



Dangerous Wildlife & Karelian Bear Dog Program

**WDFW Commission Meeting, June 1-2, 2012
Agenda Item #9**

Presented by Captain
Mike Whorton & Officer
Nicholas Jorg



What is Dangerous Wildlife ?

Policy 5401

Dangerous Wildlife: Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf, cougar, coyote, deer, elk, and moose, that attack humans; pose concerns for human safety, pets, or livestock depredations; or that involve sightings of these species where there is potential for a wildlife-human conflict.

WDFW will respond to **all** reported dangerous wildlife conflicts. The Enforcement Officer or employee in charge of the incident response has the authority to invoke the appropriate action, based on his or her best judgment, given the level of risk to human safety or pets/livestock.

Effective Date: 7/20/07

PROCEDURE 5401

See Also: [POL-5401](#)

Approved by: /s/ Jeff Koenings

PRO-5401 PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO DANGEROUS WILDLIFE COMPLAINTS

This procedure applies to all WDFW employees and volunteers. However, if policies or procedures are in conflict with or are modified by a bargaining unit agreement, the agreement language shall prevail.

Definitions:

Dangerous Wildlife: Black bear, grizzly bear, gray wolf, cougar, coyote, deer, elk, and moose, that attack humans; pose concerns for human safety, pets, or livestock depredations; or that involve sightings of these species where there is potential for a wildlife-human conflict. Deer and elk *may* be considered dangerous wildlife.

Immediate threat: A likelihood of human injury or pet/livestock depredation based on the totality of the circumstances, such as close proximity to people or pets/livestock or abnormal behaviors.

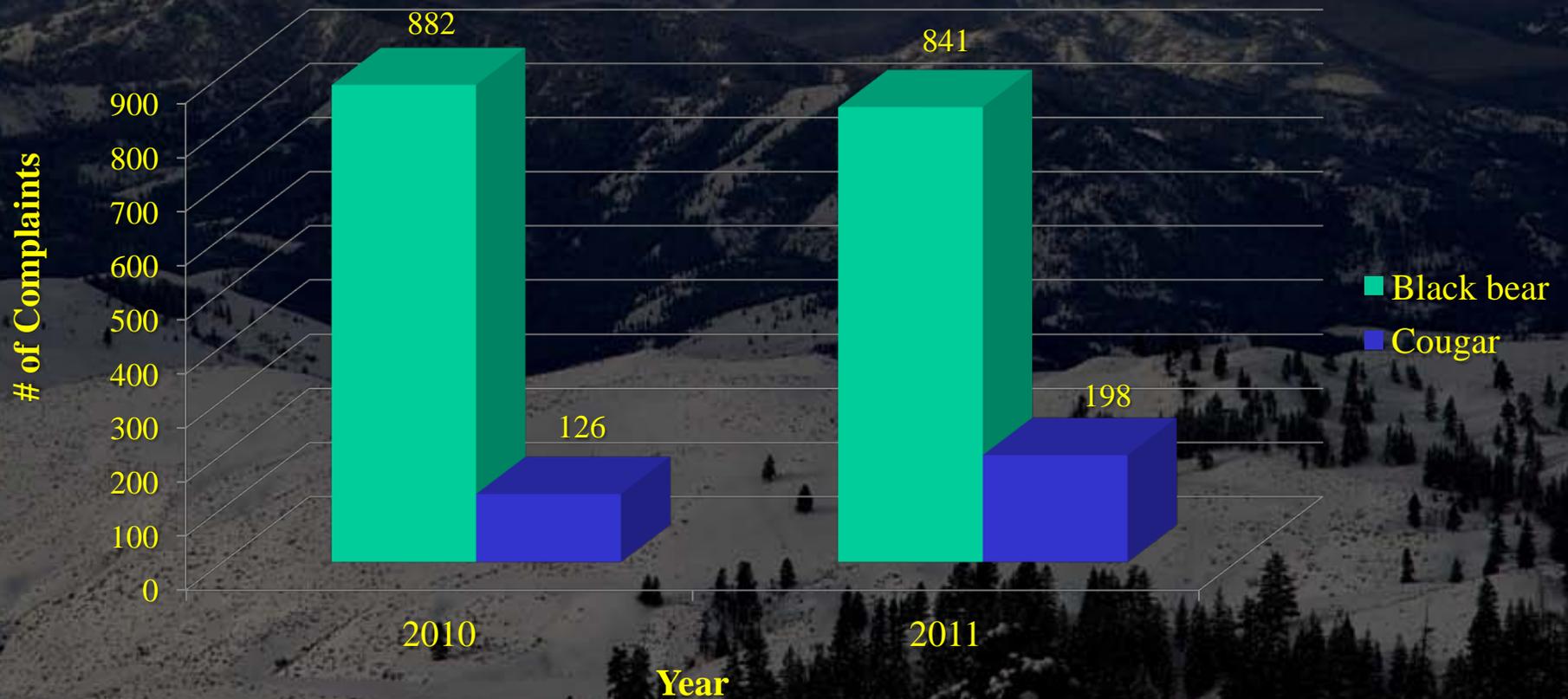
Sighting: A direct observation of dangerous wildlife in urban or rural settings near individuals or residences.

Low Risk: No immediate threat to human safety or pets/livestock.

Medium Risk: No immediate threat to human safety or pets/livestock, but conflict is expected to continue and may escalate to threaten human safety or pet/livestock if no action is taken.

High Risk: Immediate threat to human safety or pets/livestock.

Statewide Dangerous Wildlife Complaints 2010-2011



Region 1 - Eastside Perspective



Region 1 Dangerous Wildlife Issues

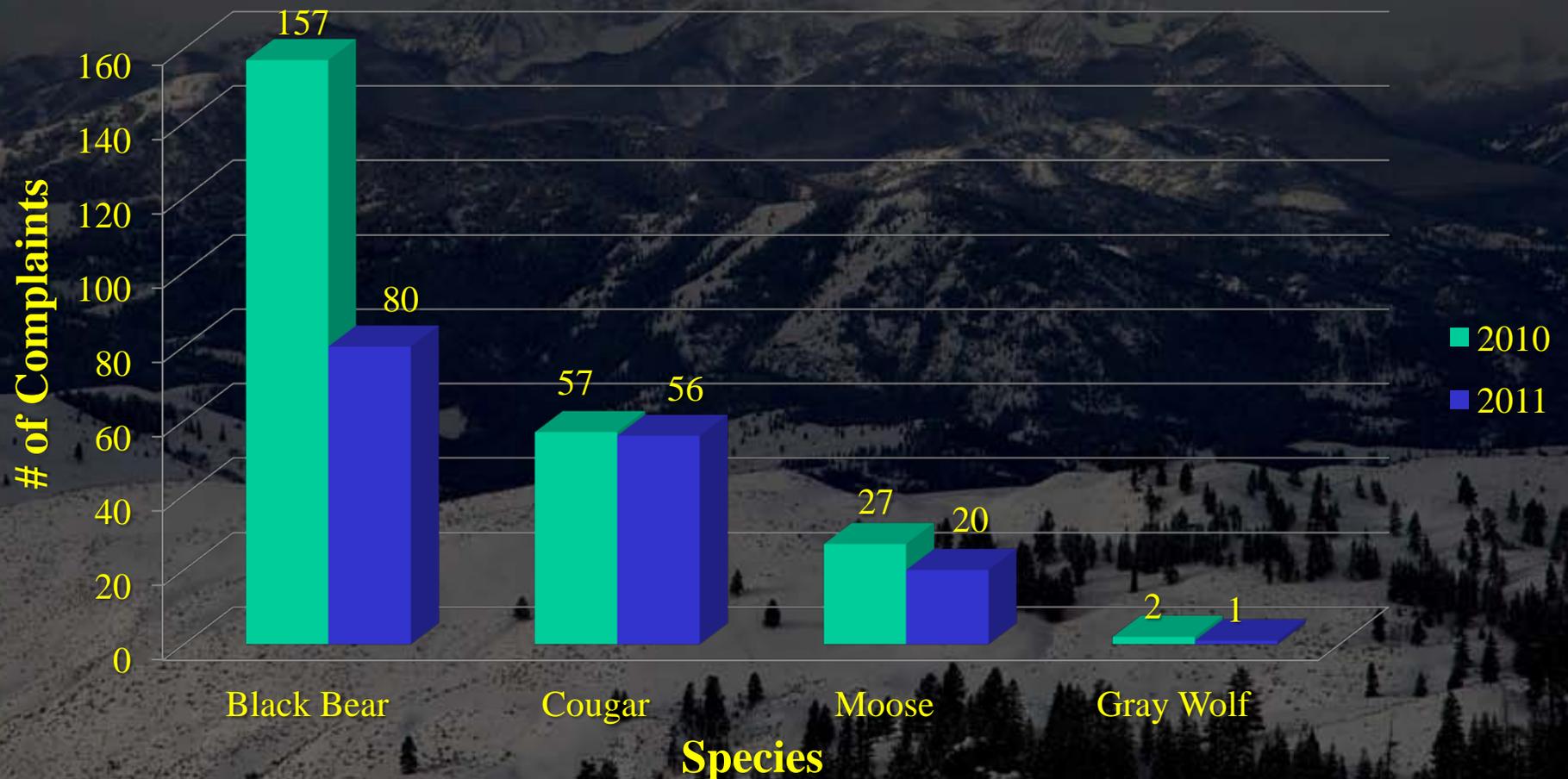


Human health &
safety - real &
perceived



Property loss
(livestock & property
damage)

Region 1 Dangerous Wildlife Complaints 2010-2011



Region 1 Overview

- Human safety – real & perceived
- Animal stranded
- Nuisance
- 2011 - 157 complaints
- 400 + officer hours
- Types of responses
 - Permits
 - Immobilization
 - Lethal removal



Region 4 / Westside perspective



Region 4 Dangerous Wildlife Issues

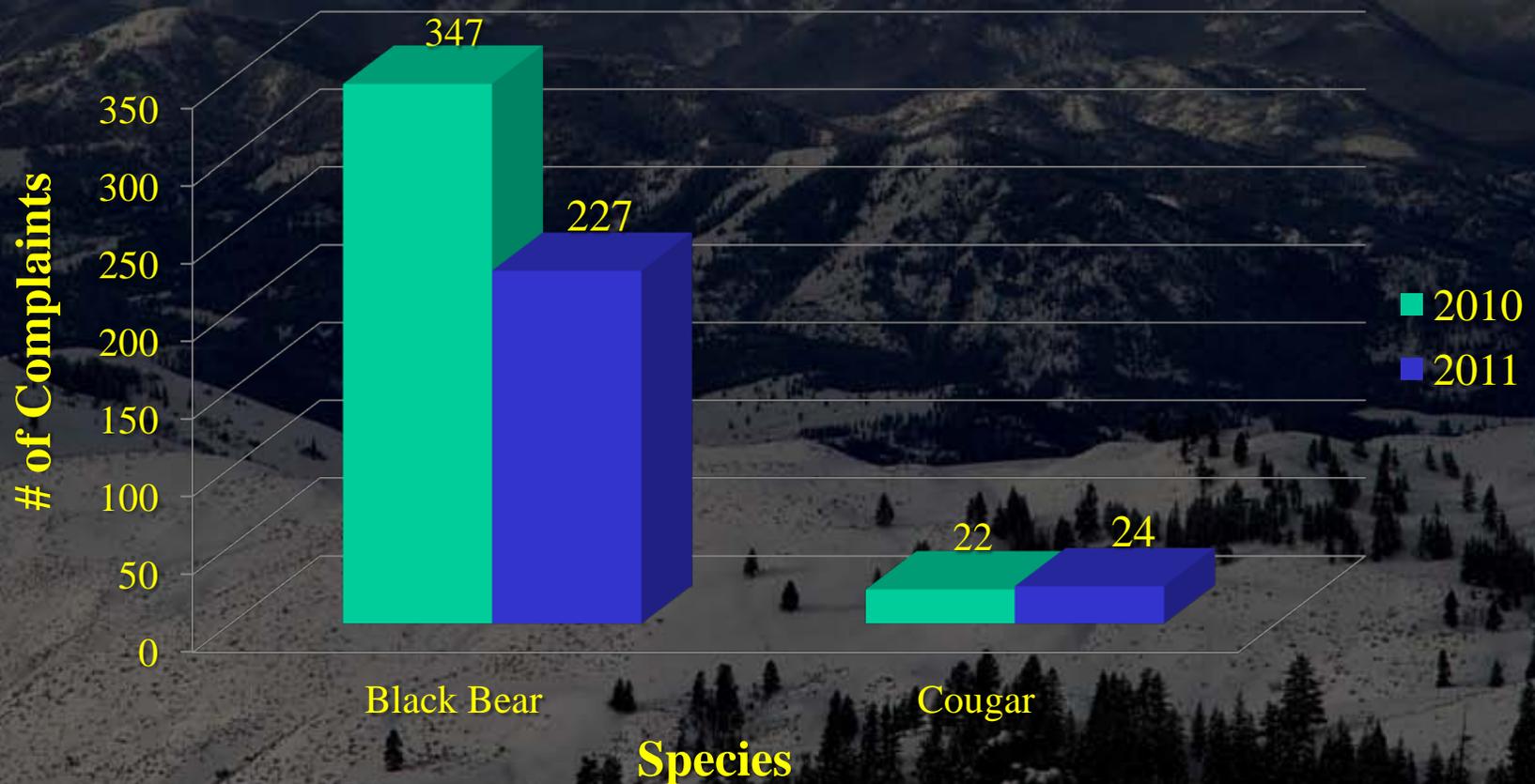


Cougar complaints



Bear complaints –
human health/safety &
property damage

Region 4 Dangerous Wildlife Complaints 2010-2011



Region 4 Overview

- Human safety – real & perceived
- Animal stranded
- Nuisance
- 2011 – 251 complaints
- 600 + officer hours
- Types of responses
 - Immobilization
 - KBD



Population Response



General season structure



Depredation/kill permits



Cougar Management removals
(formerly public safety cougar
removals)



Individual Conflict Response (Officer response to animals)

Herding/hazing by officer

Issuance of control permits

Immobilization and relocation

Culvert trapping and relocation

Dangerous Wildlife Conflicts: New Emerging Issues

Wolves on landscape



Fladry installation



Livestock depredations

Challenges Facing WDFW

Increasing human population = increased human vs. dangerous wildlife conflicts

Changing social values

Conflicting or unrealistic public demands

Reduced officer staffing

Real vs. perceived threats for public safety







2012 WDFW KBD Team



Leader of the Pack



Indy

Colter



Mishka



Savute



Cash



Spencer

Socialization from Birth

A KBD is NOT a hound....and NOT a police dog





ARCTIC OCEAN

Microsoft
MapPoint

Norwegian Sea

Barents Sea

NORWAY

MURMANSK

HENETS
Nar'yan-Mar

PECHORSKIY

BASSEYN

SCANDINAVIA

Arctic Circle

Arkhangelsk

KOMI

SWEDEN

FINLAND

KARELIA

ARKHANGEL'SK

Northwest
Federal
District

Syktyvkar

Gulf of Bothnia

Tampere

Petrozavodsk

RUSSIA

Kotlas

VOLOGDA

Petersburg

St.

Volkhov

Tikhvin

Cherepovets

Vologda

KOSTROMA

KIROV

ESTONIA

Baltic Sea

Tartu

Pskov

Novgorod

Borovichi

TVER'

Rybinsk

Kostroma

Yoshkar-Ola

Karelian Bear Dog Work in WA

- Resolution of human-wildlife conflicts (verification, improved public education, response, and service)
- Shepherding, hazing, and aversive conditioning
- Enforcement investigations, e.g. locating poached wildlife
- Improving safety for personnel and the public
- Locating injured wildlife
- Capture for population estimation (bear & cougar)
- Public outreach (classroom and public presentations)

Verification



Locating Unlawfully Taken Wildlife



Feeding



Bear Hard Release with KBD's



School Lock Downs

Bear sighted at Bothell school captured

Two schools went on lockdown after bear sighting Wed afternoon.

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Video:



SCHOOL BEAR LOCKDOWN

(2:04)

Bear caught near Sammamish elementary school

Days after 20 dozen Krispy Kreme doughnuts were laid out as bait, a bear has been caught near Cascade Ridge Elementary School and relocated to what state officials described as a safer place.

The state's Department of Fish and Wildlife set up the trap eight days ago after several bear sightings in the area. The school responded with warnings to children and newsletters sent home to families.

The bear caught in the trap yesterday was about the size of two golden retrievers, said Mary Waggoner, spokeswoman for the Issaquah School District. State officials removed it from the woods near the school shortly before noon, she said.

VALLEY RECORD

PRINT THIS

Bears spotted close to schools

MAY 12, 2009 · 2:22 PM

Bear sightings were reported near Snoqualmie Middle School, Cascade View Elementary School and Snoqualmie Fire Station, on Monday morning, May 11.

"Spring is upon us and the bears are out enjoying the fresh air," cautioned an e-mail from the middle school.

The sightings were reported to the state Fish and Wildlife Department.

Reported sightings are "way down from previous years," possibly due to the late spring, said Bill Hebner, an enforcement official with the department.

Bears are more likely to encounter humans in the late spring and early summer, after coming out of hibernation and before vegetation, especially berries, have grown.

"As bears try to satisfy their voracious appetite after not eating for four months, they're going to investigate anything that smells like food," Hebner said.

Food smells ranging from barbecues to trash cans to bird feeders can draw bears from miles away. People should not leave anything with food smells outside and should not fill bird feeders between April 15 and October 15, Hebner cautioned.

POSE ORCHARD
INDEPENDENT

PRINT THIS

Bear sighting puts South Kitsap schools into modified lockdown

JUNE 7, 2011 · UPDATED 12:09 PM

Every South Kitsap School District campus went into a modified lockdown this morning when a bear was seen near three campuses.

SKSD director of community relations Aimee Warthen said the schools would remain in that status until Fish and Wildlife officials determine it is safe to be outdoors. Warthen said the bear sighting first was reported to the district around 11 a.m.

"We're on top of it and asking everyone to be vigilant until the bear is found," she said.

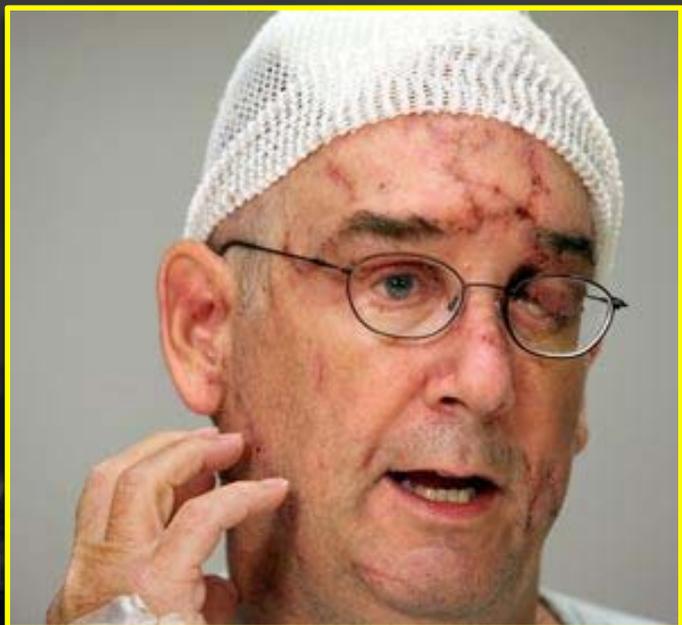
The bear first was spotted at Abby Apartments, which is near Discovery Alternative High School, Marcus Whitman Junior High and Orchard Heights Elementary School. Warthen said the green belt area around those schools has been barricaded by Fish and Wildlife.

Warthen said the bear is small, but students who regularly walk home for school were advised to travel in pairs.

She said parents can follow updates on the lockdown through the district's Facebook page and its website at www.skitsap.wednet.edu.

This is was the second bear sighting that resulted in a lockdown at Kitsap County schools in a week. North Kitsap schools went into one last week for the same reason.

Attacks



Man at Harborview after bear attack near Lake Wenatchee

By Dee Riggs

Saturday, September 18, 2010

LAKE WENATCHEE — A Bellevue man who was walking his dogs near Wenatchee was mauled by a black bear Friday night.

State Fish and Wildlife agents killed the bear about three hours after the John Chelminiak, 58, and a Bellevue city councilman, was at Harborview Saturday morning. His condition was not immediately available.



Chelminiak was first treated at Central Wash Harborview, said Sgt. Chris Foreman with the who suffered puncture wounds to his face and he

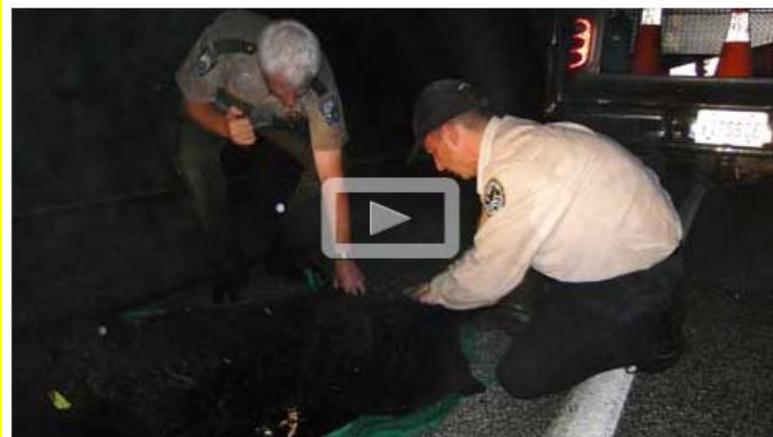
State Fish and Wildlife agent Doug Ward said threatening but he was transferred to Harborview for reconstructive surgery.

At 8:33 p.m., Chelminiak's wife, Lynn Semler said her husband had been attacked by a bear at the block of Lakeshore Drive at Lake Wenatchee.

Ward said Semler heard the commotion and



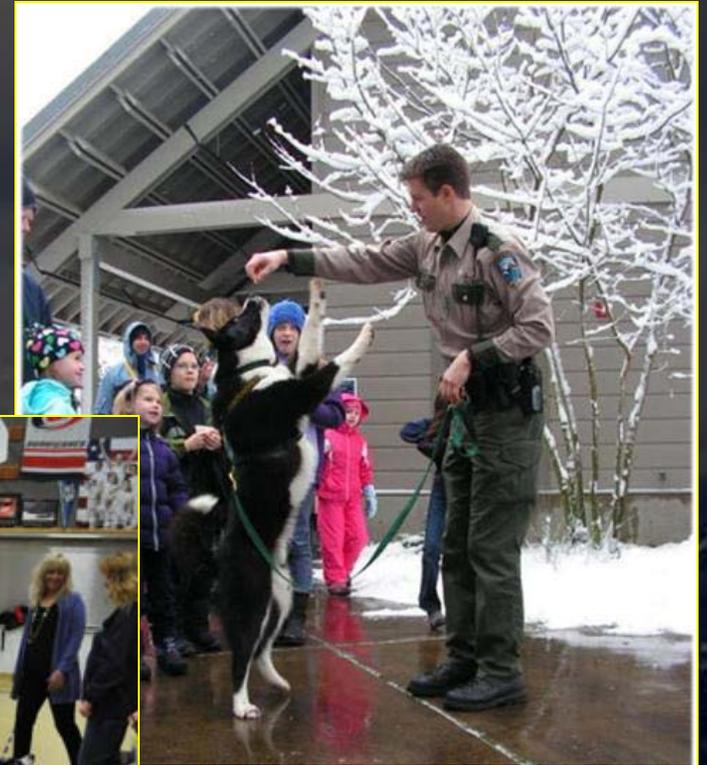
Bear mauled Bellevue councilman at Lake Wenatchee home



KOMO
4
NEWS

kirotv.com

Public Outreach



Local & National Coverage - KBD



Future needs

- **Veterinarian Care**
- **Maintenance Care**
- **Equipment**
- **Training**
- **KBD Retirements**
- **Program Expansion**
- **Research**

Funding

Current

- **The KBD program is donation funded from private donations**
- **Donations are kept within the Enforcement reward account**
- **Handlers are required to secure funds for initial purchase of puppies prior to selection**

Future

- **Sustainable funding source**

