



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Law Enforcement Program

Staffing: Past and Present

Bruce Bjork | Chief/Assistant Director

WDFW Mission

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

Law Enforcement Program's Role

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

Authorizing Environment

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

A Look At What We Do

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



A Look At What We Do

PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES



Looking For The
BEST JOB
In The World?

YOU'LL FIND IT **HERE!**

WASH



A Look At What We Do

IMPROVE PUBLIC PERCEPTION AND UNDERSTANDING OF NATURAL RESOURCE POLICING AND PROTECTION THROUGH ENHANCED OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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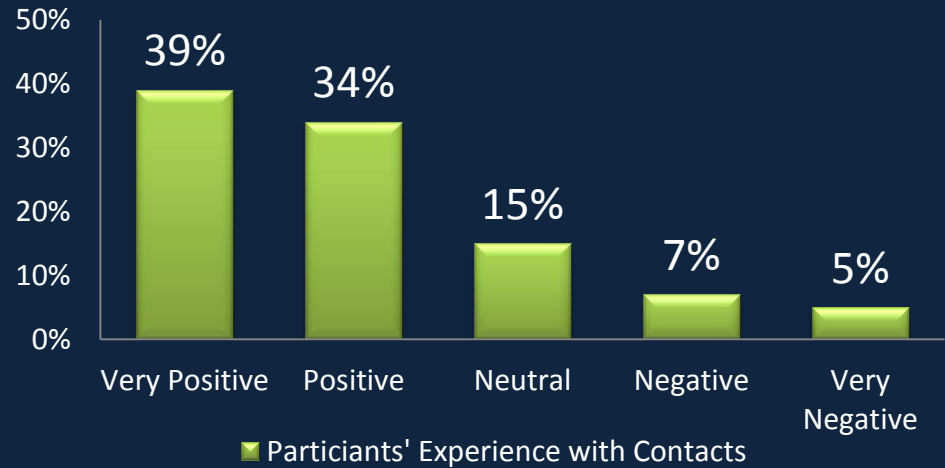
ANONYMOUS REPORTING FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS JUST GOT EASIER

To send an anonymous tip to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, text WDFWTIP and your tip to 847411 (TIP411)



A Look At What We Do

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS WITH STAKEHOLDERS



A Look At What We Do

ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY



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



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A Lot of Ground to Cover

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

RATIO OF OFFICERS TO:

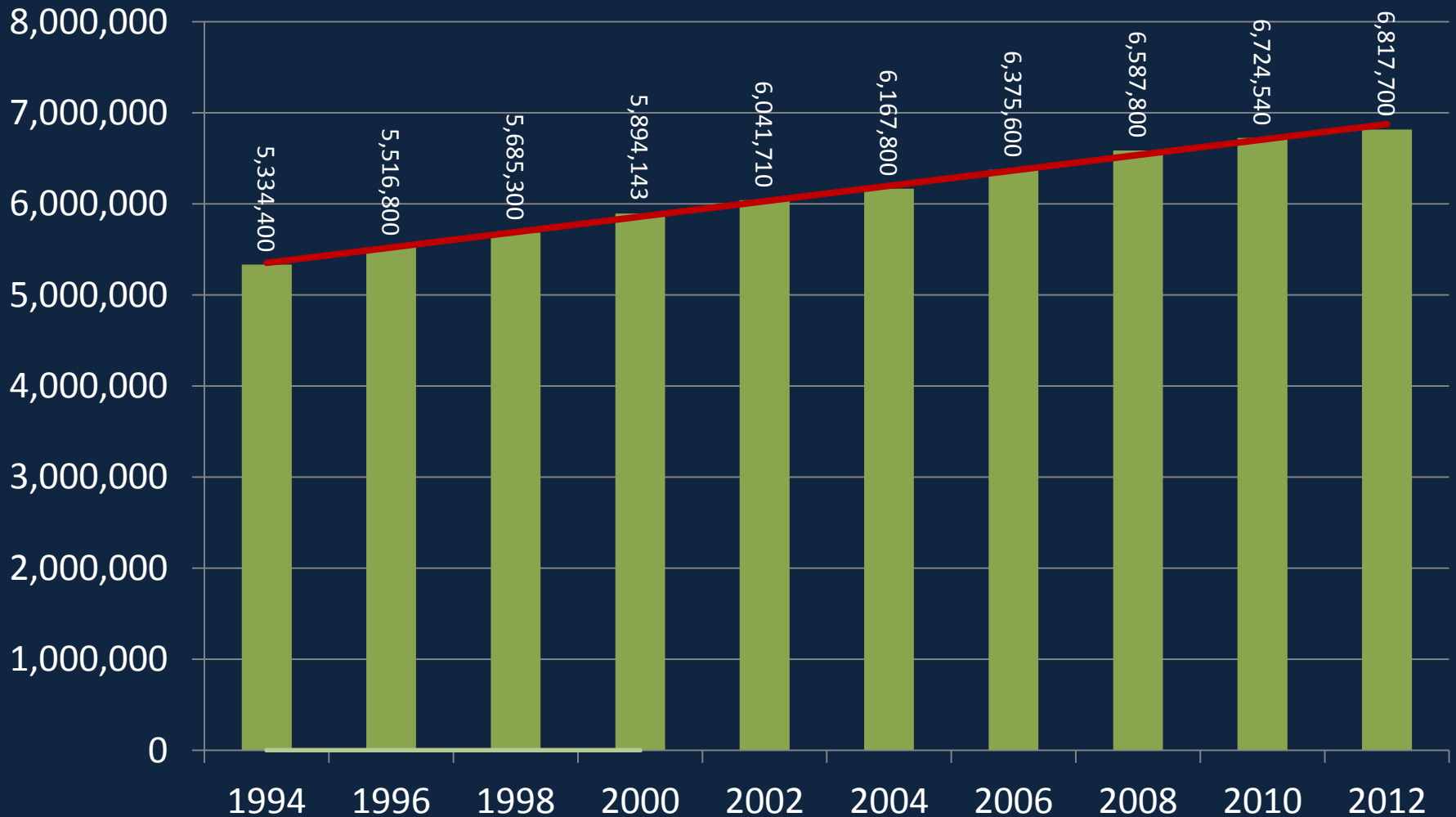
State Population	1 to 47,559 people
Land Area	1 to 469 square miles
Water Area	1 to 302 square miles
WDFW Licenses Sold	1 to 12,393 licenses



A Lot of Ground to Cover

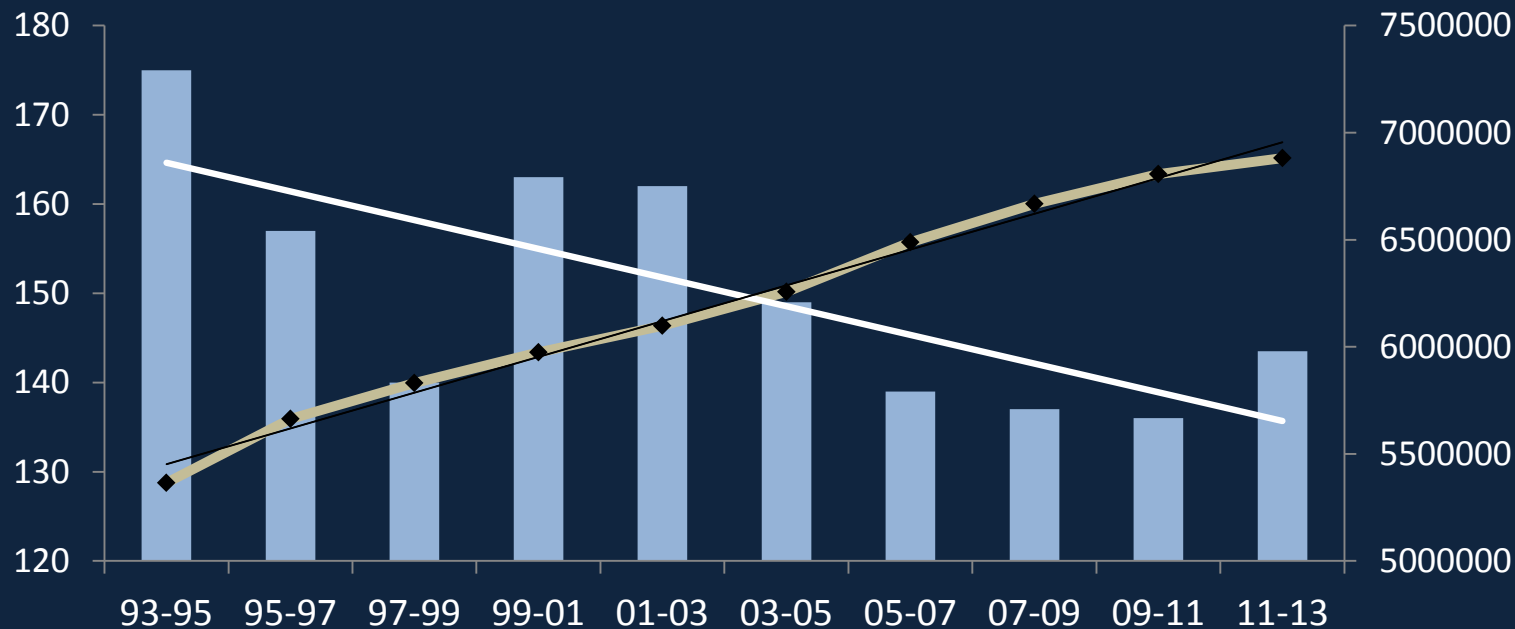
- Washington State is the 20th largest state in the United States, with 39 counties, encompassing 66,582 square miles.
- Washington has 8,000 lakes and 40,000 miles of rivers and streams.
- Total shoreline measures 3,026 miles, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Puget Sound.

WA State Population Growth



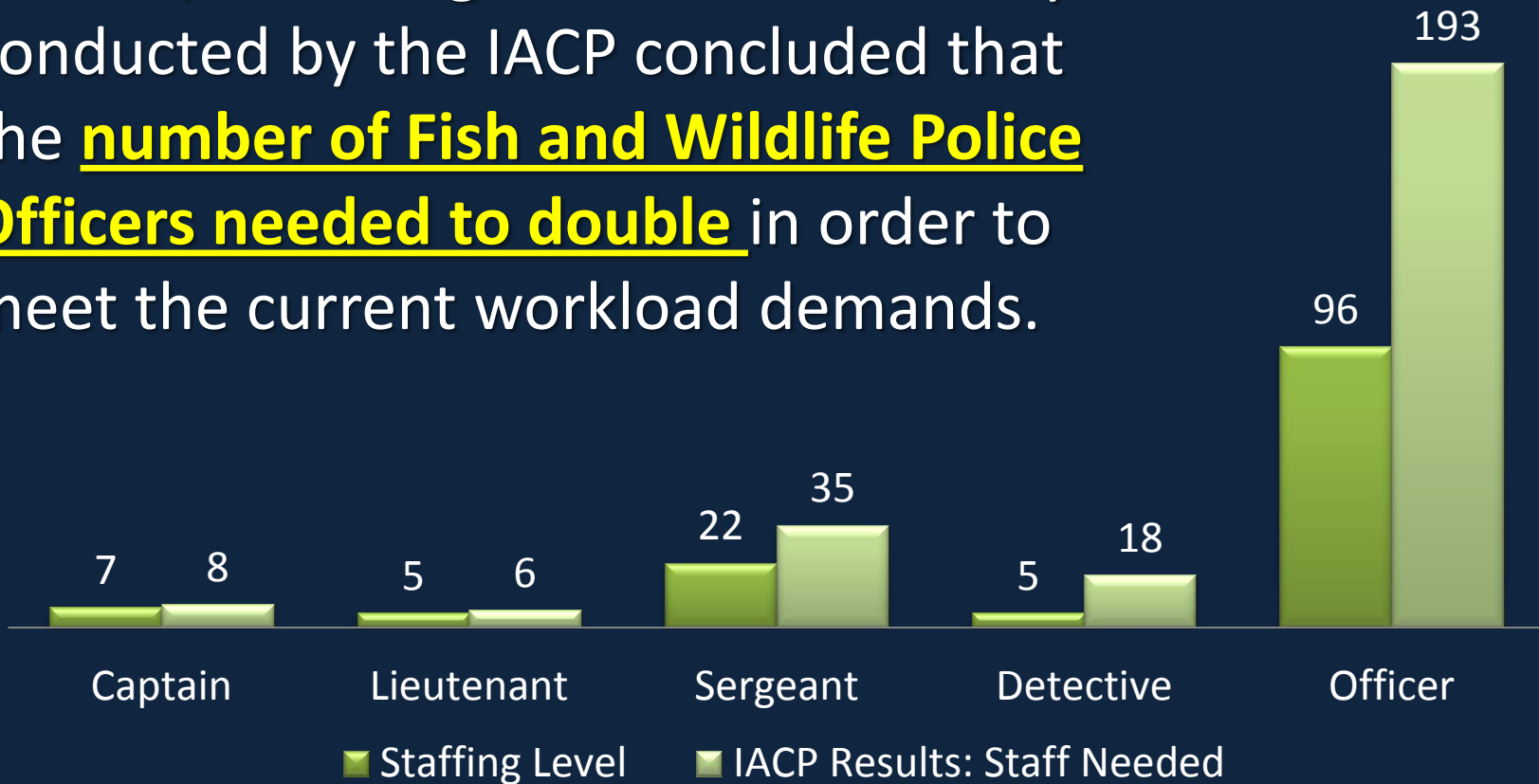
Nearly Two Decades of Decreased Staffing

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



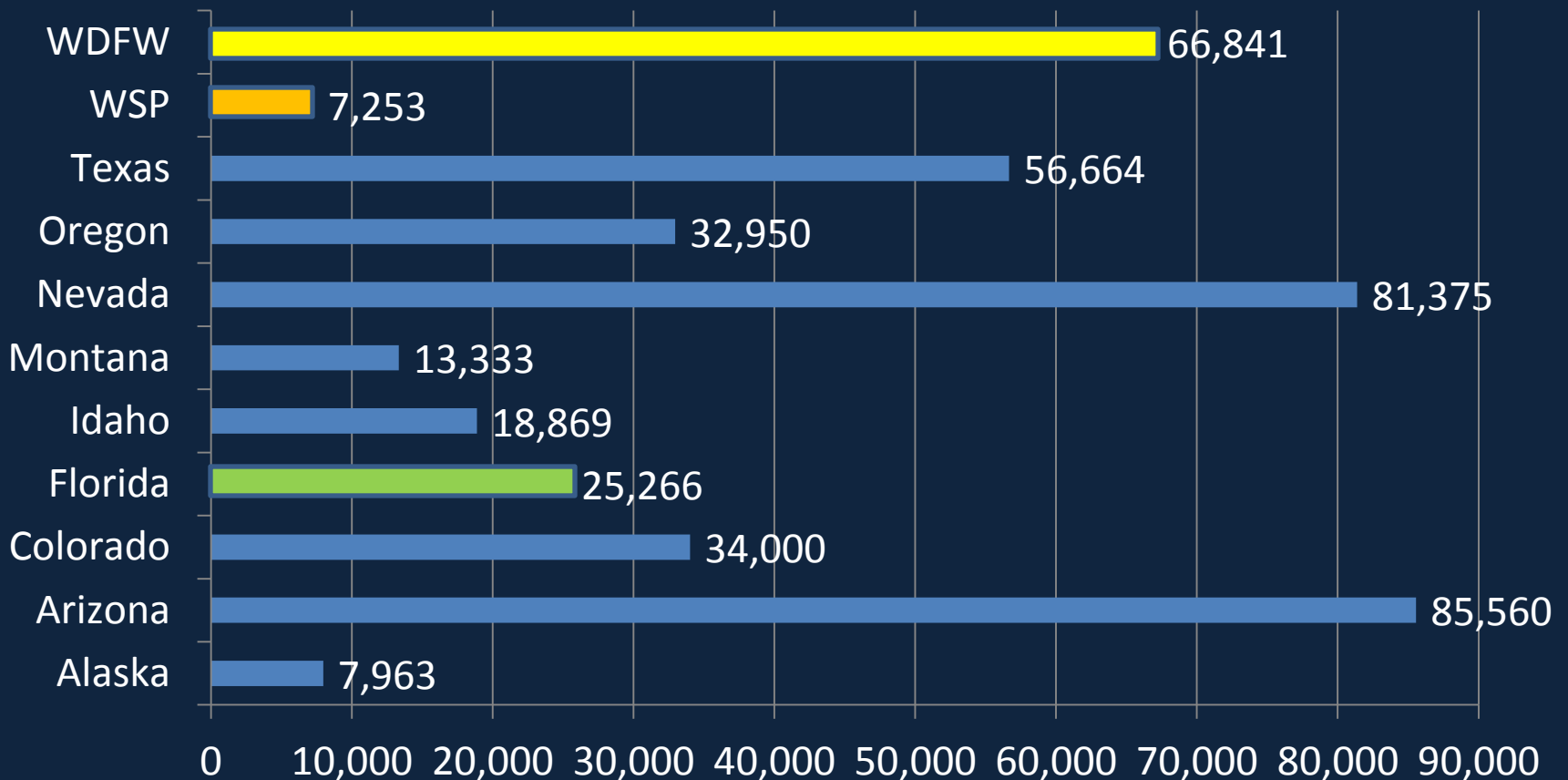
2008 IACP Staffing Study

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

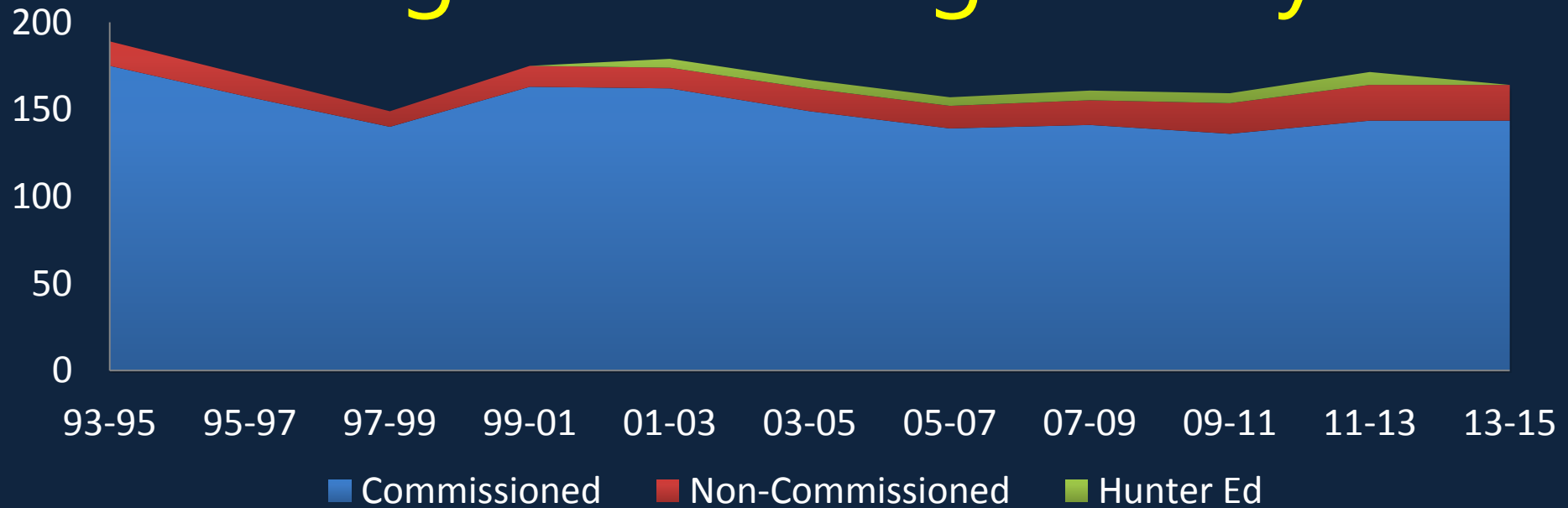


Staffing Comparison

of Citizens For Every 1 Fish and Wildlife Police Officers



Program Staffing History



FTEs	93-95 (Merger)	95-97 (Pre-RIF)	97-99 (Post-RIF)	99-01	01-03	03-05	05-07	07-09	09-11	11-13	13-15
Commissioned	175	157	140	163	162	149	139	141	136	143.5	143.5
Non-Commissioned	14	12	9	12	12	13	13	14.3	17.3	21.3	21.3
Hunter Ed	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5.6	5.75	7.5	0
Total	189	169	149	175	179	167	157	160.9	159.05	172.3	164.8

11-13 Staffing Adds

- ALEA Funding – Geoduck Protection
 - 1 Detective
 - 2 Officers (R4)

- Puget Sound Crab Endorsement
 - 1 Detective
 - 2.5 Officers (R4/R6)

11-13 Staffing Adds

- CRSS Endorsement
 - 1 Additional Officer (R2)
 - Total of 3 funded positions in 11-13
 - 1 Sergeant (R5)
 - 2 Officer (R2/R5)
- Discover Pass
 - 1 Officer (R1)

11-13 Staffing Adds

- Indirect
 - Administrative Regulations Analyst
 - Records Analyst
 - Office Assistant

- Pittman-Robertson (PR)
 - 0.75 COEES (Project)

Program Organization

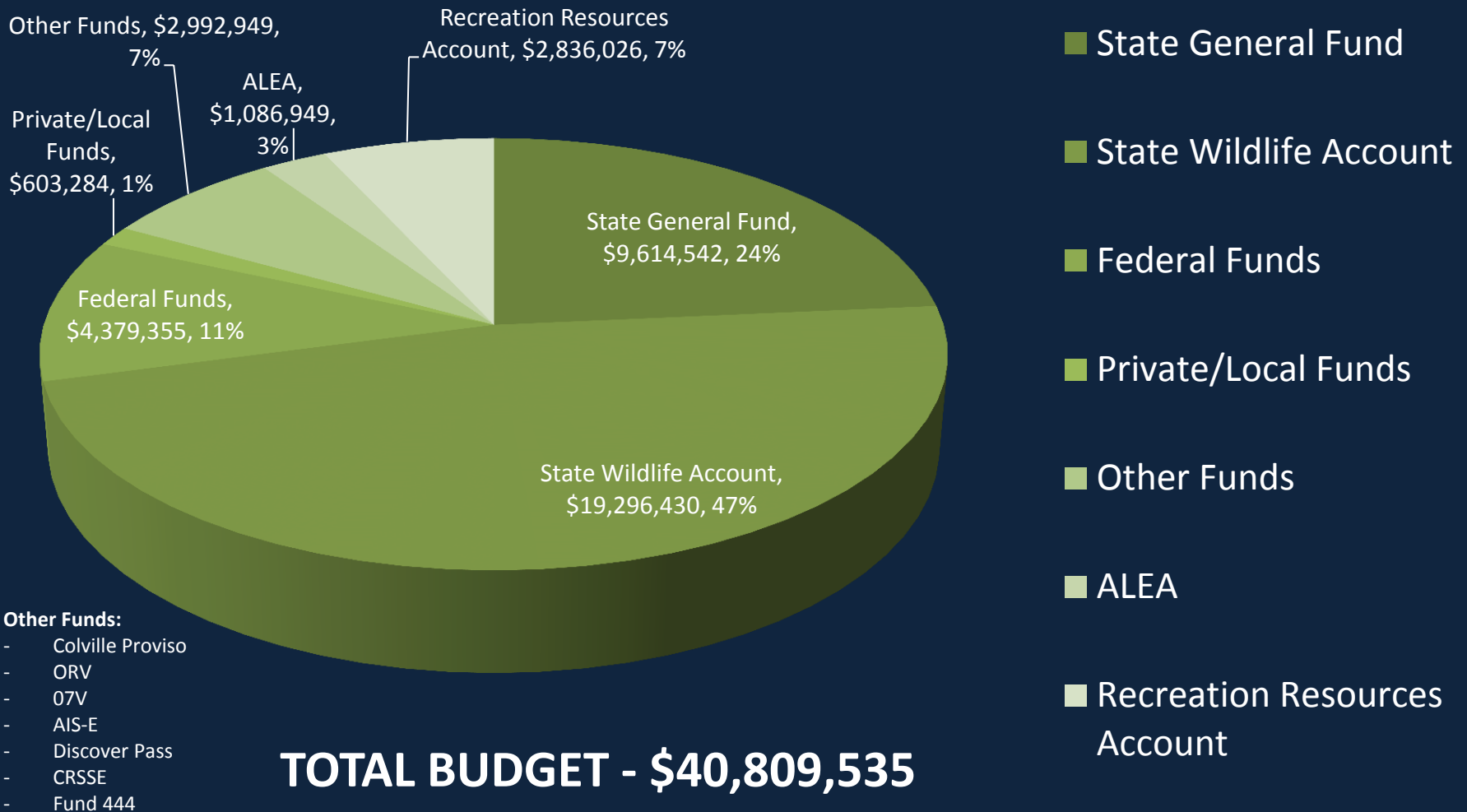
- **Headquarters**
 - **Budget and Records**
 - **Professional Standards**
 - **Fleet Management**
 - **Legal Services**
 - **Recruitment and Training**

- **Field Operations**

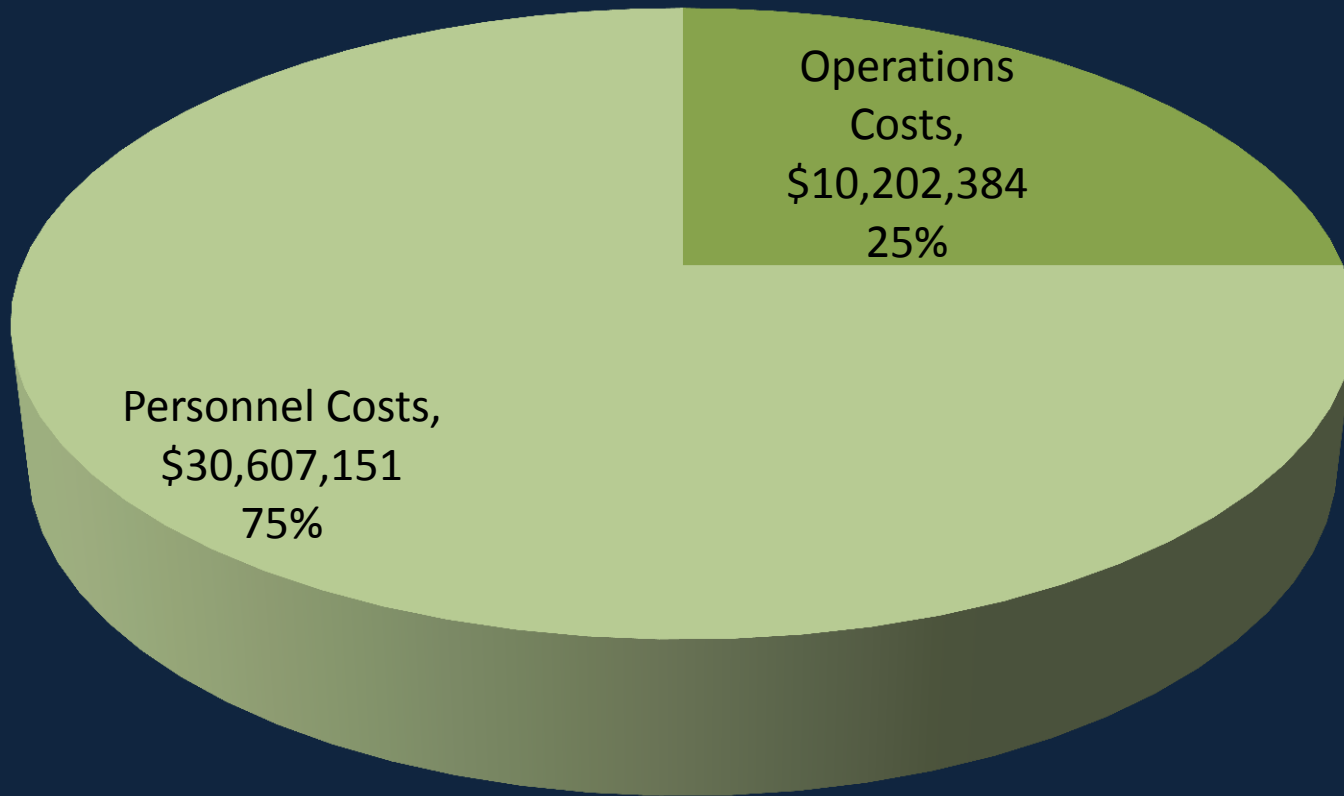
Program Organization

- **172.3 funded FTEs, including:**
 - **143.5 Commissioned Staff**
 - **10.3 Administrative Support Staff**
 - **4 Dispatchers**
 - **7.5 Hunter Education Staff**
 - **3 Fleet Maintenance Staff**
 - **2 Property and Evidence Custodians**

11-13 Law Enforcement Program Budget



11-13 Law Enforcement Program Budget



TOTAL BUDGET - \$40,809,535

Challenges We Face

POACHING AND SPREE KILLING



Challenges We Face

PROTECTING A GROWING NUMBER OF ESA-LISTED SPECIES

- The number of ESA-listed species in Washington State has doubled since 1994.
- 47 fish and wildlife species are WDFW-listed for protection and 43 are federally listed in WA.



Challenges We Face

OVER-FISHED SPECIES



Challenges We Face

COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



Challenges We Face

LARGE SCALE TRAFFICKING OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



Challenges We Face

ENSURING SAFE PUBLIC CONSUMPTION OF SHELLFISH



Challenges We Face

INTRODUCTION OF INVASIVE SPECIES



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

Challenges We Face

PROTECTING OUR LANDS



In Summary

- We're in an upward trend with Officer staffing numbers
- We're reducing Officer administrative time through technology and process improvement
- We'll continue to explore ways to leverage our available fund balances and new funds to enhance Officer staffing numbers

Questions?

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OUTDOOR POLICE BEAT

Tales of the Modern Game Warden

Brought to You by the WDFW Police
"Guardians of Washington's Great Outdoors"



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE POLICE



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Police

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