

HELPING THE WILD ONES

A career as a fish and wildlife officer



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

Meet Cale Myers

Officer Cale Myers grew up fishing, hunting and spending a lot of time outdoors. His parents and grandfather were police officers so he also had a passion for law enforcement. His dad encouraged him to pursue a career where he could combine the passions.

In order to better prepare himself for this career he went to university to learn more about the environment he would be protecting. He earned his Bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in wildlife management. Myers says this background helped him understand the challenges that fish and wildlife management officials, as well as the public, face.



Myers loves his career. "Being a DFW enforcement officer is the job I always wanted to have... I get to patrol in beautiful places using equipment like boats, snowmobiles, jet-skis, etc."

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According to Myers, the most challenging part of being a DFW enforcement officer is trying to stop major poachers who do things like snag salmon and try to hide endangered fish and wildlife. "Many times, people doing these types of poaching activities are smart and they don't want to get caught... Trying to catch a poacher is much like an athletic event; sometimes you lose and sometimes you win. A good DFW enforcement officer must be able to keep pushing through the losses, because stopping a poacher is a big win," he said.

For those interested in this career, Myers would encourage them to spend time outside, especially fishing and hunting. "I try to do these activities even more now as an officer so that I understand techniques and strategies that people are using," he said. He added that it also helps him talk to people if he understands why they are doing certain actions.

Additionally, he encourages prospective officers to continue to learn about natural resources and the environment as there is always more to learn about how systems work.



"If you want to be on the front lines of protecting the natural resources of Washington State then a DFW enforcement officer is the best job in the world!"