

# ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

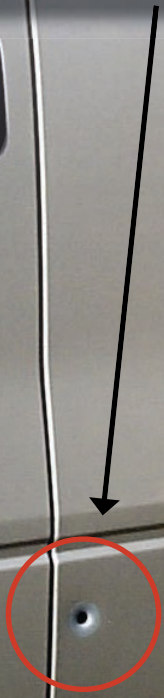
## Outdoor Police Beat News

SUMMER 2010

Volume: 4 Issue: 3

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:

**LICENSE CHECK LEADS TO  
HOSTAGE TAKEN AND SHOTS  
FIRED PG. 14**



### PLUS

**Spree Killing Stopped pg. 1**

**Captain Volz Receives Pogue-Elms  
WAFWA Officer of the Year pg. 58**

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## FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

The following events provide a snapshot of Enforcement activity during the summer timeframe. Examples were selected to show the diversity of issues our Officers encounter while protecting your natural resources. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Enforcement Program is made up of a number of specialized work units. Patrol and outreach responsibilities often overlap and the different units commonly assist each other. All violations are considered “alleged” unless a conviction has been secured.

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# Enforcement Program Newsletter



## SUMMER 2010 EDITION

Volume: 4

Issue: 3



### *On the cover*

*Region 2 Captain Anderson kneels next to a bullet hole caused by a .45 round fired by the suspect as he drove toward the captain.*

## Feature Articles:

Captain Volz Receives Pogue-Elms  
WAFWA Officer of the Year pg. 58



*Chief for a Day 2010 pg. 60*



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*Special thanks to those who aided in content and proofing*

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## GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION: INTRODUCTION

When people think about the kinds of things that keep Fish and Wildlife Officers busy during the spring and summertime, they really aren't thinking about large-scale wildlife poaching. Sure, it's true that during the regular hunting seasons officers work hard to ensure a level playing field for the law abiding hunter, but many of the examples you will read about here are much more serious than someone trying to skirt rules related to fair play. So, sprinkled in with court cases that drag out all year and the cheating that you would expect, is hard core poaching, an activity that has become an all-season problem.

### *Spree Killing Stopped*

The Walla Walla County coyote hunter knew the modern firearm Mule deer season didn't open until October 16, and yet he was staring at two dead bucks just north of Woodward Canyon Road in late August. He did the right thing and called Fish and Wildlife Police.

Officer McQuary could tell from a distance that the animals were well on their way toward spoilage from their bloated bellies. Obviously the shooter didn't care about the meat.....no, this was probably about collecting antler trophies and other motivations only a psychologist can explain. Officer McQuary called his partner, Officer Johnson, and they agreed to set up surveillance after dark in hope the bad guy would come back for trophies he didn't deserve. Just before 11 p.m. the officers watched a car drive up a nearby rural road shining a spotlight out of the window.

Officer McQuary heard the crack of a gun-shot pierce the night. Over the course of two minutes he heard six more shots. Because the location was close to the two animals that had brought him here, he expected that this was their suspect. As he closed in on him with his blacked out patrol truck, he heard Officer Johnson's excited voice over the police radio. The suspect just went by Johnson's location at a high rate of speed, and he was still using the spotlight.

Dealing with armed poachers is always risky, and the officers took him down with that in mind. They found a 30.30 rifle with an empty shell casing in the chamber and live rounds in the magazine. It didn't take long for the 18-year-old to confess. And why not? It wasn't as if there was much to hide here; he had been caught in the act. He admitted to shooting four deer total...the two the officers were investigating, plus two more. It was 2 a.m. at this point, and despite their best efforts, the dog-tired officers were only able to find three out of the four deer. After some badly needed sleep, they located the fourth deer the next day. All were bucks, and one was a 5x5 (antlers with five points on each side), classified as a trophy by Washington State law.

### SPOT-LIGHTING - JACK-LIGHTING - SHINING

It all means the same thing - a dangerous and often wasteful technique used by poachers to steal wildlife from the non-hunting and hunting public alike. The hours of darkness are an active time for big game animals, especially when they need to escape the blistering Eastern Washington heat. It's also an active time for the unethical as they search fields, logged off areas, and hill-sides in an effort to find, blind, and kill these animals. When faced with searing lights more brilliant than a million candle power shining into their eyes, deer and elk are immobilized and become an easy target. Sometimes they are killed, often they are wounded. A wounded animal is hard enough to find in the day time, at night you can forget about tracking anything. Not that these kinds of people care much about that. Definitely not fair-chase, and definitely not something any sportsman or woman would do.

SPREE KILLING ROBS ALL  
WASHINGTONIANS THE  
ENJOYMENT OF THIS STATE'S  
DIVERSE WILDLIFE RESOURCES





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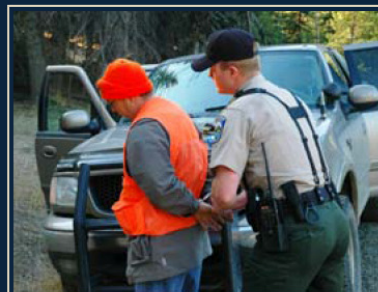
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## FATHER TEACHES SON HOW TO POACH

Officers Treser and Scherzinger were called out after receiving information from Police Dispatch of a convicted felon spotlighting and shooting deer from a vehicle. With the assistance of Okanogan County Sheriff's Office, Twisp Police, and Winthrop Police, the vehicle was stopped and the driver found with a .44 magnum pistol lying beside him. His 17-year-old son was sporting a .45 on his hip. Our officers also found a bow, two rifles, and a very strong odor of marijuana. Marijuana and methamphetamine were found along with paraphernalia. No deer found or any evidence of deer poaching located. The driver was high on meth and marijuana. Numerous arrests were made.

## DEER! IT'S WHAT'S FER DINNER

While conducting a sturgeon emphasis patrol on the Snake River, Officers Fulton and McQuary, and Sergeant Jewell showed up at a fishing camp after dark and right at dinner time. Wondering why there was a fresh deer gut pile floating in the river, officers thought they better check on the menu. Just as they thought, closed season venison was the first course. Officers Horn, McLerran, and Grant arrived to assist and help locate suspects. The deer was poached on the opposite side of the river in either Columbia or Walla Walla County and transported back to the camp. Two subjects admitted to the poaching and were charged with hunting/possessing a deer closed season.

A third suspect, whose vehicle was used for the hunting activity and to transport the deer, was identified as the alleged shooter by his two accomplices. Despite a lengthy attempt to locate him, this third suspect fled the scene before he could be contacted and interviewed. Unfortunately for him, fresh blood and deer hair, as well as multiple rifles, could be observed inside the back of his vehicle through an open door. The vehicle, a 1996 Chevrolet Suburban, was seized as evidence and transported to the WDFW Pasco Detachment Office pending a search warrant. One of the suspects was also arrested on an outstanding warrant out of King County. He was transported and booked into jail by Officer McLerran. The alleged shooter is also wanted on a WDFW warrant out of Grant County.

## LONG-TERM INVESTIGATION CONCLUDED

There's no such thing as the dog days of summer for Officers like Justin Maschhoff. He uses spare time between pro-active summer patrols to work through active investigations. In this case, he was able to interview the main suspect in a serial deer poaching case from last fall and tie it up for good. The elusive main suspect had been avoiding contact with Officer Maschhoff for the past four months. After the subject told the officer that he was in Eastern Washington (and therefore unavailable), Officer Maschhoff decided to go interview a minor player in the case at his home. As luck would have it, the main suspect and his three buddies were all standing in the front yard. Upon seeing the patrol truck pull into the drive, the fellow looked like he had just swallowed a centipede. He finally gave a full confession to spotlighting four deer with his accomplice. In all, six deer were killed last October and November at night with an artificial light.



## Birds-of-Prey Deaths Investigated

Officer Spurbeck stopped in at the Mt. Spokane Vet Hospital to check on a Great Horned Owl that had been caught in an illegal leg hold trap. The owl was beyond help and had to be put down.

Sergeant Rahn responded to a call of a dead Red-tailed Hawk found in a wooded area at the North Spokane Landfill site. A sick Bald Eagle was picked up in the same area two weeks ago. Sergeant Rahn started asking questions about possible poisoning or other toxins in the area. A dumpsite was discovered where the local treatment plant was dumping raw sewage particulates called “grit.” Sergeant Rahn contacted The Regional Health District and reported his observations to a Health Inspector. The county promised to inspect the site.

## Summer-time Deer Case

Officer McGary received a call from a man that had observed what he believed to be a closed season deer poaching that just occurred in an orchard, south of Othello. The officer arrived along with several deputies from Adams and Franklin County. The suspects had left the area, but Officer McGary found an individual washing out the back of his company pick-up truck nearby in another orchard and saw that the man had blood on him. The bed of the truck contained more blood and deer hair. In the meantime, Sheriff Barger, who was also in the area, found another subject getting ready to get on a tractor. He was wearing a white chemical spraying suit that had some blood spatters on it. Interviews with the two men produced admissions, the weapon used, several packages of fresh meat that had been already cut into large chunks, and the disposed cape. The men were cited and released after being served with a forfeiture notice for the weapon.



Photo by George Jameson

## Stolen Gun, Drugs, and Poached Game

Officer Mosman and Officer Erickson experienced a bit of fall in July when the Pend Oreille County Sheriff’s Office requested our assistance after discovering a freshly poached deer while investigating a burglary in rural area north of Newport (deer hunting enforcement activities peak during the fall). After multiple interviews that kept the Officer’s out until the wee hours of the morning, the meth addled suspect was found to have poached a small buck with a stolen rifle. The deer was in the process of being butchered (minus the whole act of field dressing) in the basement. In addition, evidence was found that implicated the suspect in a bear poaching incident two days prior.



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# Fish and Wildlife in the News

## Clarkston man pleads guilty to poaching

*Matthew Turner was charged with multiple counts involving deer, pheasants; Asotin teen also faces trial* By Kevin Gaboury of The Tribune

A Clarkston man accused of poaching several deer and ring-necked pheasants between October 2009 and January 2010 entered a guilty plea in Asotin County Superior Court.

The subject, 18, pleaded guilty to 20 counts of poaching and other wildlife crimes, all misdemeanors or gross misdemeanors. The subject is required to pay a fine of \$16,000 to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and serve 480 hours of community service in lieu of 60 days in jail. He will also serve five years of probation, which was reduced from 10 years recommended by the state.

The subject and his 16-year-old accomplice of Asotin came to the attention of Fish and Wildlife law enforcement in January after officers received leads about their alleged poaching activities and contacted the two in the Asotin High School parking lot. No arrests were made and the 16-year-old was released into the custody of his parents.

Together, the two were alleged to have illegally shot and killed three mule deer bucks and one whitetail buck over their limit. The maximum penalty set by the state is one year in prison and a \$5,000 fine for each deer killed.

Fish and Wildlife officials claim all four bucks were spotlighted from the road and killed illegally. The 16-year-old was also charged with unlawful possession of a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

During the investigation, officers confiscated several sets of antlers from a Clarkston home. According to court documents, The subject illegally shot two 2x2 mule deer bucks, one 4x5 whitetail deer buck, and one 5x9 mule deer buck. The carcasses of all the deer were wasted.

The subject additionally shot and killed three ring-neck pheasants out of season in October 2009, discarding the carcasses. The maximum penalty for each bird is 90 days in jail and a fine of \$1,000.

Both subjects were charged with four counts each of second-degree unlawful hunting of big game, first-degree waste of fish and wildlife and second-degree spotlighting big game.

Additional charges against the subject included three counts of second-degree unlawful hunting of wild birds, four counts of unlawful use of a loaded firearm, and one count of second-degree waste of fish and wildlife.

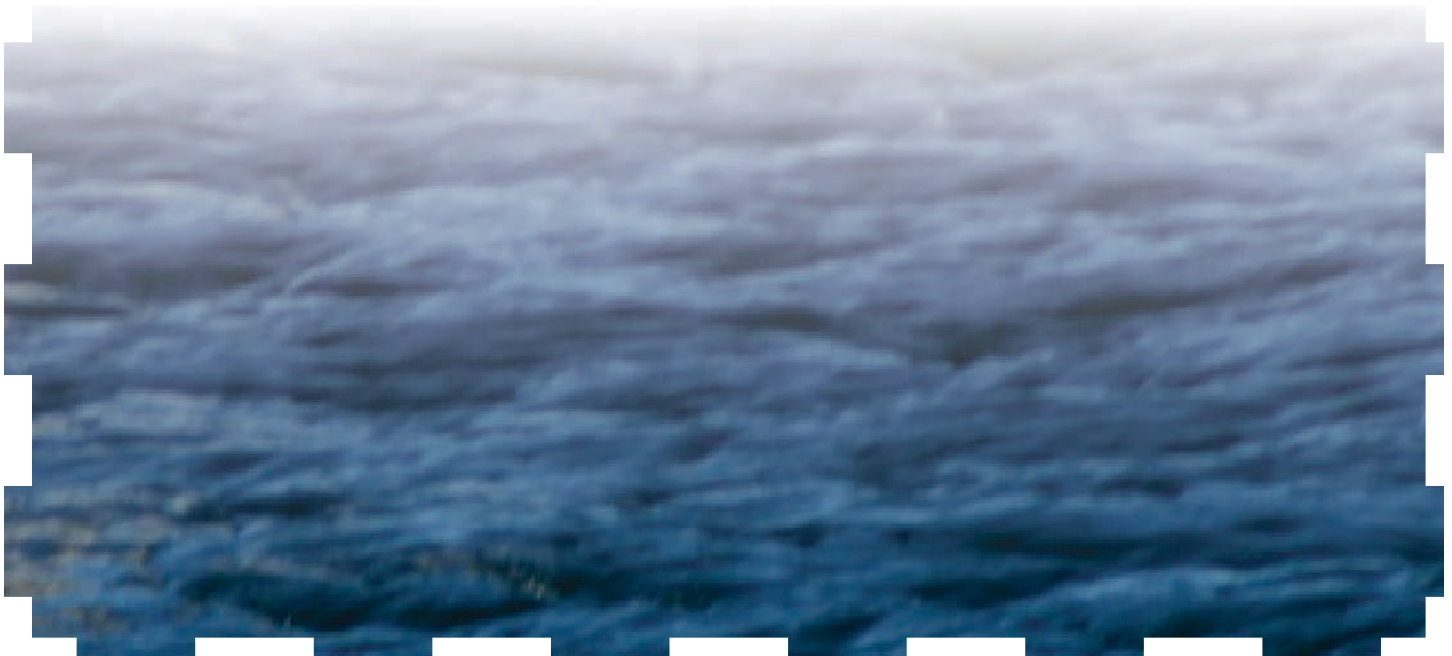
Asotin County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Curt Liedke said the 16-year-old accomplice was charged as an adult.





## *Orca Whale Protection*

Officers participated in a number of directed orca whale patrols to limit harassment by vessels violating distance rules. A number of intentional violations were addressed this summer with citations.





## Overt Poaching:

No less than six witnesses observed a none-too-smart subject shoot and illegally kill a doe that wandered onto a popular shooting range on the Lewis/Thurston county line. The suspect shot at the deer with an assault rifle. After missing the animal several times he retrieved another rifle with a very large scope on it and after a couple more shots the deer went down. The man walked to the deer and returned to the group saying that the deer was too sick to salvage. Sergeant Holden took the initial call and contacted witnesses, took statements, and located the dead doe. Then the hunt was on for the suspect and his vehicle as witnesses gave a very good description, including a license plate. Sergeant Holden and Officer Martin found the suspect's residence and watched it while waiting for the vehicle to show up. When the vehicle did appear the next day, it was hidden behind an outbuilding. Officers Schroeder and Moats immediately responded. They obtained confessions from the shooter and his partner and seized a very expensive rifle for forfeiture.

## Possible Poisoning:

Officer Flowers received a report of geese dying at Phillips Lake for unexplained reasons. He arrived to the reported scene and found four dead Canada Geese and two healthy geese a short distance off shore. As he collected the dead geese he noticed that one of the supposedly healthy geese began to act as if it was having a seizure, so he paddled out and collected the distressed bird. Officer Flowers contacted a local vet clinic and headed that way with the dead and sick birds. The fifth bird died on the way. Officer Flowers eventually contacted U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the agency agreed to take the birds to the lab for testing. The birds were transferred and suspicions are that the birds were either intentionally or accidentally poisoned.



## Protected Species Case:

Sergeant Grant continued to engage in a long-term investigation regarding 19 pelicans shot and left on a Tribal reservation. In concert with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, hours of investigation were invested before a suspect was identified, interviewed and admitted to killing the pelicans. These cases are being pursued federally.



## INTRODUCTION: HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Blame it on habitat loss, waning public tolerance, or neighbors that can't figure out that feeding wildlife causes problems for others, the fact remains that reducing conflicts between humans and wildlife is an activity that is on the increase for officers every year.

# BEAR ATTACK

Officers and Biologist Beausoleil responded to a call from WA State Patrol Communications that a man out walking his dog had been attacked and severely injured by a black bear. By the time officers arrived, the victim had been transported by medics to Wenatchee Valley Hospital. He was then airlifted to Harborview in Seattle for severe head and facial injuries. Officers and Cash, the Karelian bear dog, searched the heavy forested area and found the bear about 100 yards from the victim's vacation home where the attack had occurred. Cash pursued the bear across State Highway 207 and into the heavy timber doing a good job of keeping the animal distracted until Officer Snyder was able to get close enough for a running shot that put the animal down.

Officer Richards was able to interview the victim's wife at Harborview who stated that she had heard the ruckus and had run outside to see her husband lying on the ground bleeding and yelling "bear." According to the wife, she ran to him while yelling and screaming at the bear that was still pacing back and forth at some distance away. It appears from the evidence that she contributed to saving her husband's life by keeping the bear from continuing with the attack, calling 911, and applying pressure to his wounds to slow blood loss until medics arrived.





# YOGI BEAR FINDS PARADISE

While Washington black bears are generally pigs in a fur coat, they are still potentially dangerous. The danger increases when natural fears are diminished through imprinting them on humans when well-meaning but misguided people feed them providing handouts. Such a situation occurred on the Long Beach Peninsula. Sgt. Chadwick responded to a complaint of an elderly husband and wife feeding bears dog food – about \$4,000 worth for the year. The result was a group of dangerously habituated bears causing problems for their neighbors.

Finding that a black bear had broken into a garage by going through the closed door caused some alarm for one resident. When Sgt. Chadwick arrived two bears were in the driveway and ambled just far enough out of the way so he could park his patrol truck. There were two additional bears in a tree, and when the husband came out of the house, more bears emerged from the brush. The man fed a couple of the bears treats, followed by the wife who came outside and dumped out a coffee can of dog food. One bear climbed up on the bumper of Sgt. Chadwick's truck to look in the truck bed. Sgt. Chadwick observed seven different bears while he was there and all were comfortable around humans, including a 400 + pound bear. There were two sows with cubs that were also in the area taking the free handouts. A wildlife biologist and officers eventually deployed a number of traps and removed ten bears from that location. The most dangerously habituated bears were euthanized. While no state law exists controlling the feeding of potentially dangerous wildlife, the City of Ilwaco (also located on the Peninsula) enacted an ordinance outlawing the practice. WDFW will attempt to introduce legislation to make it unlawful to feed these animals.







# Bear Capture at Indian Trail

In what can only be considered an ironic moment, Detachment 22 (Spokane County) Officers responded to a media-fueled black bear event only days after going through recertification training on Wildlife Immobilization. The wayward bear was located in the North Spokane area in a large, solitary pine tree just off a major road. When Officer Spurbeck arrived he described the gathered mob and traffic jam as a scene from the old Yellowstone National Park days when the public was allowed to feed bears. Spokane PD soon closed the road and moved back the gathered masses so our Officers could implement a capture plan. Due to the height of the bear (and lack of appropriate climbing gear if the darted bear decided to fall asleep in the tree) a ladder truck was requested to assist from the Spokane Fire Department. In the meantime, three or four news crews showed up to capture the moment.

While Sergeant Charron kept the media up to date, the Officers put up the bear capture net utilizing the patrol trucks as anchor points. Officer Mosman then went up into the bucket and was lifted high into the air, where two of the three tranquilizer darts he fired soon took effect. One dart is now permanently imbedded in the tree after hitting the one branch that covered the rear end of the bear. The 200+ pound bear fell from the tree, onto the capture net, and then slid off onto the ground with nary a scratch. It was quickly loaded into the waiting culvert trap, ear tagged and medicated, and then transported to WDFW property.



### Better Than Honey

Officer Moats continued to field calls about nuisance bears in the Livingston Mountain and surrounding areas. A trap was re-set on Livingston Mountain in response to a previously caught and tagged nuisance bear. This time the bear was found climbing into a person's vehicle and finishing off a Subway sandwich and smoothie. We're not sure what flavor the smoothie was, but the assumption is "berry."

### Cougar Treed in Glead

Officers received a call from Yakima State Patrol about a treed cougar in a residential area near Glead (between Yakima and Naches). It appeared the cougar had been treed by the reporting party's two Bullmastiffs. A Wildlife Biologist and several Officers arrived on scene to assist. After reviewing the circumstances surrounding the incident, the location of the animal and safety concerns, it was decided the cougar would be lethally removed. A hound man was on scene in case the cougar was wounded and ran. In addition, the local Fire Department was on scene in case the cougar got hung up in the tree. Bystanders were told the cougar was going to be euthanized and asked to return to their houses until the cougar was down. Officers shot and removed the cougar without incident. Officers used the opportunity to educate residents in the area about cougars.

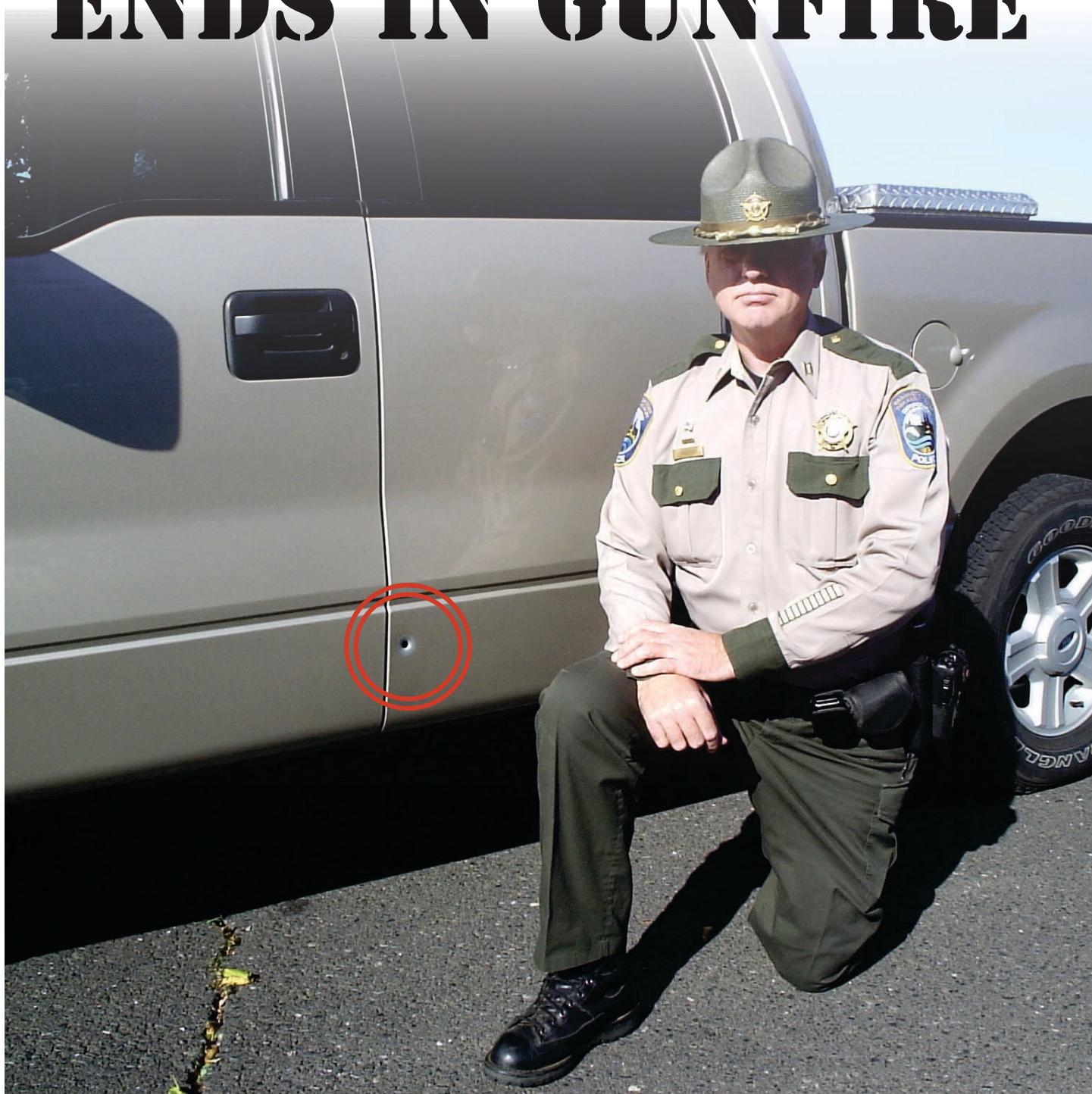
### Moose Invasion

When residents of a community northeast of Moses Lake saw a moose running loose through yards they couldn't believe what they were seeing. This is not typical moose habitat. With assistance from Matt Monda, Regional Wildlife Program Manager, several citizens, and a motor Officer from the Sheriff's Office, an attempt was made by Captain Chris Anderson to haze the wayward animal back towards the north and away from town where it would not pose a risk to area residents. However, another report came in from a resident reporting that the moose was lying under a tree in her backyard. In the same week, Officer Grant responded to a call of a young moose wandering around East Wenatchee. He arrived and was able to haze the animal out of town and back into the surrounding hills. The animal seemed to like the coolness of a local cherry orchard.





# LICENSE CHECK ENDS IN GUNFIRE



*Captain Anderson kneels beside the .45 caliber bullet hole in his patrol truck*



The small cluster of cars near the bridge over lower Crab Creek in Grant County caught Captain Chris Anderson's attention. He and Officer Chad McGary had been on their way to focus some attention on illegal nighttime sturgeon fishing in the Columbia River. It was about 8:30 p.m. Little did Chad and Chris know that a simple license check would result in nearly getting killed.

Walking down the rocky bank, Chris found a man and his son doing what most father and sons should be doing, spending quality time together. And what better way to do that than to drown a few worms. But this was no ordinary father-son duo. The father, a man without words, silently produced his fishing license as requested. That was a bit unexpected as Chad had watched the father reel in his line and throw his fishing pole to the ground, something folks without licenses often do. The son, who was still fishing, claimed that his license was at home in his wallet. No problem, Chris told him the officers would be able to check license status with their laptop computers. Chris decided to walk across the road to the other side of the creek and check a few anglers there, while Chad dealt with the kid with the forgotten license.

Chad followed the 18-year-old up the bank to check on a license. The Officer asked "what's in your pocket?" The metal on metal clinking sound had his radar up. Garcia Miraz turned around quickly and began reaching for his back pocket with his right hand. Trained in officer safety to control suspect's hands, Chad moved to stop him. The reaction from the kid came as a surprise as he was shoved backwards. Chad regained his footing, just in time to find himself staring into the muzzle of a .45 caliber handgun. The familiar but sickening sound of the slide being racked back to chamber a bullet, followed by the kid spitting out the words "Mother F%%\$#." cemented the seriousness of the situation.

Garcia Miraz was five feet away and Chad did the only thing he could do, his hands went up right along with his adrenalin. You learn to read people's faces, and the kid's face said "I'm going to kill you." Chad laid it out for him. "Look, I have three kids and a wife, don't do this." Garcia Miraz yelled down at his father, Garcia Godinez, and within a few seconds he came running up the path brandishing a 5" knife, stopping only five feet away. Chad tried a different tactic. "I have a partner, and if you shoot me, he's going to shoot you." Having possibly reduced the options regarding how to kill him without being noticed, Chad is now wondering if they would choose to shank him instead.

At the mention of the other officer, the kid begins to look nervous. Chad sees a small opening. "You can walk away, just leave...don't shoot, you don't want to do this, just leave." Garcia Miraz demands his gun, but Chad refuses. The reaction from the kid is anger, as he walks the gun within 6" of his temple. The kid shouts "GIVE ME YOUR GUN NOW!" Chad sticks to his position. "No, you'll shoot me with it. I'll throw it in the brush instead." For some reason, the kid agrees.

Garcia Miraz then slowly walked away, finally breaking into a run up the hillside towards the parking lot. Chad knew he needed to create distance and warn Chris that an armed man was coming his way. But he still had a threat to contend with. He edged away from Garcia Godinez toward high ground and State Route 243, where he hoped Chris would see him with his hands up. Garcia Miraz was checking his back trail and saw what he was doing. Running back down the hill, the kid yelled "Get down." Chad refused, not wanting to be executed without seeing it coming. Garcia Miraz asked his dad in Spanish where the car keys were. They were laying two feet in front of Chad, who told him to "take the keys and go."

Garcia Miraz became enraged at the officer's attempt to leave and lunged at Chad. "Mother F\*&^%." From only three feet away, Chad put his hands in front of his face to block the inevitable...but the bullet didn't come and the kid ran up the hill again. Chad made his break and grabbed his portable radio. "Gun, gun, the guy has a gun..... get over here." He then saw Captain Anderson run eastbound across SR 243 towards the parking lot. A black Honda then peeled out of the parking lot, spraying gravel as it left in a hurry. Chad took Garcia Godinez into custody after retrieving the gun he threw into the bushes earlier. He knew he could only do so much for his Captain and partner now. In fluent Spanish, he asked some questions that he thought might help...how much gas is in the car; do you think your son would shoot the officer? To the last question Mr. Garcia Godinez simply said, "I don't know, he's crazy."

Now in pursuit Chris received a much clearer radio transmission from Chad... "He has a gun." The vehicle stopped and the kid jumped out waving a .45 caliber hand gun. Chris took up a defensive position with his vehicle and door as cover, drawing his own gun. The kid was yelling "back off" but did not seem to have a lock steady aim on the Captain. Chris held his fire, and no doubt his breath, in hopes of de-escalating the situation without having to kill a man. Garcia Miraz quickly jumped back in his car. But Garcia Miraz was not going the opposite direction, he had turned in the road and was headed right for Chris's patrol truck. Chris saw the muzzle flash from the first round and he felt the impact of another as it connected with the metal of his truck door. The Honda screamed down the Beverly – Burke Road, just like a drive-by shooting.

Once on SR 26, the kid tried the same maneuver. This time Chris was ready to deal with the threat. As the car slowed, turned, and headed in Chris's direction, the kid brought the gun up again. Chris fired three times from his AR-15 rifle to disable the vehicle. He connected, but the car kept going until it stalled on SR 28 near Ephrata. Assisting law enforcement took Garcia Miraz into custody without incident.

Garcia Miraz is being held in the Grant County Jail on \$1 million bail for attempted first degree murder, while his father keeps him company in the same facility on a \$100,000 bail for second degree assault. According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, both men are in the country illegally. The father also had an unrelated felony warrant for his arrest. We can only assume at this point that the motivation for all of this was a concern over being caught with a firearm as an alien, a Class C felony. And if you're wondering... no, the kid didn't have a fishing license.



*Captain Anderson took up a position in this location in an effort to neutralize the threat*



## HORSE WINS

Officer Moats responded to a residence that reported a horse was attacked by a cougar the previous evening. The owner told officers that she went to check on her horses only to find a cougar had latched itself to the horse's neck and both of them were flailing about. The horse finally gained the edge and the cougar let out a large scream and took off into the brush. A large animal veterinarian responded to the scene and performed minor surgery / stitches on the horse.

## HARD RELEASE

Sergeant Holden set a bear trap in Centralia near Seminary Hill. A small bear was captured and relocated by Officers Martin and Schroeder. The small yearling bear had been causing problems over the previous several weeks. Officers received several calls on it. The bear was darted and ear-tagged. Officers Martin and Schroeder then joined forces with Officers Richards and Mozeter for a "hard release" south of Packwood. Hard release is a technique that involves rubber bullets, gun fire and a barking Karelian bear dog meant to instill fear of people and the area it is causing problems in.



## Habitat / Department Managed Lands / Private Timberlands

Our officers understand that first-rate land stewardship is critical to the success of fish and wildlife populations. Patrols are focused on land abuse, but officers also offer general policing services and public safety protection on both private and state-managed land.

### Stairway to Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) Violation

Officers Martin and Schroeder conducted a boat patrol on the Cowlitz River to get a closer look at a hydraulics violation near Castlerock. When officers arrived to photograph the illegal work, the homeowner was contacted and interviewed. The suspect built concrete steps and a walkway down the rip rap to the Cowlitz River without a permit. He claimed he didn't know we (WDFW) issued hydraulics permits and had no way to get to the water in order to rescue people if something happened (?). He must've forgotten the permit we issued him after the 2007 flood. Officer Martin charged the man with the violation.





## *Wildlife Lands Emphasis*

Officer Rogers organized and implemented a multi-agency off-road-vehicle and Green Dot Road enforcement patrol on the LT Murray Wildlife Area at Elk Heights. Sergeant Sprecher, DNR Officer Margheim, and Kittitas County Sheriff's Deputy Kokjer participated. Two officers were on motorcycles and the other two were in patrol vehicles. Numerous contacts were made and seven infractions issued for violating motor vehicle road closures. There were three "runners" who fled at the sight of officers and one subject with a non-extraditable \$50,000 Pierce County warrant. Our officers booked him into jail.

## *Wetlands Illegally Drained*

Officer Zuchlewski, Captain Anderson and Habitat Biologist Eric Pentico responded to a report of a large possible hydraulic project approval (HPA) violation at Hilltop Lake. When officers and biologists arrived, they found an unpermitted project underway on private property. The landowner had used a large track hoe to drain swamps, relocate a natural flowing stream and remove natural vegetation. The damage extended for over a quarter mile of valuable wetlands. Officers obtained photographs and then contacted the owner. He stated that he was simply trying to re-claim old farm ground and install new irrigation pipe. Numerous agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Ecology and Grant County officials, are scheduled to meet with the landowner.



# Trashing Public Land

Officers in the Okanogan have been receiving complaints about the number of alcohol-related parties trashing the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area on holiday weekends. The fire danger on this side of the mountains is always especially high this time of year. In response, Officer Christensen and McCormick used night vision goggles and found one large party numbering about 60 people and 20 vehicles. It was obvious to the officers that there were quite a number of violations occurring, including minors consuming alcohol, illegal fireworks being discharged, and littering. County Deputies and State Troopers were unable to assist, so the two fish and wildlife officers waded alone into the group. Officers spent over three hours identifying individuals, collecting evidence and determining violations. Officers filed approximately 40 charges with the court.





# FIRE - FIRE - FIRE

As part of the Director's trip to the region, region three Director Tayer scheduled a tour at the Snow Mountain Ranch/Cowiche Conservancy acquisitions to showcase what can be accomplished when WDFW, NGOs and the community work together to protect fish and wildlife habitat. While the group was discussing things in a shaded location out of sight of the parking lot, a private vehicle caught fire, quickly spreading to three others. Two private vehicles, one Bureau of Reclamation and one WDFW vehicle were completely destroyed in the blaze. Oak Creek WLA manager Ross Huffman had his state vehicle with fire equipment/water tank and was able to control the resulting grass fire until local fire units arrived to extinguish the blaze. No one was injured and the remaining vehicles were safely moved.



*Regional tour participant vehicles ablaze at Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot. J. Scott photo*



*WLA manager Ross Huffman (lower left) prepares to fight grass fire. J. Scott photo*



*Fire damaged vehicles at Snow Mountain Ranch parking lot. Captain Richard Mann photo (J. Scott's camera)*

# Tragedy

Officers McQuary and Johnson worked a popular swimming hole on land where the agency has an access agreement with the owner. While it turned out that all of the people drinking alcohol were of legal age, add cliffs and water for a potentially dangerous combination. Prior to the patrol, one young man attempted to jump off a cliff into the pool below, but instead hit his head, broke his neck and was killed. Another cliff diver ended up with broken ribs. We're not sure if alcohol was a factor in those cases. Officers continued to patrol the area in an effort to curb future tragedies, control the high litter problem, and deal with underage drinking.

## EYES IN THE WOODS

### Who We Are:

A volunteer citizen's organization responsive to our natural resource needs.

### What We Do:

Work closely with WDFW personnel to:

- Locate areas of needed volunteer assistance
- Educate and organize volunteer resources
- Involve volunteers in resource protection, research and habitat enhancement projects

### Our Vision Statement:

The Eyes In The Woods Association shall be the catalyst organization connecting citizen volunteers with the professionals that manage our natural resources, for the benefit of all.

### Our Purpose:

To assist with the reduction of poaching and other resource abuses, biological information gathering, and resource enhancement projects.

To learn more, visit us at: <http://www.eyesinthewoods.org/>





## Public Dumping Grounds Cleaned Up

Officer Haw finished his investigation of hulk boats and trailers being dumped on area Wildlife Properties. One such vessel and trailer was traced to the original registered owners, then to an owner of an out of business storage facility. This person had posted Craig's List ads for free boats and trailers on the condition that the hulks were removed from the facility. A "person" answered the advertisement and volunteered to take the "free" hulk boats and trailers off of his hands. One of the vehicles had been dumped at the Black Lake Access Area. A suspect was identified through his e-mail and cell phone records. He was paid a visit by Officer Haw. After several denials this person was confronted by a mountain of evidence, including one of the free boats which was parked in his yard. He then confessed to the crime of Unlawful Use of Department Lands and Unlawful Dumping in excess of one square yard. The hulk boat and trailer was impounded and the disposal fees were directed to the responsible party.



### Wenas Area Pot Grow

Officer Myers completed a plan for taking down a marijuana growing operation in the Kelley Hollow area. WDFW (Jewell, Grant, Myers, Horn, Mann), WSP, DEA, National Guard, and two K9 units were briefed. WDFW's marijuana eradication team led the entry while other agencies covered the perimeter. Five gardens were fenced off and one was set up for irrigation. A gas powered pump was seized and 5,000-7,000 plants were eradicated.



# OKANOGAN MARIJUANA ERADICATION

**O**ur officers were requested to assist in the take down and eradication of a marijuana garden located in the Loomis area. The Okanogan County North Central Washington Narcotics Task Force had received information this spring in a delayed report from a hunter from last fall's modern firearm deer season. The hunter had stumbled upon a harvested marijuana grow. This information was followed up by detectives who discovered the site was being re-used based upon odor of marijuana. Several investigative methods were deployed and the connection to the suppliers was made. Through investigation it was determined that these suppliers were providing resources to several complex marijuana gardens.

As part of a larger network the case drew the attention of the drug enforcement administration. WDFW officers were assigned to what was dubbed Mill Creek Grow 2, and were provided opportunity





to take down this site while officer's from the Okanogan County SRT team, U.S. Border Patrol and WSP Rat team took down Mill Creek Grow 1 site. At the same time detectives from NCWNTF and DEA executed search warrants at the supplier's residences.

WDFW Officers prepared an operations plan and executed it. Officers made initial contact with two live-in occupants of the grow and pursued the suspects when they ran. Both got away. The Mill Creek 2 Grow site was located less than two miles from the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area headquarters just off of WDFW department lands on Department of Natural Resources land. Officers from WDFW brought in DNR law enforcement and DEA agents after the grow had been secured.

Large pits of garbage and chemicals were dispersed throughout the area to maintain the grow. Evidence was collected and processed by the DEA and the case is pending with multiple arrests made and vehicles seized. The two grows resulted in the eradication of about 7,000 marijuana plants. Officer Dan Christenson's assignment to the task force was instrumental in the success of this event.

WDFW Officers are continuing to provide technical assistance and resources in an effort to collect the best evidence to ultimately prosecute members of the organized drug trafficking networks. With WDFW, DNR, and U.S. Forest Service being the largest landholders in Okanogan County the trend of illegal marijuana gardens continues as seen in other western states.

**Two Dopers Caught:** Officer Horn assisted the USFWS and Benton County Sheriff's Office with the takedown of marijuana grows on Whitcomb Island. During the takedown Officer Horn was assigned to an observation team that had secured the backside of the area in case the suspects fled. When the entry team entered the grow they discovered two individuals in a camp. Both individuals fled the grow towards Officer Horn's team and were taken into custody without incident. Later two handguns were discovered in the 600 plant grow.

## Caught Doing Something Good

A group of local citizens volunteered to clean up the large amounts of garbage at Blue Stilly Park. A family, new to the Arlington area, had visited the park and was disgusted by its appearance and coordinated this effort. Arlington Hardware and Garden Treasures donated gloves and garbage bags. Officer Maurstad and Sergeant Lambert stopped by and thanked the group. Officer Maurstad wrote several access decal violations at Blue Stilly and also seized cases of beer from underage drinkers. Officer Maurstad met with the folks who live near Blue Stilly Park who obtained a license plate from a young man who drove his vehicle through the Little League field and proceeded to tear up the grass.





# 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)



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**





# LANDS TRESPASS

**W**hile patrolling DNR lands for bear hunters, Officer Stevens was able to sneak up on two subjects four wheeling around a locked DNR gate. Officer Stevens jumped out of the bushes right next to the vehicle as they were halfway around the gate. The two subjects will be cited for trespass through the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office. A picture tells a thousand words! One of the subjects stated, "You guys are behind every tree." No pun intended. While the road is open for outdoor recreationalists to access on foot, vehicular traffic is prohibited, especially if you're trying to make your own road (see photos).





## Barefoot Bandit?

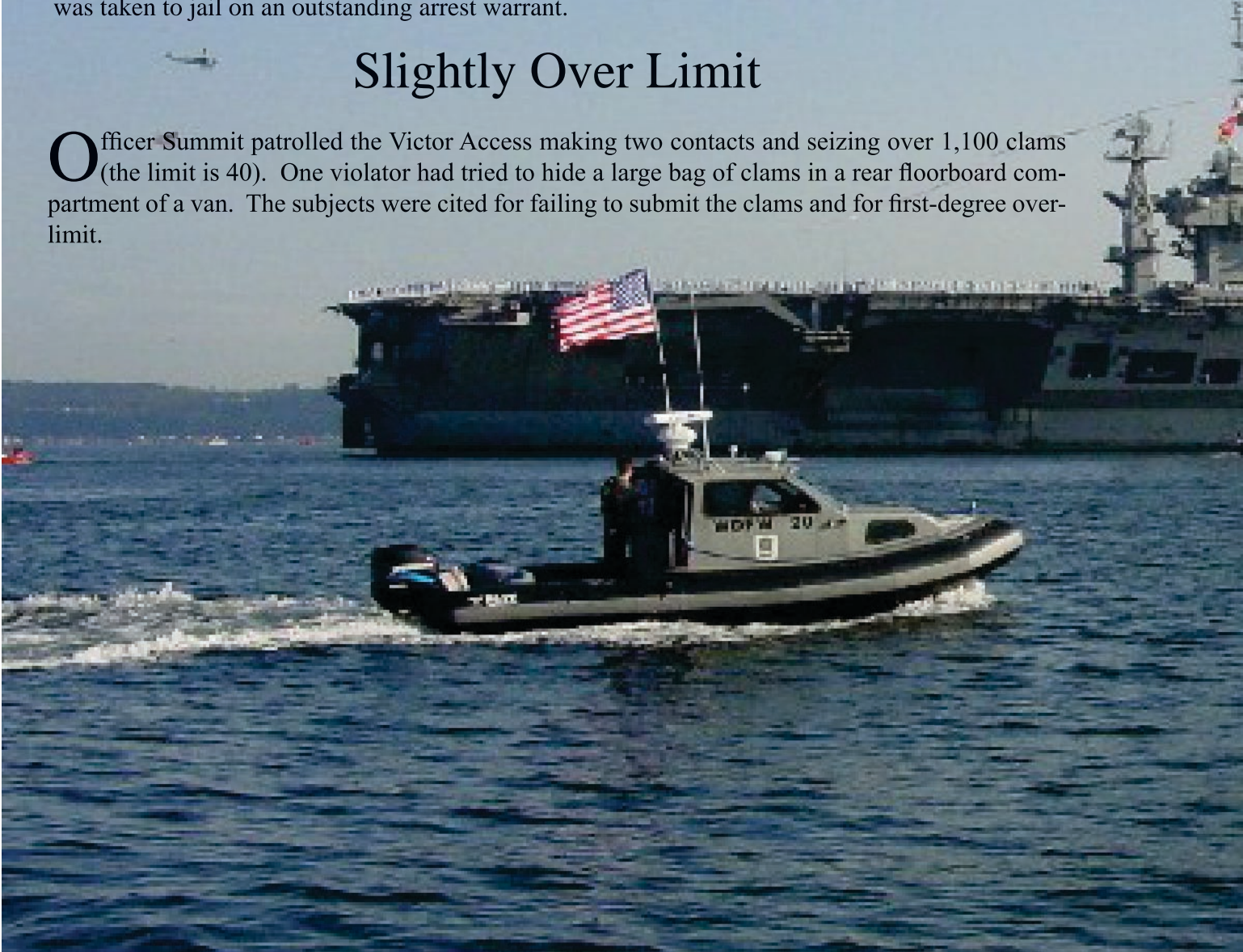
Officer McGary was patrolling the Potholes canal in Othello when he observed a man illegally using a net in the canal on the opposite side. When he got closer, the man hid in the brush. Even though Officer McGary was able to talk him out of his hiding spot, he couldn't convince him to stay put for long. So, Officer McGary followed the suspect's tracks to an old cattle corral. That's when it got even more interesting. Officer McGary summoned Othello PD to the scene where a recently stolen tent, irrigation pumps, several car batteries, bicycles, and other items were being rat-holed. The guy was actually wearing shoes, so it was probably not Colton Harris Moore...though the way he had been trucking, he could have reached the Bahamas.

## Baby Steelhead Poached

Officer Schroeder received a call from one of the local hatchery employees regarding subjects retaining steelhead smolts (juvenile fish headed out to sea). Officer Schroeder contacted the five subjects in question. They were apparently fishing for trout. The minimum size for trout on the Cowlitz River is 12 inches. The subjects had retained 26 fish, the biggest one being 11 inches. Several citations were issued to the group which included fishing without a license, retaining unlawful fish and exceeding the daily limit. One subject was taken to jail on an outstanding arrest warrant.

## Slightly Over Limit

Officer Summit patrolled the Victor Access making two contacts and seizing over 1,100 clams (the limit is 40). One violator had tried to hide a large bag of clams in a rear floorboard compartment of a van. The subjects were cited for failing to submit the clams and for first-degree over-limit.





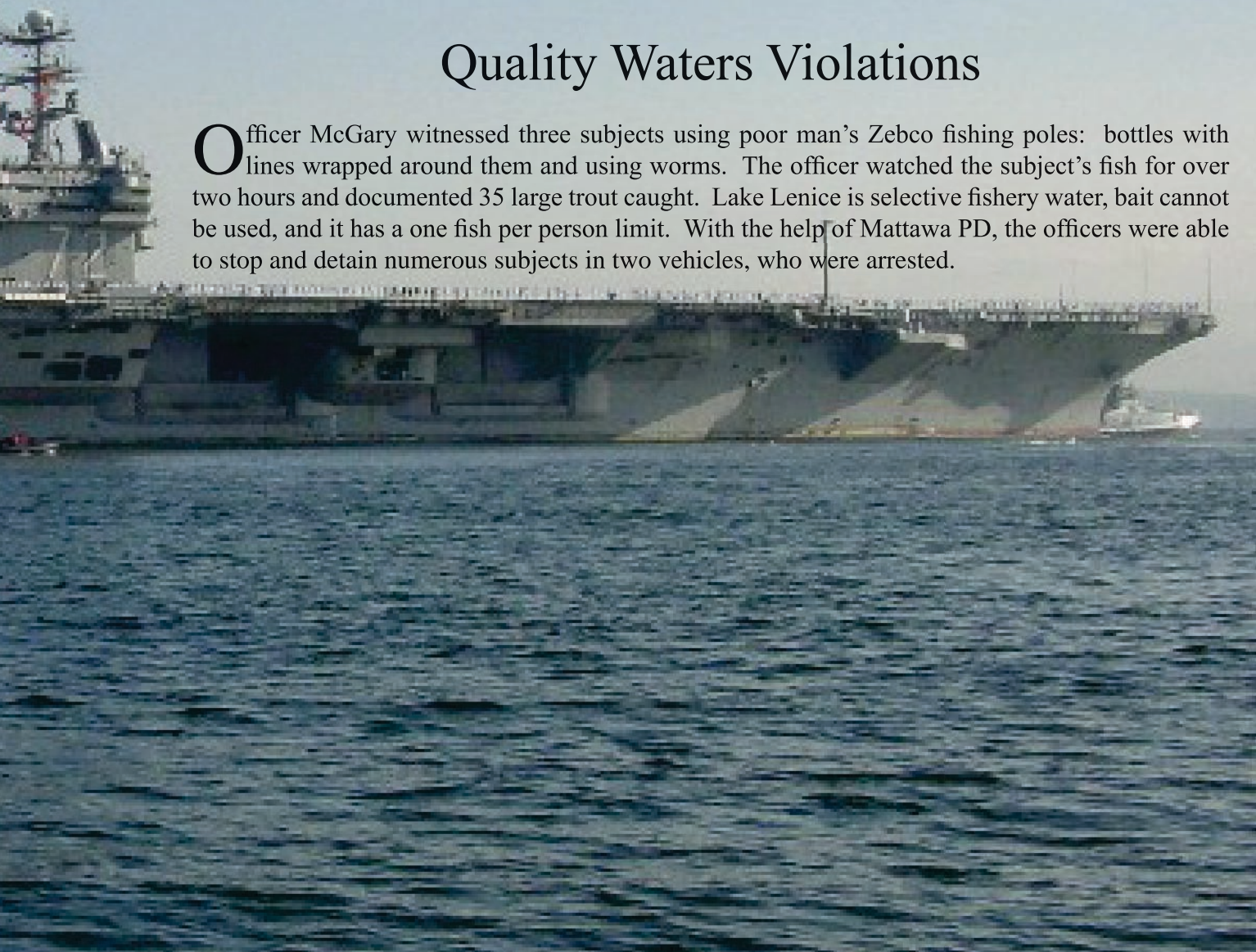
Officer Day negotiated a settlement with five subjects fishing at Dry Falls. Only two of the subjects had fishing licenses but there were five fishing rods with lines in the water. Either someone did not have a license, or someone was fishing with more than the one line allowed. The men also had an unlawful campfire and were roasting a delicious carp. After a round table discussion with the group, one of the subjects finally told Officer Day that all the rods were his. Officer Day cited him for 5-poling and gave a verbal warning for the campfire. The subject advised the officer “Is not a campfire... Is Russian barbecue.” – Subject was then cited for unlawful Russian barbecue.

## ESA Steelhead Protection

Officer Jones responded to information given to him from a WDFW employee regarding an upriver squatter illegally taking Endangered Species Act listed wild steelhead on the South Fork Nooksack. The suspect was found on a remote logging road. After being interrogated, he ended up surrendering two wild steelhead from a residence, and admitted to taking fish every year and up to 10 or 12 this year alone. He was cited accordingly.

## Quality Waters Violations

Officer McGary witnessed three subjects using poor man’s Zebco fishing poles: bottles with lines wrapped around them and using worms. The officer watched the subject’s fish for over two hours and documented 35 large trout caught. Lake Lenice is selective fishery water, bait cannot be used, and it has a one fish per person limit. With the help of Mattawa PD, the officers were able to stop and detain numerous subjects in two vehicles, who were arrested.





## That's Not My Gun

While conducting a sturgeon emphasis on the Snake River, Officers checked a camp where shooting had been heard earlier. Nope – this was not mom, dad, and the kids out for a weekend of mother-nature and smores. Instead, the officers met up with a group of apparent gang affiliates. When asked about firearms, everyone in the camp became silent and no one would admit to firing any weapons. After a brief sweep of the area, an Olympic Arms AR-15 rifle was found hidden in the bushes nearby. Three of the camp occupants were convicted felons and not surprisingly, didn't admit ownership. The firearm was checked to see if it was stolen with no record of that being the case. The rifle and several 30 and 40 round magazines were seized until the legal owner can be determined. Somehow we don't think ownership will ever be determined.



## Helping Kids Learn to Fish

Officer Leonetti and Officer Prater attended “Fish N,” a community event where the local kids get the opportunity to learn how to fish. The turnout was very large with well over 100 kids participating in the event. Each child received a Zebco fishing pole and two fish.



*Officer Lanteigne spending some quality time with the “little” fishermen.*



# - DON'T BE A RESOURCE HOG -

OBSERVE LIMITS AND SAVE SOME FOR THE LITTLE GUYS



“ little fishermen who did everything right..”



“...An officer with fish seized from someone that didn't.”



## Protected Fish



During an ocean patrol, Officer Peterson checked halibut, salmon, and ground fish fishers throughout the area and later teamed up with Officer Miller to check three subjects on a boat with 17 closed season canary rockfish (designated as “over-fished” so the limit is zero) and an undersized ling cod. After admitting they never read the regulations, they were given a courtesy copy of the fishing pamphlet and citations.



## Sturgeon Anglers Lose Credibility

Officer Snyder and McGary conducted a night patrol on the Columbia River below Priest Rapids Dam. They contacted a group of anglers from Everett who claimed that the fishing “was not very good” and repeatedly claimed they did not have any fish. All four were fishing for sturgeon, and although they did have a single, barbless hook, a few other problems were discovered. Two of the anglers had retained sturgeon, despite the catch and release season. All four were fishing at midnight, well into the night closure. Two did not have licenses. One of the fish was under the legal minimum size. Neither of the fish was recorded on Catch Record Cards, and two of the anglers did not have licenses.

## Fish Thieves Pretend to Be Birds

Officer Jorg responded to a late night report of suspects gaffing Chinook out of the Wallace Hatchery pond. There are currently only about 700 brood Stock adults on station with 2,300 needed for egg needs. WSP and the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office (with K-9) also showed up to assist. The fish thieves were tracked across the river through thick brambles. In short order, four young men were removed from their hiding spot 40 to 60 feet up a cedar tree. The young men also had four large landing nets with them, but no fishing poles. Their vehicle and nets were seized for forfeiture.



# *Shellfish Bake?...*

Oyster and clam connoisseurs have been attracted to Hood Canal's rich shellfish beds for decades. Ask Officer Jewett and he will tell you that sometimes the connoisseurs themselves can be the attraction. In this case, he watched four ladies transporting bag after bag of un-shucked oysters to their vehicle from a private beach. The limit is 18 oysters per person, and regulations require that the shells be shucked and left on the beach so that they are available for spawning habitat for other oysters. Officer Jewett contacted the group as they were about to leave and found that the trunk was completely full of delicious bivalves. The grand total was 1,007 un-shucked oysters and 619 clams (you are allowed 40 clams each). Citations were issued for no license, un-shucked oysters, first degree over limit oysters and first degree over limit clams. The land owner was contacted and the shellfish were returned to the beach. Verbal warnings were given for undersized oysters, undersized clams and theft. The landowner was very appreciative of the officer's intervention.







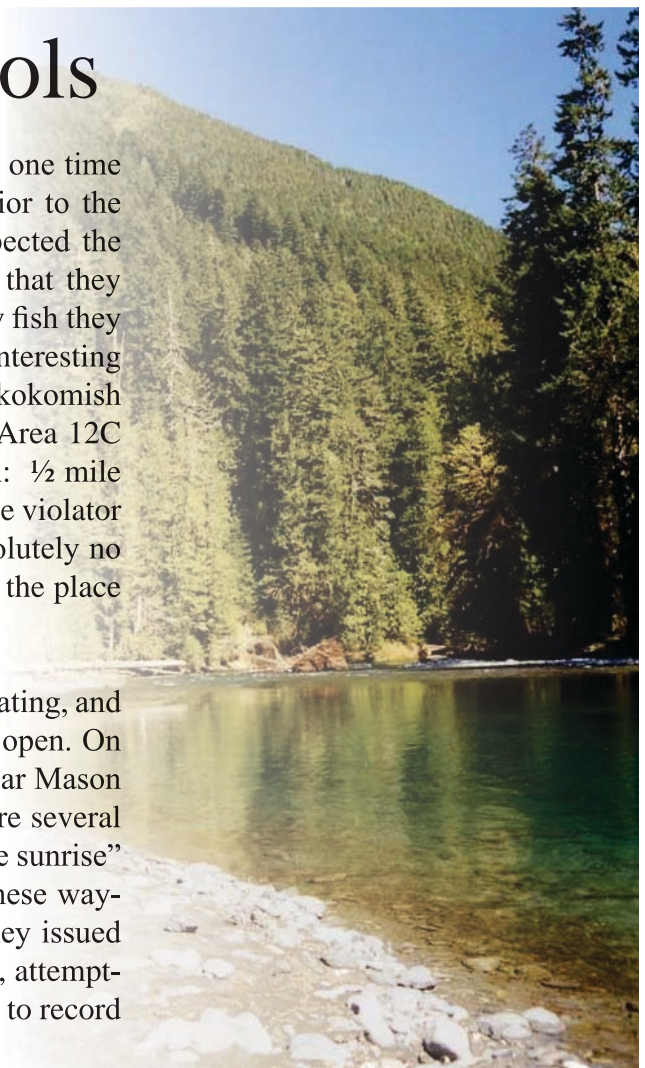
### Game Wardens Run Faster

While checking sport fishermen in the Grays Harbor area, Sergeant Nixon and Officer Wickersham had a fellow rabbit on them (a subject being contacted by the officers decided to flee). After a brief foot pursuit ended with a tackle, the man decided to try wrestling. Not a bright idea with these two. While both officers can handle themselves well, Sgt. Nixon looks like he belongs on Seal Team 6. Why the fuss? The suspect had eight outstanding felony warrants; with Child Rape 2nd and Child Molestation 2nd, being the most heinous.

## Skokomish River Patrols

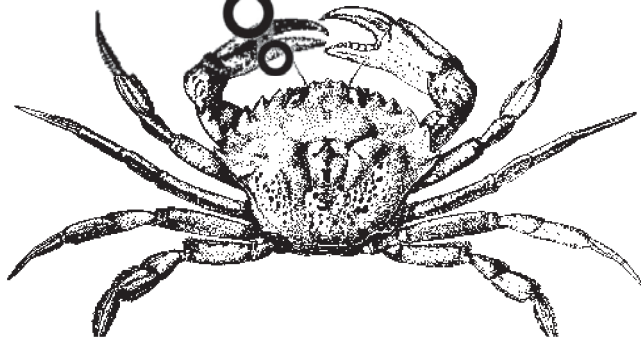
Most all of Sergeant Makoviney's personnel responded at one time or another to subjects fishing the Skokomish River prior to the August first opener. Numerous citations were issued. As expected the violators tried very hard to convince enforcement personnel that they were "fishing for game fish" (which is open), although the only fish they were observed catching were Chinook salmon. In one other interesting contact, a local fisherman decided that he would fish the Skokomish River and tell everyone that he caught his salmon in Marine Area 12C (which is open). The problem with that story was his location: ½ mile up from the "outer most uplands during a normal high tide". The violator did mention that he was enjoying such great fishing with absolutely no competition. Fishing closed season is certainly one way to get the place all to yourself.

Officer Flowers once again did a great job in planning, coordinating, and putting into motion an Emphasis Patrol when this fishery did open. On opening day, an estimated 1500-plus fishers stormed the popular Mason County stream with Chinook salmon on their mind. There were several unethical fishers that believed the start time of "one hour before sunrise" rule was for other fishers and not them. Officers made sure these wayward fishers understood that this rule applies to everyone. They issued numerous citations once again this year for the usual snagging, attempting to snag, possession of snagged/foul hooked salmon, failure to record salmon on record catch card, and possession of wild salmon.





*Please harvest  
me legally.*



## Poor Crab Compliance

The opening of the long awaited recreational crab fishery in Marine Areas 6-12 began and crabbers were out in huge numbers with harvest good in some areas and spotty in others. Unfortunately, compliance could have been a lot better. Sergeant Phillips contacted 89 crab fishers aboard 44 vessels, with a total of 73 violations, only three of which were boating safety related. Of the 44 vessels checked, 36 vessels had Dungeness crab aboard. Of these, 23 had failed to record on catch cards at least a portion of their harvest.

It's important to remember that crab have to be recorded as they are retained until the limit is achieved. We do get a lot of "we were going to record the catch later", but the regulation requires they be recorded "immediately" for a reason.....it's not that we don't believe everyone, but folks forget to record catch "later", and it's unreasonable to follow folks home to check. These record cards are important to catch accounting.

While some violations are unintentional, there were examples where the opposite was true. Take for instance the fellow that Officer Stephenson chased down. Despite repeated warnings to quit throwing crab overboard before they could be checked, the guy quit when he thought he disposed of all the illegal crab. Unfortunately for him, what he got rid of were the "legal" sized crab and the ones he kept were the under the minimum size of 6.25"

And there was a bit of closed season action. Marine Area 7 did not open until July 14 when Officer Beauchene located gear near Hope Island. Not only was a fisherman found fishing crab closed season, his gear was illegally rigged and he was using rockfish he had caught during the closed season as bait.

Marine Area 8-1 had a zero compliance rate for that patrol, which has been the norm this season. Three different groups were cited for exceeding the sport limit. As soon as the patrol moved into Marine Area 8-2, compliance went up to 90%. Officer Stephenson found the same situation while returning from a patrol in Marine Area 7. Every crab fisher checked in Marine Area 8-1 was illegal, with more than half the contacts having in excess of the legal limit. Emphasis patrols were later scheduled to address the situation and improve compliance.





The following article is from the Seattle Times, 8-29-2010

### Outdoors Notebook

## Poachers are paying the price



Recent fishing violations suggest that officials are cracking down on illegal taking of resources. Fish and game violations are being taken more seriously, with some poachers getting their due in court after making bad decisions. In the early morning hours of Feb. 27, three poachers were busted for illegally catching 39 rockfish while fishing off the Seattle waterfront in Elliott Bay. Officer Erik Olson of state Fish and Wildlife's enforcement division was patrolling near the grain terminal at Pier 86, a popular sport-fishing area, when he came across the anglers. All three had valid fishing licenses, so Olson asked them to open their coolers, which were loaded with rockfish. Olson filed a second-degree commercial-fishing violation and requested monetary restitution.

Earlier this month, Olson received a call from the prosecutor and notified him that the case had gone through the court process. King County District Court Judge Vicki Seitz "just hammered them," Olson said. The poachers were denied all motions, bail forfeiture and a reduced fine. The judge sentenced them to 10 days in jail and charged them \$2,682 dollars apiece (\$2,000 in penalties and \$682 in court costs). They were also put on 24 months unsupervised probation, were suspended from shellfishing and fishing for two years and must not have any criminal offenses for the next two years. "I've had plenty of fish and wildlife penalties where the guy doesn't get any time in jail," Olson said. "It looks like the judges are getting a little harsher on these types of activities that have major impacts to the resources." Soon after the judge put the gavel down, it was apparent the violators could flee, so they were immediately brought to jail to serve their sentences. In April, three types of Puget Sound rockfish were listed under the Endangered Species Act. The burnt-red yelloweye and goldfish-orange canary rockfish were listed as threatened, and the bocaccio was listed as endangered. In May, fishing was banned for all rockfish from southern Puget Sound to the Canadian border.



# INTRODUCTION: COMMERCIAL FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT

Primary oversight of the commercial fishing industry falls on the shoulders of the Fish and Wildlife Officers. They have broad authority to inspect harvesters, wholesale fish buyers, processing plants, cold storage and retail markets that deal in fish and shellfish. From fishing grounds to the table, our officers help ensure that local seafood was harvested with the proper licenses, from open areas within established seasons, and within prescribed limits to ensure sustainability. There is a large financial incentive to cheat at the expense of the resource and legitimate businesses. In the case of bivalve shellfish, poaching can also put human health and safety at risk.

## Major Shellfish Violation

Officers Downes and Rosenberger finalized a tribal commercial clam case and hand delivered the investigative file to the Swinomish Tribal Police Chief for future prosecution. This case is the finalization of a long-term effort to document the illegal harvest of 100,000 lbs. of cockle clams over the past several years. The shellfish was never accounted for on commercial harvest reports and harvest was counter to department of health's sanitary shellfish regulations. In total, several tribal members and two non-Indians will be charged in both tribal and state courts.



## Toxic Shellfish

WDFW Police Officers are tasked with enforcing the criminal provisions of the sanitary shellfish laws of the state. They take that role seriously, regularly patrolling harvest grounds and inspecting product in the market place to ensure polluted shellfish do not make it to the consumer's plate. In one example, Sergeant Henry and Officer Flowers worked with Department of Natural Resource staff and U.S. Border Patrol agents to apprehend a crew of commercial oyster harvesters near the Triton Cove area in Hood Canal. That portion of Hood Canal has been closed to commercial oyster harvest because of elevated levels of vibrio parahaemolyticus, a bacterium which, when ingested, causes serious gastrointestinal illness in humans. Of course the harvest crew was unable to produce the required shellfish grower's license and harvest site certificates because of the closure. All of the crewmembers were Guatemalan Nationals and were in the U.S. illegally. When it became apparent that they were about to be arrested, they all fled into the woods. Only three were caught.





# COMMERCIAL CRAB POT SEIZURE

Officer Chamberlin had received information on a large quantity of commercial crab gear fishing outside the four-mile commercial crab closure in the Pacific Ocean. The closure is intended to take pressure off of molting crab, but allow some harvest in waters closer to shore where crab shell condition is better. Low fog hampered their efforts, but 63 commercial crab pots were recovered on that day. The gear was from five different commercial fishing vessels, but a large majority was from one vessel. Charges are pending and additional patrols are expected. Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Chamberlin then traveled to Warrenton, Oregon and interviewed a commercial fisherman in relation to the seizure.

*Gee, how did something that big get through such a small opening?*







# Meet your new Fish and Wildlife Officer

## – James Sympson –

James Sympson was raised in McLean, Illinois. After graduating from high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. James became a Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Officer in 2004 and worked there for three years. He moved back to Illinois and attempted to become an Illinois Fish and Wildlife Officer, but due to a hiring freeze was unsuccessful. Officer Sympson will be taking the East Lewis County duty station and will be living in Mossyrock with his wife and four children.



*Fish & Wildlife Officer James Sympson - third from left*



## Net Recovery

The Nooksack River is home to Endangered Species Act listed spring Chinook salmon. Whether the net was legitimately set during a tribal fishing season and later became lost, or it was placed there by a poacher, the result is the same: undocumented harvest and negative impacts to ESA listed fish and the overall management effort. In response to this, Officer Jones worked with Lummi Enforcement (joint boat patrol) to remove any closed season nets on the lower Nooksack River. A total of ten nets were discovered and removed from below the Marietta Bridge. Of the ten nets, three were capable of catching fish but were likely lost nets, and one of those three was actually a net recently deployed during the closed season. A few days prior to this patrol, Officer Jones had conducted a one man kayak patrol on another section of the lower Nooksack River and discovered two more illegal set nets deployed in an effort to capture spring Chinook during the closed season.

## Illegal Crab

Officer Chamberlin inspected commercial crab deliveries in Westport and discovered that a number of fishermen were retaining soft shelled crab. Crab in this condition are molting, filling out new shells. Not only is the crab weak and vulnerable at this stage of the cycle, but meat recovery is poor. Officer Wickersham found one vessel with 1005 lbs (or 40 %) of soft crab. Additionally, 101 lbs. of soft crab were found to be dead at the time of inspection. Officer Chamberlin and Officer Wickersham inspected approximately 2,344 lbs. of crab offloaded from another boat. From this load approximately 16% were considered soft. Another 104 lbs. of soft crab were found to be dead at the time of inspection. Charges were referred to the prosecutor.





Officers Wickersham and Fairbanks seized a 24' Beachcraft fishing boat in La Push after the operator was caught chartering for salmon without a limited entry salmon charter license. The subject had a non-salmon charter license (for bottomfish) and was chartering for salmon on the side during those bottomfish trips. He knew what he was doing, having coached the clients about the law. During the interview, Officer learned that the same subject had chartered for salmon in the Westport area in the same manner. The boat and attached electronic equipment were seized for forfeiture. Not having the proper license in the fishery is a big deal as the total number available is "limited" due to legislation passed decades ago. The idea was that declining salmon resources could only support a certain number of salmon charter businesses. A significant investment was made to buy out some businesses in order to fairly reduce the number of charters. In other words, an existing license would have to be purchased from the license holder in order to get into the business, usually at the cost of tens of thousands of dollars.

## Tribal Fishery

Officer Fulton observed someone fishing with a dip net on the Yakima River at Horn Rapids Dam one evening. The fellow actually doing the netting was a non-Indian, but he was being kept company by members of the Yakama and Warm Springs Tribes. He was charged with illegally participating in an Indian fishery and the dip net was seized as evidence. The Yakama Tribal member was arrested and booked into jail on a misdemeanor warrant, but not before the man debated the officer's authority.

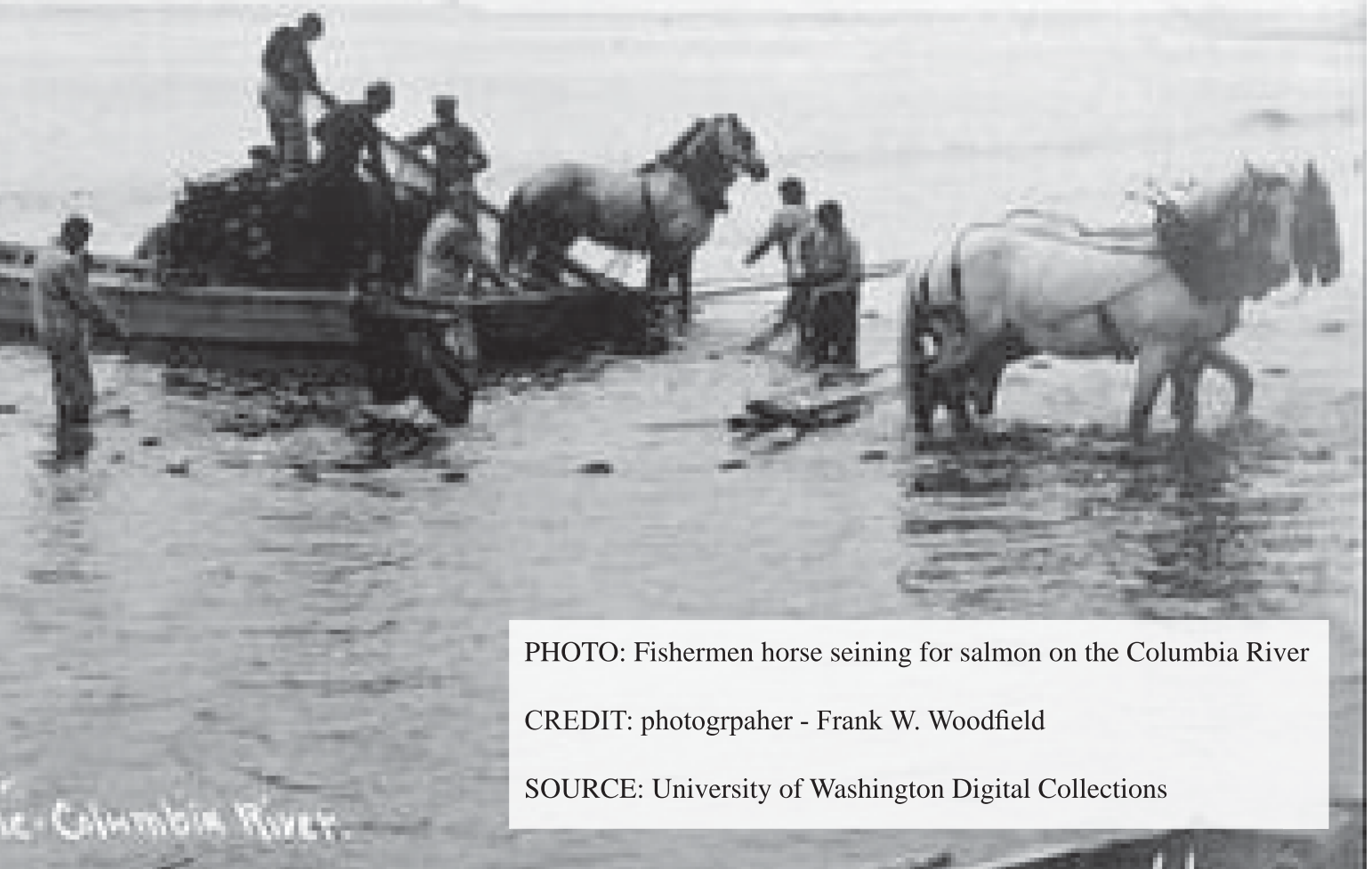


PHOTO: Fishermen horse seining for salmon on the Columbia River

CREDIT: photogpaher - Frank W. Woodfield

SOURCE: University of Washington Digital Collections

## OPERATION NIGHT OWL

**O**fficer Beauchene designed and orchestrated a three-day border Joint operation dubbed Op NightOwl at the international border. The operation produced hundreds of contacts and several solid commercial cases that were either handled by WDFW, NOAA or CDFO. As WDFW Officers were conducting late-night outbound commercial traffic inspections they contacted geoduck buyer Vancouver International (well known and a previous Special Investigation Unit investigative target, who paid WDFW/DOH nearly \$40,000 in penalties and fines) with a load of geoduck they had purchased from a South Sound harvester. The inspection revealed that about 700 lbs. of geoduck had bogus certification tags and/or no tags at all. The illegal product had been purchased for \$12.50/lb. All of the uncertified geoduck was seized and destroyed. Numerous criminal citations and/or felony charges are forthcoming. WDFW Officers and NOAA Agents also intercepted nearly 900 lbs of sport caught salmon, halibut and lingcod, which was being imported without the proper documentation. The fish originated at a British Columbia fishing lodge that Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (CDFO) is currently investigating. All the fish were seized by participating CDFO Fishery Officers for follow up in Canada. A complete Operation summary is forthcoming.





# FRASER RIVER SOCKEYE



The Fraser sockeye run exceeded expectations with a return hitting a 100 year high. Officers spent a considerable amount of time patrolling the commercial aspect of this fishery. Due to the presence of ESA listed salmon species, accurate catch accounting is essential to ensure by-catch impacts on those fish are not exceeded. And that's one of the reasons that Sergeant Mullins and Sergeant Hobbs became engaged during a tribal sockeye fishery.

They found two non-Indian purse seiner's working as tenders for two Lummi seiners who had caught so many fish that vessel holds were plugged on their first set. Tenders originally receiving fish are responsible for catch accounting. One unlicensed non-Indian had a pre-signed, blank, fish receiving ticket from a wholesale fish dealer who was not even present. These highly regulated catch documents cannot be transferred, and are signed under penalty of perjury that they are accurate. Having no way to weigh the fish given the lack of a proper scale, the tender's activity was stopped. The other vessel was not weighing the fish or completing fish tickets as the sockeye were taken aboard. One boat already had 40,000 lbs aboard and the other had 70,000 lbs aboard. Efforts were made to get the fish buyers back on track so as not to delay their activities, but still achieve catch accounting. Enforcement action was taken against the unlicensed subject with the pre-signed fish ticket.

## Man accepts plea agreement in crab-poaching case

MOUNT VERNON — A 51-year-old Anacortes man was sentenced to three months in jail for leading an illegal crab-poaching operation two years ago.

David Knudson accepted a plea agreement in Skagit County Superior Court, admitting guilt to two felonies and three misdemeanors for catching and selling crab without a license or correct documentation. Knudson originally faced 10 criminal charges and could have been sentenced to up to a year in jail.

In July 2008, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife seized 100 crab pots, a commercial crab boat and two trucks from Knudson, which they say he used in his crabbing operation.

**Source: Skagit County Herald Online:** [http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/man\\_accepts\\_plea\\_agreement\\_in\\_crab\\_poaching\\_case/](http://www.goskagit.com/home/article/man_accepts_plea_agreement_in_crab_poaching_case/)



## Agency Assist

Officer Flowers assisted Department of Health inspectors with a license renewal inspection of a local shellfish company. One of the family members has been cited several times in the past and he has been less than hospitable to the inspectors. The inspection did not go well for the company. Required documents were not made available to the inspectors and several bags of product were discovered stored in an unsafe manner without certification tags. DOH went back to their office to discuss the issues with their supervisor and it sounds like the license may not be renewed.

## Closed Area Commercial

Sergeant Webb and Officers Van Vladriken and Moats performed a commercial salmon patrol in the Lewis B sanctuary area in order to check for vessels violating the boundary line. After watching from shore for a couple of hours, the Officer deployed a patrol boat and sat idle at the mouth of Lake River watching the fleet. It didn't take long before four vessels were caught actively fishing inside the sanctuary. All four commercial vessels were contacted between 1 and 2 a.m. Officers performed checks on licenses and catch before letting all of the operators know they were in violation. Charges are forthcoming.



# Seafair Emphasis

Detachment 1 (South Sound) Officers, along with Officers Moszeter and Beauchene, Mercer Island Police Department and Washington State Patrol provided law enforcement services during the annual SeaFair event on Lake Washington. Statistics related to Fish and Wildlife Officer activity: 453 boats were checked, 54 intoxicated boaters arrested and 53 boating infractions were issued. The Officers did a tremendous job and deserve a “Thank You” for their efforts to keep the annual Seafair event safe for all of the boating public.



## Boat Rescued

Officer Day assisted the Grant County Sheriff's Office by responding to a distress call from a disabled boater stranded on Banks Lake. The Sheriff's Office was swamped with boating calls over the holiday weekend, and would not be able to respond for quite a while. The victim's vessel had hit a rock and had torn its prop off. The boat, now disabled, drifted into a rocky cove on an island, leaving the occupants trapped. Officer Day retrieved his patrol vessel and headed to Banks Lake. He was able to locate the disabled boat, and ferry the vessel's occupants safely back to Steamboat Rock State Park. He then returned and towed the disabled vessel back to the launch just prior to dark.

### Theft Leads To Boating Safety Violations

After a citizen tip and a long surveillance, Officer Olson contacted two subjects around 3 a.m. at a boat launch in West Seattle in possession of a large quantity of cables. The two suspects admitted to stealing the cable from pilings and docks in Elliott Bay. Port of Seattle was notified and seized the cables. The very next night Officer Olson received another call that the two subjects launched their vessel after bragging that they were going to repeat the behavior.

Officer Olson and Officer Moszeter contacted the two thieves at 2:30 a.m. on the Duwamish waterway. The vessel contained large quantities of copper piping and fittings that had apparently been removed from another, larger vessel. The items were seized and the owner of the boat used to facilitate the thefts was issued \$431 worth of boating safety infractions. The two officers eventually located the large ship the two subjects had removed the piping from. The crime scene was processed. Charges were filed with the King County Prosecutor's Office once the evidence was evaluated. Metal and cable is often stolen and sold to perpetuate meth addictions.

### Happy Ending

Firefighters and Pierce County sheriff's deputies rescued a 10-year-old Orting boy from an isolated river bank after strong currents swept him down the Carbon River.

The boy had been swimming on the river's west side during the warm, sunny weather with several friends when the river's swift current carried him down and across the river. He landed on the bank on the river's east side, but the bank was too steep for him to climb, said a spokesman for Orting Valley Fire & Rescue.

Responding to a distress call from the boy's friends, firefighters, deputies and a Fish and Wildlife officer put a boat in the water and maneuvered it toward the bar where the boy was stranded. They placed him in the boat and, using the river's current to guide the boat, brought it back to the opposite bank.

The fire department spokesman said the river was running more swiftly than usual because of recent rains and warm weather melting snow in the mountains.





## Sober Boating Emphasis

Officer McQuary and Officer Johnson conducted two boat patrols on the Snake and Columbia Rivers as part of a multi-day National Boating campaign to address boating while intoxicated. No Boating Under the Influence (BUI's) were detected during the operation known as "Dry Water," but the two officers did rescue two kayakers. They had been pinned up against a log jam due to the swift current on the Columbia River near Columbia Point Marina. The kayakers were transported to Howard Amon Park.

On another day of the emphasis patrol our Officers were notified of numerous shots fired in a busy campground in a very remote area of the Snake River. Our boat and the County's both responded to the site, approximately 20 miles upstream. Officers Johnson and McQuary arrived about 15 minutes ahead of the County and walked in just as several gunshots rang out.

About 50 Asian gang members from the Tacoma area who camp there several times a year were the ones with the guns. When asked if one of the men had a gun, he told the officers "Everyone here has a gun." Deputy Good arrived and while his reserve Deputy assistant sat in the boat, the three officers contacted the group. Good tactics and communication skills got them to agree to quit shooting, quit using their ATVs illegally, and to clean up their litter prior to leaving. That night the County was called to the scene again for a loud music complaint and sent five deputies to the scene for officer safety.



# GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY

## *Fish & Wildlife Officers are (a special kind) of Police*

by Deputy Chief Mike Cenci

*I think most of us would categorize the sound of a phone ringing at 2:00 A.M. as obnoxious. It's no different for the local Washington State Fish and Wildlife Police Officer.....plus, he knows by experience that it's never good news at that hour. A glance at the alarm clock confirms this for Sergeant Jim Brown. The police dispatcher is told in a raspy voice to "hang on" while he tries to shake off the effects of his former place in REM sleep, crashing around to find a pen and paper in the dark. A deer was just poached in a cow pasture, miles from nowhere in Okanogan County.*

*The strength of a million candle power spotlight will make the eyes of deer and elk glow like burning white embers. The response is almost always the same. The animal freezes, giving poachers time to sight down a high powered rifle and kill it. As usual, the description of the vehicle is sketchy, but this time there's a witness with a phone, and the bad guys were still hanging around. After waking up the whole family trying to be quiet, he gives up, using the palm of his hand as a substitute for paper. He hopes his notes don't wear off before he needs them.*

*Superman never suited up so fast. Boots go on without lacing all the way to the top, and the door gets rushed. He hurries because he knows the poachers won't stay put long, and there are many logging roads that lead out of the area. As usual, this is a lone wolf response. Staffing is thin, and the distances between him and his nearest officer eliminate any hope of immediate help. The bad guys may be drunk, or high. And all too often they are convicted felons that shouldn't possess a gun anyway, or they have warrants for their arrest. He goes anyway. That's his job.....to ensure that wildlife is not stolen from the law abiding sportsman and the public at large.*

*Most of the general public probably has no idea that the scenario I just described is a typical situation for Fish and Wildlife Officers, or Game Wardens as some know us. The latter title is a moniker familiar to the regulated outdoor community, but one that is linked to a far simpler time in our history. The world has changed a lot since the first Game Warden protected the King's deer. I think everyone understands that natural resources belong to the public. But even among hunters, recreational fishers and commercial fishermen, the full role and responsibility of the present day Fish and Wildlife Officer is hardly understood.*



*When our dear friend U.S. Forest Service Police Officer Kristine Fairbanks was shot and killed last year while on patrol, some people were surprised that she could meet such a tragic end given their understanding of her job. The job she held and the job of a Fish and Wildlife Officer with a similar geographic patrol area are virtually the same.....except for the agency title. Sure, officers are well versed in natural history and understand forest, fisheries and wildlife ecology and management. But despite an intimate knowledge of the things they are sworn to protect, they are full-time Police Officers, commonly engaged in the business of enforcing the law. In our case, that includes all state and many federal laws.*

*While much of the enforcement work involves bringing generally decent people back into the fold when temptation gets the better of them, there is another, often unknown side to this business. The public may be unaware that our officers spend many long days and nights catching forest products thieves on public and private property that could care less that they were cutting down an ancient old growth tree to perpetuate a methamphetamine addiction. Or that we have a team dedicated to assisting local jurisdictions in eradicating industrial size marijuana plantations from your public land. Or that our Officers routinely arrest felons or illegal aliens unlawfully in possession of firearms, serve search and arrest warrants, deal with protesters, intervene in domestic violence situations at camps, and discover meth labs? Did you know that some are trained in man-tracking, many help to coordinate search and rescue for the lost, arrest drunks, back up other law enforcement and provide the same range of services that you would expect from the police? This is done in an outdoor setting and while focused on our primary mission.*

*The value of our natural resources to poachers and remoteness of wild lands from law enforcement or public attention provides an attractive environment for people looking to steal a quick buck, hide out, or engage in other criminal activity. This is the Fish and Wildlife Officers patrol beat, and that Officer is usually the only one standing between the bad guys and a quality and safe outdoor experience desired by the majority of the public.*

### A T V F a t a l i t y

Officer Snyder was first on scene of a fatal All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) accident at the Beverly Sand Dunes. He assisted a Grant County deputy and DNR officer investigate the accident. The male victim crashed his ATV jumping off of a sand dune, and suffered massive blunt force trauma to his sternum from the rear grab handle. Two other riders tried to administer CPR, but the rider was deceased by the time Officer Snyder arrived a few minutes after the accident had occurred.

### H o r s e F o r S a l e ?

Officer Rogers responded to and assisted with an injured horse rider on the John Wayne Trail out of South Cle Elum. The female was wearing a helmet which possibly saved her life.

### A c c e s s A r e a A s s a u l t

Officers Bolton and Imbrie tracked down a lead on a suspect that assaulted someone camped at the Stinson WDFW Access site. According to the filed complaint, the suspect hit the victim in the face for no reason. Officers Bolton and Imbrie traveled to Wasco, Oregon, to the suspect's work where they learned that he was in

## General Law Enforcement

the Glenwood area. An Oregon State Deputy Sheriff actually had a contact phone number for the suspect, who is a volunteer firefighter. Officer Imbrie called the suspect and arranged to meet him for an interview. While he admitted being at camp, he initially denied an assault occurred. Eventually he came clean with the investigators, stating that he could hit anyone he wanted to. Wow! The judge may look at things differently.

### W a n t e d   F e l o n   C a u g h t

Officer John contacted a group of four in a car on the south shore of the Snake River above Little Goose Dam. One man in the group had a \$50,000 nation-wide felony warrant that included Alaska and Hawaii extradition. Officer John arrested the man wanted by the State of Montana without incident.

### S e a r c h   &   R e s c u e

Officer Erickson along with Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office responded to a lost juvenile female in the Diamond Lake area. After arguing with her parents, she ran away from home and into the nearby timber. After it got dark she found herself lost in the woods. The juvenile called 911 using her cell phone. The sirens and emergency lights of the officers patrol vehicle guided her back to safety. She was returned to her parents.

### O f f - R o a d   F u n . . .   M o s t l y

Officer Zuchlewski worked with seven officers from Grant County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Natural Resources, during the Beverly Dunes "4:20 Weekend." The law enforcement emphasis was meant to ensure public safety during a popular off road vehicle event. It was estimated that there were 250 people using the Dunes on Friday and over 300 people on Saturday. Saturday morning started off with a "bang" with one subject being shot, apparently in a dispute over a woman. The suspect fled but was eventually apprehended. Officer Zuchlewski assisted in the search for the firearm that was thrown by the suspect. Unfortunately the firearm was not located. Overall there were 37 arrests made for off road vehicle violations, minors possessing alcohol, attempted murder first degree, and failure to report an ORV accident. It was a great multi-agency effort.

### S t o l e n   T r u c k ,   D r u g s ,   a n d   G e n e r a l   M a y h e m

While checking anglers near Royal City, Officer McGary noticed a black Chevrolet Blazer traveling down the canal bank road. Earlier in the day, the Officer had heard Adams County Sheriff's Office dispatch an "attempt to locate" on a black Chevrolet Blazer stolen earlier in the day. The folks in the car noticed him too, and turned onto a county road and took off at a high rate of speed - probably not just a matter of a guilty conscience. Officer McGary activated his emergency lights and siren, and began pursuing the stolen vehicle at about 100 miles per hour. The pursuit continued through Adams County and into Grant County near the Potholes Reservoir. The suspects then mistakenly entered a residential neighborhood with only one exit, realized they were trapped, and then bailed from the vehicle. Officer McGary secured the stolen vehicle and waited for back-up units to arrive. Officers from Moses Lake, Warden Officers, WSP Troopers, Grant County Deputies and Officer Snyder all arrived to assist. After a short search of the area, Officer Snyder and the Warden Police Chief located the male driver



hiding in some bushes.

After he was in custody he began “tweaking” due to the large amount of methamphetamine that he had just swallowed. The Officers continued to search for the female for over an hour but could not locate her. Due to the male suspect’s condition, medical attention was required. Officer McGary rode with the ambulance crew to the hospital where the suspect was treated for an overdose. He was then booked into Grant County Jail on numerous felony charges.

A short time later, Officer McGary received word that a citizen sitting on his deck spotted the female suspect poking her head up from the weeds and called the police. Over ten officers, including Officer Snyder, responded to search for the female. Moses Lake PD brought out their thermal imager as it was now dark and cold. After searching for an hour the officers still could not locate her. As a last resort at finding her, Deputy Gregg brought out his drug dog that likes to lick and does not bark. He yelled out to the female that the K9 dog was coming after her and would bite if she didn’t give up. He then walked down to the area where she was last seen and turned on his iPhone and played a vicious barking dog. After about three minutes she finally stood and gave up. The female suspect had been pretty much submerged in the water of a pond for over two and a half hours. She was extremely hypothermic, and was transported to the hospital where she was treated for methamphetamine overdose and hypothermia before being booked into jail on several felony charges.

The next day, Officer McGary and an Adams County detective interviewed both subjects and obtained excellent admissions about the stolen vehicle. The female also admitted to being a drug dealer and informed the officers about a purse that she dropped during the pursuit. Officer McGary contacted Officer Snyder and advised him of the location of the purse. Officer Snyder went to the area and was able to locate the purse. Inside he found several ounces of methamphetamine, needles and several other types of drugs in the purse. The officer contacted the local Grant County drug task force and advised them of the contents of the purse.

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## FISH & WILDLIFE OFFICERS AT WORK

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*Fish & Wildlife Officer conducting a fishing license check*



*Fish & Wildlife Officer conducting a hunting license check*

# BURGLARS CAUGHT IN 'THE ACT'

Sergeant Jewell and Captain Anderson had just finished patrolling public lands during a busy weekend when they responded to a call of a suspicious vehicle. A deputy spotted the vehicle parked behind a warehouse complex and thought it might be involved in a burglary. Several other deputies and troopers also arrived and a perimeter was established around a one square mile area that included the hilly scablands and cultivated farm fields. While deputies searched the warehouses, Sergeant Jewell and Captain Anderson used 4-wheelers to drive across an agricultural area to reach the base of a small hill directly in the middle of the area. Officers then climbed the hill and used binoculars to watch the area.

Soon after, deputies were able to locate one suspect found hiding inside one of the buildings. As the deputies were preparing to pull out and leave, Sergeant Jewell spotted a head poke out of the sagebrush like a human gopher approximately 500 yards away. The man seemed to be very focused on what the officers at the warehouse were doing several hundred yards away. Deputies and troopers were notified, while Sergeant Jewell and Captain Anderson closed in on him. The hunt was on and Captain Anderson eventually found the suspect laying on the ground trying to turn himself into the local flora. The man was detained at gunpoint until other units arrived and were able to take him into custody. Officers found the suspicious van contained a large load of copper wire and plumbing pipe that the suspects had been ripping out of the inside of the warehouses. The men, both frequent criminal offenders, were booked for burglary. Copper is a highly sought after material by those desiring to make money in the illegal metal trade, a trade often associated with funding drug addictions.





## Injured Climber

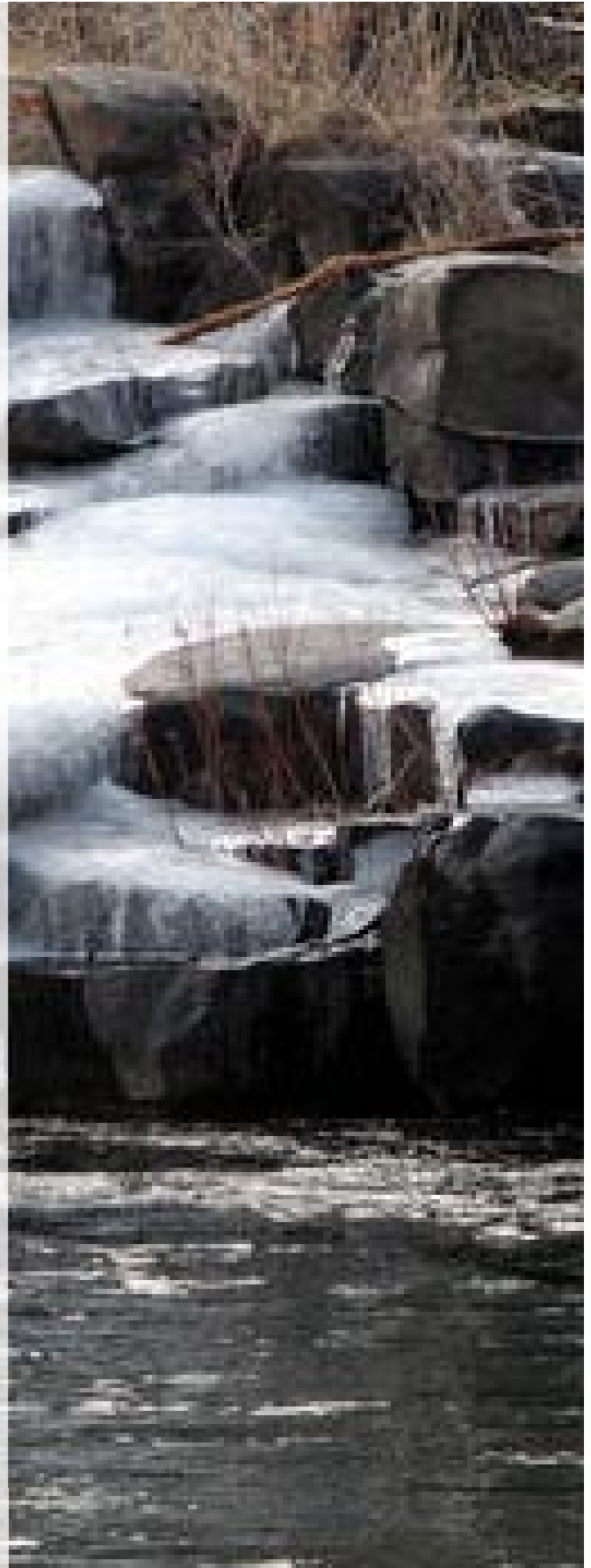
Officer Hughes was flagged down this weekend by some rock climbers. They had a friend on Mt. St. Helens that had suffered a head and shoulder injury and was unable to walk down. The climbers had called 911 from the mountain but said they lost communication for follow up. Officer Hughes used the emergency call box at the 8100 / 8300 junction to communicate with rescuers. Officer Hughes took the reporting party to the trailhead to wait. Officer Hughes assisted Skamania County Deputy Barker with securing the helicopter landing zone during the rescue. The helicopter had to make three trips from the parking lot taking rescue crews up the mountain getting everyone off just before dark.

## Domestic Assault

Officer McGary responded to a domestic violence call in the Moses Lake Sand Dunes. Information received was that a female subject was being dragged by her hair by her boyfriend who also was reportedly beating her. The Officer McGary and a deputy stopped the suspect vehicle as it was leaving the sand dunes and took the man into custody. Officers checked the man's background and found that he already had several outstanding warrants for arrest for assault 4th degree Domestic Violence and also an Assault 3rd degree for recently assaulting an officer. The subject was booked into Grant County Jail for the assault on his girlfriend and the outstanding warrants.

## Summer Camp

Officer Maurstad spoke to a group of kids attending summer camp with Marysville Parks Department. The focus of their "Safety Town" was Washington Wildlife. The kids enthusiastically accepted the Junior Game Warden Badges.



# AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCTION

Invasive species pose an environmental and economic threat to Washington's citizens and its natural resources. Currently, Washington spends millions of dollars each year trying to control invasive species that have already made it into the state and established a foothold. It has been proven time and time again that prevention of new species introduction is far more cost effective and less environmentally damaging than trying to control or eradicate one that has become established. Enforcement of our state invasive species laws is one of the cornerstones upon which prevention of invasive species introductions is built.

## “Lightning Strikes Twice”

### Two times in two weeks in the state of Washington

#### Incident #1

September 22, 2010 - Officer Peterson responded to a report of a 57' yacht stopped at the Cle Elum Weigh Station. Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Dale Kavanagh stopped the vehicle after he located what appeared to be zebra mussels on the trim tabs. The boat was from Lake Michigan. Officer Peterson responded and documented the driver and owner information, took photos and samples of the mussels and forwarded the report on to AIS Officer Phil Johnson. Both the boat's owner and the truck driver were very cooperative and conveyed that they would do whatever it took to comply with Washington's AIS laws. The final destination was a marine yard in Bellingham and it was decided to allow the boat to continue on to the marina where it would then be decontaminated by WDFW AIS biological staff. The decontamination occurred on September 23 without incident and the boat was then released. Final decision on charging will be dependent on the officer investigation into level of knowledge of the contamination.

#### Incident #2

September 28, 2010 – Officer Brent Sherzinger responded to a report of a 48' yacht stopped at the Cle Elum Weigh Station. Once again, Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer Dale Kavanagh stopped the vehicle after he located what appeared to be zebra mussels on the trim tabs and drive shafts. The boat was from Texas. Officer Sherzinger responded and documented driver and owner information which was then forwarded to Sgt. Michael Hobbs for follow-up. The final destination for the vessel was Skyline Marina in Anacortes. On September 29, Officer Jeff Lee went to Skyline Marina to ensure off-load of the boat into the Marina's dry dock area (yard). Officer Lee collected evidence and documentation/photograph for use if the investigation warrants charges to be filed. Again, the owner and truck driver are being cooperative. AIS biological staff, are once again scheduling a time to respond to decontaminate the vessel. Once the vessel is decontaminated it will be released.





## Aquatic Invasive Species Emphasis

Officers in Clark County conducted an AIS check station on State Route 503, near the town of Cougar. Thirty-five vessels were checked during the four hour check-stop in very rainy conditions. A few minor traffic infractions were noted with warnings. The check station was well received by the public. Olympia Fish Program AIS staff also assisted.

## False Mussels

Sergeant Sprecher responded to the Cle Elum scale after receiving a call of mussels attached to a vessel from Maryland that was headed to British Columbia. The Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer (CVEO) attempted to contact a WDFW Officer the day the vessel was at the scale without a response. The CVEO collected all the mussels located on the vessel. The CVEO did not believe the mussels were zebra mussels. The vessel was allowed to pass through the state because the driver had an inspection form from Idaho showing it had been inspected and showed the vessel was clean, drained and dry. After discussing the incident and details with Sergeant Anderson, it was determined the mussels were Conrad's dark false Mussels (non-native aquatic species) not zebra mussels. Sergeant Anderson will followed up with Idaho and British Columbia on the incident.

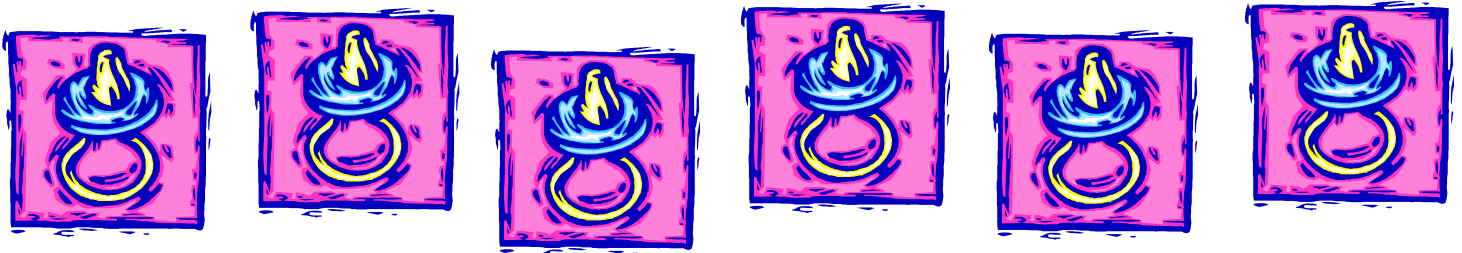
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## Illegally Held Sika Deer

Officer Erickson received a call from the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) veterinarian regarding a Sika deer held illegally in Pend Oreille County. The Reporting Party was concerned that other animals on the suspect's farm could be infected with disease from the deer. WSDA decided to put quarantine on all the animals at the suspect's farm. Due to the suspect wanting to sell his farm animals to pay for fines, he asked if we could speed up the testing on the deer. Officer Erickson and WSDA seized the deer and took it to Washington State University where it was euthanized and tested for parasites and diseases. The results were negative and the quarantine was lifted from the suspect's farm.







*A new addition to Communication Officer Kim Russel's Family*

Congratulations to Chad and Kim Russell who gave birth, on December 8, 2010, to a 6 pound, 10 ounce girl named Addison Russell.

# CAPTAIN VOLZ RECEIVES POGUE-ELMS WAFWA OFFICER OF THE YEAR



The nomination of Captain Ed Volz is not based on a single event or activity that furthered the cause of natural resource enforcement. Instead, it is rooted in helping to define us as professionals over the course of a 34-year career that is coming to a close. From Officer, to Detective, to Captain of the Statewide Marine Division and the Statewide Investigative Unit, Edward Volz exemplifies the four criteria associated with this award.

Geoffrey Norman, journalist for the Wall Street Journal, wrote a review of the recently released book “Shell games.” The book is authored by Craig Welch (a writer for the Seattle Times) who followed the investigation of the largest known shellfish heist in Washington State history. According to Norman’s review:

“Mr. Welch's narrative covers a lot of ground (and water), but he continually circles back to an investigator named Ed Volz and an informer, smuggler and convict named Doug Tobin. They are perfect antagonists. Mr. Volz is an outdoorsman with "the look of a shorter, friendlier Charles Bronson." He studied fish biology in college and is serious about the conservation aspect of his work.

For two years Mr. Tobin is the target of undercover operations and surveillance. Mr. Volz knows that Mr. Tobin is using his boat, the Typhoon, for poaching. When the lawmen finally take him down, the evidence indicates that he has illegally harvested 200,000 pounds of geoduck clams. The haul (combined with some harvest-limited crabs) is valued at \$1.5 million. Mr. Tobin has been sentenced to 14 years and is still in prison.”

As a detective, Captain Volz brought down numerous serious wildlife violators. He did this not only through dedication to the mission, but because of his ability to organize and lead officers and detectives through the incredible complexity found in commercial fisheries enforcement. The first crime ever to be prosecuted under Washing-





*Mr. Tobin's fishing vessel*

ton State racketeering laws was a geoduck case (pronounced Gooley Duck). This effort had Ed's fingerprints all over it. Federal and state prosecutors have been continually impressed with the investigative prowess and innovative approach displayed when Ed is either directly or indirectly involved, generating hard earned professional respect for the ability of fish and wildlife law enforcers in our state. He has also earned the respect of resource managers who recognize that management strategies are practically worthless without assurances that associated regulations are followed. While many of his efforts result in an enforcement action, he is not satisfied until the system that led to the abuse in the first place is improved to help prevent repetition. Many positive changes in law, policy and approach designed to ensure natural resource sustainability can be credited to his efforts.

***Exceptional leadership, skill, or ingenuity in the performance of their duty.*** Whether as a lead detective on a case involving major resource damage, or as commander of field units, Ed has always had the big picture in mind. He recognizes the true impacts to conservation and finds creative ways to address problems, pushing people to work to the edge of their capabilities. His constant coordination of multiple agencies, missions and diverse personalities have succeeded in increasing our ability to bring poachers to justice.

***Contributions to areas of applied technology in fish and wildlife enforcement.*** Recognizing that we must operate more efficiently and effectively, Ed Volz has been a leader in introducing new technologies to our law enforcement bureau. Because of Ed, the use of GPS tracking devices, internet protocol cameras, forensic computer analysis and other ways to leverage technology has become routine for us.

***Contributions that brought credit to their agency or the field of fish and wildlife enforcement that were unique or original.*** Volumes could be written here – and one called “Shell Games” already has. Suffice it to say that he has made a career out of representing us well – as a highly skilled investigator and supervisor. He has effectively found ways to bring positive attention to our abuses in a world where natural resource crime does not always get the focus it deserves.

# Letters of Commendation

DANIEL T. SATTERBERG  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



August 20, 2010

Chief Bruce Bjork  
Washington State Dept of  
Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way North  
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Chief Bjork,

I am so honored to have received your Chief's Coin award this past Tuesday. I was completely surprised by the gesture and very touched. It means a great deal to me and it also meant a lot to me that you presented it to me personally and that Capt. Volz, Sgt. Phillips and Officer Olson were also there to present it with you. What a surprise and honor! Thank you so very much.

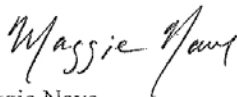
The plaque is now hanging in a prominent place in my office where I will look at it often. When I do, I will be reminded of the many dedicated DFW officers who work so hard each day to ensure that the wildlife of our beautiful state is protected, **and** that our citizens are also protected from the consequences of unhealthy and dangerous fishing and hunting practices.

I think sometimes the public does not realize how important the work of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is. I will continue to strive to make sure that the deputy prosecutors in this unit understand the importance of these cases and that they handle them with the care and attention they deserve.

I also would like reiterate that any Fish and Wildlife officer is always welcome to come to my office and talk to me or other deputy prosecutors regarding their cases. I truly believe that when we take the time to get to know each other, we work better together to achieve justice.

Thank you again for this honor.

Very truly yours,



Maggie Nave  
Sr. Deputy Prosecutor  
Chair, District Court Unit  
King County Prosecutor's Office



# Letters of Commendation

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



JOHN R. BATISTE  
Chief

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON STATE PATROL

4811 Werner Road • Bremerton, Washington 98312-3333 • (360) 478-4646 • [www.wsp.wa.gov](http://www.wsp.wa.gov)

October 4, 2010

Chief Bruce Bjork  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Enforcement Program  
1111 Washington Street Southeast  
Olympia WA 98504

Dear Chief Bjork:

The 27th annual Rod Run to the End of the World event at Long Beach took place on September 10-12, 2010. This event has seen steady growth since its inception and has become a significant challenge to the local communities, especially as they try to maintain public safety. Approximately 970 classic vehicle owners registered to participate in this year's event, although probably just as many more, who were not formal show participants, also attended local events and associated celebrations. In addition, thousands of people attended the Rod Run weekend as spectators.

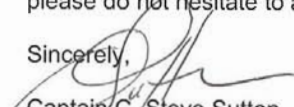
Due to the limited resources available to local law enforcement, the Washington State Patrol has been asked to provide additional personnel and resources to help manage this event. Additionally, Washington State Fish and Wildlife officers help augment the police presence in and around Long Beach as well.

Thank you for your willingness to allow Sergeants Dan Chadwick and Matt Nixon as well as Officers Jeff Wickersham, Bret Hopkins, Pat Anderson, Brian Alexander, and Mark James to assist at this year's event. Their commitment to public safety helped local law enforcement maintain control over many of the event boundaries, including the nearby beaches.

This year's successes included no fatal or serious traffic collisions and no significant complaints, uses of force, or patrol vehicle incidents or collisions. In large measure, this was due to the leadership, professionalism, dedication, hard work, and focus of those chosen to participate.

I believe our successful teamwork serves to illustrate the outstanding working relationship that both our agencies enjoy. Again, thank you for your help, and if I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,



Captain C. Steve Sutton  
Bremerton

CSS: ktb

cc: Sergeant Matt Couchman, Naselle

## *Chief for a Day 2010*

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program has participated in Chief for a Day celebrations in Grant County, Chelan County and at the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) in Burien, Washington. These Chief for a Day programs are organized by state, local, and tribal law enforcement organizations in order to celebrate the lives of children who have been diagnosed with a chronic or life threatening illness.

While each venue and host-agency has its own nuance regarding events, the foundation of the program remains the same. It is a celebration about life, and for at least one day the honored children or “little chiefs” and their families can reflect on the joys of childhood and not on the troubles of their affliction.

The standard format for the Chief for a Day celebrations generally involves a police motorcade delivery of the little chiefs to the event and a brief swearing in ceremony. The little chief and their families are then treated to a tour of law enforcement static displays, to include K-9 unit demonstrations, mounted patrol, SWAT vehicles, rifle units, off-road vehicles, wildlife decoys, Karelian Bear Dog exhibit, a police helicopter landing and more.

In addition to the Enforcement Program’s involvement in these celebrations, the Washington Game Warden Association (WGA) has sponsored a child and his family at the CJTC Chief for a Day. The WGA is a non-profit organization comprised of Washington State Fish and Wildlife Officers. As you can imagine, many of the families of these special children are financially distressed due to a host of reasons. The WGA’s contributions were very much appreciated by our little chief’s family.





