

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 1 Overview

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Region 1 Director, Eastern

September 27, 2024



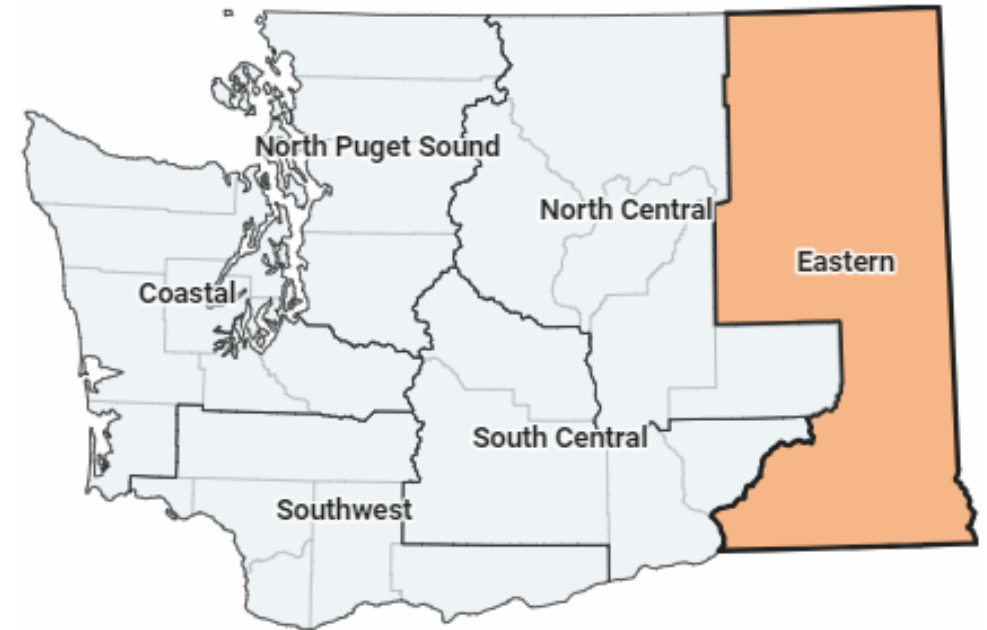
Washington
Department of
**FISH &
WILDLIFE**



Region 1 Characteristics

Description

- 10 counties, 14 conservation districts
- Mostly rural – Ag, Forestry, Outdoor Recreation
- Population: 772,433
 - Spokane County: 551,455
- Spokane - 2nd largest city in the state
- Spokane is a growing industrial hub
- Spokane River connects urban communities to fish and wildlife
- Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge close to Spokane as well
- Mix of Private, Public, and Tribal lands.
- Variety of habitat types including shrubsteppe, wetlands, riparian areas, forests, water bodies, and mountains.



WDFW Lands & Facilities

Region 1 Headquarters

- Spokane Valley

District offices

- District 1 - Colville
- District 2 - St. John
- District 3 - Walla Walla
- Clarkston Shop
- Dayton DOT

Wildlife Areas

- Blue Mountains Complex
 - W.T. Wooten
 - Asotin Creek
 - Chief Joseph
- Swanson Lakes-Sherman Creek Complex
 - LeClerc
 - Revere
 - Sherman Creek
 - Swanson Lakes

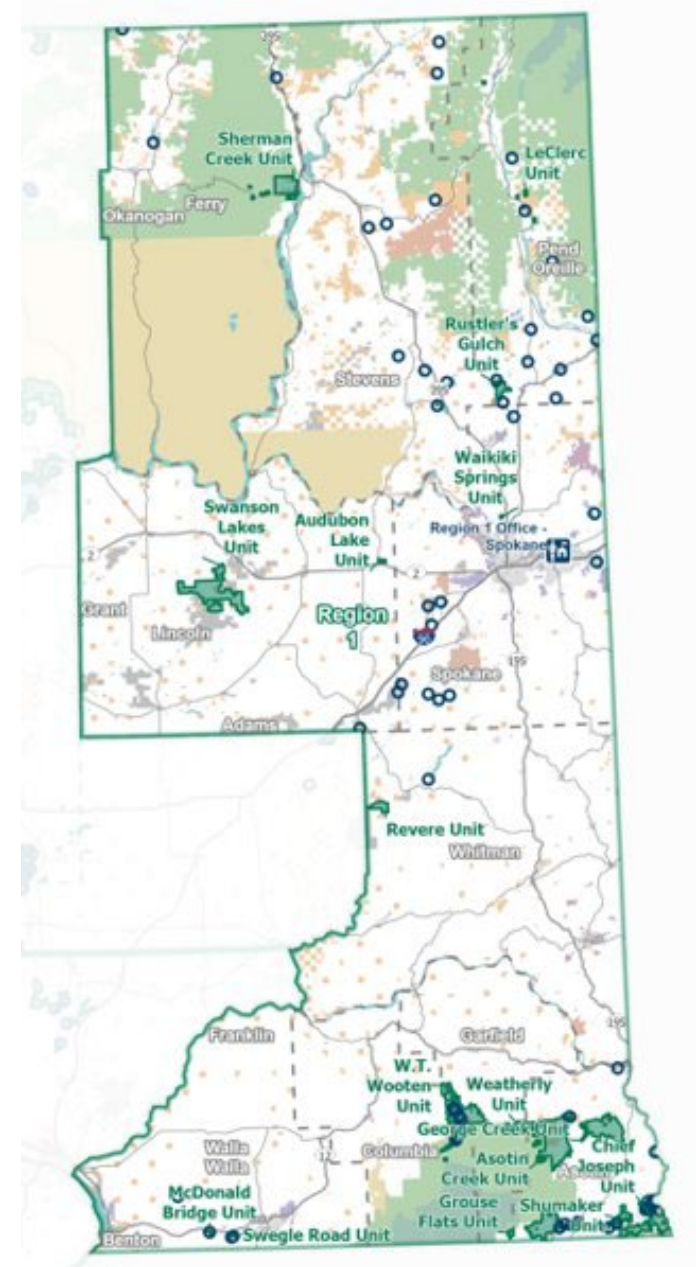
Hatcheries

- Sherman Creek
- Ford
- Omak
- Spokane
- Lyons Ferry
- Tucannon

39 Water Access Sites

Staff

- Approximately 190



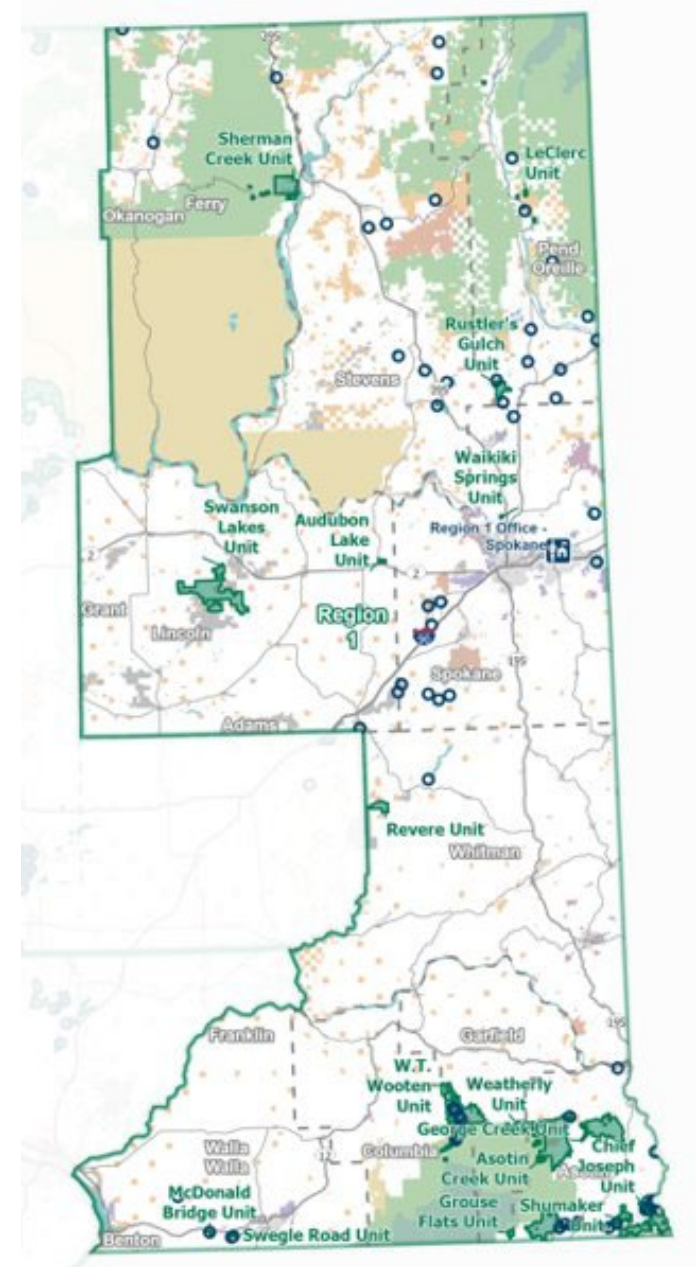
Tribes & Federal Lands

Tribes

- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
- Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Nez Perce Tribe
- Coeur d'Alene Tribe
- Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- Shoshone-Bannock

Federal Lands

- Colville National Forest
- Umatilla National Forest
- McNary National Wildlife Refuge
- Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge
- Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge
- Bureau of Land Management
- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area - National Park Service



Challenges and Opportunities

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
- Blue Mountains Elk Herd Decline
- Human-Wildlife Conflicts
- Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) Implementation
- Green Energy impacts on habitat
- Recovery of ESA-listed salmonids
- Reintroduction of Salmon into the "Blocked Area"
- Westslope Cutthroat Restoration/Seattle City Light Conservation Hatchery
- Providing fish and wildlife recreational opportunities



Large Carnivores

Wolves



Cougars



Black Bears



Grizzly Bears





Fish Program

Fish Program

Northeast Washington Westslope Cutthroat Restoration

Goal: Recover the population to sustainable numbers and prevent the ESA listing of westslope cutthroat trout in Washington

WDFW, Kalispel Tribe, Pend Oreille PUD (POPUD) and Seattle City Light (SCL) partnership

Funded through POPUD and SCL FERC Licenses (Box Canyon and Boundary dams)

Recovery strategies including conservation aquaculture, habitat restoration, non-native species mechanical suppression, YY brook trout, and rotenone to eliminate competitive and predatory non-native fish species



Fish Program

YY Male Brook Trout

- Tool to assist with eradication of wild non-native brook trout in streams.
- Developed by Idaho Fish and Game
- Coordinated/funded with multiple western states through WAFWA
- When released into wild population of brook trout will breed with wild females and progeny will be 100 percent male.
- With consistent annual stocking, theoretically, over time the entirety of the population will be 100 percent male
 - **No females = no reproduction**
- Still in testing phase. Two streams in northeast Washington, Mill and Sullivan creeks.
- Initial results are promising as an eradication tool. More work to be done.



Fish Program

Clear Lake Kids' Fishing Event

Goal – get kids engaged in the outdoors and fishing

Event has been going for 23 years

Held annually the second weekend in May on Clear Lake in Spokane County.

Funded by Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant and community donations

70+ volunteers and up to 1,000 kids participate





Wildlife Program

Wildlife Program

Cougar Creek Wildfire (4-O Ranch Wildlife Area)

6,000+ acres burned on the 4-O Ranch WLA

Restoration effort planning underway

Chapman Lake Water Access

530 acres received from DNR in a Trust Land Transfer for the purposes of developing a boat launch facility

Private Lands Hunting Access

511,000 acres of recreational hunting access through contracts



Wildlife Program

Grizzly Bear Recovery

- Approximately 10-15 bears in the WA portion of the Selkirk Recovery Region
- Chair of the Selkirk/Cabinet-Yaak Subcommittee

Prairie Grouse Translocation

- 60 Sharp-tailed grouse captured in British Columbia and translocated to Washington
- 30 went to Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area

New Moose Project

- 28 cow moose collared in NE Washington
- Population Dynamics and Sustainability



Wildlife Program

Chronic Washington Disease (CWD)

- First WA detection in Spokane County, July 2024
- New rules in effect

Blue Mountains Elk Herd

- Below management objective since 2017
- Elk Calf Survival Study report coming soon

Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep MOVI Outbreak

- Outbreak started in Idaho in Spring 2024
- 50 percent mortality in collared ewes





Habitat Program

Habitat Program

Good Neighbor Agreements

U.S. Forest Service - Sherman Creek/Highway 20 Fish Passage Barrier Removal (with WSDOT)

- Expand Geographic Distribution of Interior Columbia Redband Trout

Bureau of Land Management - Lone Ranch Creek Fish Passage Corrections (in cooperation with Ferry County)

- Expand Geographic Distribution of Interior Columbia Redband Trout
- Last Barrier corrected September of 2024



Habitat Program

Comprehensive Plan Updates

- Spokane and Walla Walla Counties due 2026
- Other 8 Counties due 2027
- Smaller Jurisdictions ongoing
- Focus Areas Include:
 - Riparian Guidelines
 - Protecting Migration Corridors
 - Protecting Key Salmon Habitat



Habitat Program

Tucannon Habitat Restoration

- Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Programmatic
- Geomorphic Assessment
- Large woody debris (LWD) Projects
- Floodplain Restoration
- Wooten Wildlife Area Floodplain Management Plan Team
- Lake Reconfiguration
- Improve Salmon Habitat and infrastructure
- Improve Recreation
- Project Areas 5-15 Assessment





Enforcement Program



Enforcement Program

“To protect our natural resources and the public we serve.”

Region 1 Enforcement Overview:

Nine Counties of Responsibility

- Does not include Walla Walla County

Three Detachments

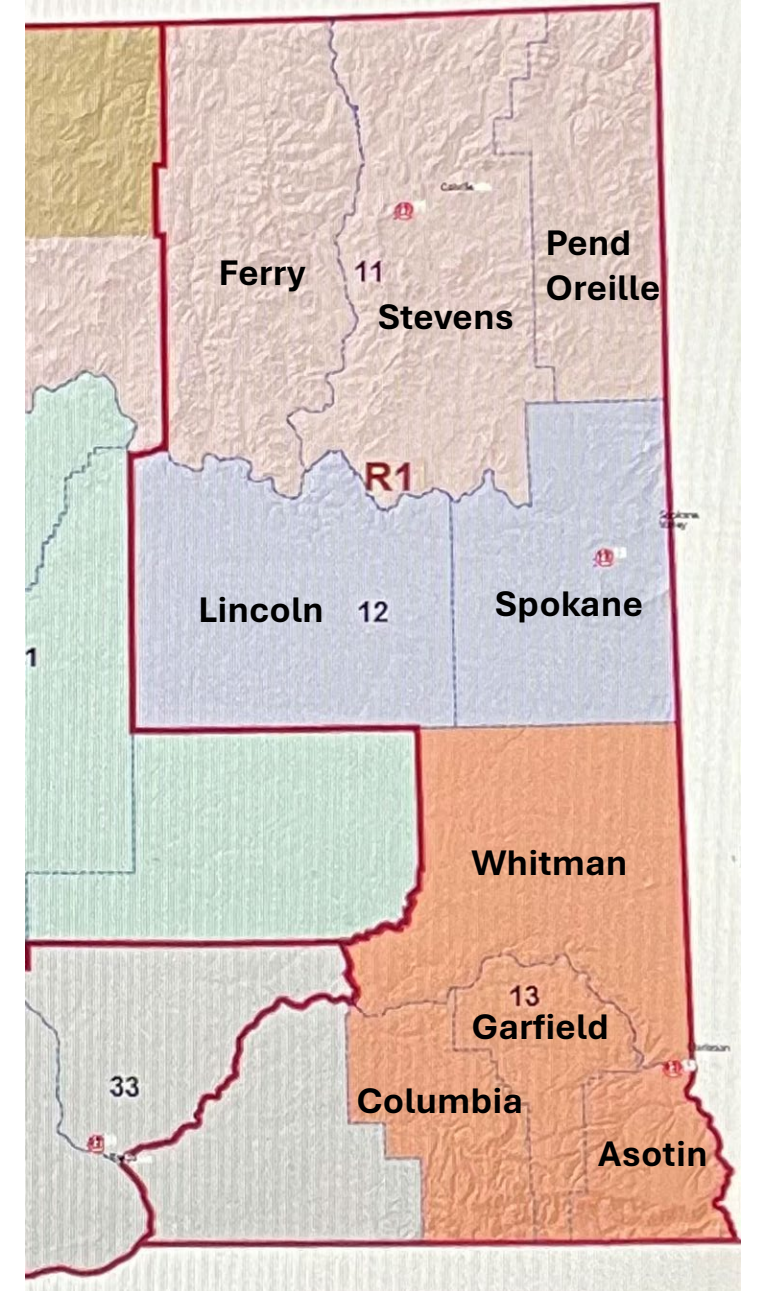
- Detachments 11, 12, and 13

19 Funded Enforcement Positions

- 1 Captain, 3 Sergeants, 15 Officers

Additional Staff

- Up to three Apprentices



Enforcement Program

Detachment 11

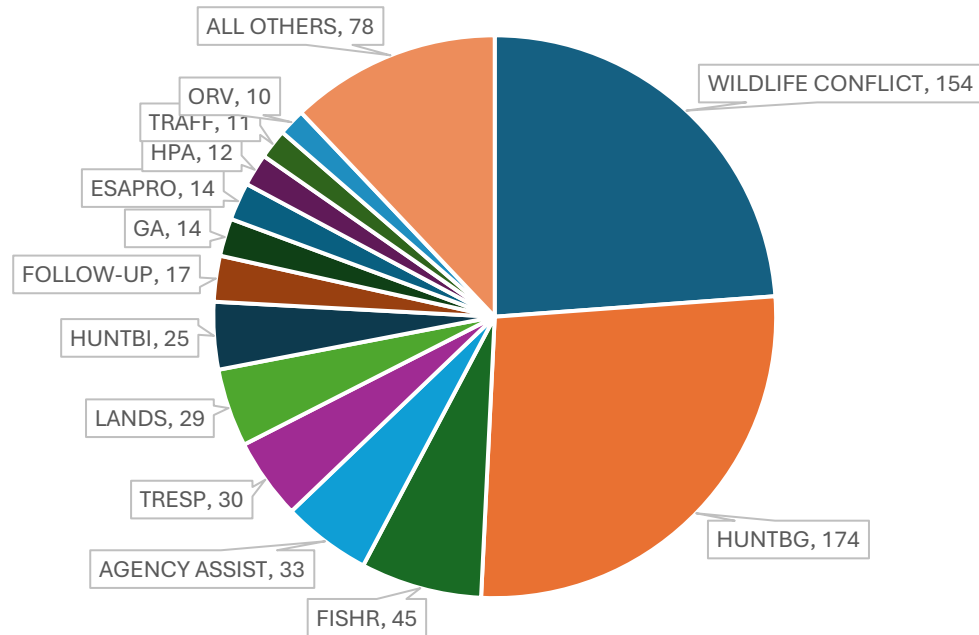
Ferry, Pend Oreille, & Stevens Counties

6 Funded Positions (1-SGT, 5-OFCs)

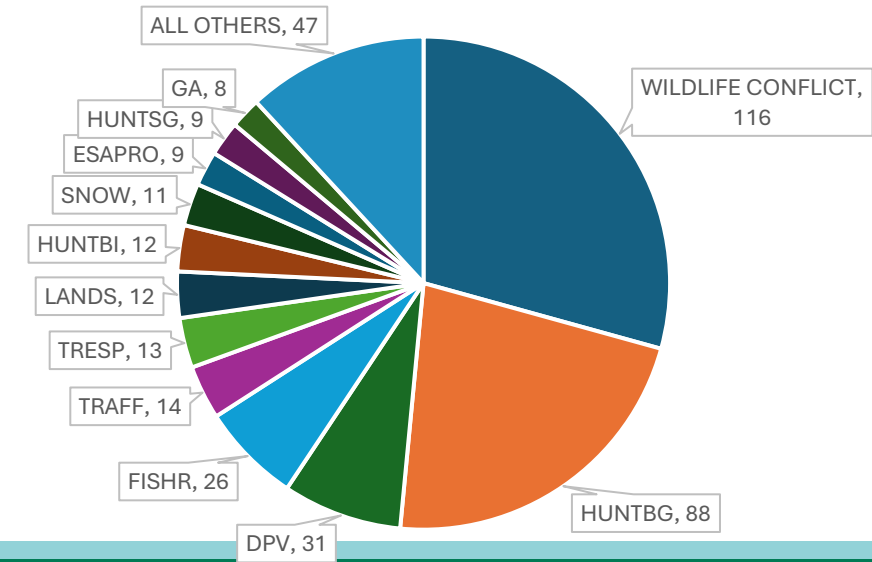
*Ferry County officer position is vacant



Detachment 11 - 2023 Calls



Detachment 11 - 2023 Law Incident Reports



Enforcement Program

Detachment 12

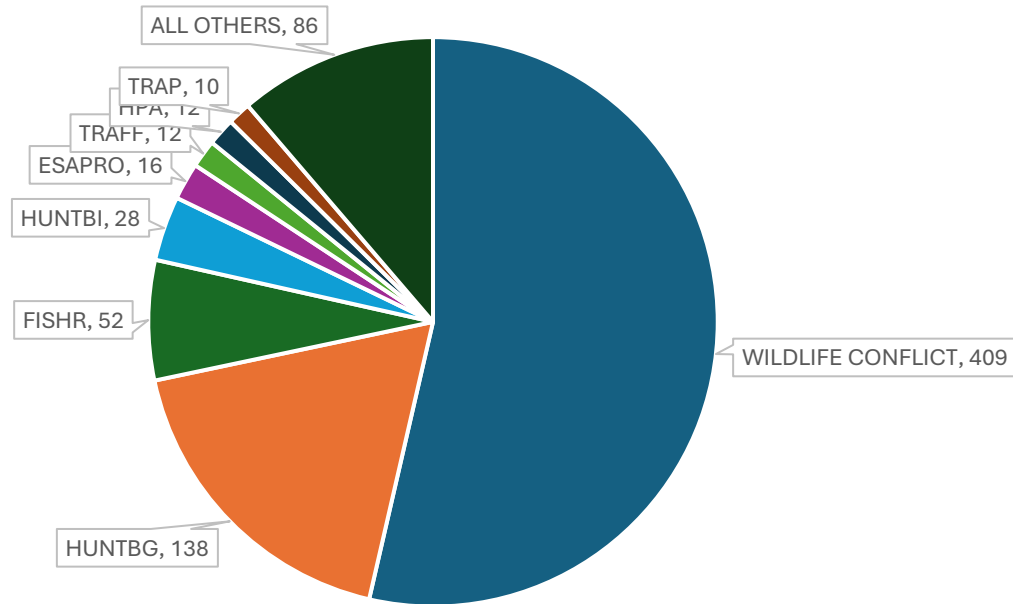
Lincoln & Spokane Counties

6 Funded Positions (1-SGT, 5-OFCs)

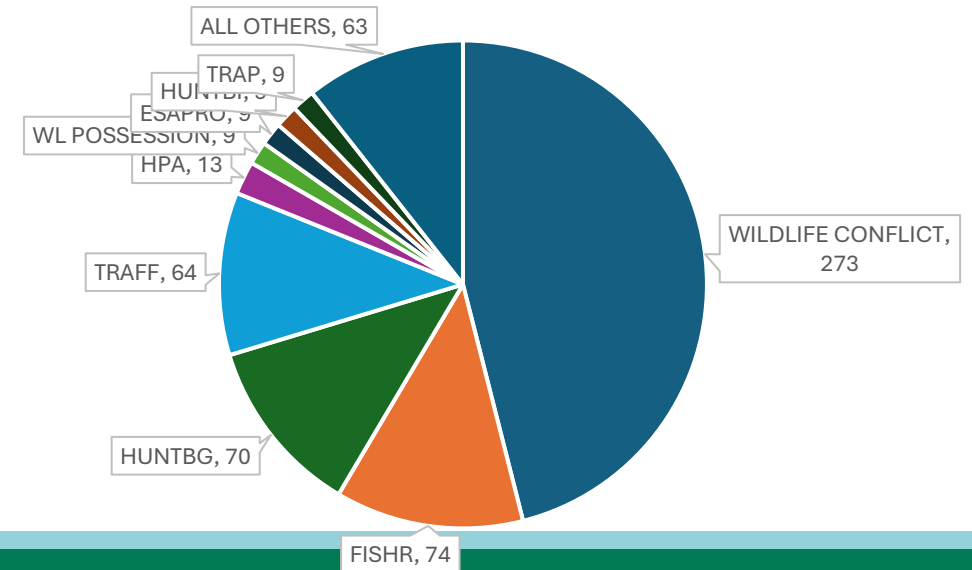
*Cheney officer position is vacant



Detachment 12 - 2023 Calls



Detachment 12 - 2023 Law Incident Reports



Enforcement Program

Detachment 13

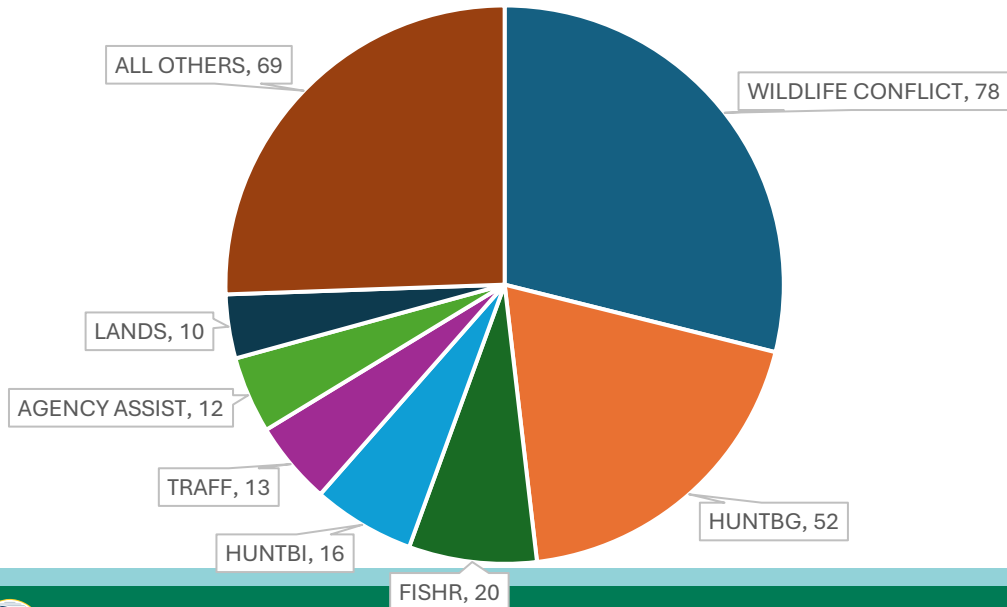
Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, & Whitman Counties

6 Funded Positions (1-SGT, 5-OFCs)

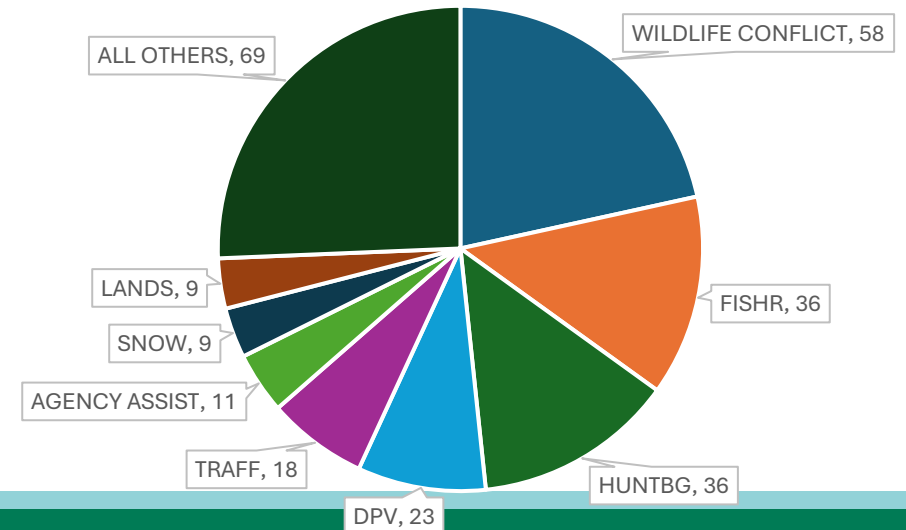
*2024 added Asotin County officer position



Detachment 13 - 2023 Calls



Detachment 13 - 2023 Law Incident Reports



Fish and Wildlife Recreation

September 28 – National Hunting and Fishing Day

WDFW Annual event – Region 5 in 2024

Region 1 hosted in 2023

- 540 youth + 355 adults
- WDFW staff from Region 1 and other regions
- Many volunteers and partner organizations
- Positive feedback from attendees and staff

Popular Hunting and Fishing Opportunities in Region 1

- Salmon/steelhead
- Trout
- Warmwater
- Sturgeon
- Turkey
- Upland game birds
- Waterfowl
- Deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, black bear, cougar
- Private Lands Access Program





Questions?

Request this information in an alternative format or language at wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation, 833-885-1012, TTY (711), or CivilRightsTeam@dfw.wa.gov.