



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

*Winter 2009 Newsletter*



*Policing the outdoors since 1887*

**Poacher Caught Biting Heads Off of Ducks: pg. 6**

**Would-be Terrorists? (Officers seize 40 machine guns, 15 silencers, and pounds of explosives): pg. 7**

**Rockfish poaching record almost broken: pg. 10**





# FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF



Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Officers provide a wide variety of diverse public services.

The following real-life events are meant to provide a snapshot of enforcement activity for the Winter 2009 Quarter. Rather than attempt to list all of the Program’s accomplishments, examples were selected to show the diversity of issues our officers encounter while protecting your natural resources. The WDFW Enforcement Program is made up of a number of

specialized work units: Land, Statewide Marine, Special Investigations, Hunter Education, and Aquatic Invasive Species. 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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*Wildlife protection is a year-round event for officers. People often associate this kind of enforcement with open hunting seasons. When seasons are open, officers are involved in enforcing bag limits and special species restrictions, patrolling closed areas, investigating trespass cases, and checking for licenses and tags, along with many other regulations. Unfortunately, wildlife is commonly taken when seasons are closed, and often at night with the aid of spotlights.*

*Every hunting season, we see the full range of violation types. . . from inadvertent violations and temptations getting the best of someone, to hardcore poaching. Everyone makes mistakes; we recognize that. Often, it's not the mistakes themselves that become the issue, but it's how a person handles the incident. Many people do the right thing in their efforts to rectify the situation, but others simply compound the problem and make it difficult for law enforcement to ascertain the difference between what was intentional and what wasn't.*

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## **Wolf Poaching**

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The investigation began on Dec. 23, 2008, when an Omak police officer and a WDFW Officer responded to a complaint from the owner of an Omak FedEx shipping outlet that a package was leaking what appeared to be blood. WDFW Officer Brent Scherzinger examined the package contents and determined it was probably a freshly

killed wolf hide. The shipping label was addressed to an Alberta, Canada, residence. The shipper had declared the item was a rug. Officer Scherzinger seized the pelt and packaging as evidence.

WDFW agents called USFWS Agent Corky Roberts the next day, and Roberts determined that the hide was from a young gray wolf, a federally-listed endangered species. DNA testing from a USFWS forensics lab in Oroville preliminarily confirmed that tissue samples were from a gray wolf directly related to the local Lookout Mountain Pack. This pack was known to have three adults and six pups in July 2008. The Lookout Mountain Pack, Washington's first confirmed

wild wolf pack since the 1930s, frequents the area adjacent to the suspects ranch. WDFW and federal wildlife biologists radio-collared a pair of wolves in July 2008 and track the pack by radio telemetry. Agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and officers from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife served a federal search warrant on two Twisp area residences in February to obtain evidence. A second state search warrant was served in March. The alleged poaching is still under investigation and charges may be considered by both state and federal prosecutors. The taking of a gray wolf is a federal and state crime.

*Source: Methow Valley News Online:  
<http://www.methowvalleynews.com/>*

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## **Convicted Felon and Elk Trafficker Sentenced**

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Fish and wildlife are often poached for profit. In this case, officers from the Yakima Region received a tip that a Warm Springs tribal member was involved in illegally selling elk meat. Officers went undercover and purchased elk meat from the suspect on two different occasions, for \$250 each. But, it didn't stop there. The bad guy, a convicted felon with a violent history, offered to sell officers firearms as well. They accommodated and elevated the case to a new level.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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## WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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(WDFW) Officers teamed up with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Drug Enforcement Agency to serve an arrest warrant for the suspect on the Yakima Indian Reservation, where he was residing. The Federal Government ultimately convicted him on the illegal gun sale and possession, as a convicted felon, and he was sentenced to 57 months in jail. He was also charged in State Court with two counts each of illegal trafficking in wildlife and hunting elk during the closed season. The court ordered a 93 day jail sentence (time served) plus \$6150 in fines & penalties, including \$4000 criminal wildlife penalties and \$750 investigative cost restitution to the state and region.

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### *Illegal Trapper Snared for Various Violations*

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Officer Christensen responded to the report from a citizen that his dogs had been caught in wire snares. The officer investigated, and recovered 37 body-gripping traps that were deployed, seven leg-hold traps and 30 neck-snares that were set. Officer Christensen obtained a search warrant, which was served by detachment officers. Officers used snowmobiles to search the area and recovered numerous traps. Under voter initiative, body -gripping traps are illegal to use in Washington State, unless under the authority of a permit.

Violations include use of body-gripping traps, failure to check traps within 24 hours, trapping without a license, failure to mark traps with I.D., using game birds as bait, trapping within 30 feet of exposed meat, exceed limit of waterfowl discovered duringthewarrantserve,injuring pet animals, animal cruelty, and unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

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### *“Shoe In” for Migrant Camp Meat*

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Sergeant Brown investigated a deer poaching that took most of a week to complete. Based on an anonymous tip, he teamed up with U.S. Border Patrol and Sergeant

Ward to locate the remains of the deer in a fruit orchard. After processing the scene and conducting several interviews, Fish and Wildlife Officer Sergeant Brown prepared a search warrant, which he served with Officer Oswald and Border Patrol officers.

Investigators recovered shoes that matched prints from the scene and shoes on the feet of two suspects living in a “picker shack” near the orchard. Initially no one would admit to poaching the deer. A day later, the suspects contacted Sergeant Brown and arranged to turn themselves in at their home. With the assistance of Officer Christensen suspects gave confessions and asked that we stop coming around with the Border Patrol officers! One of the rifles recovered from the poaching incident came back as stolen from Douglas County 12 years ago. Charges were filed.

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### *That’s My Story and I’m Stickin To It*

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Officer Rogers received a call reporting a deer poaching in progress in Taneum Creek area. On arrival a vehicle was found parked and Officer Rogers waited for the suspects to return. When the two male suspects walked out of the woods to their car, they insisted they were only coyote hunting. Officer Rogers pointed out they were covered in blood and deer hair. Both knives the suspects had were covered in fresh blood and deer hair. Also, a witness had seen them gutting the deer. However, the suspects stuck to their coyote story.

Sergeant Sprecher arrived to assist. The subjects were separated and questioned further. The truth finally came out; the younger cousin actually shot the deer. Neither suspect had a valid hunting license. One of the suspects stated “they had come over to get some meat.” The 4x3 buck was recovered. Both were charged with possession of a deer during closed season. Rifle and knives used in the crime were seized for forfeiture.

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### *Is That A (Deer) "Horn" Under Your Hood*

Officer Treser responded to a poaching in progress. A woman observed two subjects shooting from the roadway and then loading a deer into a Blazer, from a closed season area in the Methow Valley. Sergeant Brown responded along with Twisp Police and the Winthrop Town Marshal's Office.

With the extra help, the suspects were located at the Chevron station in Winthrop filling up with gas before heading back to Sedro Woolley, where they resided. The suspects were in possession of a trophy (4x5 antlers) white tail deer in the back of their vehicle with a bullet hole in it, but claimed to have shot it with a compound bow. Of course the bow was conveniently propped up near the deer in a weak effort to sell their story.

After questioning, they finally admitted they had stashed their rifles next to a sign before coming into the town of Winthrop. The Winthrop Marshal located the rifles in the hiding spot. One of the poachers had been convicted of six felonies and could not legally possess firearms. Surprisingly, none of the guys would admit to ownership of the guns, despite admitting they had hidden them outside of town. All three were booked into jail, but that wasn't the end of it.

The next morning the tow company called and said they had found a severed four-point mule deer head hidden under the hood of the Blazer that officers had seized and towed. A total of 21 charges were filed on the three subjects, charges filed: six counts of hunting closed season, six counts of possession closed season, three counts shooting from the roadway, three counts of wastage, one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, and two counts of hunting without license or tag.

The next day Officer Treser advised the Winthrop Marshal's office of an arrest warrant for the registered owner of the vehicle. On Saturday the registered owner arrived in Winthrop to get his vehicle only to be

greeted by the Winthrop Marshal and be placed under arrest. The suspects have pled not guilty and a trial is pending.



*Four-point mule deer head located under hood of seized truck.*



*Seized poached mule deer and trophy deer head.*

### *A Case of Cat and Mouse (we were the cat)*

Fish and Wildlife Officers in Grays Harbor County arrested two Elma men on suspicion of illegally killing an adult male cougar in north Grays Harbor County.



## WILDLIFE PROTECTION

The cougar was believed to have been taken illegally with the aid of dogs, in violation of the 1996 ban (through voter initiative) on hunting native cats with hounds. Early in the morning, Officer Brian Alexander found fresh vehicle tracks in the snow and followed them to where he heard hound dogs barking.

When hound dogs pursue game, animals such as cougars will climb a tree to stay out of harm's way. The dogs will react by emitting a unique bark that hunters associate with a "treed" animal. Hunters then come in for the kill.

Numerous officers from multiple jurisdictions, including the Grays Harbor County Sheriff's Office and Washington State Patrol, responded. The all-too-cool suspects denied any wrong-doing, but later, a search of the area revealed an adult cougar buried in the snow at the site. The subjects were tracked down by WDFW officers, arrested and booked into the Grays Harbor County Jail. Their vehicle and hunting equipment were seized for forfeiture. Sometime later, Officer Alexander and Sgt. Nixon served a search warrant on two camera phones and the truck seized from the suspects. Evidence from the search was collected that supports the case and has been submitted for analysis to the crime lab.

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### *Duck, Duck, Goose-Duck*

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Officers Johnson and McQuary responded to a report of subjects hunting waterfowl over a baited area in Burbank. Hunting waterfowl over bait is illegal because the draw of artificially placed food eliminates any wariness by ducks, elevating hunter success rate. Hunter success rates would be augmented if everyone was allowed to use this technique. Thus, it has potential to be detrimental to sustainably managing waterfowl populations.

The officer contacted two hunters who were set up approximately 100-150 yards away from the Cargill Grain Elevators, where hundreds of ducks were



*Officer Alexander with the poached cougar that suspects hid in the snow.*

feeding on the deposited grain. Hunters claimed they were unaware they were adjacent to a grain elevator, despite the fact it was stated as such on the elevator itself. In addition to baiting violations, the hunters had exceeded daily bag limit of ducks. Later the same day, Sergeant Jewell responded to a second complaint in the same area. Not only were two more hunters set up in the exact same spot, but they also used the exact same excuse for why they were hunting in that location.



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### *Master Hunter and Helper Harvest Elk in Ginkgo State Park*

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Officer Hobbs responded to two reports of hunters that had killed an elk inside Ginkgo State Park along Vantage Highway. Officer Hobbs arrived as the suspects' vehicle was turning around in the roadway to return to Ellensburg. The Master Hunter, the only one dressed in hunter orange, stopped his vehicle and jumped out eager to tell Officer Hobbs his side of the story. The man told Officer Hobbs he had shot the elk from a fence post that was not posted as "State Park Property: No Hunting." After a passer-by told him it was State Park, he walked the fence line and found that it was posted about every 75 yards.

He continued to say that it wasn't posted where he shot across the four-strand barbed wire fence. In addition, the cow was not tagged as required. After some questioning and more than enough lying, Officer Hobbs found out the 77 year-old Master Hunter's son actually killed the elk after the Master Hunter wounded her. Both were cited for hunting in the State Park and the Master Hunter's son was cited for hunting elk closed season. Ironically, the Master Hunter's only concern was if he would be removed from the Master Hunter program.

Officer McLerran completed an investigation on the shooting of an American White Pelican that he and Officer Grant received a tip on. The witness observed two males shoot at ducks and then shoot a pelican. The two subjects initially denied it, saying they were coyote hunting. Two rifles were taken for evidence, but on examining the bird, it was found to have been shot by a shotgun.

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### *Unlawful Taking of Endangered Wildlife*

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When Officer McLerran returned the rifles to their owner he spoke with him again, hoping to bluff him into an admission. The suspect denied owning a shotgun, but when Officer McLerran asked if there was a reason why he might have found a shotgun shell

at the scene with his fingerprints on it; the suspect stated "he had been shooting shotguns in the area before." Officer McLerran suggested that pellets found in the bird may match residue inside the shot shell he recovered; he would then have a direct link between the suspect and dead pelican.

The man hung his head and said "I shot the pelican." He admitted to using the other suspect's gun. When the other suspect was told this, he also admitted to shooting at the pelican and said he wasn't sure which of them had killed it. Officers retrieved the two shotguns, which were seized for forfeiture. Prosecutor is filing charges on each of them for Unlawful Taking of Endangered Wildlife, No Small Game License, and No Migratory Bird Validation.

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### *Starting the New Year In A Bad Way*

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On New Year's Day, Officer Martin responded to a deer poaching call in Salkum. Two Lewis County Sheriff Sergeants arrived first and secured the scene. The shooter fled, but left his rifle and deer behind. Officer Martin seized the rifle and collected evidence, including the doe.

Officer Schroeder arrived and assisted by interviewing witnesses. Officers received good information on the shooters identity and what had occurred. Officer Martin and Schroeder contacted friends and family at their homes in the area where the suspect had been living, convincing these friends and neighbors to assist with the investigation. The next day, the suspect turned himself in. Officers Martin and Schroeder met with the suspect, who gave a full confession to shooting the deer out of season. Officer Martin served the shooter with a rifle forfeiture notice. The landowner and reporting party in this case raise high-end show horses. The deer was shot on his property approximately 80 yards from a large riding arena.

# WILDLIFE PROTECTION

## *Mule Deer Foundation WA Chapter Donates Two Deer Decoys*

Region 3 Enforcement officers are the proud parents of two new decoy deer that were donated to the region by the Mule Deer Foundation. Sergeant Sprecher initiated the donation when he began looking for a way to replace Detachment 17's well used (shot at) decoy. He was put in touch with the Mule Deer Foundation Regional Representative Ron Knapp who told him, without hesitation, to order two decoys. The decoys have arrived and will be deployed in Detachments 17 and 18. Officers are looking forward to putting them to good use identifying and apprehending deer poachers. A special thanks to the Mule Deer Foundation for their support of enforcement efforts in Region 3, and across the state.



## *Nez Perce Poacher Caught Again*

Officers Bolton and Vance responded to a third-hand report of subjects deer hunting off Highway 14. A suspect vehicle plate was provided and Officer Bolton observed and stopped the suspect vehicle. Upon contact, Officer Bolton recovered a loaded firearm from the truck's cab and two deer taken during closed season. One subject is a Nez Perce tribal member hunting out of his ceded area and the second subject is believed to be a Canadian Indian with no right to hunt in Washington State. Both subjects were convicted

felons and one of the suspects was wanted on a warrant associated with a felony crime. The second suspect had three warrants for his arrest, two of which were WDFW warrants for illegal commercial fishing for undersized sturgeon and wastage of fish. If that wasn't enough trouble, the driver of the vehicle was driving on a suspended license. Both suspects were booked on numerous wildlife poaching charges and outstanding arrest warrants. A truck and rifle were seized for forfeiture. The two deer were donated to Yakama Nation Police for use by tribal elders. Officer Bolton found that Intertribal Fisheries also has multiple arrest warrants for one of the subjects, along with three Oregon district court warrants. Deputy Chief Cenci called Intertribal Police Chief to encourage serving those warrants after he was released from County Jail.

## *Unable to "Duck" the Law*

A hunter whose privileges were revoked due to prior game violations was the target of Officer Heidi Grant after she learned that he was still actively hunting. Officer Grant secured a search warrant to place a GPS tracking device on the subject's vehicle. The unit was secured to his vehicle 2:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. By 3:30 a.m. the subject was on the move. With the help of Special Agent Corky Roberts and officers in her work detachment, the man was located hunting directly below a grain spout in the Burbank area. Hunting waterfowl over bait is illegal. Sergeant Nelson was able to videotape the hunter killing several ducks.

**“He even captured video of the”  
subject BITING THE HEADS  
off of the crippled ducks!**

Special Agent Roberts contacted the subject at the boat launch as he was leaving the area in his vehicle. Did

## WILDLIFE PROTECTION



amount of lead shot, and an over limit of ducks. Only non-toxic shot is allowed to be used for waterfowl hunting, and shotguns capable of holding more than three shells must be plugged. The illegal hunter was charged with nine criminal charges and the uncle was charged with four criminal charges. USFWS agents on scene federally charged both subjects for hunting over bait. Officer Grant seized the subject's truck, duck-boat, shotguns, waders, and decoys for intended forfeiture.

This was an excellent effort by Tri Cities Detachment 19 officers. The long hours of preparation and planning paid off in capturing and putting away a habitual poacher.

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### *Case Heard Regarding Assault of a Fish and Wildlife Officer*

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Officer Myers testified for two days in a trial involving a 2007 case. The suspect was convicted by a jury for Felony Assault 3 against Fish and Wildlife Officers and is facing a four to five year prison sentence.

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### *Would-be Terrorists?*

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Officer Willette contacted three Moldovan resident aliens (where in the world is Moldova?) target shooting with an AK-47 near Highway 18. One of the men recently pled guilty to an Assault 2nd degree offense as part of a plea agreement. That agreement stemmed from an original charge of Rape 2nd degree. None of the subjects are U.S. citizens, and thus, cannot legally possess firearms. After a WDFW referral, Federal Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms Agents became involved. At the conclusion of a served search warrant, law enforcement seized 40 machine guns, 15 silencers, and several pounds of explosives. Just a couple of firearms enthusiasts? Probably not.

we mention that his driving privileges were revoked? Of course, he denied hunting and said he was just calling in ducks for his uncle, who was also present hunting ducks. After Agent Roberts was done with his inspection, Officers Grant, Horn, McLerran, Fulton, and Sergeant Nelson drove to the launch. The suspect denied hunting ducks, even though it was explained to him that he was observed doing so on videotape. He shrugged and said we have tried to catch him in the past and failed.

Inspection of the boat found a hidden and unplugged shotgun which was used by the revoked hunter, a large



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# HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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*Officer responses to human-dangerous wildlife conflicts are a constant as human encroachment on habitat provides for increased encounters. Many folks believe that wildlife utopias exist where captured problem animals can be relocated, resolving the issue. Finding wild places where human interactions will be minimal is an increasing challenge. The reality is any releases would likely result in establishing a potentially dangerous or nuisance animal in another geographic location. Many animals do not stay put when released, migrating back to areas where conflicts with humans will continue. Sure, Officers are trained in animal removal, have assigned immobilization equipment and have access to traps and transport cages. The Enforcement Program also has a K-9 program where a special breed of dog, the Karelian*

*Bear Dog, assists with locating and hazing dangerous wildlife (this same dog has the ability to find poached wildlife and is used for investigative purposes). But because of the challenges stated above, some animals must be euthanized.*



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## *Mazama Cougar Shot*

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Officer Treser responded to the town of Mazama after receiving a call of a cougar chasing a dog and attempting to enter an occupied residence through a sliding glass door. The landowner shot the cougar before Officer Treser could arrive. The cat was picked up and removed from the scene.

Sergeant Henry but again were unable to locate the cougar. On the morning of January 3, the officers were called out again to the same area. The cougar had returned and fed on the dead goat that was left in the field. Hound hunters were called and the cougar was successfully treed. The cougar was dispatched and removed from the area.

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## *Leavenworth Cougar*

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Sergeant Ward contacted a homeowner on North Road near Leavenworth. The Reporting Party had just let his small dog outside when he heard it squeal. He opened the door and saw a cougar standing on his porch with his pet in its mouth. He yelled and the cougar dropped the dog and ran off of the porch.

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## *National News: Elk Tragedy Feeds the Hungry*

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A herd of 20 some elk were taking refuge in a barn in north Pend Oreille County when the structure collapsed and killed six of the animals. Officer Taylor and Sergeant Charron responded and coordinated, with the landowner and his neighbors, a major effort to salvage the killed elk for distribution to a local food bank. An unusual event that got national attention.

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## *New Years Cougar*

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Officers Czebotar and Langbehn were called to assist with a cougar complaint in East Jefferson County. The cougar had killed several goats and sheep. Sergeant Henry had attempted to track the cougar on New Year's Day, but was unable to locate the cougar. The next day, the officers tracked the cat along with

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## *Bullwinkles Kid Caught Trespassing*

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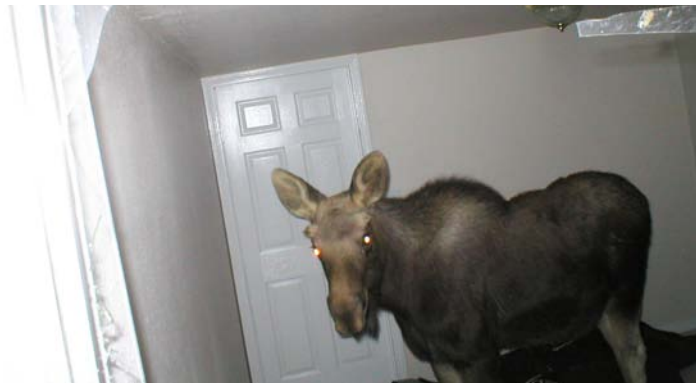
The other national news item involved the removal of a moose calf that ended up in a north Spokane resident's basement. The moose had become lodged in a basement window well. By the time officers had

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# HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICT

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arrived, the bull calf had kicked out the window and was standing in the resident's basement bedroom. The room was set up for an infant. Fortunately, there was no child in the room at the time as the moose had done considerable damage. A plan was conceived and implemented involving sedation. The animal was then pulled up a flight of stairs, through the dining room, into the kitchen, and out through the front door to the waiting patrol truck. The wayward moose was released into a recovery area until the cow and sibling that had been seen with it were captured the next day in a north Spokane neighborhood, and reunited. Officers Hahn, Mosman, Research Biologist Woody Myers, Captain Whorton and Regional Director Andrews responded.



*Calf moose standing by broken window it entered through.*

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## *Alleged Cougar More Likely a Pitbull*

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Officer Prater responded to an incident where two subjects who were out for a walk were attacked by an animal. One of the subjects claimed that the animal was a cougar and the other thought it was a dog. Officer Richards deployed Mishka to verify if a cougar was in the area. Mishka did not find any sign of a cougar. Officers Prater and Richards interviewed the subjects and photographed the injuries. With the assistance of a Pierce County Deputy, the officers verified the subject's residence and located a pitbull in the backyard. The pitbull had blood on its head, chest and back.

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## *Stomping Mad*

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Officers responded to an aggressive moose in the Tum Tum area of southern Stevens County. A lady was reportedly attacked while she was trying to keep her dog from being stomped by the moose. The cow moose was euthanized by officers. Facts are still being gathered.



*Bullwinkle Jr. being carried by officers through home owners kitchen.*

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## *Eluding Eagle Not So Neighborly*

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Sergeant Heinck and Officer Bauman responded to a complaint involving a hostile immature bald eagle at a remote residence along the Sauk River. The eagle has been living at or near the residence for some time and recently attacked the owner of the house, striking him in the back and tearing his jacket. The eagle is possibly a poorly rehabbed and released bird or perhaps was raised by humans. In any event, it is habituated to humans and causing problems. Sergeant Heinck and Officer Bauman unsuccessfully attempted to trap the bird but it appears to be "trap wise" and will not come to the bait.

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# RECREATIONAL FISHING

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*Fish and Wildlife Officers have thousands of miles of rivers, creeks, lakes, marine waters, and beaches to patrol. The popularity of Washington's great outdoors has led to an increase in use, and a decrease in available natural resources available for harvest. Our officers work hard to provide for a fair playing field and to protect management strategies meant to provide for sustainable natural resources for everyone's enjoyment.*

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## *Some People Never Learn*

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Officer Hughes checked the Felida Moorage and Boat Ramp. A few checks were made of folks fishing on the dock. One guy was fishing with two poles and could only smile when he saw Officer Hughes, knowing he was about to get his fourth ticket for illegally using more than one line to catch fish. Officer Moats and Officer Hughes have both cited him twice now since 2008 for using two poles. Follow up will be done to make sure his privileges are suspended.

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## *Remember Me*

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Officer Hopkins observed an individual park his car and walk out to go razor clam digging on the Long Beach Peninsula. Upon checking the vehicle license plate through dispatch to determine who the registered owner was, it was discovered that the registered owner had a suspended driver's license.

Officer Hopkins then drove down the beach and watched the man dig for clams. After he dug a few clams, he returned to his vehicle and drove away. After Officer Hopkins stopped him, he denied having dug any clams at all. Officer Hopkins took him into custody for driving on a suspended license.

A search of the vehicle uncovered the bag of razor clams that he had denied digging. He was cited for Fail to Submit Catch for Inspection, Possess Razor Clams w/out License, suspended driving, and for not having liability insurance (the 27 miles of drivable

beach on the peninsula is considered a state highway). Upon receiving his citations, the guy finally stated, "You probably know me." Officer Hopkins told him he did not. It turned out that this was the same individual who had illegally trespassed and shot an elk in Deputy Chief Cenci's pasture this last fall, for which he was cited.

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## *Wild Chinook Case*

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While Officers Moats and Van Vladricken were patrolling for smelt fishermen fishing closed waters, they received a phone call that someone had harvested an illegal Wild Chinook Salmon and placed it in their vehicle. The witness was able to provide an excellent description of the subject, his vehicle and a license plate number. The officers waited on the side of the road for the individual to drive by, a short time later, he drove past them. Officers stopped the car and the driver admitted to the violation. The trunk contained a Wild Chinook salmon still alive and flopping around.

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## *Rockfish Poaching Record Almost Broken*

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Officer Olson observed a vehicle parked in the lot east of Pier 86, but no one was standing on the pier. Based on past patrols, Officers knew that fishermen often fish for lingcod and rockfish underneath it, so he went for a walk. Finding three people actively fishing, he eventually made contact and discovered them to be in possession of 39 rockfish (the limit is one rockfish each due to a depressed population).



## RECREATIONAL FISHING



All three subjects had past fish and wildlife convictions. Officer Olson congratulated the group for tying the record for the most rockfish he had seen poached in one night.

All the fishing poles and tackle were seized for forfeiture.

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### *Smelt Emphasis Leads to Many Arrests*

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Officer Schroeder spent a Friday evening and Saturday morning on the Lower Cowlitz River patrolling for closed season smelt fishermen. Everyone thought most of the smelt migrated out of the river, but several illegal dippers did quite well. Officer Schroeder made 17 contacts, issued 18 smelt related citations and one citation for fishing for sturgeon at night (which is closed). Most of the subjects knew the season was closed. They attempted to hide in the trees and brush along the river when Officer Schroeder attempted contact with them. One group of three men from the Vancouver area possessed more than 185 pounds of smelt (the limit is 10 pounds per person). Detachment 4 (Lewis County) covered the Cowlitz with a blitz of officers including Region 6 officers. Though crowds reminiscent of 20 years ago were present, the harvest success quickly dwindled. The crew focused on after hours smelt and sturgeon poaching.

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### *Sturgeon Violation*

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Officer Hughes observed four individuals fishing during closed hours for sturgeon on the Cowlitz River. Open hours are one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. One subject was seen pulling a sturgeon up on the bank well after midnight and then placed it in a vehicle. Just before leaving to head to the other side of the river to contact the group, Officer Hughes received a cell phone call from Sergeant Chadwick

and Officer Wickersham to say they were on the opposite side of the river watching the same group from about fifty feet away in the brush. Sergeant Chadwick guided Officers Hughes and Hart to their location and all four officers contacted the group together. The group was evasive at first, giving vague, or no answers to questions. It turned out there were four sturgeon caught and none were recorded on catch harvest cards as required. The group was split up and each officer interviewed individual suspects. Eventually, suspects admitted to catching all four sturgeon after dark and one individual actually caught two of the fish (which is one over the daily limit). Sergeant Chadwick and Officer Wickersham also watched two of them dip smelt during closed hours. Citations were issued for fishing for sturgeon after hours, failing to record, fishing smelt closed season and exceeding the bag limit on sturgeon. After dealing with the group, Sergeant Chadwick walked down to another group not far away and cited another subject for fishing for sturgeon at night.

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### *Foot Pursuit*

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Officer Klump saw a suspicious vehicle parked on the side of Blue Slough Road near Montesano with two subjects standing outside the vehicle. One subject was standing in the brush and the other was standing by the vehicle, turkey necking, as Officer Klump approached. He then dropped something and started kicking the object underneath the vehicle. Officer Klump pulled over and recognized the guy as someone that outran the local police earlier in the week. Officer Klump immediately began to give commands and the man turned into a rabbit. Officer Klump yelled his name and for him to stop. A 100-yard dash began and the rabbit realized that he was no match for the tri-athlete officer in training. It turned out that he had three warrants for his arrest. The object that he tried to hide? It was a steelhead. The subject was booked into jail. Oh yeah, the other guy? Well, he took advantage of the situation and ran the other direction never to be found again.

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# COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

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*Commercial Fisheries Enforcement is by far the most complex area of our Officers' jobs. Fisheries resources are highly sought after, with millions of dollars in harvests, and exports/imports occurring each year. When people are asked to describe typical Fish and Wildlife*

*Officer responsibilities, many do not realize that this includes everything from patrolling far offshore waters, border protection against illegal foreign fishing, keeping polluted shellfish out of the market, and checking cargo at the airport and at border crossings.*

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## *Commercial Hagfish Case*

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Hagfish, also known as slime eels due to heavy excretions of the substance from their bodies, definitely resemble their names. Aside from an important place in marine ecology, hagfish have two other uses. The skin is tanned into a kind of leather for use as wallets, or belts. Flesh is used for food (Yes, our thought was also “ewww!”, but then oysters don't look all that appetizing either, and a lot of folks like them). Officers Anderson and Klump checked a hagfish offload in Westport. An investigation would reveal that the person who was buying the product was not a licensed wholesale dealer. It was also discovered that approximately 4,000 pounds were offloaded two days prior and no fish ticket was filled out. Fish tickets account for commercial catch, and without them, you can't effectively manage any species that has commercial take.

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## *Gillnet Season Patrol*

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Sergeant Chadwick worked the commercial gillnet season along the Columbia River. He pulled up to a boathouse on a slough in Cathlamet just as a commercial fisherman was hauling two sturgeon up the dock. When he saw Sergeant Chadwick, the fisherman decided he did not want the fish any longer and tried to toss them into the water. The first fish made it back in easily, but the other one hung up on the dock's rail and he had to do some fancy footwork to get it over. The fisherman was cited for failing to submit catch for inspection and for the possession issue. He said both fish were a couple inches under the legal limit. Size limits are in place to ensure sustainability of this commercially and recreationally

valuable resource. This fisherman mentioned in parting that he has only retained illegal sturgeon a couple of times, but other guys that do it all the time never get caught. Our officers promise to work hard to change that.

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## *Closed Area Commercial Fishing*

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Officers interviewed a suspected commercial crabber who had left his commercial crab gear in an exclusion zone in N. Puget Sound. Officers obtained a written statement and notified him that six of the seven commercial crab pots were seized for forfeiture.

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## *Officer Sorts Through Tons of Groundfish*

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Officer Klump inspected a commercial groundfish offload in Westport. Out of the 51,000 pounds of ground fish offloaded, approximately 800 pounds were not sorted correctly (slope and shelf ground fish species). Some Pacific Ocean Perch (POP) and darkblotch were mixed in with the non-sorted fish as well, but the percentage was not as significant as the slope and shelf species.

Part of the problem is, under the categories for slope and shelf species, there are approximately six to eight similar orange looking species under each category. This makes for a very difficult situation for even the most experienced person to sort through. Unfortunately, even small amounts of fish matter when seven populations of rockfish are designated as overfished. Without proper commercial sorting, you cannot obtain proper catch accounting; and you guessed it, proper management.

## COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

### *Crab Pot Rustler*

While working in Blaine, an informant called Sergeant Mullins and advised that a Lummi tribal fisherman, who had previously been suspected of stealing crab gear, was stacking pots at a fish company dock. Once the fisherman had left his first load of pots on the dock and left to haul the second load, Sergeant Mullins inspected the gear and found that several pots had initials or even the names of others welded on the weight bars. In addition, many had no biodegradable escape mechanisms or buoy markings.

Escape mechanisms are designed to allow crab to escape from the pot if it becomes lost or abandoned. Buoys must also be marked with a permanent identification to help officers tie gear to fishers and prevent against theft.

Lummi Officer Jefferson responded to assist. When the fisherman returned, all the gear was inspected for evidence of ownership and compliance with tribal regulations. Two pots were positively identified by their non-tribal owners as having been stolen earlier in the year on an unknown date. A total of nine pots were seized due to tribal violations and are suspected as stolen property. State possession of stolen property charges are pending. Officer Jefferson issued nine tribal citations. Sergeant Mullins emailed photographs to industry participants in an effort to identify more theft victims.

### *Confused Canadian Fishermen*

Sergeant Mullins had been working information from an informant regarding an individual taking major over limits of Chinook and retaining closed season Wild Chinook. As Sergeant Mullins arrived in the area, the suspects were just leaving. Sergeant Mullins followed them to an address in Bellingham where they stopped. The three suspects had six Chinook in their truck. Two of the larger fish were wild and one of the suspects did not have a license or catch card.

The suspects confessed they knew it was unlawful to retain wild fish and rationalized their criminal activity by suggesting the wild fish were actually from a Canadian hatchery. Officer Beauchene responded to assist. The three suspects were cited for unlawful recreational fishing 1st degree – illegally possess ESA listed fish. The case will be referred to NOAA and the informant submitted for a state reward.



*Officers Myers, Caton, Sergeant Grant and Captain Mann conducted meat locker inspections in Yakima County. Overall compliance was good and most were happy to see officers. Officers provided the updated locker forms required to record received wildlife.*



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# HABITAT ENFORCEMENT

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## *Pocket Gopher Habitat Destroyed*

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Officer Haw investigated unlawful grading of several hundred acres of very sensitive Pocket Gopher Habitat. This area is known as the Mima Mounds. The property is owned and under the control of Miles Sand & Gravel. The leveled mounds are obvious to all persons driving on Old 99. The area was gated, locked and had heavy equipment blocking the only other known access point. Officer Haw walked the edges of this area where it borders the Colvin Ranch. No dead gophers were seen but area raptors were very active, also three coyotes were observed by Haw. These animals were possibly scavenging gophers and other rodents.

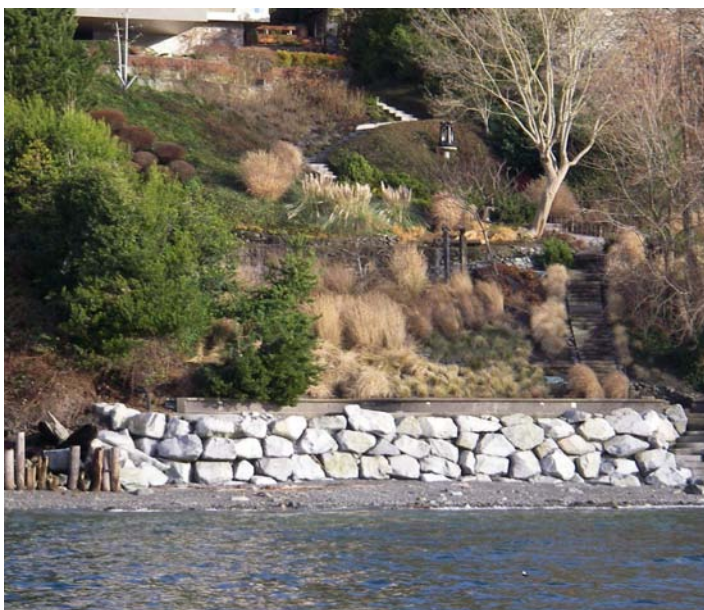


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## *Bulkhead Construction Inspected*

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Officers Olson and Stephenson observed several new rock bulkheads on Magnolia Bluff in Elliott Bay. One of the bulkheads appeared to still be under construction, while the other appeared to be recently built. Several pictures were taken and were forwarded to Habitat Biologist to ensure permits are in place and ensure that any provisions of permits were followed. Officer Treser worked on an emergency HPA permit



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## *Twisp River Ice Trap*

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with Biologist Iten. An ice jam on the upper Twisp River on Poorman Creek had blocked the river and diverted it over both banks and across fields. Three charges of explosives were used in an attempt to break apart the dam, but the result was only some fractured ice. Excavators were brought in to remove the ice and open a channel. One excavator slid off the ice flow along the bank and rolled onto its side in the diverted water. Ice and water then flowed over the excavator and trapped it in the ice. Another excavator was brought in, opened the channel and restored the water flow in the river. The excavator stuck in the ice was then removed with a crane and another excavator. The Twisp River is again flowing in the main channel through the ice jam.

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## *HPA Violation Near Reservation*

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Officer Richards responded to a HPA violation bordering the Muckleshoot Reservation with Larry Fisher and Muckleshoot biologists. The case will be referred to the local prosecutor when all reports are collected.

*WDFW Officers spend a significant amount of time patrolling Washington's waterways in an effort to protect marine and freshwater species. Always alert*

*to an equally important Public Safety Mission, officers enforce boater safety laws and provide life-saving services at the same time.*

## ***WDFW Officer Recognized at Awards Ceremony***

Officer Haw and Sergeant Makoviney attended the Mason County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Awards Ceremony at the Little Creek Resort. Officer Haw was recognized by the MCSO for his courage, dedication, and willingness to compromise his own safety during his role in saving the life on an elderly gentleman on Hood Canal during shrimp season last spring. During a windstorm causing severe and dangerous boating conditions; Officer Haw, without hesitation, put himself in harm's way to save the life of another human being.

## ***Winter 2009 Boating Safety Message from Officer Phil Johnson***

As the long winter comes to a close, I wanted to pass along my appreciation for the high number of vessel safety inspections you have all produced despite adverse weather conditions. After analyzing the forms and extracting the data, I will publish the quarterly results in future newsletters so our efforts and achievements are made available to everyone.

As some of you are aware, I recently assisted in teaching the CJTC Basic Marine Law Enforcement Course for our fellow officers and deputies from around the State assigned to Marine Services Units. This was an overwhelmingly positive and enjoyable experience and there were some things I observed that are relevant to our Program:

First, all of the students and staff have a great deal of respect for us. Without exception, they all peppered me with questions about our unique profession and were genuinely frustrated there aren't more of us in the field. They are all fiercely proud of the relationships they've formed with Fish and Wildlife

Officers where they work and described, in detail, emphasis patrols they have participated in involving our code. You are all well liked, respected, and our peers want to know and work with us.

Second, their skills with boats are similar to our own. Some of the operators were highly skilled and could push their boats to the performance edge. The majority had only a few hours in boats and needed more time to master the subtleties of vessel operations. Our class was not without it's casualties: we had two minor collisions and more than a few bruised egos. But in the end, all of the students drew the same conclusions during the scenarios that our officers attained when they completed the course. I was encouraged to observe the consistency in approaches to water based law enforcement scenarios and came away knowing that our instructors had taught this curriculum the way it had been intended to be delivered.

Third, the overwhelming theme of the training was PFD awareness and enforcement. Consistent with the USCG emphasis on PFD enforcement, our State Boating Law Administrator, James Horan, has requested a zero tolerance enforcement approach to boaters observed without adequate PFDs.

As we prepare to increase our boat patrols, please take a few minutes to inspect your lifesaving equipment and vessels. One recent problem I encountered with my assigned patrol vessel was a strong odor of fuel coming from the bilge. Inspection revealed the new alcohol laden fuels had eroded rubber gaskets on fuel line fittings causing a fuel vapor leak. Unnoticed or inspected, this problem could have produced deadly consequences. Take a few minutes to prep your vessels for patrol, inspect your boat trailers for maintenance, and file a float plan with dispatch each time you go out on patrol. Good luck! W143



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# GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

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*WDFW Officers are general authority police officers, which means that they are able to provide the same policing services that would be expected of Sheriffs Deputies and City Police. Our officers have the ability to enforce all state laws while protecting your natural resources. Often times general crimes and poaching are integrated.*

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## ***Forest Products***

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Officer Wickersham prepared search warrants for two residences in the Raymond and South Bend areas regarding cedar theft. Sergeants Nixon and Chadwick along with Detachment 3 (Grays Harbor) officers assisted. Evidence was seized including maps which pin-pointed active cedar theft sites on Weyerhaeuser land and cedar buyers. Methamphetamine use is very much intertwined with thefts, which primarily finances meth habits. One subject was transported by Sergeant Nixon and Officer Alexander to Grays Harbor County Jail. The investigation continues. Sergeant Jim Brown was in Okanogan County on

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## ***Officer Interrupts Rape of Child***

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Loup Loup Canyon County Road patrolling for winter recreation activity under our State Park's contract. While checking a road known for unlicensed snowmobile use, he came upon an idling car. He could see a shirtless male was engaged in what looked like sexual intercourse with a female reclined in the passenger seat. Sergeant Brown then identified both persons and found that the male was 20 years of age and the female 15 years old and was supposed to be in school. Sergeant Brown requested that Okanogan County Sheriff's Office send a deputy to investigate the rape. Methamphetamine in a smoking tube was later found in the suspect's car. The suspect was booked by WDFW for the traffic warrant, driving with a suspended license and possession of drugs.

OCSO booked the suspect for an additional charge of

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Photo not related to cases below.

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Rape of a Child and the US Border Patrol is seeking deportation of the suspect upon disposition of the criminal charges.

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## ***Should Have Stayed Home and Watched The Game***

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While patrolling on the Sunnyside Wildlife Area, Officer Horn contacted three individuals seated in a parked vehicle on an access area near McGee and Midvale roads. Officer Horn observed evidence of drug use and immediately had all the individuals exit the vehicle for a pat down. During that time, one of the individuals spit two small baggies from his mouth. All three individuals were placed under arrest for possession of what appeared to be methamphetamine. A search of the vehicle found more crystal meth and a large amount of what appeared to be an ephedrine precursor. The female occupant initially provided a false name but was later identified and found to have two outstanding warrants for her arrest. All three individuals were booked into the Grandview Jail. The vehicle was towed to Sunnyside where it was later stolen from the impound lot. The investigation is ongoing. The evidence will be submitted for further testing.

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## ***Stolen Vehicle Stop?***

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While on patrol in Seattle, Officer Olson observed a stolen vehicle traveling south on Elliott Avenue. Officer Olson called out the stop over the radio and activated his emergency lights. To Officer Olson's amazement, the vehicle pulled over. Officer Olson

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## GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

conducted a high-risk stop on the vehicle. The subject was cuffed and searched. Throughout the process, the subject stated that the vehicle belonged to him, indicating that he knew the ownership of the vehicle was in question. An inspection of the subject's identification found that he was the registered owner of the vehicle. When asked to explain why his vehicle was listed as stolen, the subject stated that he had loaned it to a friend that had kept it for over a week, so he reported it as stolen. The subject further stated that his friend had returned it several months ago. Officer Olson asked the subject why he had not reported to the State Patrol that his vehicle had been returned. The subject stated that he was busy and did not have time. However, after being directed out of his vehicle at gunpoint, cuffed and searched, the subject stated that he would find the time immediately.

### *Not Too Cold For a Run*

Officer Scherzinger checked an access site on Rufus Woods Reservoir, late one night and found one car with fogged up windows. The officer observed a male in the driver's seat and a female in the passenger seat. The driver was unsure of his name and date of birth, information not usually forgotten. While the officer was checking the information given, the driver took off running in nothing but a T-shirt, sweat pants and one shoe in 10-degree weather. With the help of responding Okanogan County deputy K-9, WSP trooper, and Douglas County deputy, the suspect was tracked for approximately 1 ½ miles back to

Bridgeport. After talking to the female, who had a warrant and was only 14 years old, two addresses she had provided were checked for the driver. The man could not be located, but Officer Scherzinger will be filing charges for obstructing and providing false information on both subjects. The female passenger was booked on an arrest warrant.

### *Cedar Theft*



After receiving a call from Deputy Chief Cenci, Sergeant Chadwick, along with Officers Wickersham and Anderson, responded to the Nature Conservancy property in the

Ellsworth area of Pacific County, and caught two suspects stealing cedar. One of the suspects is a known poacher and methamphetamine user, as well as a cedar thief. When the officers took him into custody he had a meth pipe on him. He was booked into jail for possession of meth, theft 2nd degree and forest products violations. A third suspect was located and interviewed by Officer Hopkins. This suspect admitted to taking a load of cedar across to Oregon earlier in the day. Cedar is not regulated in Oregon like it is here in our state, leaving a large loophole for stolen product to reach black markets.



## INVASIVE SPECIES

*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 have established a foothold. It has been proven time and time again that preventing*

*the introduction of new species 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.*

## INVASIVE SPECIES

### *Operation Pet Store*

Officer Caton coordinated an emphasis on local pet shops. With the assistance of Officer Myers and USFWS agents, plain-clothes officers entered and inspected four local pet stores. Officers identified one pet store that possessed two African clawed frogs and a common snapping turtle. The owner of the store was interviewed by Officers Caton and Myers, and cooperated with the investigation. She had received the critters from a local schoolteacher whom had purchased them over the internet. Evidence was seized, a written warning was issued, and copies of WDFW regulations provided. Good compliance overall and a great opportunity for education.



### *Possession of Fallow Deer Investigation*

Upon reading an advertisement in the local paper, Officer Myers contacted a subject inquiring about fallow deer. Working in covert status, Officer Myers set up a meeting with the subject to buy the deer. Upon meeting the cooperative subject, officers began strategizing on a positive resolution. WDFW contacted the Department of Agriculture and Yakima County Prosecutor's Office. We also met with the subject to discuss the trapping, testing and dispatching of the deer and set up the capture net and began capturing the deer. After the Fallow Deer were captured, the owner dispatched the deer. We took samples of each deer for follow up testing; the owner was allowed to keep the meat. This time-consuming case resulted in a very positive outcome for both the owner and WDFW.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

### *Marijuana Eradication Emphasis*

The upward surge in the number of outdoor marijuana grows being found on remote fish and wildlife lands has prompted the agency to become more proactive in our attempts to eradicate these illegal grows and protect the citizens of our state who are using these lands for recreational purposes. Illegal gardens have a substantial and detrimental effect on the health and general welfare of the people of the State of Washington. The majority of the people who

are establishing these gardens are illegal Mexican Nationals who are looking for a way to make money. These gardeners typically earn about \$20,000 to spend the entire spring and summer camping, living off the land and tending to the crop. These men are normally armed, and will typically use their weapons to poach animals and to protect their crop if necessary from intruders. Some gardens have been found equipped with crude booby traps and spider holes in which to hide or escape. These people also pose a huge hazard to the environment. They leave behind large

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

piles of trash, human waste, animal parts, and toxic chemicals and fertilizers. Gardeners typically divert critical nearby waterways to their gardens and often build impoundments in the nearby streams so they can mix their deadly fertilizers directly into the water. During seven operations last summer officers found and removed literally miles of plastic tubing used to irrigate these gardens.

To address this escalating problem, the enforcement program decided, in early 2008, to form a small team consisting of Fish and Wildlife Officers from Eastern Washington, who are properly equipped and able to locate and eradicate illicit cannabis plants. This team secured a small federal grant allowing the officers to obtain some specialized equipment ensuring uniformity including proper clothing, backpacks, gear harnesses, and guns. The officers also implemented a rigid training program designed to allow officers to be better prepared and to operate as a team in concert with other local agencies and task forces.

The team consists of 11 members, but is designed to function either as a whole or in smaller units. The team is commanded by a captain and supervised by three sergeants. The entire supervisory team has years of advanced training and experience in tactical operations, and is responsible for directing and supervising the team and developing strategy and tactical plans to deal with the situation based on available information and geography.

Training is conducted once a month, and is mandatory. Training syllabuses are designed to build proficiencies such as moving properly and safely as a team, man tracking, navigation, firearm qualifications and combat first-aid.

Team members must be in good physical condition and be able to operate for long periods of time in extremely hot and dusty desert conditions.

Officers have also received introductory training in locating and detecting booby traps from the US

Army Explosive Disposal Team located at the Yakima Training Center.



*Front row left to right:  
Sergeant Jewell, Sergeant M. Grant, Officer G. Grant, Officer H. Grant, Officer Horn*

*Back row left to right:  
Sergeant Erhardt, Officer Zuchlewski, Officer Hobbs, Captain Anderson, Officer Myers, Officer McQuary*

### *Washington Fish and Wildlife Officers Attending LEMOS*

The Law Enforcement Mountain Operations School held at Priest Lake, Idaho is operated and managed by the U.S. Attorney's Office. Steve Tomson, the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's Office, runs the school. LEMOS is a product of the Okanogan Integrated Border Enforcement Team or IBET. The pilot class consisting of cadre members was held at Priest Lake, Idaho in April of 2005. The basic curriculum was established and approved by the IBET.

LEMOS cadre from the U.S. and Canada presented



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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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lesson plans for ten different classes or areas of study. The classes were to be based on a winter operations plan. Instructors were chosen from various agencies that worked along the U.S. Canadian border and had training in the chosen curriculum. Officers from the RCMP, Border Patrol, U.S. Forest Service, Immigrations and Customs, WDFW, and private sector professors, and medical doctors make up the cadre for LEMOS.

Classes taught include Cold Weather Operations Basic Principles, Cold Weather Weapons Operations and Maintenance, Winter Travel, Field Craft (which includes small teams operations, camouflage cover and concealment, team operations, movement, organization and mission planning), Survival, Wilderness Tactical Medicine, Air Operations, Mountain Weather, Avalanche Awareness, and Land Navigation. The week of instruction consists of 60 hours of instruction with field work after each block of instruction.

During the week, students demonstrate survival skills by building a shelter and a fire. The fire is built in a wet, cold and snowy environment where almost all the fuel is wet. The fire is built using only a magnesium fire starter or metal match. This can be extremely challenging. After the land navigation class students then practice compass and GPS use. They then put together a mission plan with designated UTM coordinates, compass headings, distances, rally points, and tactical operations plans. This is the night operations portion where light and noise discipline are mandatory. The entire operation and week are spent on snowshoes, as the snow can be three to five feet deep or crusted over with ice. Students are also given an avalanche awareness class. They then practice with avalanche beacons and probes in a simulated avalanche area.

The week is packed with classes in a winter setting where students not only receive excellent training but they also get to practice those skills learned in a winter setting. There is very little idle time as the students

are either in class or out on snowshoes from 8am until 10pm or whenever they finish the exercise. This is a highly sought after class from all agencies in the western U.S. and Canada. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is very fortunate to have four slots each year in the school. Two classes are held each year, one in January and one in February. At this time WDFW has had sixteen officers graduate from the school. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife have two officers that instruct at the school each

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### *Fish and Wildlife Officer Aids in Reuniting Man With His Father*

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session. Officers Cal Treser and Paul Mosman started with the original pilot program of cadre and continue to instruct at the school with the support and backing of Chief Bjork.

Officer Maschhoff assisted WSP with traffic control at a collision scene. A motorist standing on the shoulder with an elderly gentleman flagged Officer Maschhoff down. The woman explained that she had found the man wandering in and out of traffic and had called the police. Maschhoff was able to get a name out of the man, but it was clear that he had a mental disorder prohibiting him from effective communication. After a few minutes, a panic stricken individual showed up and thanked Maschhoff for finding his father. The man was able to provide ID that matched and showed Maschhoff a first alert necklace that he had bought

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### *Assisting Other Law Enforcement Agencies*

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for his dad. After confirming the relationship and reuniting the men, Maschhoff advised county that he had handled the situation.

Officer McCormick assisted Okanogan County and Tonasket Police Department on several serious calls where back-up was far away. It started out Saturday with heavy snow in the afternoon. Just at dark he responded to a fight in progress at the Wells Fargo

Bank. Two cars carrying “Rastafarian looking dudes” tried to give a musician a haircut and pedicure (they hacked off his dreadlocks and attempted to amputate his fingers with a knife) in retribution for a tryst with the wrong girl.

Officer McCormick was first on scene, but the suspects had left prior to his arrival. Officer McCormick cleared to back up county on an activated burglar alarm. The residence had several firearms stolen two months ago. On scene they discovered a broken window and door but no entry made. Fresh footprints were around the outside. The deputy waited for the owner to arrive and Officer McCormick tracked the vehicle prints to a house on the next block. It turned out to be a false alarm after the officers determined that the tracks belonged to a friend who went to check on the alarm before officers arrived.

Officer McCormick then received information that the Rastafarian suspects, armed with an AK-47 and Colt pistol, may be en route to the victim’s residence to “mess up” his family. McCormick checked the area but could not find the suspects. The evening finished with assisting a deputy arrest a DUI offender who was pulling friends on a sled down a county road. Officer McCormick also backed county earlier this week on a DV call with firearms involved and caller talking about suicide. No crimes committed and parties separated for the night.

