

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Fall & Winter 2009-2010 Newsletter



INSIDE THIS EDITION:

Spree or Thrill Killing: **page 7**

Mother fends off cougar attack on five-year-old son: **page 9**

Three-day, multi-agency, border patrol emphasis: **page 16-17**

Special Segment - Geoducks: **page 18-19**

November 14th... A Day to Remember: **page 26**

FWO Officer and Vietnam Veteran serves again in Iraq: **page 29-30**



Policing the outdoors since 1887



FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF



Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife Officers provide a vast array of public services.

The following real-life events are meant to provide a snapshot of enforcement activity for the Fall/Winter 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 our natural resources. The WDFW Enforcement Program is made up of a number of

specialized work units: Land-based Enforcement, Statewide Marine Patrol, 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.

Inside this issue:

Wildlife Protection.....	1
Human-Wildlife Conflicts.....	8
Recreational Fishing	10
Commercial Enforcement.....	14
Habitat/Lands Enforcement	20
General Law Enforcement.....	23
Aquatic Invasive Species	25
Community Service	26
Headquarters News	29



Sergeant Chadwick poses with seized over-sized sturgeon. Brood stock (fish over 60 inches) are protected by law.

While outdoor enthusiasts are gearing up in the fall to go hunting, officers are on the prowl to ensure a fair playing field for legitimate sportsmen and women by keeping the poachers guessing. Officers patrol during odd hours, often getting called out of their beds to respond to in-progress violations after already working a long day.



“Just Feeding the Chickens, Boss”

Migratory waterfowl cannot be hunted over bait primarily because birds lose any sense of survival, and are easy targets, taking any sporting element out of the hunt. Officer Snyder and Captain Anderson walked into a gated hunt club on the opening day of dove season where a number of hunters were observed shooting at birds. While Officer Snyder contacted hunters he located two piles of freshly cracked corn on the ground in the sagebrush. A search of the property revealed a total of four piles of fresh bait. Officers also found three of the ten club members were hunting without licenses. Officers interviewed several members and were able to identify two people who were responsible for placing the bait. Citations were issued.

Serial Poacher Thrown in the Clink

Officer Hobbs received a case disposition on a Kittitas poaching ring case. The ringleader of the group, who killed eleven deer and two elk in Kittitas County with spotlights, pled guilty to the charges filed by the prosecutor. He was sentenced to prison for 13.5 years (five years for felony big game hunting violations and 8.5 years for his second conviction of unlawful possession of a firearm in three years). One of the pieces of evidence that linked the suspect to the killings was the presence of ornamental Christmas tree tinsel, found both at the scene and his residence.

Whatcom County Deputies Help Catch Poachers

Two Lummi tribal members were apprehended by Whatcom County Sheriff’s Deputies for hunting on Trillium property in Whatcom County. They were charged with hunting deer with the aid of an artificial light, hunting without licenses, hunting during the closed season, hunting with illegal firearms, and trespass. WDFW Officers provided some technical and follow-up investigative assistance. Both defendants pled guilty in district court to four of the five criminal counts and paid \$1,500 each. The closed season charge was dismissed on grounds of possible double jeopardy.

Officer Gets His Man

Officer Erickson received a call from a local landowner regarding a poached deer. He learned that someone in a blue Chevy pickup had shot a 4x5 white-tailed buck in a field and left the deer and fled the scene. Sure enough, the Officer located the deer. He then contacted the Pend Oreille County Sheriff’s Office, which had a deputy patrolling near the scene of the crime. Ten minutes after Erickson arrived, a vehicle was noticed driving by the field, when it stopped briefly and then sped away. Erickson believed that someone might have been dropped off to retrieve the deer.

WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Another 10 minutes passed by and the car showed up again – probably with the intent of picking someone up. Officer Erickson witnessed a male subject dragging the deer from the field toward the vehicle. Officer Erickson took chase and ordered the subject to stop and show him his hands. The bad guy ignored him, quickly loaded the deer in the back of the vehicle and took off. Erickson was able to get a vehicle description and license plate number and radioed for assistance. Three minutes later a responding deputy took the subject into custody at gunpoint.

Officer Erickson arrived on scene within a few minutes and began investigating the incident. The subject was uncooperative, arrested, and his vehicle was impounded.

A criminal background check revealed that he had been previously convicted of two counts of Burglary, 2nd Degree; Assault, 2nd Degree; and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, 1st Degree.

In other words, he is a proven bad dude. He was booked into Pend Oreille County jail on numerous charges.

Spotlighting (Shiners)

Officer Christensen operated a robotic deer decoy while Lieutenant Crown, Officer McCormick, and Officer Chamberlin set up to chase vehicles late at night. Several drivers stopped, shined their lights, but did not point their firearms. Then, a truck with large running lights mounted on a roll-bar entered the picture.

The vehicle stopped and the driver positioned the vehicle for a shot. A total of three shots were fired. The pursuit vehicles were called in, but it soon became obvious that Officers were staged too far away to make the arrest. Officer Christensen attempted to stop the vehicle but the driver realized the situation and sped away. Officer Chamberlin and Lieutenant Crown then pursued the vehicle up a canyon road.

During the pursuit the suspect vehicle was lost; but later found by Lieutenant Crown who spotted treads in the wet roadway that led to a campsite. After entering the campsite, Lieutenant Crown located the fleeing vehicle, and the driver, and alerted the other Officers. Interviews indicated that a female passenger shot at

the decoy twice before the male driver grabbed the same rifle and shot at the decoy himself. But that was not the end of the night. While picking up the decoy, dispatch alerted Officers that a possible poaching was in progress at Riverside Cut-off and Conconully Highway.

Officers McCormick, Christensen and Lieutenant Crown responded to the scene while the WSP and the Okanogan County Sheriff's Office detained the suspect. That suspect had shot a four-point mule deer from the roadway, using his headlights to illuminate the deer. It was discovered that the shooter had a previous conviction for unlawful hunting of big game in Kittitas County. The rifle and the truck were seized and the suspect was booked.

Big Bull Permittee Doubles Up, Leaves 6x6 Elk to Rot

On opening morning of elk season, Officer Hobbs investigated a 6x6 trophy class bull elk killed and hidden under a tree in the Green Canyon area. Officer Hobbs and a witness went to the bull and waited for a suspect to possibly come back. Officer Hobbs learned of a special permit holder in the area. On a hunch that the situation was related, Officer Hobbs called the hunter and left a voice mail to return the call and talk about the bull he killed. Officer Hobbs also learned from a local "guide" that the hunter always has cell service and had called him earlier that morning.

Officer Hobbs called five times over the next four hours, without a return call. When the hunter finally did call, Officer Hobbs arranged a meeting. Upon seeing the Officer and the now seized elk in the patrol truck, the hunter said, "I was just coming down to call you." Officer Hobbs noticed the hunter was bloody to his elbows, but the bull Officer Hobbs was in possession of was not field-dressed. The hunter and his partner confessed to shooting two separate bull elk and that they both pulled the 6x6 bull under a tree to hide it. Both were cited for their respective involvements in the crime.



DONATED DECOYS DO THEIR THING

While it's illegal to bait migratory fowl, it is perfectly legal to attract poachers. Officers sometimes do that with deer decoys meant to apprehend those who attempt to illegally kill deer and elk with the aid of artificial light. The effect of being "spot-lighted" is temporary freezing of the animal while the poacher takes a shot. Not only is it unsporting, it's flat dangerous. Officers Caton, Myers and Baird worked such a decoy patrol on Hwy 410. One shooter attempted to shoot the deer with a bow. The suspect, expecting something was up, started to get back into his vehicle when officers advised him to stop. This started a short chase onto a side road. The suspect vehicle was located at the end of the road with the help of some campers who directed officers. The suspect had thrown the bow from the vehicle. The bow was recovered and suspect booked into jail. NOTE: This was the first patrol using the new deer decoy donated by the Mule Deer Foundation. It worked out perfectly!



Bigfoot Sighted Near Bumping Lake

Officer Baird received a report from WA State Patrol radio that a deer hunter wanted to report a possible Bigfoot sighting near Bumping Lake. In talking with the hunter, Officer Baird learned that the hunter's daughter had seen a 8' tall hairy creature with long arms move quickly towards their car and then vanish. We are not sure if the hunter was leaving a tavern when he made the call.

Four Point Buck Turns Into 4x5

Officer Rogers received a report of a branched bull elk being shot on South Cle Elum Ridge a day before the branched bull permit season opened. The following morning Officer Rogers found a hidden camp a half mile down the ridge in the area of the elk. He called Sergeant Sprecher to assist with contact, thinking they were related to the poached animal.

They contacted two subjects at the camp, only one of whom was there the day before. They denied any knowledge of the elk. Sergeant Sprecher looked at the nervous 83-year-old suspect and said two things, "You know... and I'll be back." They then went dead-elk hunting, since they hadn't had time to verify the report.

After hours of searching without success the Officers hiked back up the ridge and contacted the witness at his camp. The witness had a hunting partner willing to take them to the elk. As Officer Rogers, Sergeant Sprecher and the witness's partner were walking down the trail to find it, they bumped into the suspect on the trail, who looked at Sergeant Sprecher and said, "I'm sorry I lied; I'll take you to the elk." The old fellow was a mountain goat. He led Officers to the kill site, which was down the ridge almost two miles in very steep terrain. The Officers retrieved the four-by-five antlers off the elk. After 70 years of hunting, and taking many elk and deer, the suspect said he thought it was a four-point buck.

*Threatened and Endangered Species
Education*

Unfortunately, a number of sensitive animal species are illegally taken each year. Sometimes it's intentional,



other times a mistake is made. To help address the latter, Officers Erickson, Cram, Anderson, Taylor, Sergeant Charron and USFS Officer Mumford participated in a two-day grizzly bear/gray wolf education emphasis in northern Pend Oreille County. Contacts with the hunting and non-hunting public were made in the field in an effort to ensure that folks understood that special protections were in place and that these animals should not be mistaken for other species such as black bear and coyote, which do have hunting seasons.

Two Point Becomes a Spike With a Little Chain-saw Work

Sergeant Sprecher investigated a report of suspicious circumstances surrounding a spike elk shot on opening day of the elk season. Sergeant Sprecher did not receive the report until the second day of the season after the reporting party observed a subject cutting up an elk with a chainsaw nearly a mile off the road. Sergeant Sprecher and the witness hiked into the location of the elk. All that remained at the scene was what initially looked like a spike elk head, a bloody chainsaw, an ax, a saw and a backpack of other hunting items.

There was nobody in the immediate area. The spike antlers had a tag attached. Sergeant Sprecher noticed saw marks near the top of one of the spikes. It was clear an antler point had been cut or “shot” off to turn the animal into a legal kill to conform with antler restrictions. He then located a portion of the point that had been broke off and a spent 7MM casing. He observed a subject walking down the ridge wearing hunter orange and carrying a pack board. Sergeant Sprecher contacted the subject who admitted to shooting the elk and cutting it up with a chainsaw.

“Did You Say Stop?”

Sergeant Sprecher observed a subject riding an ORV without a helmet. Strapped to the front of the ORV was a rifle. Sergeant Sprecher stepped out of his vehicle and attempted to stop the ORV, but the driver accelerated past him. Sergeant Sprecher shouted at the operator to stop, but he kept going. Sergeant Sprecher pursued the ORV, which was traveling at a slow speed, and attempted to stop him using lights and siren.

The operator of the ORV just looked back and continued to drive down the road. Sergeant Sprecher rolled down the passenger side window, pulled alongside the ORV and told the operator he needed to pull over “NOW.” The operator finally stopped. Sergeant Sprecher contacted the 84-year-old man who said he thought he was just another hunter. Sergeant Sprecher was wearing a full uniform, and attempted to stop the subject using lights and siren. The operator was cited for having a loaded rifle on a motor vehicle and not wearing a helmet on an ORV.

Felon Hunter Eludes Officers

Officer Van Vladricken received reports of individuals hunting with archery equipment and shooting elk in a restricted muzzleloader unit. She checked three individuals hunting the area and found that all three had appropriate hunting licenses, tags, and were hunting with muzzleloaders. She then ran a background check on all three individuals and found that one of the hunters had several felony convictions, including many for Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. (His criminal background prevents him from legally possessing a firearm.)

When she re-contacted the vehicle, the hunter with the felonies was gone. His companions said they had dropped him off at the next gate so he could follow the power lines back to their location. Officers Moats, Hart and Sergeant Webb assisted in attempting to locate the individual. The subject avoided the Officers by leaving the area as his partners returned to their motel room without him. Charges were filed with the Cowlitz County Prosecutors Office.



Officer Peterson looks for bullet evidence.

Judge Imposes Stiff Sentence for Serial Poacher

It initially appeared to some as a Halloween prank, but after tenacious Fish and Wildlife Officers completed their investigation, four Bellingham men answered to charges of deer poaching. The case began with the discovery of a pool of blood and a bloody knife on school grounds by students and their teacher. The instrument left behind turned out to be the weapon of choice in the illegal taking of four semi-tame Ocean Shores deer, all chased down with a pick-up truck and knifed to death in the truck's headlights.

The main suspect in the case, James Breslin, had struck a deal with the prosecutor's office in November to spend 15 days in jail. Grays Harbor Superior Court Judge Godfrey did not accept the plea and sentenced Breslin to a year in jail. The other three suspects were sentenced to community service. Fines were not less than \$2,000.00 for each suspect.

Grizzly Adams Would Not Be Happy With These Guys

Two Moses Lake men have been placed on probation and fined after pleading guilty to transporting a grizzly bear that was illegally killed. Brandon D. Rodeback, 26, and Kurtis L. Cox, 30, were each placed on five years probation and banned from hunting for two years. They were each fined \$3,000 and ordered to pay restitution of \$14,857 to the state for Endangered Species Recovery projects.

After WDFW Officers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Agents conducted a joint investigation, the two were suspected of killing a female grizzly bear near Ione in 2007. Grizzlies are listed as threatened by the federal government and Washington State. Washington State is home to only a couple dozen grizzly bears, some in the Cascade Mountains, and some in the Selkirk Mountains. This particular animal was a cub-producing female that never got into trouble with human neighbors. The loss to Grizzly Bear recovery efforts was big.





SPREE OR THRILL KILLING



Not to be confused with a frustrated sportsman who temporarily lays aside his ethics to circumvent hunting regulations, this kind of activity is serial poaching with a sick and twisted ending. Generally the criminal goes out at night, and with the aid of a powerful spotlight, uses it to locate game, then shines it in the eyes of deer or elk to paralyze them. This gives the poacher the opportunity to kill the animal or animals. Sometimes the heads are cut off for trophy value and the rest of the animal left in the woods to rot, other times the entire animal is left. We have found that this kind of activity typically involves males between the ages of 16 and their early 20s, but not always. While this activity is disturbing all by itself, even more disturbing is that it appears to be on the increase. While officers may be able to attribute successes in discovery and apprehension to solid public support and reporting, we have seen more of this over the past three years.

As an example, recently our officers in Asotin County investigated a dumped buck deer carcass missing its antlers. Officer Alan Myers and Brendan Vance linked this animal to a 16-year-old and 18-year-old who were involved in spotlighting and poaching bucks over a couple of months. Both gave written statements of six bucks killed at night with spotlights over a five week period. Three of the six bucks are trophy class, and no meat was taken from any of the deer--just antlers on skull plates. There was a seventh buck that was seized; it was the 18-year-old's second buck during modern firearm deer season. You are only allowed one buck deer per year, so he exceeded the limit. It was wasted also. The 16-year-old's dad was not happy with his son, to say the least, and has made his son cooperate fully with us. He led officers to the six kill sites he was involved with, and they were able to retrieve all six skulls, which matched perfectly to the six sets of antlers recovered. The rifle, shotgun and the spotlight used in the crimes were seized for forfeiture.

In Grays Harbor County, officers investigated a case involving three guys in their late teens and early 20s who spotlighted and shot approximately 50 times into a herd of about 40 elk. Five elk fell dead within seventy-five yards of each other and it is unknown if more elk were wounded or died later. With TV news and other media exposure, Officers Klump and James were successful in obtaining leads that broke the case. All of the animals had been decapitated and the meat left to go to waste. The prosecutor is reviewing the case for possible filing of charges. Officers forwarded fifteen charges on the three subjects, to include hunting elk closed season, unlawful firearm used to kill big game, spotlighting big game, waste of big game in the 1st degree, and criminal trespass. One subject has a prior conviction. All three face \$20,000 each in civil fines because of the five dead elk, and the civil penalty is doubled if spotlighting or a prior conviction is involved. Sergeant Nixon reports that a number of other like-cases are still under investigation in Grays Harbor County, an area hit particularly hard with this brand of poaching.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Blame it on habitat loss, waning public tolerance, or neighbors who 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.



Catch of the Day

Officer Olson received a phone call from Seattle Police Dispatch informing him of a seal that was in the backyard of a West Seattle home. The seal had a large hook protruding from the side of its mouth, as well as a large fish that was attached to the hook. Officer Olson responded to find an elephant seal in the backyard with a large ratfish affixed to an equally large hook. The hook had punctured through the side of the animals mouth and could be seen protruding from the cheek. Using his catchpole, Officer Olson set aside all human fears and removed the hook from its mouth.



A Taste for Mutton

Officer Miller contacted a Sequim resident who had eight lambs killed by a cougar south of the city. The sheep were killed sometime at night, while the call came in the next afternoon. Heavy rains and wind eliminated the ability of dogs to scent the animal. It was obvious that it was a cougar kill with puncture wounds to the sheep heads.

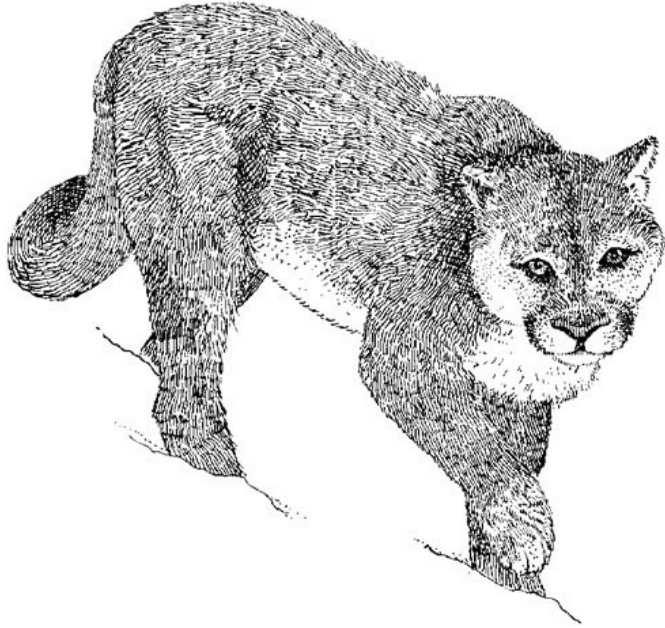
Media Frenzy

Sergeant Chandler and Officers Jorg, Richards, Stevens, Moszeter, Captain Hebner and agency Public Information Officer Darren Friedel were very busy managing the four or five seemingly credible cougar sightings in Discovery Park in the heart of Seattle. In response to the reports, two live traps were set in the park. Out of concern for public safety, Captain Hebner issued a recommendation to the Seattle Parks Department to close the park. Skeptics were plentiful and vociferous, and added to the media interest and challenges for Enforcement staff and the Department's Public Information Officer. Officers Richards and Jorg alternated hunting shifts in an attempt to locate and tree the elusive cat. As luck would have it, Officer Jorg found and treed the cat (with the help of a hound hunter), in the middle of a rainstorm, at 2:00 AM. The cougar was treed near the Indian Cultural Center in Discovery Park. The rest of the detachment and PIO

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

Friedel were called to the scene to help process the cat and manage the media frenzy. Cougar and bear biologist Rich Beaussoleil and graduate student Brian Kersten also assisted in the process.

to make a full recovery. Region One staff, including Captain Whorton, Regional Director Andrews, and Eastside outreach specialist Luers made numerous phone calls to other governmental and legislative staff to inform and provide information.



Never Cry Wolf! (OK, maybe that's changed)

With the introduction of wolves into Washington State, Officers are now receiving a new kind of wildlife conflict call for service. Two reports of wolves came in during the same week. One was received by Officer McQuary in Walla Walla County. A landowner reported hearing a commotion outside his house with his dogs, and upon investigation alleged to have seen a large wolf standing in his driveway. More than likely, this report was a wolf-dog hybrid. The second wolf report came in to Officer Erickson from a hunter in Pend Oreille County. According to the reporting party, a pack of five wolves surrounded him while he was hunting elk around the 1st of October. The wolves were reportedly growling at him and the incident continued for approximately a half hour. The gentleman fired a shot into the ground and the wolves would not disperse. According to the man, he believed the wolves were confused whether he was predator or prey. The party indicated he was an Idaho guide and was well-versed in wolf identification from seeing many wolves on his backcountry hunting trips.

Mother fends off cougar attack on five-year-old son

Officers Weatherman and Erickson responded to a cougar attack on a five-year-old boy from British Columbia. The family of four was hiking the Abercrombie Trail located in NE Stevens County when the attack occurred. The boy was the last in the group hiking along the trail, when an 80 lb. cougar came out of the brush from below the trail. The cougar had the boy by the head when the mother immediately began hitting the cougar with a stainless steel water bottle. The blows to the cougar were enough to make the cougar release the boy. The cougar then went a few feet, turned, and looked back, at which time the mother threw the water bottle at the cougar. The cougar finally had enough and ran off toward the timber.

An attempt was made to locate the cougar with hounds, but the conditions were less than favorable and the tracking took place almost 24 hours after the initial attack. A kill permit was issued to the houndsman for an additional three days. Last word from the father is that the five-year-old is doing well and expected



Wolves are listed as endangered species in Washington State.

RECREATIONAL FISHING



Fishing is a great Northwest pastime enjoyed by thousands of enthusiasts each year in this great state of ours. Unfortunately, many of our stocks are in trouble because of habitat loss, poor water conditions, and over-harvest. To add to that, some long-lived species are slow to grow and reproduce. Balancing resource sharing among the Treaty Indian Tribes, recreational users, and commercial interests with managing for sustainability has resulted in a very complex set of regulations. Regardless, fishing opportunities are abundant, resulting in some national and world-class adventures. Our officers are highly engaged in protection efforts, to ensure a fair playing field for legal anglers and harvesters and educating the public.

Fish Theft

Officers Fulton and McQuary caught three individuals using a boat to enter the fish trap at the Lyon's Ferry Hatchery on the Snake River and fish for steelhead. They were contacted at about 2:30 A.M. after being watched for approximately four hours. Officers found that fishing had been really good for these guys. Of the 21 fish in possession, 2 were possibly wild endangered species act (ESA) listed steelhead, and three were possibly wild ESA listed Chinook salmon. The vessel and fishing gear were seized for forfeiture proceedings. NOAA Office for Law Enforcement was contacted, and they are considering opening a federal case for illegal take of ESA listed species.

RIGHT: Officers Fulton and McQuary with seized fish



Pink Fever

Officers Moszeter and Capelli worked the Spokane Street Bridge with Sergeant Chandler and made several great cases. The fish were in and Pink Salmon fever was at its peak, with many people involved in illegally snagging and keeping snagged salmon. So here's a typical weekend:

Officers arrive to see over 100 people fishing from the bridge. The notorious Pedro Rivera, who has a long violation record, was spotted and targeted. While keeping an eye on him, another individual snagged a big King salmon and gave it to yet another person, who quickly placed it into a bag and hauled it off of the bridge. That person came back and resumed fishing. When the officers descended on the bridge, it erupted into chaos. Catch record cards suddenly appeared from tackle boxes, hooks were cut off, people scurried off and fish were being tossed everywhere. The officers

were able to nab most of their observed suspects. As for the Chinook that was snagged, the suspects had a memory lapse. Officer Moszeter walked the two through what he had observed and informed them that they were under arrest, and eventually retrieved the fish from the suspects' car. Eleven citations were issued in fairly short order.

The Big Kahoona

Sergeant Chandler grabbed the brass ring when he arrested the infamous Pedro Rivera..... again. It only took 25 minutes of watching the Spokane Street Bridge until Pedro was spotted. Only two minutes of watching Pedro specifically was required before he cast, jerked and successfully snagged a fish. After gutting the fish right there on the bridge and stuffing it in a garbage sack, he disappeared. Sergeant Chandler drove around and was waiting for Pedro to appear again when he saw him duck behind some bushes. A short search on foot led Sergeant Chandler to a path



RECREATIONAL FISHING

next to a fence, and when he rounded the corner, there stood Pedro next to two homeless person's tents with his catch record card in hand. At first he denied having caught any fish despite having blood and slime all over him, but then fessed up with the threat of failure to submit catch for inspection. He then retrieved the fish from the homeless person's tent. The snag marks were evident even though the fish had been cleaned. Then he told Sergeant Chandler that he was looking for a pen to record his catch.....20 minutes later.....too late. A check of his criminal record showed that of the 34 cases on his record, 28 of them are Fish and Wildlife cases.

Closed Season Chowder

Sergeant Chadwick responded to a report of people razor clam digging during the closed season. With Officer Olson in tow, he drove to the north end of Long Beach Peninsula and located the suspect vehicle driving, also in a closed area. The driver was found in possession of 21 razor clams and issued a couple of citations. The limit is 15 clams when the season is open.

Something's Fishy

While patrolling the docks at Sekiu Harbor, Officer Rosenberger contacted a vessel containing two adults and their kids. They had a pretty good day, with nine pink salmon and three hatchery Coho in the creel. When asked if they had any other fish on board, the two adults stated they did not. When asked what was in the middle hold of the vessel, the adults answered "a gas tank." One of them proved this by quickly opening and shutting the fish hold. But not fast enough. Officer Rosenberger caught a glimpse of a large Chinook salmon nose. The nose, or the whole fish for that matter, would be illegal to possess as fishing for this species is closed. A subsequent search of the hold yielded one 20 plus lb. Chinook salmon and three native Coho. Only hatchery Coho could be kept. None of the fish on board were documented on mandatory catch reporting cards and the subjects were cited accordingly.

Habitual Offender

Officer Conklin received information that a subject who has been arrested many times for salmon snagging

and fishing while revoked was at it again on the Kalama River. The subject has never resisted arrest, but has run from the police on a number of occasions. This particular offense elevated to a felony violation because his privileges are permanently revoked. Officer Conklin worked her way into position and when she contacted him, he of course took off across the river and attempted to hide on a friend's property that is hostile to Fish & Wildlife Enforcement. Officer Conklin, in fresh pursuit of a fleeing felon, was hot on his heels. Just when he thought he was home free on the private property, she nabbed him and took him into custody. Hopefully the Superior Court will be able to do what the District Court has been unable to.

Closed Waters

Sergeant Chadwick responded to a report of two men catching and retaining Chinook salmon in closed waters above the Naselle Hatchery. When he took the first suspect into custody he was told the second one would run because he has a pending charge for assault on an officer. Sergeant Chadwick could see the man hiding and ordered him out of the brush. He was taken into custody after reluctantly complying. The first suspect had a felony warrant out of Oregon for eluding a police officer. Both had suspended drivers licenses and had trespassed on the vacation property where they parked their car. One was booked and the other was cited and released for trespass and fishing closed waters.

Steelhead Poachers

Officer Snyder was contacted by a woman who had expressed concerns about the poaching of fish on the Columbia River by two men. She provided the officer with information that two suspects had caught nearly 80 illegal steelhead from the Columbia River. They had apparently been bragging about how easy it was to sneak the fish past Department creel checkers and law enforcement officers. Officer Snyder forwarded the information to other local officers and began planning operations to stop the poachers.

Officer Hobbs from Ellensburg immediately recognized one of the steelhead poachers as a man that lived near him, and he volunteered to alert us if the man went fishing. One morning Officer Hobbs was off-duty

when he observed the suspect leaving with his boat and notified Officer Day and Officer Zuchlewski in Grant County.

With information from Officer Hobbs, the two officers were able to set up on a nearby vantage point and observe the man fishing below Wanapum Dam. The officers watched the suspect fish for over four hours with two rods, and observed him catch and retain several illegal fish. When the suspect packed up to leave, the officers drove down and contacted him at the boat launch. At the ramp, he repeatedly denied having any fish.

Officer Day advised the suspect they had been watching him fish, and that Officer Zuchlewski was going to search the boat. He finally admitted to catching several fish. The suspect revealed his secret hiding spot: a plastic garbage sack laying right at one of the officer's feet. Inside the bag officers found two closed season hatchery origin Steelhead and one wild Coho. Officer Zuchlewski was able to finally obtain a full confession from the man.

The officers contacted Sergeant Sprecher, who went to the defendant's home and obtained consent to search from his wife to enter the house and inspect the freezer, which was full of illegal steelhead fillets. The suspect admitted the steelhead at his residence were also poached closed season, so they were seized as evidence. The man is facing numerous charges, to include fishing with two rods, unlawful use of a gaff hook to take fish, failure to submit catch, failure to mark catch record card, and numerous charges of possession of closed season steelhead and Coho salmon. Officer Hobbs was eventually able to contact the second subject. However, the second subject had been tipped off that officers were looking for him, and had thrown away the steelhead from his freezer.

Officer Hobbs was still able to locate one vacuum-sealed package of steelhead in the freezer that he had missed!

YouTube Fisher Snagged

Officer Stevens contacted Detachment Five Clark County officers to follow up on a video he located on a

fishing website. The video showed an individual with a foul hooked fish (most likely intentionally snagged.) After removing the hook the subject then grabbed it through the gill plates, walked around with it, "head-butted" the fish, walked up to the camera and said, "This is how we F*#%@ing fish!" After his quote, the subject threw the fish back into the water. Officer Stevens looked up the "videographer's" information in the WILD system (using his YouTube name) and gave the information to Officer Van Vladricken.

Officers Hart and Van Vladricken interviewed the subject who stated he had no idea who the individual in the video was and that he had just met him that day. He only knew the individual's first name and that it was his birthday on the day of taping. After further investigation Officer Van Vladricken had a few possible suspects, but needed to match their DOL photo to the individual in the video. However, the videographer came through later that day with a last name, which matched one of Officer Van Vladricken's suspects. The subject is a convicted felon with a no-bail warrant. Officers Hart, Hughes and Van Vladricken contacted the subject at his residence, cited him for the fishing violation, and then booked him into the Clark County Jail.

Fishing Felon

Officer Van Vladricken patrolled the N. Fork of the Lewis River during the night closure and during legal fishing hours. Numerous individuals were contacted and cited, including one individual who attempted to hide a wild Chinook salmon in his trunk and leave, while another subject with a felony warrant had fled the area. This individual was kind enough to leave his driver's and fishing licenses behind (both were suspended through DOL for child support). After further investigation, Officers contacted the subject and booked him into the Clark County Jail on a felony warrant for possession of a controlled substance – meth.

COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

Commercial fishery enforcement is a highly complex area of work and requires specialization by our Officers in order to be effective. Regulations are put in place to ensure species sustainability and an equitable and orderly approach to resource harvest. Illegal operations competing with legitimate businesses erodes the integrity of this industry by increasing risks of over-fishing and undermining legitimate markets. To address this, Officers follow fish from harvest grounds to the dinner plate.



Illegal Commercial Harvest

Officer Wickersham was advised of several closed season wild Coho found in totes of fish at a wholesale buyer in South Bend. He responded and located three more wild Coho in another tote. All the fish were harvested by one fisherman during the September 30th Grays Harbor gillnet fishery. A total of seven wild coho were seized. Citations will be mailed to the fisherman.

Illegal Fish Sale

After networking with the Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Protection Division, Officer Hughes forwarded charges for an unlawful commercial fish sale of Oregon-caught fish transported into Clark County, WA. Charges were filed for secondary commercial seller failing to account for product, and OSP is using Officer Hughes' report as probable cause for charges of violating their commercial limited fish seller license. According to OSP, that state's license would allow fishermen to only sell from their fishing boat. OSP will be citing for failing to initially sell to a licensed wholesale dealer and not having the required federal endorsement for tuna. The information was also referred to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Commercial Gill-net

Officer Wickersham spent some time patrolling the gill-net fishery in Willapa Bay. One subject had retained one hatchery and one wild steelhead and delivered them to a buyer/processor in Tokeland. The other fisherman retained and delivered an ESA protected green sturgeon to the same buyer/processor. The fisherman who retained the steelhead was cooperative and stated he would pay the ticket. The fisherman who retained the sturgeon was argumentative on the phone and claimed the sturgeon must be a "hybrid." The same fisherman was less argumentative when he contacted Officer Wickersham and Sergeant Chadwick in Montesano later that day to examine the fish. Citations were sent to the court for mailing.

Commercial Groundfish

Officer Wickersham was advised of a self-reported groundfish overage at a processor in Westport from the prior week. Many commercially taken groundfish species have limits. After contacting the plant and speaking with the responsible person, he learned that a second offload of groundfish had been made the prior day from the same boat and a fish receiving ticket accounting for any of the harvest had not been initiated. Upon further investigation, it appears that the fish plant is not sorting properly by species and is under-reporting some of the harvests.

Undercover Fish Buy

After using the undercover vehicle one evening to work snagging violations, Officer Hart spot-checked a location that detachment Officers had been watching for the selling of game fish for many months. As Officer Hart arrived, the suspect was at the location selling fish out of his trunk, so Officer Hart went ahead and made a purchase, in plain clothes. After determining that only local warm water fish were being sold, and discussing it with Officer Hughes, it was decided to make an arrest for trafficking in game fish. The fish were seized, photographs were taken, and the suspect was identified. It turns out that Officers Hughes had cited the suspect four times and Officer Moats twice for other fishing violations.



Commercial Shellfish

Officer Jewett contacted an individual who was harvesting and in possession of 120 lbs. of clams without having Department of Health (DOH) documentation certifying ownership and shellfish sanitation requirements. After further investigation through the Mason County Assessor's office, the individual was found to have been digging on a beach that had recently been foreclosed upon, and the company's lease was no longer valid. The individual was cited through the Mason County Courts for failing to have a DOH Operating License and Harvest Site Certification.

Undocumented Tribal Harvest

Officer Beauchene was contacted by Sergeant Mullins and a Border Patrol Agent regarding an individual who was enroute, by vessel, to Lopez Island. During the contact with the sport vessel, they found that the man had a commercial amount of salmon onboard. The man was elusive about where he had gotten the fish and whom the fish belonged to. The BP agents seized the salmon. The harvest amounted to almost 800 lbs., and consisted of Chinook and Coho salmon. Sergeant Mullins followed up on the contact the following day with Whatcom County Sheriff's deputies. He found that the salmon had been harvested by a Swinomish fishing vessel and offloaded at a buyer boat. The Chinook and Coho had not been documented on the fish ticket to account for the harvest.

Three Fined thousands of dollars for Fish Violations

Three men involved in illegally harvesting sablefish in 2005 were sentenced this September in U.S. District Court in Tacoma to fines and restitution. Jon Schultz, 46, Robert Greenfield, 40 and Kenneth Greenfield, 51, all of Chinook, Washington, were sentenced on the misdemeanor charge of failing to exercise due care while trafficking in illegally obtained fish. Fisherman Kenneth Greenfield paid \$32,958 in penalties.

His brother, fisherman Robert Greenfield, was ordered to pay \$23,208. Schultz, an employee of Bell Buoy Crab Company, was fined \$10,000. According to the plea agreements filed in the case, in the summer and fall of 2005, Schultz was the Production Manager for Bell Buoy Crab Company of Chinook, Washington. He was responsible for purchasing sablefish, also known as black cod, from area fishermen including the Greenfields.

Federal and state groundfish regulations establish harvest levels and seasons for the fish. In order to determine how much fish is being taken, fish processing facilities such as Bell Buoy are required to fill out a "fish receiving ticket" and provide a copy to the fishermen with the accurate date and weight of the catch. Schultz admitted in his plea agreement that he

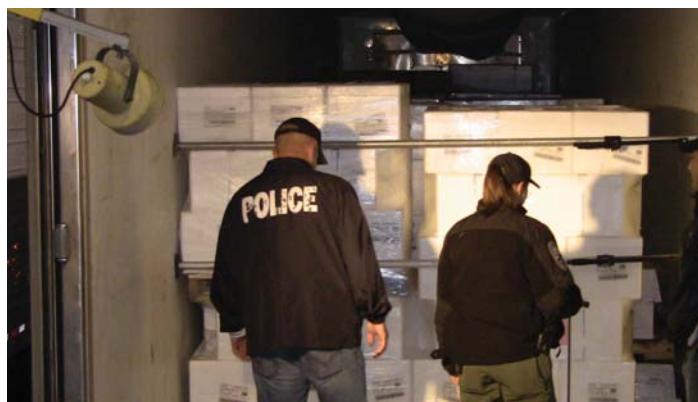
COMMERCIAL ENFORCEMENT

failed to accurately record more than 13,500 pounds of sablefish that his company had purchased between May and August. The company, Bell Buoy, reached a civil settlement of the case in March 2009, paying state and federal agencies more than \$60,000 for its failure to accurately report the loads.

Both Robert and Kenneth Greenfield admitted in plea agreements that between May and August 2005, they exceeded the amount of sablefish allowed to be taken by more than 5,100 pounds (Robert) and 8,200 pounds (Kenneth). Magistrate Judge Karen Strombom noted that, "These regulations are intended to protect our fisheries. Those who circumvent these regulations and are caught will end up in federal court." The case was a long-term, joint investigation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Program (WDFW). Both agencies often partner to aggressively pursue violations of laws meant to protect the nation's marine resources. Coastal economies and local commercial fishermen rely on the sustainability of these important fisheries resources. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carl Blackstone.

identified several potential violations for no Wholesale Dealer License and failing to complete a fish ticket. Further investigation will be conducted to determine if a violation was in fact committed.

Officers inspected two vehicles containing geoduck but found no violations. One driver for Evergreen Marine Product out of Vancouver, B.C. appeared to be confused over what copies of the fish ticket he was supposed to possess. A large number of inspections were conducted. Officers inspected several tractor-trailer loads of fresh and frozen fish and shellfish including tuna, oysters, wild coho, red salmon, sockeye salmon, chum salmon and pollock.



Border Patrol: Operation A & W

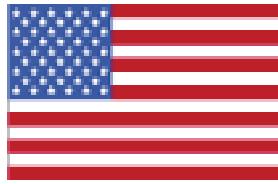
Officer Beauchene organized a three-day border operation emphasis at the US/Canada border. Officers and Agents from WDFW, Alaska State Troopers, NOAA, Canada Fisheries and Oceans, USFWS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection participated. Shipments of fish, shellfish and wildlife were inspected for the appropriate documentation and tags. Many inspections were conducted on both inbound and outbound traffic. One truck bringing 17 totes of pink salmon and roe was refused entry by Customs and fined for an inaccurate manifest report.

USFWS seized a black bear hide and meat for a CITES permit violation. The individual transporting the bear was a California resident, and he claimed that a friend had given the bear to him while he was in Alaska. Alaska State Trooper Sergeant Hall inspected the bear hide and found that it did not have the seal required for tagging a bear taken from the reported unit. Trooper Hall will follow-up on the case. WDFW Officers



OPERATION A & W, SEPT 30 – OCT 2, 2009

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIOLATIONS DISCOVERED



- 17 Totes pink salmon and roe; Seven Seas to Lone Tree Pt. (INBOUND TRAFFIC-BLAINE)

Violations: About 600 lbs. roe not listed on manifest – fined and refused entry by US Customs

- Whale baleen and walrus oosik; (INBOUND TRAFFIC – SUMAS)

Violations: Seized under Marine Mammal Protection Act by NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife

- 1 Truck shipment carrying rockfish, enroute to various US destinations (INBOUND TRAFFIC –BLAINE)

Violations: Rockfish were improperly labeled for Lacey Act standards; two Lacey Act violations; two separate companies will be fined

- Black bear hide and meat; (INBOUND TRAFFIC – SUMAS)

Violations: Lacked required CITES permit – seized by US Fish and Wildlife; Subsequent inspection by Alaska Wildlife Trooper discovered that the bear hide was not sealed, which is required for bear taken in the reported harvest area. Further Investigations will be conducted.

Cold Storage Inspections

Why enter sub-zero conditions to look at fish? to track commercial fish product backwards to determine if it was harvested legally. The commercial fishing industry is very complex, and illegally taken resources are often laundered through legal avenues. Officer Kim coordinated a cold storage emphasis dubbed “Operation Deep Freeze,” involving nine Officers from detachments in King, Skagit and Whatcom counties. Two of the contacted storages had not renewed their Wholesale Dealers Licenses. A written warning was issued to each of the two. One company possessed fish that may not have come from an open fishery.

Commercial Crab Harvest

Officers Downes and Rosenberger responded to a report from Swinomish tribal enforcement officers who had seen a non-tribal member board a harvest vessel and depart towards the fishing grounds. Tribal Officers later advised that they had contacted the

vessel and that the crew were engaged in commercial crab harvest and believed the non-tribal member had hidden aboard the approximately 60’ vessel to avoid detection by the officers.

After discussing an appropriate game plan, tribal officers were granted a search warrant to search the vessel while it was underway and engaged in the fishery. Officers Downes and Rosenberger took advantage of a nearby tribal enforcement vessel already on the water and assisted with the search of the vessel. The owner and crew of the vessel were uncooperative even after being served with a copy of the warrant and refused to give any information as to the location of the suspected non-tribal member. During a thorough search of the vessel Officer Rosenberger located the individual cowering in a dark corner of the vessel’s engine room. The individual later stated that he wasn’t actually hiding, but often relaxes in that position in the dark corner of the vessel when his services aren’t needed. He was removed from the vessel, interviewed and cited for unlawful participation.



GEODUCK ENFORCEMENT

Most would agree that if it walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it is a duck. Not in this particular case, because while geoducks don't walk or quack, they are still somehow known as "ducks." From a commercial harvest perspective, this long-lived animal is one of Washington State's most valuable natural resources; a conservative estimate places an annual value at more than \$20 million for this industry. Recently Wholesale Dealers are paying the state an average of \$10.66/lb just for the right to harvest geoduck from leased state tracts, and several tribal companies have begun showing up at auctions to bid for geoduck rights on state DNR tracts. As is the case with most things of value, the unscrupulous will attempt to find illegal ways to take advantage. Geoduck have a unique designation, designated in 1970 by the state legislature as a "valuable resource," akin to timber.

That designation allows Fish and Wildlife Officers to pursue thefts under general criminal laws instead of just the fish and wildlife code. Though the Department of Natural Resources tightly regulates open state geoduck tracts with on-the-water monitoring, geoducks have been poached from everywhere they exist, including polluted waters. Great incentives exist during both state and tribal harvests to under-report so that quotas are not met. Because of high demand and limited supply, markets are enticed to "purchase product through the back door" at reduced prices or ship the geoduck out of state and not report their harvest at all.

This is where WDFW Detectives and Officers come in. They are responsible for enforcing criminal sanitary shellfish laws to keep the public safe from toxic shellfish, and they are the only criminal investigative arm that pursues these geoduck thefts. Unfortunately, Washington State has a long history of poaching associated with this species, where millions of dollars in geoduck were stolen. The first racketeering case prosecuted under state law centered on geoduck clams and was investigated by WDFW.

Geoduck Thefts

Three men face multiple charges of illegally buying geoduck clams, following a 13-month investigation. Two suspects have each been charged by Pierce County prosecutors with seven counts of buying geoduck clams without a commercial license. One suspect was charged with five counts of first-degree trafficking in stolen property. The other suspect was the store manager at an international seafood market, which has stores in Lakewood and Federal Way and is involved in wholesale and retail food sales. Detectives with WDFW's Statewide Investigative Unit began their investigation after field officers noted several apparent

violations during routine inspections at the stores.

WDFW officers enforce sanitary shellfish laws and inspect markets to ensure fish and shellfish products were legally harvested. During the investigation, both suspects allegedly made illegal purchases of geoduck clams from WDFW undercover detectives on two occasions in 2008 and 2009. Documents seized in that case indicated a King County resident allegedly stole geoduck from a licensed geoduck company, then sold the geoduck on at least 10 occasions to the store employees. This suspect was charged with five counts of trafficking in stolen property in the first degree, punishable by up to \$20,000 in fines, 10 years

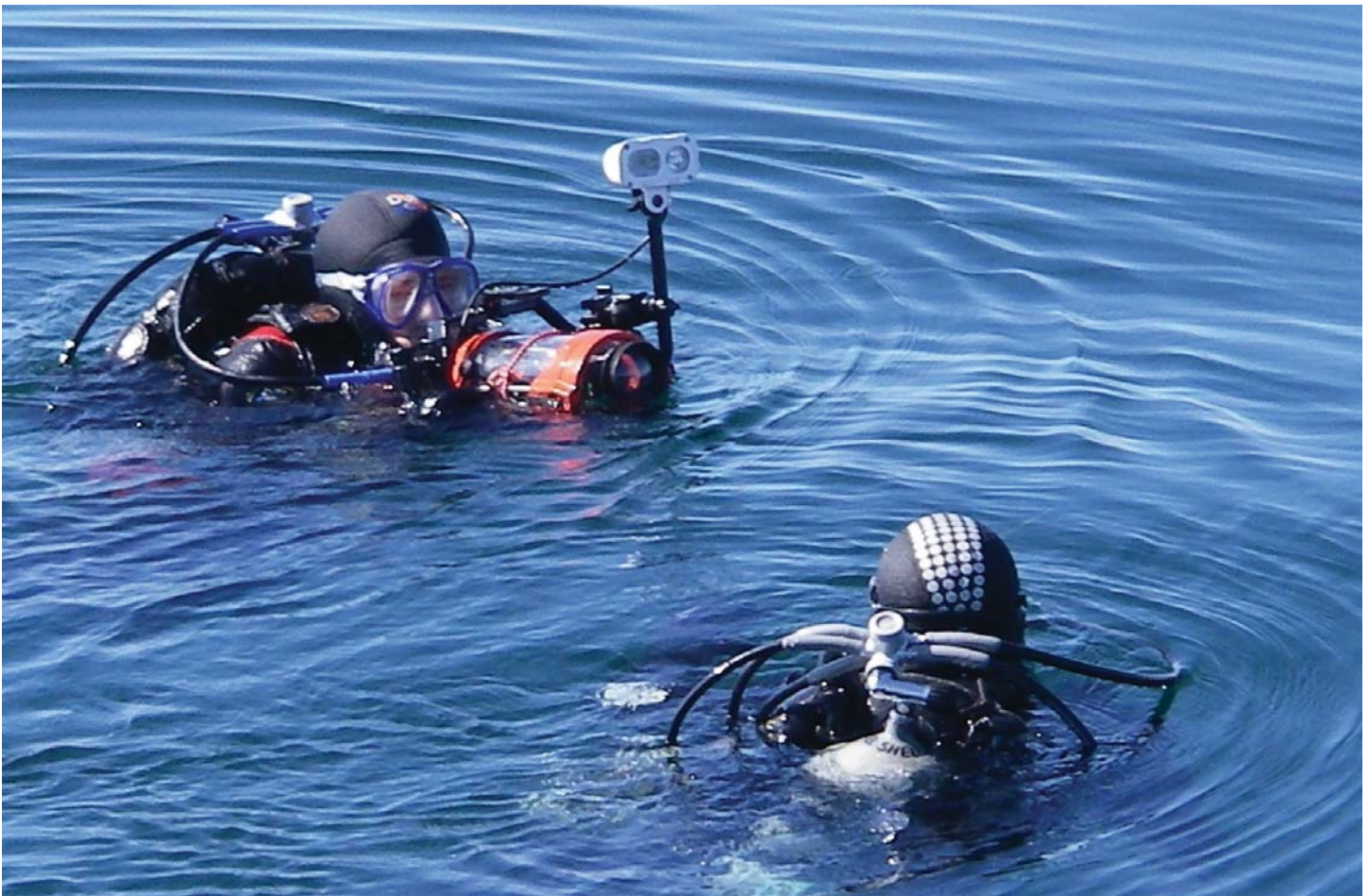
imprisonment, or both. The other two suspects charged with buying geoduck clams without a commercial license could also face fines, imprisonment, and loss of fish-buying privileges for two years.

Polluted Ducks?

While conducting a boat patrol, Officer Olson and Officer Stevens observed a Tulalip tribal vessel north of Spring Beach in King County conducting a commercial geoduck harvest. Four of the seven subjects on board were not Tulalip tribal members. The owner/operator of the vessel told the Officers that they were harvesting geoduck to use as bait in a commercial crab fishery. Officer Olson informed the vessel owner that he was not permitted to have anyone other than tribal members on board his vessel while participating in a tribal fishery. The boat operator replied that he knew he was in violation and apologized. Officer Olson contacted Lt. Myers with the Tulalip police department, who said that the vessel was not permitted to harvest geoduck in an area not certified by the Department of Health (DOH) that harvested clams from that area are fit for



human consumption. Even if the geoduck are going to be used for bait, Washington law requires certification, and since the geoduck were being harvested a few hundred yards from two sewer outflows, the area is assumed to be uncertified.



HABITAT AND LANDS ENFORCEMENT

Officers patrol both public and private lands in an effort to protect our access to quality recreational opportunity and fish and wildlife habitats.



Escalating Violation

Officer Cook investigated a hydraulics violation in which the property owner was building an 80-foot concrete and rock wall without an HPA on the Pilchuck River near the City of Snohomish diversion dam. He was told to “cease and desist” the criminal activity but verbally avowed that he would do whatever he wanted to. Officer Cook received two additional reports of his continued building activities. Because of his hostile and violent reputation, Sergeant Lambert and Officer Oosterwyk agreed to go along for another contact. Sergeant Lambert recognized him as a snagger he’d arrested two years ago. The subject continued to be belligerent and non-cooperative, so he was taken into custody. While being handcuffed, his mother said to be careful of his wrist, he had just been released from jail yesterday and got injured in a fight while there. While being placed in Officer Cook’s patrol vehicle, he told her, “I’ve got people who will come after you personally!” He laughed all the way to jail, proudly proclaiming that he would be out in two hours because they had no beds, and this was just a gross misdemeanor, after all. He wasn’t laughing anymore after being booked for intimidating a public servant, a class b felony.



HPA Case Adjudicated

Officer Conklin attended a trial on an assault and obstruction charge stemming from a hydraulic violation. The defendant was found not guilty on the charge of assault, and guilty on the obstruction of a police officer charge. He was sentenced to one day in jail and a \$500 fine. This defendant has filed five appeals regarding this case.

HPA Case Turns Into Poaching

During a routine patrol, Officer Jorg became concerned about a low flow issue on one a spawning creek. Not being afraid to hike a little, he decided to get his boots muddy and in the process discovered a hydraulic violation (illegal dam). While talking to the responsible landowner, he figured out the guy had not only been fishing illegally in the stream but had not purchased a deer tag.

From that information, Officer Jorg did more investigating and talked his way into the basement where the subject was cutting up an illegal deer (a spike or two-point taken in a three-point area) from the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area near Tonasket. What helps make this story truly unique is that when the subject actually decided to confess and tell Officer Jorg where he dumped the head, Officer Jorg was more familiar with the area than the bad guy, as he was stationed in Tonasket. The guy was quite impressed with Officer Jorg's intimate knowledge of our state.



Habitat Protection Emphasis Patrol

Officer Mosman organized a hydraulic code compliance patrol with Spokane officers and Habitat Biologist Jeff Lawlor, teaming up to check 12 priority #1 projects. Overall compliance was high and only a few projects will need follow-up.

Treasure Seeker Caught Behind Locked Gates

Officer Day caught up to a treasure hunter who has been reported numerous times for riding dirt bikes in closed areas of the Quincy Lakes Wildlife Area. The heavily armed archeologist was carrying just about everything but a bull whip, and claimed to be seeking some 400 pounds of lost miner's gold. The story goes that a miner buried the gold while he was fleeing an Indian ambush in the early 1800s. The miner was never able to return for the gold. The treasure hunter, who is on L&I disability, was carrying sluice-boxes, metal-detectors, pick axes, and shovels, but claimed to not be doing any digging. Numerous charges including unlawful entry on a motorized vehicle will be referred to the prosecutor.

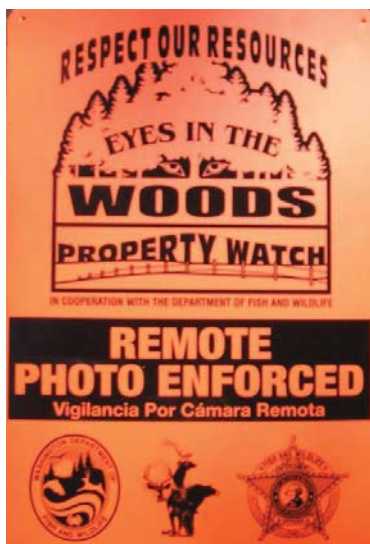
New Partnership Aims to Restore Vandalized American Lake Boat Launch

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Eyes in the Woods, a non-profit volunteer organization, have joined forces with approximately 25 members of a newly formed citizen's group to improve public safety and reduce vandalism at the American Lake public boat launch.

Managed by WDFW, the American Lake boat launch and public recreation site in Pierce County is used by thousands of boaters and anglers each year, but vandalism and other illegal activities present ongoing challenges, said Steve Sherlock, WDFW access site coordinator. "At the American Lake access site we constantly deal with vandalism, gang activities, illegal dumping and criminal activities of all kinds," said Sherlock, who oversees more than 700 outdoor access sites – mostly boat launches – around the state. "We're concerned that these activities could put visitors using the site for fishing and enjoying the outdoors at risk."



HABITAT AND LANDS ENFORCEMENT



The new partnership formed by WDFW, local citizens and Eyes in the Woods, which recruits community volunteers to help protect natural resources, aims to change that situation, Sherlock said. “Eyes in the Woods has played a valuable role with WDFW over the years in recruiting volunteers to observe, document and report criminal behavior and poaching violations

“The data gathered will help WDFW officers follow through on arrests and hopefully deter destruction of department lands and facilities,” Crown said. “Our intent is to work with these volunteers and other people using the site to keep the area open for its intended purpose.” Dave Anderson, a local activist whose family has owned Bill’s Boathouse on the lake since the 1970s, is a key backer of the effort. As president of the Tillicum/Woodbrook Neighborhood Association, Anderson said community members have come together before to clean up the site, but he hopes this new monitoring and reporting approach will be more effective.

on state and private lands.”

“Past clean-up projects helped for a time, but the new relationship with Eyes in the Woods and training from WDFW enforcement offers a more long-term approach for keeping the site safe and clean,” Anderson said. “We’re pleased that folks have turned out for the training and are taking an active role to preserve public access to American Lake.”

Trained in non-confrontational reporting techniques by WDFW enforcement officers and Eyes in the Woods, the local American Lake volunteers provide a presence at the launch site and monitor recently installed surveillance cameras. The combination of eyewitnesses and camera footage will be particularly helpful to WDFW enforcement officers responsible for the area, said Lt. Steve Crown, WDFW’s enforcement training coordinator.



GENERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

It is a well known fact among Fish and Wildlife Officers that criminals attempting to maintain a low profile or engage in illegal activity are attracted to remote areas where law enforcement resources are thin. Of course that's the environment that our officers typically work in, and as a result, we come into contact with these folks. WDFW Officers are general authority police officers, which means that they are able to provide the same policing services that would be expected of sheriff's deputies and city police. Many partnerships have been formed with other agencies as general criminal activity and our primary mission of public safety protection and natural resource enforcement are often integrated.



Rape Arrest

Officer Willette received a call for service of two vehicles in the Green River at Auburn Black Diamond Road. She arrived and saw where both vehicles had driven through the river to a gravel bar in the middle of the channel. One car was unoccupied, so she handcuffed the driver of the other car and drove his van back out to the parking area. She re-secured him in her patrol vehicle and then waited for driver #2 to come out. Eventually he did and Officer Willette took him into custody. When she searched the 49-year-old driver, she found a used condom in its wrapper in his pocket. The driver's passenger was a 15-year-old female. A driver's check on the driver revealed two valid orders protecting the 15-year-old from the driver. Both parties admitted to having intercourse, which met the statutory requirement for Rape of a Child 3rd Degree. The man (a YMCA employee) is a convicted sex offender and did some time for an arrest earlier this year.

Pursuit Assist

Sergeant Ward and Officers Grant, Klump and Hobbs were asked to assist the Chelan County Sheriff's office with an extensive manhunt in the Colockum area. An East Wenatchee officer was pursuing a wanted vehicle from Douglas County into Chelan County. Chelan County Sheriff's Office units responded and shots were fired at the officers from the fleeing vehicle. A CCSO patrol vehicle was totaled during the pursuit. The suspect vehicle, a jeep Cherokee, entered

Kittitas County on the Colockum Pass Rd and the law enforcement vehicles were unable to continue due to rough and muddy roads.

Officer Klump located the crashed Jeep on the Stemilt Loop Rd. The vehicle was unoccupied. Numerous law enforcement officers converged on the scene. WDFW officers directed law enforcement to critical intersections to establish containment. Local knowledge of roads, gates, and the general area were crucial. Hunters reported that they had spotted one of the suspects walking out of the area. The hunters were interviewed by WDFW officers and additional checkpoints were established. WSP aircraft were used during the search. One suspect was taken into custody, parts of a 9mm Glock handgun were recovered and one female that drove to the area to assist the suspect was detained and taken to the sheriff's office for questioning. WDFW officers played a critical role in this event. Knowledge of road systems, local land ownership, and knowledge of the terrain helped capture one of the suspects.

Shots Fired

Sergeant Ward responded with a Chelan County Sheriff's Office deputy to a report of an altercation over the theft of camp wood in the Mills Canyon area. Two "warning" shots were fired by one subject during the dispute. Several hunters and wood cutters were contacted and interviewed. One subject was charged with cutting firewood without required permits.

Death Investigation

Officer Moszeter and Officer Stevens assisted DNR enforcement officer Rankin with a possible suicide investigation on DNR land. The subject was found in his vehicle deceased from a possible self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. WDFW officers assisted with guiding medics, sheriff's deputies, and the coroner to the vehicle location so that a death investigation could be conducted.

Loaded Hunter

While checking deer hunters, Officer Lantiegne contacted a hunter who had decided to smoke a bowl of marijuana before deer hunting in Germany Creek. The hunter drove up, at a distance, behind Officer Lantiegne's vehicle without recognizing the patrol vehicle. Officer Lantiegne contacted him at the next safe turnout, on a sharp corner, and observed the hunter with the pipe in his lap. His rifle wasn't loaded but he was.

WDFW Officer Catches Local Burglar at Midnight

Officer McGary was passing through Royal City around midnight and noticed a car parked inside a bay at a closed car wash. Officer McGary recognized the car and knew the driver was a local thief and burglar. After being on scene for about two minutes, the thief walked around the corner and told the officer that he was "out on a walk." Officer McGary called Royal City PD who arrived to assist. The officers read the suspect his Miranda rights and the suspect stated he was only "looking at the lights" at the nearby car dealership. Officer McGary jumped the fence at the car dealership and noticed a car was missing its front headlights. The officer located the headlights around the corner and the suspect later admitted to jumping the fence and stealing the headlights.



Anna Lake, Norse Peak Wilderness

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



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



Check Station

Region 5 Officers conducted an AIS check station at the Ridgefield Scales which resulted in 56 vessel inspections. One citation was issued for possession of milfoil. This effort was not only about inspecting boats for AIS, but also trying to establish protocols for future check stations on the I-5 Corridor and similar points of entry. We learned some valuable lessons with regard to manpower intensity, traffic control, and signage.

Zebra Mussels

Officer Kim received a call for service regarding a vessel at the Port of Everett, which was believed to contain zebra mussels. Officer Kim and Sergeant Krenz were in the area and found the boat. Upon closer inspection, zebra mussels were found but were observed to be dead. The boat was originally from NY and was out of the water for over 30 days. The vessel was in the process of being cleaned before its final destination of Lake Washington. The owner of the vessel was contacted and informed to contact Officer Kim before the vessel was put into the water.

Zebra Mussels

On Sept 25, 2009, WDFW Enforcement conducted the first ever, mandatory, AIS watercraft check station on Interstate 5. The check station was operated out of the WSP "Ridgefield" Port of Entry weigh station, north of the Oregon/Washington border. Motorists were informed of the check station by portable road signs and a large electronic sign. Any watercraft failing to enter the check station was pursued, stopped and inspected. During station operation, 55 watercraft

were inspected of which 12 had failed to stop. Due to this being the first AIS Check station on I-5, only warnings were issued for failing to stop, however one of watercraft owners that failed to stop was issued a citation for illegally transporting aquatic vegetation (Eurasian Milfoil) on the boat and trailer.





AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

November 14th... A Day to Remember

WDFW’s AIS Enforcement program is taking “center stage,” and the other western states are watching with great interest, as we are behind the initiation of the first Lacey Act prosecution for transportation of Zebra Mussels in the U.S.

The case began on November 14th, 2009 and started from a routine commercial trucking check at the Washington State Patrol Cle Elem Port of Entry Weigh Station. A Mr. David Derderian, who owns DRD Motorsports Inc., a commercial boat hauling company based out of Harrison, Michigan, pulled in hauling a 50’ Sea Ray. The Commercial Vehicle Inspector, who stopped Mr. Derderian, has gone the WDFW Zebra/Quagga Mussel identification training class, and as he conducted the commercial vehicle inspection, he observed Zebra Mussels on several parts of the vessel.

The WSP Inspector informed Mr. Derderian and quickly contacted WDFW Officer Mike Hobbs. This triggered a series of events which finally ended with the boat being impounded in Blaine by WDFW Officer Oosterwyk. Based upon statements that Mr. Derderian made to Officers Oosterwyk and to Hobbs, Officer Hobbs conducted an in-depth investigation that uncovered the fact that Mr. Derderian was less than honest about many facts of this case.



Officer Hobbs forwarded his investigation report to the Kittitas County Prosecutor’s office, where they chose to file charges of “Transporting a Deleterious exotic species” and “False statements to a Law enforcement officer.” The report was also forwarded to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), which has a history with Mr. Derderian as well.

It turns out that Mr. Derderian had a run in with USFWS in Iowa that also concerns transporting a boat with Zebra Mussels as well. However, this is where this case becomes dangerous.

During the interactions in the Iowa case, Mr. Derderian threatened to kill the USFWS agents investigating to the case.

Federal charges have been filed for the “threats” and the Lacey Act violations. As for the Kittitas County charges, Mr. Derderian failed to appear and warrants have been issued for his arrest.



Fire

Officer Alexander was on scene of a fully involved house fire just ahead of fire units. The home located on the Skokomish Reservation was evacuated along with neighboring homes just prior to Officer Alexander's arrival. Officer Alexander assisted with dragging hydrant hose to the nearest hydrant and remained on scene until additional fire crews arrived to battle the blaze.

Highway 410 Landslide

Assistance from WDFW Yakima County enforcement staff was requested by emergency management officials in response to the massive landslide that occurred on Hwy 410. Capt. Mann, Sergeant Grant and Officers Myers, Hobbs and Baird all responded to the operations center. The slide buried a portion of Hwy 410 under 60 –70 feet of material and cut off power and access for residents in the Nile valley. The massive slide, actually more of a slump, caused the opposite side of the narrow valley floor to push upwards, damaging roads and homes that were not in the direct path of the slide.

The Naches River bed was reported to be 30 feet higher in the location of the slide because of the up-welling of the valley floor, and the river was forced to find a new channel, which resulted in very minimal flows in the Naches River below the slide. Officers were stationed at access roads on Hwy 12, restricting traffic to local residents and emergency vehicles and personnel. Hwy 410 will likely be blocked for months and an alternate route for valley residents around the slide area will have to be repaired once the area stabilizes. Officers will continue to assist with traffic restrictions. This area is a very popular deer and elk hunting area and the closure will have significant impacts on accessibility for hunters who have traditionally used the area.



We Get Letters (even from the little people)

Wildlife Officer
Washington State Wildlife Department
600 North Capital Way
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear wildlife officer:

I would like to have have poaching stopped because when people poach it wastes good meat and makes the air stink. Maybe you can have more officers patrolling during hunting seasons. Maybe you can make sure that people have their hunting license while hunting. Please make sure people are not intoxicated while hunting. Make sure they have hunting tags. You can also make sure the gun they have is in only their name. I would like it if you could help find ways to stop poaching.



Vietnam veteran serves again

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Story and Photos by Spc. Amburr J. Reese
114th Public Affairs Detachment

In 1969, Capt. Dennis W. Nicks made a decision that would inevitably shape the rest of his life. He left the University of Notre Dame, where he was studying on academic scholarship, and enlisted in the United States Army in hopes of going to war.

“The big thing that was going on in the United States and in the world at that time was the war in Vietnam,” Nicks said. “I was afraid the war was going to end before I graduated, so I quit and I enlisted in the Army.” Nicks, Olympia, Wash., C3 Air, Multi-National Corps-Iraq, grew up in Indiana under the influence of his father, a World War II veteran, where he developed a sense of pride and respect for the military.

“I wanted to serve like my father had served,” he said. Nicks had been participating in the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps at Notre Dame and was planning to go to flight school after graduating. “He was familiar with the program and I wasn’t. He talked me into going and taking the AFAS tests in Chicago,” Nicks said, referring to the Army Flight Aptitude Screening Test. “I didn’t quite pass the test. I was a little short on the score.”

Nicks decided to enlist anyway in hopes of retaking the test in six months. “I enlisted as a helicopter repairman on CH-47Us, and eventually I took the AFAS test again and passed it. I put in an application for flight school.” Nicks deployed to Vietnam for the first time in January 1970 and stayed through December. He worked as an engineer on CH-47Us with the 101st Airborne Division in the northern area of South Vietnam.

“When I came back from my first tour in Vietnam I went into flight school,” he said. “I graduated at the top of my class.” Shortly after graduating flight school, Nicks headed back to Vietnam for his second tour, this time as an aviator. Nick’s second tour began in August 1972 as a UH-1 Huey pilot with 1st Aviation Brigade. He served until the cease-fire in March 1973. “On my first tour coming back from Vietnam, I went through Fort Lewis,” Nicks recalled. “I thought it was a pretty



nice place, so when I came back in ‘73, I asked to be assigned there.” While at Ft. Lewis, Nicks held several different positions, from assault helicopter pilot flying Cobras, to an instrument instructor. In 1976, Nicks went to Officer Candidate School to be commissioned as a lieutenant. “When I returned to Fort Lewis, I was a platoon leader of A and B Company, 9th Aviation Battalion, which was the aviation battalion for the 9th Infantry Division,” he said. In 1980, Nicks deployed to Germany for three years as a maintenance officer.

When he returned to the States, he went to the Transportation Advanced Course, where he completed his degree. “I got a company command in an infantry division,” he said. “I had command of a headquarters and service company of an attack helicopter battalion.” While Nicks was in command, he met a young first lieutenant, now a colonel, by the name of Jimmy L. Meacham. “He was very mature to me, being that I was a first lieutenant,” Meacham said, referring to Nicks. Meacham, Fort Lewis, Wash., C3 Air, MNC-I, has found himself working with Nicks more than 20 years later here in Iraq. “Even now he is very thoughtful, he is always careful and precise with what he says,”

HEADQUARTER NEWS

Meacham said. "If Nicks says something is a certain way, then you are guaranteed that it is right." After his command, Nicks was assigned to brigade staff until he retired in 1989.

"After 9/11, they let it be known amongst the retiree community that if people were interested in coming back on active duty, it might be possible," Nicks said. "You had to submit an application. So I did all that in early 2003." Nicks submitted his application in 2003, but it wasn't until July of 2008 that he heard back from the Army. "The Army called me at home," Nicks said. "I said sure, if you send me overseas. My family probably thought I was nuts," Nicks said with a grin, "but it isn't very often that your country calls you and asks you to do something for them." It took about three months to get Nicks's orders together to come on to active duty. In January 2009, Nicks spent a few days at Fort Jackson, S.C., for in-processing. He was assigned to I Corps, Fort Lewis, Wash., and deployed with them in March. "Most Soldiers that have been serving in the Army since 9/11 are on their third tour and fourth deployment," he said. "So if I can do something to keep one of those guys from having to be back here for a little while longer, then why shouldn't I."

WILDCOMM - New Hire

WILDCOMM has hired a new Communications Officer! Her name is Kim Russell, she's from Elma, is married to Chad and has two children, Levi and James. She previously worked for DFW as a "dockside sampler" in Westport. She has also worked for Mason County as an animal control officer. Her experience and knowledge in the fishing industry will greatly enhance our ability to serve the public and officers better in WILDCOMM.

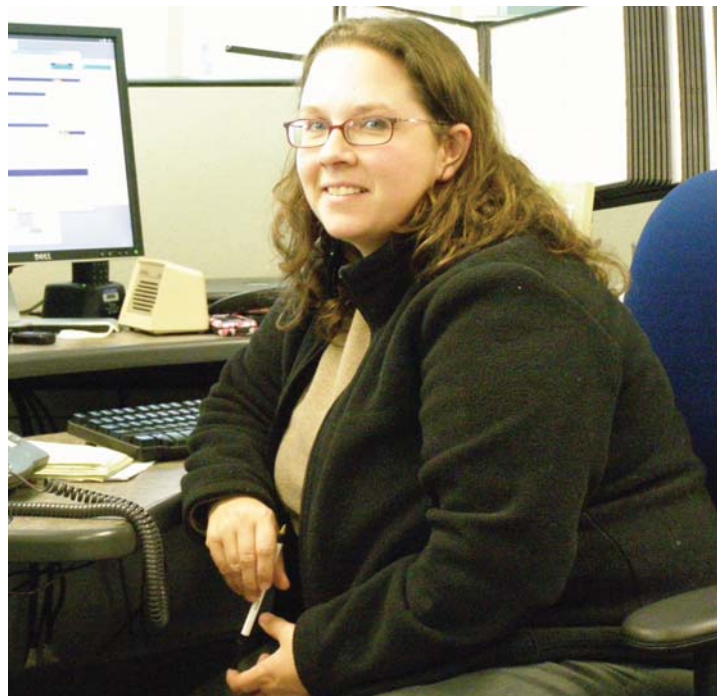
WILDCOMM - ROIP Update

Radio Over Internet Protocol (ROIP) was interrupted for Spokane and Vancouver recently with a firewall installation upgrade by IT. It is being corrected as we speak. ROIP is also planned for the Yakima and Montesano area sometime in March or early April.

The Enforcement program will continue to work with DNR to expand and improve the DNR state channel radio network, which ROIP system utilizes.

REMEMBER! WILDCOMM can do anything WSP can do! We can run Triple Is, get DOL photos, check DAPs, Accurint, and LinX, etc. Enforcement Officers: Just ask, and your wish is our command!

**Thanks for your support!
The WILDCOMM Crew!**



Kim Russell - WILDCOMM Communications Officer new hire