

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM



2003 Annual Report



Message from Chief Bjork



The men and women of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Enforcement Program are charged with an extremely diverse set of duties and responsibilities within a state known for its fish, wildlife, and habitats. These valuable resources, once thought to be limitless, must be properly managed, protected and sustained for future generations. To properly and effectively perform our duties and responsibilities we communicate and cooperate with our communities, reach out and educate citizens, and enforce those laws necessary to protect fish and wildlife and the safety of all persons.

As Chief of the Enforcement Program, I am very proud of the work our Officers perform every day to help promote the “quality of life” all of us value in Washington State. The information contained in this annual report summarizes activities in some critical areas and attempts to demonstrate the dedication each member of the WDFW Enforcement Program has for the fish and wildlife resources we are sworn to protect.





Agency Mission

Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife



To serve Washington's citizens by achieving compliance with fish and wildlife related laws, responsive public service, prompt resolution of conflicts between humans and wildlife, and by forming partnerships with public and other agencies to benefit fish and wildlife.





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Goals and Objectives

GOAL I: HEALTHY AND DIVERSE FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND HABITATS

Objective 1: Develop, integrate and disseminate sound fish, wildlife and habitat science.

Objective 2: Protect, restore and enhance fish and wildlife populations and their habitats.

Objective 3: Ensure WDFW activities, programs, facilities and lands are consistent with local, state and federal regulations that protect and recover fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Objective 4: Influence the decisions of others that affect fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Objective 5: Minimize adverse interactions between humans and wildlife.



GOAL II. SUSTAINABLE FISH AND WILDLIFE-RELATED OPPORTUNITIES

Objective 6: Provide sustainable fish and wildlife-related recreational and commercial opportunities compatible with maintaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitats.

Objective 7: Improve the economic well-being of Washington by providing diverse, high quality recreational and commercial opportunities.

Objective 8: Work with Tribal governments to ensure fish and wildlife management objectives are achieved.

GOAL III. OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Objective 9: Provide excellent professional service.

Objective 10: Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of WDFW operational and support activities.

Objective 11: Provide sound operational management of WDFW lands, facilities and access sites.

Objective 12: Develop Information Systems infrastructure and coordinate data systems to provide access to services and information.

Objective 13: Recruit, develop and retain a diverse workforce with high professional standards.

Objective 14: Maintain a safe work environment.

Objective 15: Reconnect with those interested in Washington's fish and wildlife.



Budget Information

Washington State has a biennial budget process that begins on July 1 of every odd calendar year. Each biennium, the WDFW, including the Enforcement Program, conducts a budgeting process based on priorities of the agency. A supplemental budget process enables agencies to make mid-course adjustments to the original budget with approval of the legislature every year. The budget for the Enforcement Program for the 2003 –2005 biennium is \$31.2 million. The Program is authorized 170.3 Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) for the biennium.



Enforcement Program Description

The Enforcement Program is the twelfth largest law enforcement agency in Washington State and it is under the command of the Chief of the Enforcement Program, who reports to the Director of WDFW. Our staff is composed of 148 sworn officers and 20 non-sworn staff. Most officers are assigned to field duties in one of six regions, a Statewide Marine Division or Statewide Investigations Unit (SIU). All non-sworn staff are assigned to headquarters.

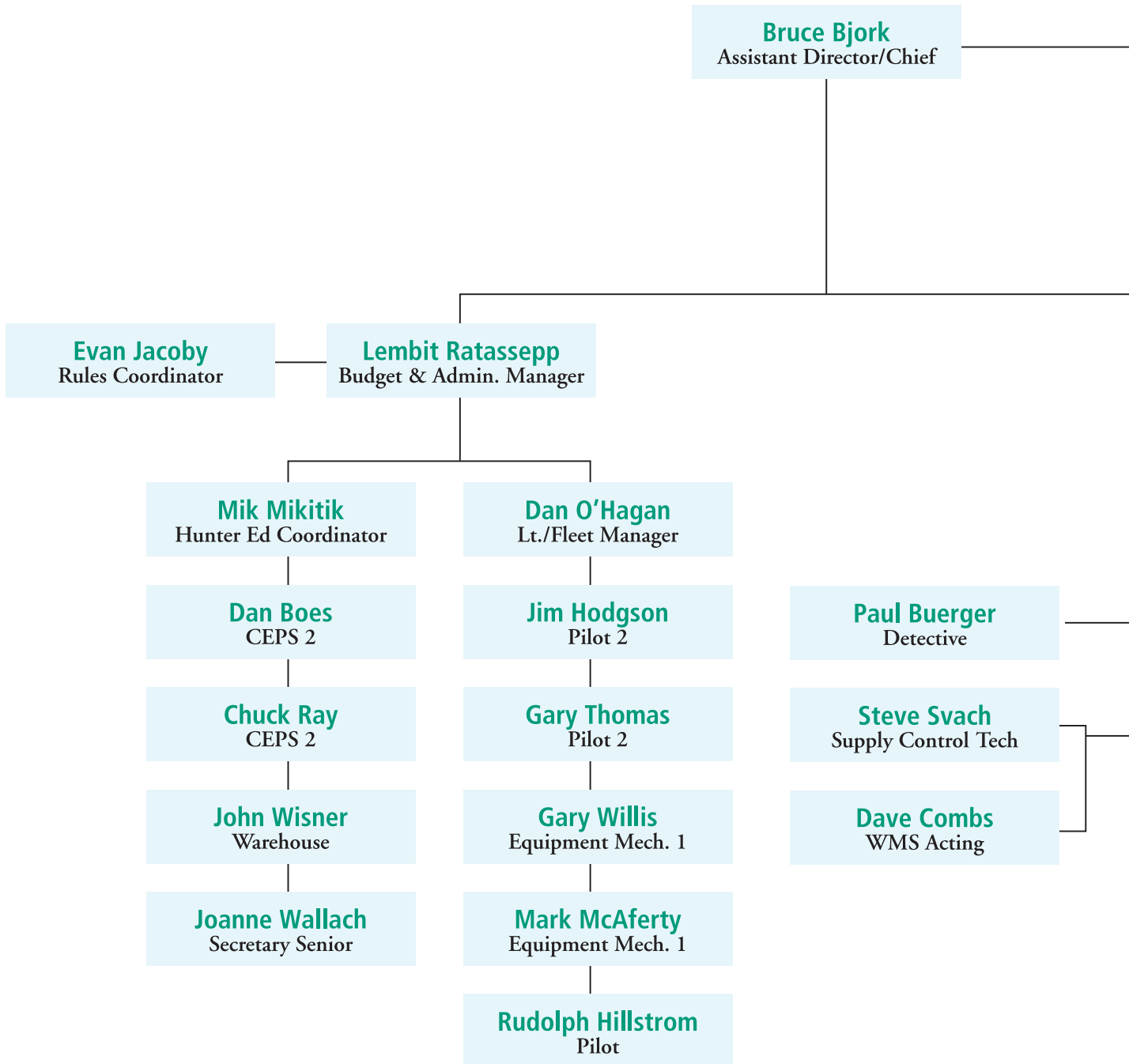
Officers are charged with a diverse set of duties and responsibilities including:

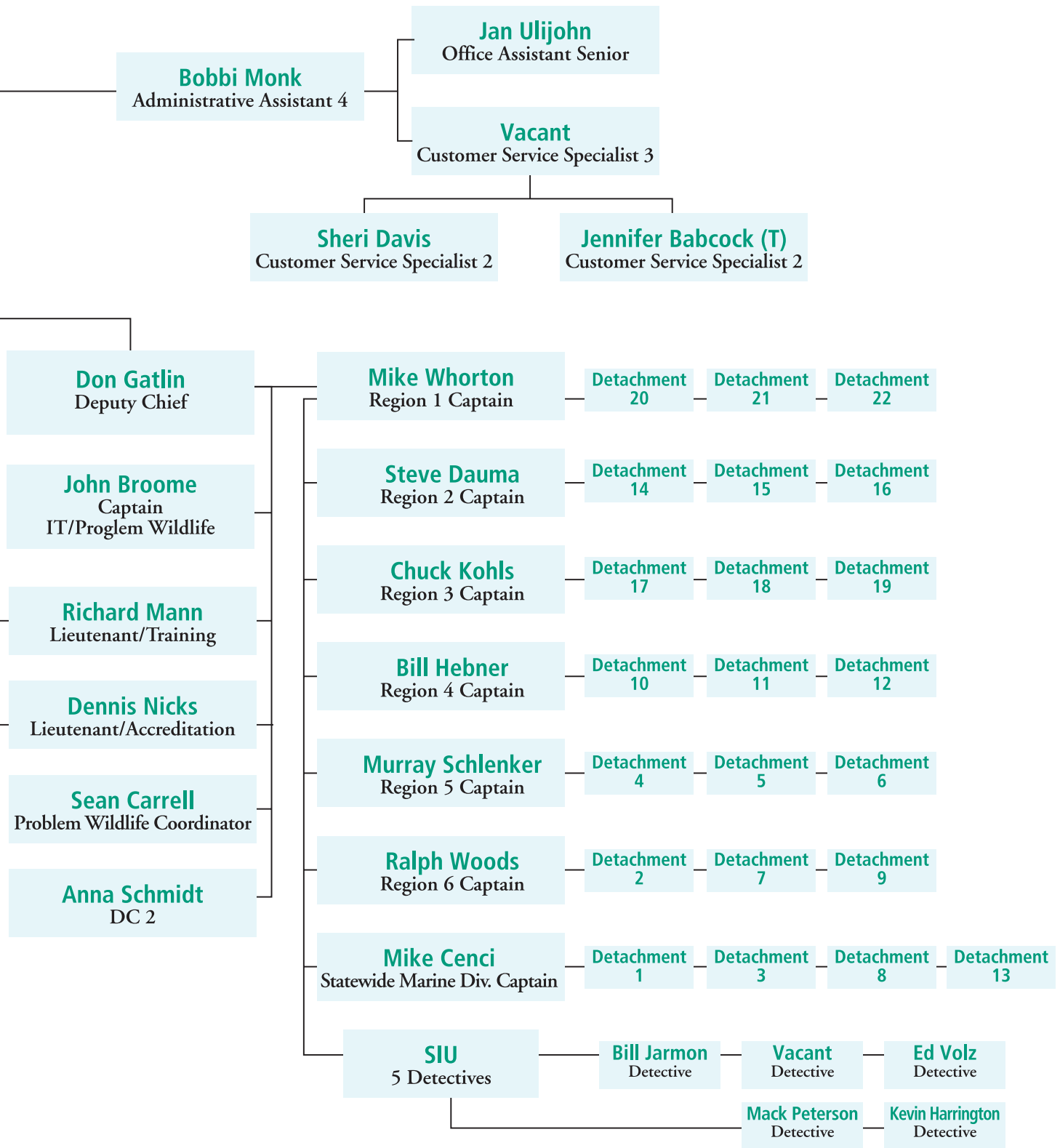
- Enforcement of recreational and commercial harvest regulations
- Ensuring compliance with fish passage/diversion standards and hydraulic project requirements
- Responding to dangerous bear and cougar complaints
- Preventing unsanitary shellfish from entering the marketplace
- Enforcing boating rules and regulations and all criminal laws
- Assessing and responding to commercial agricultural crop damage
- Ensuring legal harvest of forest products
- Providing hunter education
- Working with local communities

The Enforcement Program is one of only two fish and wildlife agencies accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in the United States. The WDFW Enforcement Program achieved “CALEA Recognition” status in December 2002 and is working towards full accreditation.



Organizational Chart

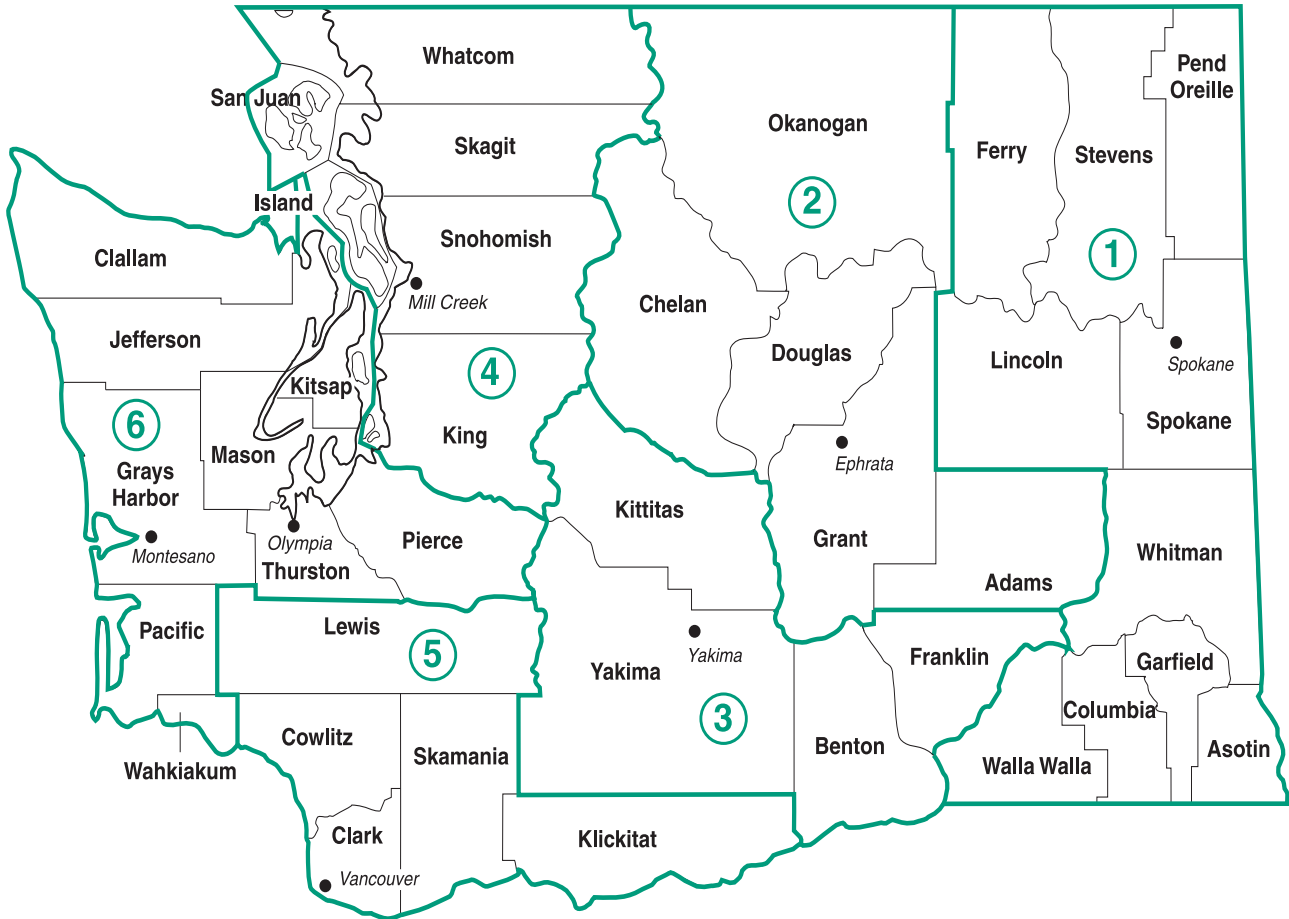






Regional Offices

Regional offices are located in Spokane, Ephrata, Yakima, Mill Creek, Vancouver and Montesano. An Enforcement Program captain is responsible for the Enforcement Program in each region. Captains, sergeants and officers work closely with other WDFW personnel, the community, local landowners and other law enforcement agencies due to the diverse issues, locations and natural resources in the area.



Region 1
North 8702 Division Street
Spokane, WA 99218-1199
(509) 456-4082

Region 2
1550 Alder Street NW
Ephrata, WA 98823-9651
(509) 754-4624

Region 3
1701 South 24th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902-5720
(509) 457-9317

Region 4
16018 Mill Creek Boulevard
Mill Creek, WA 98012
(425) 775-1311

Region 5
2108 SE Grand Boulevard
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 906-6700

Region 6
48 Devonshire Road
Montesano, WA 98563-9618
(360) 249-4628



Region One



Captain Mike Whorton, a 29-year veteran of the WDFW began his career in 1975 as a Fish and Wildlife officer in Stevenson and Longview. He was promoted to sergeant in 1984 and to commander of Region 1 Spokane in 1987. Captain Whorton has a B.S. in Biology and a Masters Degree in Public Administration.



Region One enforcement staff includes three sergeants and seventeen officers. Each of the three sergeants supervises five to seven officers who are responsible for a very large area that may include one or more counties.



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

The northeastern portion of the region consists of mixed conifer forest that is home to cougar, black bear, forest grouse, trout and endangered grizzly bears and caribou. In the mixed agricultural and pasture areas of northeastern Washington are some of the state’s largest whitetail and mule deer populations. As you move south, ponderosa pine woodlands become the dominant habitat. Spokane County is home to approximately 400,000 people, and 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.

Officers’ enforcement responsibilities are as equally diverse in the region as the geography and wildlife. Officers routinely handle complex poaching cases, conflicts between humans and wildlife and investigate deer and elk damage claims on agricultural lands. In an effort to ensure recovery of endangered species, particularly salmonid species, the Region One Enforcement Program has implemented a progressive and innovative way to address Endangered Species Act (ESA) enforcement issues called the “*Cooperative Compliance Review Program.*” This program is designed to inform and assist landowners and irrigators in a effort to achieve compliance with state laws regarding fish passage, screening of gravity diversions and pump stations, and obtaining permits required by the state hydraulics code for the operation and maintenance of such facilities.





REGION ONE FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	722	422	310	79	81	140	42%
Fish	10,230	1,075	681	194	228	215	89%
Game Bird	1,151	71	46	16	26	4	94%
Migratory Bird	388	44	19	6	16	11	89%
Shellfish	11	2	1	0	0	0	82%
Small Game	92	0	0	0	0	1	100%
Total	19,101	1,614	1,057	295	352	371	92%

Definitions:

Enforcement Contacts – Each person an officer personally checks for compliance

Violations – The number of people contacted during patrol activities and calls for service that had committed one or more violations of the law or Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

Arrests – Number of offenses on the citation, infraction or booking

Written Warnings – Number of offenses on the written warning

Verbal Warnings – Number of verbal warnings given for offenses

Officers Assists – Number of times assisting law enforcement officer who has written a citation, infraction, or made a physical arrest.

Compliance Rate – Violators divided by Enforcement Contacts subtracted from 100%

Region One Officer of the Year



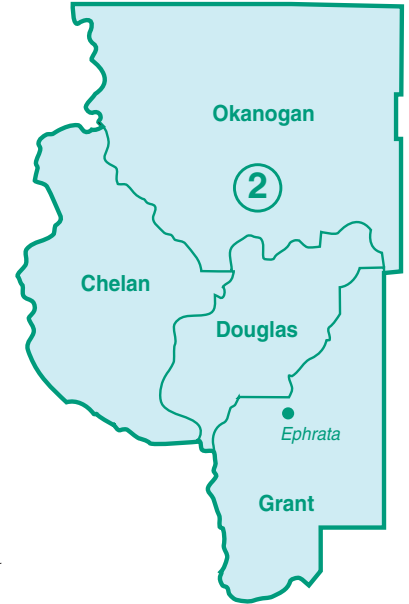
Officer Mike Sprecher is a dedicated professional who consistently demonstrates his commitment to protecting natural resources. Mike was the lead investigator on several big game cases involving deer, elk and moose. One case resulted in the apprehension of a poacher that killed over seven deer in the course of a year. Mike is a Field Training Officer (FTO) and is an integral part of the Spokane area Hunter Education Program.



Region Two



Captain Steve Dauma's career with WDFW spans 27 years that includes 16 years in the field and 9 years in headquarters. He holds degrees in Wildlife Management and Business Administration. Captain Dauma oversees twelve officers organized into three detachments, each supervised by a sergeant.



The Region Two enforcement staff serves Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Adams counties. This area of rural north central Washington covers over 14,000 square miles, and has a population base of 230,000. Approximately 230 miles of the Columbia River stretches through this region, supporting salmon and steelhead runs. With over 400 high elevation lakes in the Cascade Mountains and over 200 lakes in the lowlands, this region is rich with fishing opportunities for bass, walleye, bluegill and trout. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife owns more than 300,000 acres in the Region, which have been designated for wildlife and public recreation. Additionally, there are thousands of acres of other publicly owned land open for recreational use as well as approximately 580,000 acres of privately owned land with Department access agreements.

From the Pasayten Wilderness to the Columbia Basin project, Region Two is very diverse in its habitat for wildlife. The northern portions of the region with its thick forests provide suitable shelter and range for cougar, black bear,



and forest grouse. The rocky slopes of Chelan and Entiat mountains provide exceptional range for bighorn sheep and mountain goats. Mule deer herds are found throughout the region and large numbers of elk live in the Colockum area near the Chelan/Kittitas County line. Douglas County with its step-shrub and deep soil is home to the endangered pygmy rabbit and sharp-tail grouse. The southeast portion of the

region, with its numerous ponds, lakes and the Columbia River, provides habitat for migrating ducks and geese along flight paths to and from western Canada and Alaska.

Enforcement officers remain vigilant in their duties to provide recreational opportunities for the sportsman while also protecting resources for future generations. Officers work closely with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies on a diverse range of cases from simple trespassing to complex federal violations involving the Lacey and Endangered Species Acts. Large numbers of deer and elk near major irrigation projects sometimes create conflicts between wildlife and humans related to damage to commercial agricultural crops. Officers spend a significant amount of time on damage prevention and assessment of damage. Dangerous wildlife issues associated with public safety and domestic animals, primarily related to cougar, also require officer involvement.





REGION TWO FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	4,117	239	156	24	98	92	94%
Fish	14,204	1,739	1,001	183	560	480	88%
Game Bird	613	48	31	5	18	7	92%
Migratory Bird	1,140	101	60	11	52	13	91%
Shellfish	498	218	141	3	190	134	56%
Small Game	96	9	3	2	5	0	91%
Total	20,668	2,354	1,392	228	923	726	89%

Region Two Officer of the Year



Officer John Danielson's commitment to the fish and wildlife resources is recognized throughout the region. John is regularly involved with the District Team in Okanogan County and works closely with other WDFW resource managers and organizations. John willingly took on the responsibilities of a vacant station providing an enforcement presence in the adjoining counties. John seeks out information to increase his knowledge, keeps informed on

resource issues, and shares his information with others.

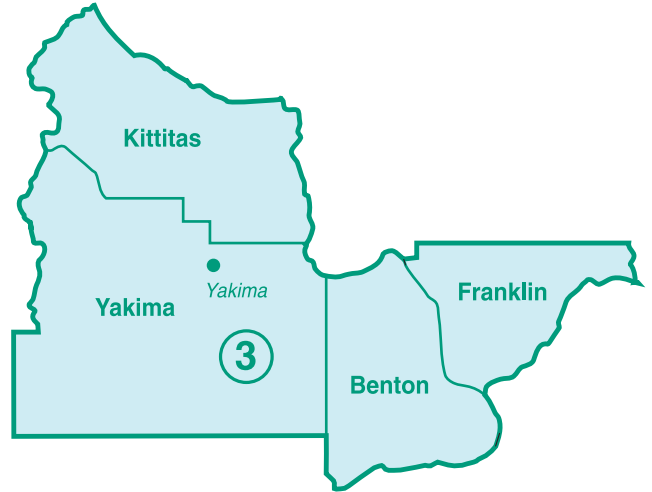


Region Three



Captain Chuck Kohls was hired as a State Wildlife Agent in 1975. During his 29 years of service Captain Kohls has worked in Thurston, Pacific and Yakima Counties. There are currently eleven officers in Region Three that work in Kittitas, Yakima, Benton,

Franklin and Klickitat Counties. Officers are organized into three detachments. A sergeant supervises between four and seven officers.



Region Three includes the summits of White and Snoqualmie Passes along the Pacific Crest Trail in the high Cascade Mountains eastward to the arid shrub steppe areas along the Columbia River. The Yakima River basin drains approximately 6,155 square miles in south-central Washington and contains a diversity of landforms, including the alpine and forested zones of the Cascade Mountain range to the shrub-steppe lowlands and broad river valleys of the Columbia plateau. The basin is one of the most intensively irrigated areas in the United States and includes five major irrigation storage reservoirs. Salmonids proposed for listing under ESA has become a top priority in the basin. This includes bull trout in the Yakima basin and steelhead in the upper Columbia River.



The region offers more than 400,000 acres of Department owned land all of which is open for public recreation. These lands offer excellent hunting for upland birds, waterfowl and big game. The Yakima River and the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River are among the regions largest water resources providing sturgeon, walleye, bass,



summer steelhead, chinook salmon and rainbow trout fishing. The area has populations of two federally listed threatened species; steelhead trout and bull trout. Recovery efforts for steelhead, bull trout, spring chinook and coho salmon are critically dependent on enforcement efforts to protect the fish from poaching and environmental impacts.



Region Three has the largest population of elk and elk hunters in Washington. On the negative side, having the largest elk population has resulted in a high number of elk damage claims to alfalfa, orchards, vineyards and wheat lands. Officers conduct numerous investigations of violations of statutes protecting big game.



REGION THREE FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	3,975	200	139	9	101	77	95%
Fish	9,154	884	638	73	274	176	90%
Game Bird	257	19	11	1	12	0	93%
Migratory Bird	604	87	48	8	43	28	86%
Shellfish	218	49	34	1	10	9	78%
Small Game	62	2	1	0	2	0	97%
Total	14,270	1,241	871	92	442	290	91%

Region Three Officer of the Year



Officer Gene Beireis has developed an excellent reputation throughout his community and with his peers for his skills, knowledge and dedication. Gene is a Field Training Officer (FTO), a member of the Yakima Valley Community College Criminal Justice Advisory Board, Region Three Recruiting Coordinator, and the regional representative for the Game Wardens Association. While Gene works many hours with schools and civic groups, he still maintains a strong work ethic, which is emulated by the new officers he has trained.



Region Four



Captain Bill Hebner is a 29-year veteran with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. He began his career in 1975 as a Wildlife Agent for the State Department of Game in Okanogan County. In 1985, Captain Hebner was appointed as one of the state's first wildlife detectives.



The Region Four enforcement staff includes nineteen officers, a captain and three sergeants. Their area of responsibility includes King, Snohomish, Skagit, Whatcom and Island Counties. The biggest challenges facing officers are population-driven. The majority of the state's population lives within the region and more than 40% of all WDFW license sales are to Region Four residents.



Region Four 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 endangered in the region's waters.

With the human population expanding into wildlife habitat, officers routinely handle and resolve conflicts between humans and wildlife. These conflicts include human and livestock encounters with dangerous wildlife such as cougar and black bear. Officers responded to these conflicts to educate citizens, ensure public safety and protect livestock and pets.

Region Four has ten federally recognized tribes, which comprise 39% of all recognized tribes in the state. Region Four enforcement personnel routinely meet with these co-managers on joint resource and enforcement issues.

Region 4 officers spend an increasing amount of time on environmental law enforcement due to skyrocketing development in recent years. An estimated 26% of all hydraulic project approvals are issued in the region. The presence of threatened and endangered fish stocks, particularly spring chinook, have made monitoring of irrigation methods critical.



The forested habitat in Region Four is home to many game animals and game birds. Big game species include deer, elk, black bear, cougar, and mountain goat. Game bird species include turkey, grouse and pheasant. Migratory birds include band-tailed pigeon, ducks, geese and swans.

The region is home to many threatened and endangered wildlife species. Threatened species include the western gray squirrel, steller sea lion, bald eagle and marbled murrelet. Wildlife classified as endangered species include the gray wolf, grizzly bear, peregrine falcon, spotted owl and the western pond turtle.



REGION FOUR FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	2,967	170	93	12	43	138	94%
Fish	17,146	2,454	1,607	250	759	436	86%
Game Bird	612	52	45	4	10	6	92%
Migratory Bird	1,503	121	80	18	48	20	92%
Shellfish	5,040	1,033	735	27	333	698	80%
Small Game	71	10	7	1	5	0	86%
Total	27,339	3,840	2,567	312	1,198	1,298	86%

Region Four Officer of the Year



Officer Troy McCormick routinely enhances the image of the Enforcement Program both internally and externally. Troy has an excellent working relationship with local tribal organizations especially the Nooksack Tribe and Police Chief Larry Mount. Troy was one of the leaders in developing the local “Eyes in the Woods” chapter. He has taught several Crime Observation and Recording Training (C.O.R.T) classes for that organization of volunteers who

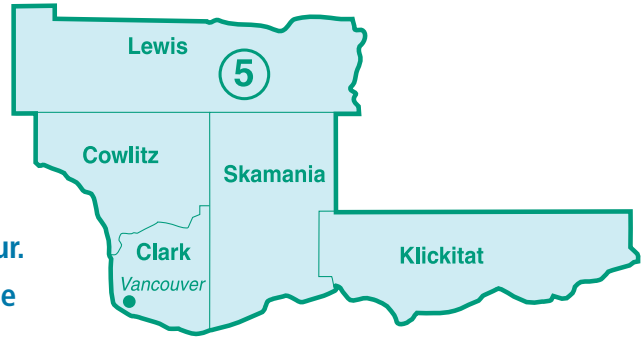
assist the Enforcement Program in protecting the resource. Troy promoted public safety through education and communication during a wide range of dangerous wildlife incidents. Troy also routinely works with other law enforcement agencies (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Whatcom County Sheriff’s Department and Canadian authorities) to effectively combat fish and wildlife crimes and other public safety issues.



Region Five



Captain Murray Schlenker began his career with WDFW as a Biological Technician in the Game Department. Just prior to being named captain of Region Five, Captain Schlenker was a Lands Program Manager in Region Four. The enforcement staff consists of three sergeants and an authorized staff of fourteen officers.



Region Five is home to 164 named lakes, ponds and reservoirs. There are 29 major rivers and streams as well as hundreds of minor tributaries throughout the region. This southwest corner of the state, consisting of five counties, is home to over 550,000 residents living within an area just over 7,700 square miles in size. As one of the fastest growing areas in the nation, it comes as no surprise that the rapid growth has contributed to the many challenges and adverse effects that urban sprawl imposes on a diverse fish and wildlife population and their sensitive habitats. The potential for conflicts with dangerous wildlife, including cougar and bear, with humans are ever present and require much of the officer's time.



The beauty of this region's southern boundary, the Columbia River and the Columbia River Gorge bring with it the responsibility to ensure that six species of listed endangered steelhead and salmon survive their lengthy journey destined for the upper reaches of the Columbia and Snake River tributaries. Record returns of spring and fall chinook have increased the need for an enforcement presence. Additionally, commercial and sport fisheries unique to this area of the state include the sturgeon, shad and smelt fisheries on stocks destined for this stretch of the Columbia River. ESA listed bull trout are present in upper tributaries as well and are afforded protection as critical populations are seeing an increase in some areas, particularly in the headwaters of the Lewis River.

Region Five is home to four major wildlife management areas as well as many agency owned properties. These areas provide some refuge for four major elk herds located within the region. Forty-five access sites exist in the region provide recreational access to the public.

The waterfowl goose seasons established within the region are some of the most complex in the state due to the presence of the dusky Canada goose, a species whose population is of concern to biologists. Region Five also provides the last home in Washington State to sandhill crane nests and the last western pond turtles. Also present are the rare and potentially endangered species, the western gray squirrel, peregrine falcon, and pileated woodpecker. Region Five enforcement staff also stands guard over the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer, which is now restricted to narrow wooded habitat along the lower Columbia River.





REGION FIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	4,138	343	273	15	95	91	92%
Fish	14,065	1,430	1,065	76	651	693	90%
Game Bird	152	8	5	0	4	1	95%
Migratory Bird	445	27	16	4	8	9	94%
Shellfish	318	32	10	1	7	7	90%
Small Game	63	9	16	1	8	10	86%
Total	19,181	1,849	1,385	97	773	811	90%

Region Five Officer of the Year



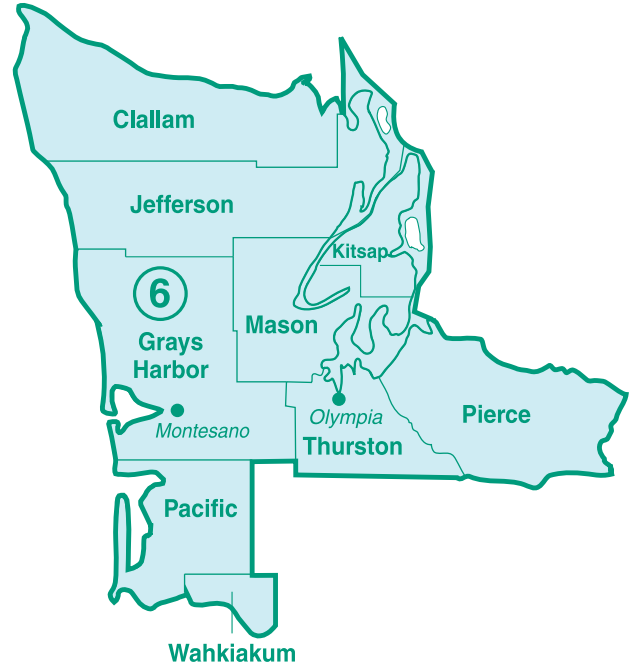
Officer Mark Hart's dedication to the resource is exemplified by his recent arrest of a subject for shooting and killing a sea lion. Mark located and retrieved the sea lion and used a metal detector to locate the bullets in the animal. Officer Hart obtained a confession from the suspect and coordinated with local NOAA Fisheries officers. The suspect was later found guilty and fined \$7,000 in federal court. Mark is a Field Training Officer, has an excellent working relationship with the local community and is frequently consulted by local hunter education instructors when they need expert advise.



Region Six



Captain Ralph R. Woods, a 32-year veteran, began working for the Washington Department of Game in 1971 as a Wildlife Agent. Captain Woods has a B.S. in Wildlife Management. Captain Woods is in command of sixteen officers divided into three detachments, each supervised by a sergeant.



Region Six is comprised of the Pacific Ocean coastal counties from the lower Columbia River in the south to the Strait of Juan de Fuca in the north along with the counties surrounding southern Puget Sound and Hood Canal.



The nine counties within this region include Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston, and Wahkiakum cover approximately 10,346 square miles. The population of the region from the 2001 census is 1,402,055, with the most populated counties being Pierce, Kitsap, and Thurston counties respectively.

Because of the diverse areas within Region 6, Mount Rainer rising 14,410 feet, 157-miles of Pacific Ocean coastline, Hood Canal, Puget Sound, 233 lakes, 129 water access sites, six-Wildlife Areas, Olympic National Park, and a portion of Mt. Rainier National Park, the region is an outdoor recreational paradise. It is rich in opportunities for fish and wildlife viewing, hiking, scuba diving, hunting, fishing, shellfish gathering and many other activities.



Region Six is rich in fish and wildlife resources. Unique to this region are Roosevelt elk that make their home on the Olympic Peninsula and the pacific razor clam found along the Pacific Ocean beaches. The region also includes two major estuarine environments, Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay and the most significant remaining natural prairie ecosystems, which hosts unique species of plants and animals. Bowerman Basin, an arm of Grays Harbor, is a world-renowned bird watching area, particularly during spring and fall shore bird migration. Ocean Shores is Washington's most unique area to watch birds; 290 species have been identified in the area--70 percent of the species that occur statewide. Numerous species of fish, bald eagles, western gray squirrels, marine birds, Quilcene and Olympic oysters, and clams, including the unique geoduck clam also are found in the region.





REGION SIX FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	4,859	372	317	29	43	205	92%
Fish	14,852	1,258	883	201	333	342	92%
Game Bird	370	17	12	1	8	4	95%
Migratory Bird	363	27	26	6	2	0	93%
Shellfish	7,643	841	515	135	445	181	89%
Small Game	111	13	10	3	2	9	88%
Total	28,198	2,528	1,763	375	833	741	91%

Region Six Officer of the Year



Officer Greg Haw demonstrates on a daily basis the attributes of curiosity, dedication, enthusiasm, honesty, integrity, reliability, tenacity, and thoroughness to his chosen profession while carrying out the Enforcement Program’s mission and objectives. Greg has excelled as a Field Training Officer (FTO) having been the primary FTO for three new officers and secondary FTO for two additional officers. Greg has also trained over 100 Eyes in the Woods volunteers in Crime Observation Reporting and Training (C.O.R.T.). He is frequently asked to speak and instruct at their meetings. Greg’s twenty years of experience is a valuable asset to his peers and other law enforcement agencies.



Statewide Marine Division



Captain Mike Cenci, who has a B.S. in Environmental Science, was originally hired as a Fisheries Patrol Officer in 1990. In 2001, he was promoted to Captain and was assigned as the first commander of the newly created Statewide Marine Division.

In July 2001, three enforcement detachments were merged to create a Statewide Marine Division. A fourth detachment was added in July 2002. This alignment was designed to provide uniformity in enforcement priorities, coordination of patrols, and consistent policy implementation. The division is comprised of eighteen officers, including one captain and four sergeants that enforce state and federal fish and wildlife laws within the 3,026 miles of the Puget Sound and coastal marine waters. The division fleet consists of a variety of vessels from 27-foot rigid hull inflatables to a 56-foot patrol vessel.



The Marine Division has a large area of responsibility extending from the Canadian Border through the Puget Sound, Hood Canal and Washington’s marine waters including the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Pacific Coast to the Columbia River.

Detachment Responsibilities

Columbia River / South Coast Marine Detachment: Operational responsibility includes coastal waters from the Queets River south to the Oregon- Washington border and the Columbia River from its mouth upstream to Cathlamet. Millions of pounds of fresh fish and shellfish are landed in Westport, a base for the states largest active commercial fishing fleet. The rough ocean environment provides dangerous challenges for fishers and enforcers alike. Joint patrols on U.S. Coast Guard cutters and helicopters and weekly networking is critical to this detachment’s success.



South Sound / Hood Canal Marine Detachment: This detachment is responsible for all fish and wildlife enforcement efforts on the marine waters of the Hood Canal, South Puget Sound and a portion of Central Puget Sound. The detachment is also responsible for monitoring all commercial food fish and shellfish trafficking at the wholesale dealer and retail levels in the areas within the detachment boundaries. This includes inspections at the busy Sea-Tac Airport. Fish and Wildlife Officers have the primary responsibility for enforcing sanitary shellfish laws delineated in Title 69 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW). The presence of paralytic shellfish poisoning, fecal coliform, demoic acid and other natural and unnatural occurring toxins in some shellfish pose serious health risks if consumed. Critical to human safety and the future of a multi-million dollar industry is our ability to provide assurances to consumers. This is often accomplished by directed patrols to catch poachers who harvest from polluted beaches and market inspections.



North Coast / Strait Marine Detachment: The detachment covers the marine waters off the coast of Washington from the Queets R. to Neah Bay and the Straits of Juan de Fuca to the Foulweather Bluff area. This unit also provides assistance to adjoining inland detachments, is involved in community policing functions and assists other law enforcement agencies.

North Sound Detachment: These officers are responsible for commercial and recreational fishing activities in Puget Sound waters from Edmonds north to the U.S./Canada border. Patrols are conducted by means of five vessels ranging in length from 20 to 43 feet, as well as vehicles. Along with routine duties, this detachment has primary responsibility for resource related issues along the U.S.- Canada border. Assistance to U.S. Customs on smuggling related issues is common. Seattle, home of the largest retailers of seafood products in the state, also falls within this detachment's boundaries. There are thousands of fish and shellfish dealers, brokers, restaurants and retail markets in this state. Officers are responsible for inspecting fish and shellfish products and records to ensure the products were legitimately harvested and safe for consumers.

Marine Division Officer of the Year



Officer Tammy Conklin is an exceptional officer, boat operator and investigator. Tammy has a keen sense for investigating complex commercial violations and she maintains a very high caseload. Tammy has made countless felony arrests, including methamphetamine labs, warrants, and fish and wildlife crimes. Tammy participates in Hunter Education programs, fish derby booths and fairs. She annually represents the Program at the Washington Outdoor Women's convention. Tammy received the Department's Life Saving Award for rescuing two people from a burning boat.



MARINE DIVISION FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	2,962	262	168	10	30	152	91%
Fish	22,589	3,362	1,657	275	1,217	1,315	85%
Game Bird	162	19	9	3	11	2	88%
Migratory Bird	351	19	15	6	11	3	95%
Shellfish	7,210	948	682	168	442	358	87%
Small Game	24	2	0	0	0	0	92%
Total	33,298	4,612	2,531	462	1,711	1,830	86%

MARINE DIVISION- NMFS ACTIVITY

Activity	Hours	Enforcement Contacts	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbals	Violators	Compliance Rate
S. Salmon	1,748.5	7,159	463	104	293	911	7%
C. Salmon	86	53	3	2	2	9	83%
S. Groundfish	674.5	1,784	61	11	76	153	1%
C. Groundfish	776.5	199	10	2	9	43	8%
ESA	2,767	7,315	877	41	513	1,534	9%
ESA Habitat	192	24	6	0	0	5	79%
Border Act.	1,247	1,404	2	6	111	176	7%
Airport Act.	199.5	14	0	0	0	2	86%
Total	7,775	18,039	1,479	167	1,011	2,851	4%



Statewide Investigation Unit (SIU)

The SIU is comprised of six detectives who investigate major complex and organized criminal conspiracies involving Washington State fish and wildlife resources and one detective who does background investigations on officer candidates. Detectives report directly to the Deputy Chief for Operations.

Detectives collectively and individually conduct, monitor, develop and bring to prosecution, major investigations of illegal trafficking, excessive harvest, illegal possession, 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 often with complete disregard for the resources themselves.

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 regularly 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, 7 days a week to deal with problems as they arise. Each detective has skills in the use of computer spreadsheets and is able to conduct forensic analysis of business documents to help prepare a case for prosecution

During 2003, 53 background investigations were completed on individuals who had applied for vacant officer positions. The investigations are an important component in ensuring that future Fish and Wildlife officers are of the highest quality.

Tobin Investigation

In 2003, after three years of investigation, Doug Tobin was sentenced to 14 years in prison for his illegal commercial shellfish and crabbing activity. The case began in June 2000 with a citizen complaint. This complaint led to charges of fishing in closed waters and Mr. Tobin was cited by Squaxin Island Tribal Police.

Later the same month WDFW detective Bill Jarmon observed Mr. Tobin's boat in the Tacoma Narrows headed toward Fox Island. Detective Jarmon drove to Fox Island and observed crew members off loading suspected geoduck into a pickup. Detective Jarmon followed the pickup to Mr. Tobin's fish processing plant in Fife, WA. Detectives received other complaints related to illegal fishing by Mr. Tobin from citizens and National Marine Fisheries informants.

During the investigation detectives discovered that most of Mr. Tobin's illegal fishing was done at night. Mr. Tobin placed a large number of illegal crab pots and used GPS to approximate the location to later retrieve the pots. Between 200 and 1,700 hundred pounds of crab were taken per night. One informant stated Mr. Tobin fished two or three nights a week and that he harvested crab with Mr. Tobin over 200 times. Mr. Tobin used divers to harvest illegal geoducks under cover of darkness. Each diver would harvest 4 to 5 bags of geoducks, and each bag would weigh between 100 and 200 pounds. An informant stated he harvested geoduck with Mr. Tobin over 150



times and that Mr. Tobin falsified health certification tags or Fish Receiving Tickets to make products appear legal. Detectives discovered that illegal crab and geoduck was shipped by airlines or trucked to locations in Washington, Oregon, California, New York and Canada.

The WDFW employed a forensic accountant to help determine the actual loss to Washington State and its citizens. Using recovered records the accountant estimated conspirators stole 196,412 pounds of geoduck valued at \$1.2 million and 73,615 pounds of crab valued at \$202,000 between January 2000 and March 2002.

The WDFW and other law enforcement agencies spent many hours investigating this case. It is estimated that three WDFW detectives worked full time on the case for a year. and, during the search warrant phase at least 70 officers from several agencies helped serve over 20 search warrants in Washington and California. Officers seized 3 boats, 6 vehicles, and commercial fishing gear worth an estimated \$300,000.

Mr. Tobin was originally charged with 160 felony counts including leading organized crime under the RICO statutes. He later plead guilty to charges of theft in the first degree, felon in possession of a firearm, trafficking in stolen property, conspiracy, numerous fish and wildlife felonies and health violations under plea bargaining agreements. Twenty-nine co-conspirators have also been charged with crimes. Because of Mr. Tobin's criminal record he received an exceptional sentence.

HQ/SIU FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	124	7	10	0	3	6	94%
Fish	164	23	11	0	5	15	86%
Game Bird	19	0	0	0	0	1	100%
Migratory Bird	48	14	9	0	0	2	70%
Shellfish	280	5	4	2	1	1	98%
Small Game	1	0	0	0	0	0	100%
Total	636	49	34	2	9	25	92%



Headquarters

Headquarters staff includes the Chief, Assistant Chief for Administration, Deputy Chief of Operations, one captain, three lieutenants, three professional staff, six clerical staff, four Hunter Education staff, two warehouse staff, two pilots and two full-time equivalent support staff. Headquarters staff performs a variety of administrative and support functions including hunter education, recruitment, training, accreditation, supplies, policy writing, issuing of permits, customer service, records, research and planning, budget, legal and legislation.

Recruitment

The Program in cooperation with the WDFW Personnel office recruits, tests and selects applicants for Fish and Wildlife officer positions. During 2003, 149 applicant packets were received for evaluation. Of those, 106 applicants met the minimum qualifications and began the testing phase, which includes a written test, oral interview, extensive background investigation, and a physical, psychological, polygraph and medical examination. Sixteen applicants were selected to attend basic training at the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) and all 16 applicants were sworn in as a Fish and Wildlife Officer 1.

Accreditation

The Enforcement Program is one of only two fish and wildlife agencies to be accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Program was awarded recognition status in March 2003 and is currently working towards full accreditation through the CALEA Alliance Program and the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC).

Scientific Collection Permits

The Scientific Collection Permit (SCP) allows the permittee to collect fish and wildlife for research, display in museums and zoos or education and assessment purposes. Program staff issues a permit after a department biologist reviews the application. Over half of the permits were for fish. The other permits were for mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, shellfish and other marine organisms.

Under the authority of RCW Chapter 77, headquarters personnel issued the following types and numbers of permits during 2003. Permits issued by regions are not indicated.

PERMIT TYPE	NUMBER OF PERMITS ISSUED 2003
Special Trapping Permits	549
Timber Damage Permits	16
Public Safety Cougar Permits	61
Snag Permits	9
Salvage Permits	9
Special Wildlife Permit	4
Nuisance Wildlife Operator Permits	25
Scientific Collection Permits	434



Hunter Education

RCW 77.32.155 requires all first-time hunters born after 1/1/72 to show evidence of successful completion of an approved hunter education safety-training program before purchasing their first Washington hunting license. The Hunter Education Division provides administrative support to the required Basic Hunter Education Program, including the Advanced Hunter Education, Bow Hunter Education and Trapper Education Courses.

The Hunter Education staff's main functions are to ensure all instructors receive pre-service and annual in-service training, develop and distribute program manuals and materials, maintain program records and produce the Enforcement Program Hunter Education Division Annual Performance Report

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2003, 12,933 students were enrolled in education programs. This includes 11,774 students in basic hunter education, 439 Advanced Hunter Education students, 636 home study students, 78 Bow Hunter Education students and 6 Trapper Education students. There were 657 instructors for this same time period.

There were no fatal hunting incidents and fourteen (14) non-fatal hunting incidents in FY 2003.



Statewide Enforcement Activity

FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS

Contact Type	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Marine	HQ/SIU	Total
Contacts	23,901	26,181	20,375	30,561	21,730	31,500	35,673	935	190,856
Violators	2,541	3,662	2,085	4,907	2,542	3,273	5,269	128	24,407
Arrests	1,666	2,581	1,618	3,309	1,909	2,234	2,892	58	16,267
Warnings	537	353	228	336	146	503	516	6	2,625
Verbals	534	1,225	659	1,592	1,063	1,080	1,952	20	8,125
Compliance %	89%	86%	90%	84%	88%	90%	85%	86%	87%

ENFORCEMENT HOURS BY FISH/WILDLIFE TYPE

Contact Type	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Marine	HQ/SIU	Total	% FW Activity
Big Game	10,025	5,969	4,626	5,349	5,614	6,968	2,451	202	41,204	34%
Fish	5,710	6,980	4,161	9,832	8,507	5,697	11,423	1,162	53,472	44%
Game Bird	1,156	712	270	289	119	160	140	7	2,853	2%
Migratory Bird	560	825	569	1,592	600	476	355	47	5,024	5%
Shellfish	18	226	206	2,266	93	2,525	6,578	4,441	16,353	14%
Small Game	494	446	100	259	226	265	96	16	1,902	1%
Total	17,963	15,158	9,932	19,587	15,159	16,091	21,043	5,875	120,808	100%

STATEWIDE FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Enforcement Contacts	Violators	Arrests	Written Warnings	Verbal Warnings	Officer Assists	Compliance %
Big Game	30,371	2,015	1,466	178	494	901	93%
Fish	88,200	12,225	7,543	1,252	4,025	3,663	6%
Game Bird	3,336	234	159	30	95	25	93%
Migratory Bird	4,842	440	273	59	180	86	91%
Shellfish	21,218	3,128	2,122	337	1,429	1,388	5%
Small Game	520	45	37	7	22	20	91%
Total	148,487	18,087	11,600	1,863	6,245	6,063	8%



OFFICER PUBLIC SAFETY ACTIVITY

Activity Type	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Marine	HQ/SIU	Total
Public Safety Hours	1,790	1,976	1,322	1,021	1,012	1,509	1,974	556	11,160
Informational Contacts	839	880	496	648	543	632	683	95	4,816
Enforcement Contacts	2,541	2,877	2,625	1,106	1,235	1,743	1,833	143	14,103
Violators	556	841	406	423	386	411	582	65	3,670
Arrests	373	627	249	326	297	293	393	22	2,580
Written Warnings	93	67	78	6	13	12	31	1	301
Verbal Warnings	109	162	108	157	158	128	225	9	1,056
Officer Assists	174	358	134	714	496	168	130	40	2,214

HABITAT ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

Type	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Marine	HQ/SIU	Total
Hours	1,429	525	539	456	346	441	463	2	4,201
Enforcement Contacts	155	286	421	154	91	203	123	2	1,433 (86%)
Violators	2	31	25	35	19	44	29	0	205
Arrests	3	231	21	11	17	16	10	0	309
Written Warnings	6	13	2	2	1	10	10	0	44
Verbal Warnings	6	3	8	26	11	16	2	0	72
Officer Assists	1	3	1	1	7	7	3	0	23



OTHER OFFICER ACTIVITY BY REGION

Area	HPA Check Forms	Problem Wildlife Reports	Damage Claim Reports	Regulated Activity Check Reports
Region 1	121	783	35	124
Region 2	1,156	552	11	209
Region 3	71	171	11	35
Region 4	75	286	12	36
Region 5	59	236	17	18
Region 6	132	647	33	67
Marine	27	46	1	658
HQ/SIU	0	2	0	5
Total	551	2,723	120	1,152

OFFICER HOURLY ACTIVITY BY MAJOR CATEGORY

Area	Admin	Enforcement	Public Education	Support	Leave	Wildlife Control	Total
Region 1	14,800	18,145	994	634	6,224	3,484	44,281
Region 2	11,179	17,058	553	565	4,025	2,035	35,415
Region 3	9,421	12,326	256	143	3,904	1,436	27,486
Region 4	15,045	20,069	414	608	5,237	1,555	42,928
Region 5	9,545	15,794	258	432	3,970	1,108	31,157
Region 6	12,061	15,994	341	371	3,332	2,229	34,328
Marine	14,828	22,414	316	587	4,340	142	42,627
HQ/SIU	10,354	6,618	223	13	2,215	6	19,429
Total	98,233	128,418	3,355	3,353	33,247	11,995	277,651

PERCENTAGE OF OFFICER HOURLY ACTIVITY BY MAJOR CATEGORY

Area	Admin	Enforcement	Public Education	Support	Leave	Wildlife Control
Region 1	34%	41%	2%	1%	14%	8%
Region 2	31%	48%	2%	2%	11%	6%
Region 3	34%	45%	1%	1%	14%	5%
Region 4	35%	47%	1%	1%	12%	4%
Region 5	31%	51%	1%	1%	13%	3%
Region 6	35%	47%	1%	1%	10%	6%
Marine	35%	53%	1%	1%	10%	0%
HQ/SIU	53%	34%	1%	0%	12%	0%
Total Avg.	36%	46%	1%	1%	12%	4%



***PROBLEM WILDLIFE COMPLAINTS-STATEWIDE (EXCEPT BEAR AND COUGAR)**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Dangerous Wildlife	146	83	90	14	33	118	484
Nuisance Wildlife	74	79	16	18	23	78	288
Total	220	162	106	32	56	196	772

* Indicates data is for Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 thru June 30, 2003)

***COUGAR AND BEAR COMPLAINTS-STATEWIDE**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Total Cougar Complaints	132	111	19	97	32	91	482
Confirmed	77	90	6	46	19	66	304
Unconfirmed	55	21	13	51	13	25	178
Percentage Confirmed	58%	81%	32%	47%	60%	73%	63%
Total Bear Complaints	191	48	5	53	18	91	404
Confirmed	136	43	3	46	17	83	328
Unconfirmed	55	3	2	7	1	8	76
Percentage Confirmed	71%	90%	60%	87%	94%	91%	81%

***DAMAGE CLAIMS-STATEWIDE (DEER AND ELK)**

	Region 1	Region 2	Region 3	Region 4	Region 5	Region 6	Total
Deer	11	0	9	0	1	3	24
Elk	19	0	18	2	3	8	50
Damage Claims Filed	30	0	27	2	4	11	74
Dollar Amount	\$167,133	0	\$349,198	\$4,870	\$37,391	\$59,974	\$618,566
Damage Claims Awarded	\$49,646	0	\$309,055	\$4,494	\$10,566	\$36,700	\$410,462
\$ Percentage Awarded	30%	0	89%	92%	28%	61%	66%

* Indicates data is for Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 thru June 31, 2003)

***DAMAGE CLAIMS BY CROP-STATEWIDE (DEER AND ELK)**

	Region 1		Region 2		Region 3		Region 4		Region 5		Region 6	
	Claimed	Paid	Claimed	Paid	Claimed	Paid	Claimed	Paid	Claimed	Paid	Claimed	Paid
Fruit	\$14,879	0	0	0	\$950	\$206	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grain	\$60,942	\$36,758	0	0	\$297,220	\$285,942	\$3,000	\$1,994	\$7,600	0	0	0
Grasses	\$15,268	\$3,186	0	0	\$51,028	\$22,857	0	0	\$4,017	0	\$37,884	\$25,440
Legumes	\$58,872	\$7,651	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	\$17,160	\$2,049	0	0	0	0	\$1,870	\$2,500	\$25,773	\$10,566	\$22,090	\$11,260
Total	\$167,133	\$49,646	0	0	\$349,198	\$309,005	\$4,870	\$4,494	\$37,391	\$10,566	\$59,974	\$36,700



Officer Conduct/Complaints

The Enforcement Program accepts verbal or written complaints against any of its employees. An Enforcement Program employee who receives a complaint against a Program employee is required to record the reporting party's name, phone number and name of the employee involved and attempt to immediately refer the reporting party to the employee's immediate supervisor. If a supervisor is not available, the employee is asked to courteously and promptly record as much about the complaint as possible.. The complaint is forwarded to the employee's supervisor or next level supervisor. Complaints of misconduct against the Program or Department are forwarded to the Deputy Chief and Chief for review.

A complaint may be filed by calling (360) 902-2936 or any Regional office listed on our web page (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/enf/enforce.htm>) Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm or by mailing a letter to:

Chief Bruce Bjork
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Enforcement Program
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091.



2003 Legislative Issues

Wildlife Chemical Capture – House Bill 1144

Benefit

Allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to continue using the same chemical tools when responding to a wildlife chemical capture situation.

Background

The manufacture, distribution, or dispensing of controlled substances is regulated by the Federal Drug Administration, the State Board of Pharmacy (Board) and the Department of Health (DOH) under the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (Act). Controlled substances are categorized into five schedules according to their potential for abuse, the extent of currently accepted medical use in the United States, and the potential that use of the drug may lead to physical or psychological dependence. The United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a rule in 1999 placing the substance ketamine into schedule III of the Act.

The DOH registers applicants that dispense controlled substances within the state. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) uses controlled substances to capture animals in response to problem and dangerous wildlife complaints and for management and research purposes. The WDFW has historically used ketamine for its chemical capture activities.

Summary

The DOH may adopt rules to issue a limited registration for WDFW to operate chemical capture programs using approved controlled substances. The Board, in consultation with WDFW, must add or remove controlled substances for use in chemical capture programs. WDFW may not permit persons to administer controlled substances without proper knowledge and training. The Board shall suspend or revoke a registration if it determines a person administering controlled substances has not demonstrated adequate knowledge.



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Officers Membership in the LEOFF Retirement System Plan 2 – House Bill 1205

Benefit

Changed Enforcement Program officers from the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) to the Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters Retirement System (LEOFF). This allows officers to retire at age 53 instead of age 65.

Background

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was changed from a limited authority law enforcement agency to a general authority law enforcement agency by the 2002 Legislature. This permits the agency to commission officers to enforce all the traffic and criminal laws of the state, much like Washington State Patrol troopers, in addition to the special enforcement powers granted to the WDFW enforcement officers in the state Wildlife Code.

The Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF) provides retirement benefits to full-time general authority law enforcement officers and firefighters throughout Washington. To be eligible for LEOFF as a law enforcement officer, an employee must: 1) Work for a governmental entity that meets the definition of a general authority law enforcement agency; 2) be a general authority law enforcement officer; and 3) meet the training or other requirements of his or her job.

While Washington State Patrol troopers and the WDFW enforcement officers meet all the requirements of LEOFF membership, they are specifically excluded from LEOFF. Individuals who do not meet all of the criteria or are otherwise excluded from LEOFF membership are generally members of the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS).

All employees first employed in PERS-eligible positions since 1977 have been enrolled in PERS Plan 2/3, which allows for an unreduced retirement allowance at age 65. PERS 1, in contrast, permits members to retire at any age after 30 years of service, at age 55 with 25 years of service, and at age 60 with five years of service.

All employees first employed in LEOFF-eligible positions since 1977 have been enrolled in LEOFF Plan 2, which allows for an unreduced retirement allowance at age 53. LEOFF 2 permits early retirement beginning at age 50 for members with 20 years of service with a 3 percent per year reduction to their retirement allowance.

There are about 150 WDFW enforcement officers, and about 84 of them are currently members of PERS 2 and 3. The remaining 55 are members of PERS 1.

Summary

The WDFW enforcement officers who are members of the PERS Plan 2 or 3 are made members of the LEOFF Plan 2 for periods of service rendered after the effective date of the act.

Members with service in PERS 2 and 3 prior to the effective date of the act will have dual membership in PERS 2/3 and LEOFF 2. Members with service in PERS 1 will remain members of PERS 1.



Game Damage to Crops – Substitute House Bill 1512

Benefit

Provides a better response to wildlife conflicts in agricultural areas by first using local hunters who are readily available and have knowledge of the area.

Background

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is instructed to work closely with landowners to find non-lethal solutions to problem wildlife. However, if such efforts are not practical, WDFW is authorized to increase the harvest of damage-causing animals during the hunting season. WDFW also has the discretionary authority to conduct special hunts in problem areas as a result of recurring complaints regarding property being damaged by wildlife.

In addition to special hunts, the owner or tenant of real property being damaged by wildlife is authorized to trap or kill problem wildlife that is causing damage to crops. However, that permission does not extend to endangered or threatened species, or to deer and elk. Problem deer and elk may only be killed with a take permit issued by WDFW, unless the situation is an emergency and WDFW has given the landowner verbal permission to harvest the deer or elk. On cattle ranching land, the owner may only declare an emergency if WDFW does not respond within 48 hours of notification. Even if an emergency situation exists, the owners of cattle ranching land may not kill the problem wildlife if they did not make the land available for public hunting during the previous hunting season.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) is authorized to conduct special hunts in areas where game populations exist at a level that damages property or over-utilizes the habitat. The Commission's authority includes the ability to identify the number and sex of animals that are allowed to be taken. The Director of WDFW is required to determine a selection system for the hunters allowed to participate in a special season that ensures a random selection.

Summary

Special Hunts:

The Commission is directed to authorize the issuance of either one or two antlerless permits per hunter for special hunts to be conducted in areas where WDFW, or its designee, has confirmed six incidents of agricultural and horticultural crop damage caused by deer or elk. Complaints must be received from the owner or tenant of real property, or from several owners or tenants in the same locale.

As an alternative to hunting, WDFW must work with affected entities to relocate deer and elk when it is needed to augment populations.

Hunter Selection:

WDFW is required to maintain a list of persons holding valid wildlife hunting licenses, arranged by county of residence, who are available to hunt deer or elk causing damage to crops. WDFW must update the list at least annually. When contacting people to help control game damage to crops, WDFW must use the list and must make all reasonable efforts to contact a resident of the county where the activity will occur before contacting a resident of a different county. The names on the list must be randomized in order to provide a fair distribution of the hunting opportunities. Hunters participating in these hunts must report their kills to WDFW, and the information provided must be included in a summary of wildlife harvested that is available to the public.





WDFW Enforcement Program
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