause crop damage to Christmas trees, cranberries, hay, and pasturelands, as well as the traditional agricultural crops. Officers are often in the middle, trying to resolve these conflicts in

communities where agriculture and urban sprawl creates an environment of opposing views and interests. Also, the urban sprawl and population growth in Region 6 creates an ever-increasing demand on Fish and Wildlife Officers to respond to dangerous wildlife complaints where humans and domestic animals are confronted with bears and mountain lions.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Dennis Flowers

Officer Dennis Flowers has been recognized not only by his supervisor from within his own detachment, but by peers from outside his detachment as well. This “outside the detachment” recognition is, and would be, a huge compliment to anyone. It emphasizes just one of many positive traits and characteristics of Officer Flowers. He is a team-oriented law enforcement Officer that is very well respected not only within his own detachment, but statewide as well.

Officer Flowers, since coming to the Shelton Station in Detachment Seven, has proven time and time again to be a team player who constantly strives to encourage all others around him to be a part of, and buy into, this concept. Officer Flowers has been very successful in this endeavor. Some examples of his great contributions and skills include:

- Finding new and innovative ways to reduce illegal fish and wildlife activities.
- Developing multi-detachment and multi-

agency Emphasis Patrols addressing the myriad of enforcement issues surrounding the Skokomish River Fall Chinook Sport fishery.

- Being instrumental in providing suggestions that changed the rules for this fishery.
- Working with program staff and other law enforcement agencies to close a loophole in the rules and regulations for game fish that were causing conflicts between the public and law enforcement personnel.
- Making improvements to ensure greater compliance by all commercial shellfish growers in the Mason County area, in accordance with the National Sanitary Shellfish Program process.
- Creating a positive network of relationships with all other law enforcement entities in Mason County.
- Constantly working to assist his peers to be successful in achieving their individual expectations.

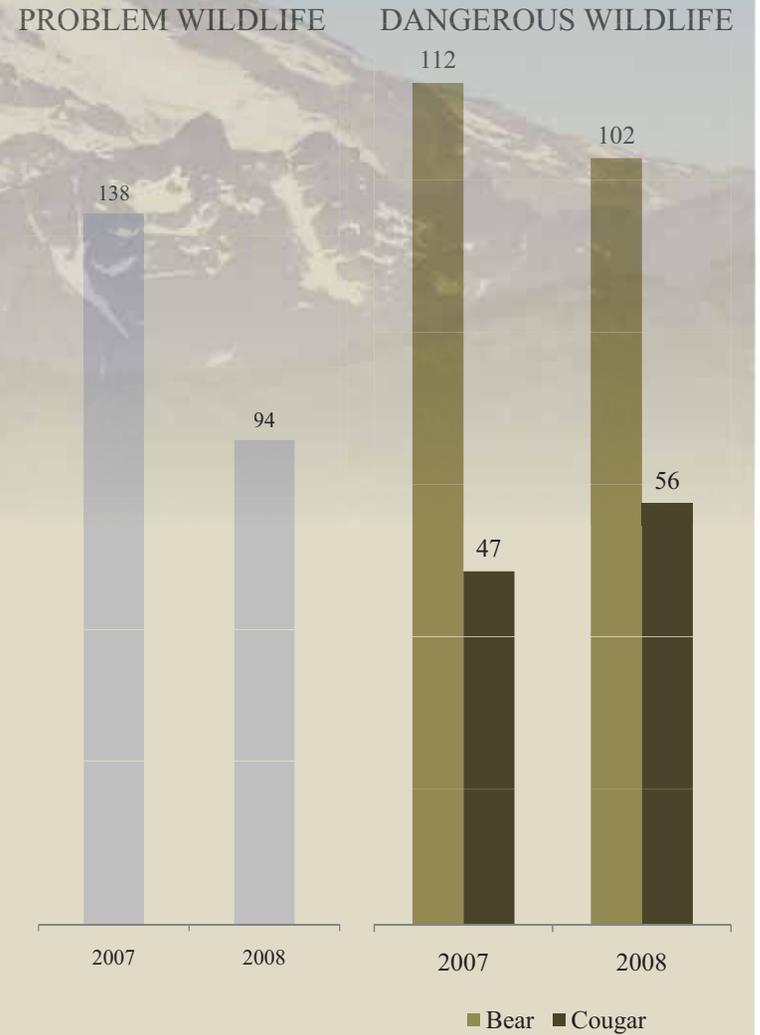


REGION SIX STATISTICS FOR 2008

ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



WILDLIFE STATISTICS



Figures represent the number of field reports submitted by Officers for each year.
 Problem wildlife refers to deer, elk, and moose complaints.
 Dangerous wildlife refers to confirmed bear and cougar complaints.

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