



ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/newsletter



**SPRING/SUMMER
2010 EDITION**
Volume 4: Issue 2

*National Law
Enforcement
Memorial Ceremony
in Washington
D.C. - page 54*

Shellfish Theft page 32

PLUS

Special Opportunity Abused page 5

School Kids Rescued page 50

Policing the outdoors since 1887



FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

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

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Enforcement Program Newsletter



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On the cover

Karelian Bear Dog greeting a rescued bear cub

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GENERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION: INTRODUCTION

While most people equate hunting activity with the fall months, some legal winter and spring hunting opportunities are available. Illegal hunting can, and does, occur all year. Illegal hunting or wildlife possession includes a wide range of activities. In this issue, you will see examples of trafficking in wildlife parts, hunting during the closed season, and exceeding limits.

TRUCK "FULL" OF DEER

A late night poaching investigation found Officer Grant staking out a road. A homeowner had heard some shots fired, checked things out, and discovered a freshly killed deer. Fortunately, he also provided a suspect vehicle description. His patience paid off, and soon Officer Grant had the suspect vehicle stopped on its way out of the area. While not too much surprises us, this officer must have given some pause when he looked into the back of the pick-

up truck to find not one, but THREE deer taken during the closed season. Sergeant Ward arrived a short time later to assist with processing the scene. Later, the three suspects were transported to the Wenatchee patrol office and interviewed. The men confessed to actually killing four deer but they had left one behind in the field because it would not fit in the truck. The vehicle and numerous firearms were seized for civil forfeiture proceedings.

An apology

In late January of this year I illegally harvested two deer in the Fairview Canyon area of Monitor. My action caused many people to be upset, and I can understand why they were. I have offended the sensibilities of some people in our community, smeared the good name of those who hunt deer legally, shamed my profession and caused my family much undue stress.

There is no excuse for my actions that day. What I did was wrong, and I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to Officer Graham Grant of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the people of Chelan County, my family, friends, and coworkers, my students and their parents.

My only salvation is in knowing that this will never happen again, and that with time, people may not forget, but they will forgive my moment of weakness.

JOE ELLS
East Wenatchee

Source: East Wenatchee World Newspaper



GRANT AWARD FROM THE STILLAGUAMISH TRIBE

The Stillaguamish Tribe formally and ceremonially presented Director Phil Anderson with a check for \$8,000 as a result of a grant application made to the tribe by Officer Maurstad. The grant monies are for enforcement purposes, and are specifically earmarked for the purchase of a new bear trap and deer decoy. The bear trap will be used to help resolve dangerous bear conflicts with humans, which are increasing in our state. The decoy will assist officers in ap-

prehending night poachers that use artificial lights to kill game illegally. Spot lighting is very effective in locating game, and has a blinding effect on the animal, making it vulnerable to the poacher. It is firing a high powered rifle in the darkness a public safety issue, it is a far cry from fair chase. The risk of losing a wounded animal is also high. Officers carefully select decoy areas that attract poachers looking for spotlighting opportunities.





TRAFFICKING IN BEAR GALL BLADDERS RESULTS IN FINES AND A JAIL SENTENCE

Some people believe bear gall bladders have healing powers. Black market prices for galls range between \$100 to thousands of dollars, depending on whether the sales take place locally or overseas.

Trafficking bear gall bladders is a crime, because it creates an increased demand for natural wildlife and their parts, jeopardizing the sustainability of populations that can't withstand commercialization. Left unchecked, this could take a heavy toll on our state's wildlife populations.

Investigations by WDFW detectives into illegal bear gall trafficking have resulted in hefty fines for two eastern Washington men, and a year-long jail sentence for one of them.

William A. Page, 63, a meat cutter from Curlew, was sentenced in Ferry County Superior Court to a year in jail plus \$3,000 in fines after being convicted a month earlier of six counts of unlawful trafficking in wildlife.

Page admitted to buying 35 gall bladders in a two-year period, including 17 he purchased from undercover officers during the course of the department's investigation. He also forfeited \$1,600 he paid to undercover WDFW officers for the gall bladders.

In a separate case, the owner of a Spokane food market was fined \$1,000 for two felony convictions of illegally trafficking in wildlife during a sentencing hearing in Spokane County Superior Court.

A Spokane jury found Jason Yon, 51, owner of JAX Market on East Mission Street, guilty of purchasing four bear gall bladders from WDFW Officers. In addition to the fine, Yon forfeited the \$800 used to buy the gall bladders.





Trophy Bull Poached



Officer Myers and Sergeant Grant responded to a report of trespass in the Cowiche Mountain area. Thanks to the severe cold weather and a light snow, Sergeant Grant located vehicle tracks leading through numerous posted properties. He then identified two suspect vehicles matching the description given and conducted a stop. Officer Myers arrived soon after, and two tribal members and three non-tribal members were interviewed. All confessed to the killing of a trophy 7x8 bull elk. Officers determined that the shooter, a non-tribal

member, had received a permit from a tribal council member allowing him to hunt in the closed area of the Yakama Reservation. Unfortunately, the group had not been able to harvest anything on the reservation so decided to hunt off reservation, where the suspect illegally killed the animal. The elk and firearms were seized, and chargers were filed

Special Opportunity Abused

By Officer Lantiegne

The 2008 special permit drawing was something to celebrate for Chris and Tracey Mayeda, a married couple from Kelso, WA. The couple beat the odds (311 applicants) and drew two of the four Dayton Eastside Muzzleloader tags for any elk on a partnership application. The Dayton Game Management Unit was restricted by WDFW to only four permits holders for any bull elk during the October 1-10 season. The unit had a tremendous reputation for tremendous Rocky Mountain elk.

The couple reported killing two bulls during the hunt. Tracey killed a 6x6 and Chris killed a 6x7. Chris was having one of his most successful elk hunting seasons. He killed trophy bulls in Arizona and Oregon as well as in Dayton, WA. Tracey had shot the bull of a lifetime. It seems the couple could do no wrong..... until a sportsman contacted Officer Ryan John with concerns about Chris Mayeda's hunting activities. The sportsman thought it was odd that a couple who, in the middle of a divorce, would still take time to share the hunt of a lifetime together, and kill two trophy bull elk on the same day.

Allegedly, Chris Mayeda had been purchasing hunting licenses and tags, and submitting special permit applications for his wife, and hunting with them (as well as his own) for ten years. Once Chris initiated divorce proceedings, Tracey was not inclined to accompany him on this hunt. According to Tracey, she was previously in hunting camps or on the trips when Chris filled her tags. Chris drove to the Blue Mountains accompanied by Steve Hamm. Steve assisted Mayeda with the hunt and witnessed him killing the 6x6 bull elk. Chris then phoned his brother, Jason Ford who lives in Kelso and arranged for him to give Tracey a ride to the Dayton area where the four would pack out the 6x6 Jason would transport the elk and Tracey back to Kelso using his vehicle.

Jason and Tracey transported the elk, tagged with Tracey's tag back to Kelso. Chris and Steve returned to the same general hunting area the following day, and Chris then killed an even bigger 6x7 bull elk. They packed that animal out as well and transported it back to Kelso.

The investigation began in Columbia County with interviews conducted by Officer Lantiegne and Officer Van Vladricken. Initially, Tracey attempted to cover for Chris, but Officer Van Vladricken convinced her that honesty was the best policy and the Officers left with a very complete and detailed statement. Officer Lantiegne then visited the Cowlitz County Superior Court Clerk's Office and reviewed the Mayeda's divorce documents while Officer Van Vladricken searched for suspect information, vehicle registrations, licensing document records, and other information.

Officer Conklin recovered, from a taxidermist, the 6x7 rack of the bull Chris killed, as well as copies of the taxidermist ledger. Officer John located the motel used by Chris and Steve. Officer John, having an excellent working relationship with the locals in his area, recovered a copy of the receipt signed by Mayeda that also listed the vehicle plate number of his 2007 GMC truck that was used during the poaching.

Officer Van Vladricken and Officer Lantiegne teamed up and wrote search warrants for Chris Mayeda's residence and one of his six businesses in the Longview/Kelso area. Once the search warrants were signed, four teams of Officers and Evidence Technician Anderson served the two search warrants and conducted interviews simultaneously.

Captain Schlenker and Officer Conklin served a search warrant on Mayeda's business and recovered the 6x6 elk mount that he had shot and tagged with Tracey's tag. They also seized a (continued page 7)

YOUR CAREER BEGINS

WHERE THE PAVEMENT ENDS

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

ENFORCEMENT



computer and disc containing photographs of the suspects packing out the 6x6 elk, and various records of license, tag, and permits. Sgt Webb and Officers Lantiegne and Moats served a search warrant on Chris Mayeda's residence. Officer Lantiegne interviewed Mayeda for nearly two hours before he could secure a written confession. One muzzleloader, a GPS, a laptop computer, and numerous pieces of frozen meat were seized as evidence.

Officers and Hughes conducted an interview of Steve Hamm who ultimately confessed and gave a complete statement.

The photographs recovered from the Mayeda business were forwarded to Officer John who was able to match the photos of the individuals with the 6x6 elk at a gate on the Rainwater Wildlife Area of three of the suspects putting the quarters and head of the elk in Mayeda's brother's pickup.

Evidence Technician Anderson and Officer Lantiegne submitted the muzzleloader for analysis of a bloody fingerprint found on the weapon. Samples of the hair and antlers of the 6x6 elk mount and samples of tissue from the skull cap and antlers of the 6x7 were also submitted.

The GPS and computers were forwarded to Detective Golden for analysis. The GPS recorded waypoints on the dates of the kills that were within a half mile of the Rainwater Wildlife Area gate. This is where the suspects had photographed with one of the poached trophy bulls.

Officer Lantiegne interviewed the taxidermist who had mounted the 6x6 bull for Chris Mayeda. He furnished a photo of Mayeda posing with the finished mount in the back of Mayeda's truck adjacent to the taxidermist shop. Once the dust settled from the search warrants, Officers Martin and Lantiegne seized Ford's truck, which had been used to deliver the elk to the taxidermist.

A few days after Officer Martin and Officer Lan-

tiegne seized and secured Ford's truck, Sgt. Holden and Officer Lantiegne seized Chris Mayeda's truck at his residence. Interestingly enough Mayeda, Ford, and Mayeda's new girlfriend attempted to follow the tow truck to the WDFW evidence facility where the truck was to be stored. Sgt. Holden directed the tow truck driver to store the vehicle in the company impound yard until later in the night when the truck was hauled to the WDFW evidence facility. Mayeda called the tow truck driver and offered him \$500 to leave the gate unlocked at the company impound yard so he could take his truck back.

Over 25 charges were filed on the four suspects in Columbia County, including the unlawful taking, transporting, and reporting of the two trophy bull elk. After Columbia County; namely Legal Assistant Julie Karl, Deputy Prosecutor June Riley, and Prosecutor Rea Culwell put in an amazing amount of hard work preparing the case.

Christopher Mayeda pleaded guilty in Columbia County, WA., District Court to the four hunting violations. He was fined \$1,000 plus court costs totaling \$6,295.

The mounted 6x6 elk head, the 6x7 elk rack, the GPS and the muzzleloader Mayeda used were forfeited and his hunting privilege was suspended for two years. He also paid an additional \$3,000 to settle the forfeiture of his vehicle.

Tracey Mayeda was charged with unlawful transportation of wildlife and a license violation.

The Columbia County Prosecutor's Office agreed to dismiss charges against Tracey Mayeda if she has no more criminal violations for the next year. "I felt she had the least amount of culpability of anyone in the whole group," said Columbia County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney June Riley.

Ford's charges include unlawful hunting and transportation of wildlife and providing false information. Ford pleaded guilty to both charges and was fined \$1,000.



Hamm was charged with unlawful hunting and transportation of wildlife. Hamm pleaded guilty to unlawful transportation of wildlife and was fined \$295 plus court costs.

The Longview Daily News published two articles regarding the case. Approximately 25 percent of the readers that responded felt there was nothing wrong with

filling another individual's tag, albeit most felt the other tag holder should at least be in camp and preferably in the woods with the violator.

The attorney representing Chris Mayeda has filed a motion appealing the ruling of the judge that ordered the two trophies, muzzleloader, and GPS be turned over to WDFW.



Hunter Shoots Another Hunter

To investigate, Officer Lee worked with County Sheriffs Office on a hunting incident. Reportedly, a raccoon hunter was shot in the thigh by an unknown individual who was also hunting raccoons at night near Sedro Woolley. The victim and his hunting companions initially claimed a “ghost pickup” drove by while they were in a field and the unknown occupants of the truck began spotlighting, and then shot the victim in the leg with a .22 caliber weapon. A focused interview was conducted and the victim and witnesses changed their story and admitted that one of the hunters in their own hunting party had mistakenly identified the victim as a raccoon and shot him in the thigh. The shooter then obtained an attorney and has now changed his story again. The investigation continues.

In a tragic twist of irony, one of the boys accompanying the suspect in this incident is the brother and hunting companion of a young hunter who mistakenly identified a female hiker as a bear and shot and killed her two years ago on Sauk Mountain.





CLOSED SEASON DEER LEADS TO OBSTRUCTION OF OFFICERS

A homeowner was in his back yard and saw some magpies flying around. Magpies and crows are known among our officers as our “little game warden buddies” and are responsible for pointing out many poached animals or animal parts left in the field. In this case, the attraction was a freshly boned-out deer, minus the skull cap, obviously taken during a closed season. Sgt. Brown and Officer Christensen responded and photographed the scene, taking the animal’s head (what was left of it) with them. A bullet was recovered from the head and evidence at the scene appeared to implicate a neighboring residence. Officer McCormick found evidence dumped at a recycling dumpster including a two point deer rack and skull cap that fit the recovered head nicely.

Officers figured the suspects must have seen them the day they visited the site. The first strategy was to contact the suspects and talk to them about the incident. Not very cooperative, they refused to provide consent to allow the officers to search the property, so they obtained a search warrant. When the officers tried to serve the warrant, the Mom refused to open the door. Tonasket Police Department and Okanogan County Sheriff’s Office arrived to assist and were about to force entry when the ex-husband showed up and failed to comply with Christensen on a security pat-down for weapons. He actively resisted and was arrested, later being booked for obstruction of a police officer. The mom opened the door and officers completed the search without further incident. Among the evidence recovered was a rifle, which the suspects had partially disassembled and hid in a closet.



ILLEGAL TRAPPER SNARED BY OFFICER

Officer Hobbs obtained a search warrant as part of an ongoing investigation of unlawful trapping in the Badger Pocket area east of Ellensburg. Officers Baird, Rogers and Caton and Myers, and Sergeant Sprecher and DNR Officer Margheim assisted in the warrant service. Recovered evidence links the suspects with the crime scenes. Numerous uniquely crafted snares, a coyote pelt, with strangulation marks on the inside of the hide around the neck, and unlawfully possessed deer and elk skulls were among items recovered. Due to a voter initiative, the use of body gripping traps outside of specific exceptions and permits is illegal.

Coyote caught in an illegal snare



Snare set illegally





Dope Grow Leads To Wildlife Violation Discovery

Officers Maurstad and Erickson assisted Snohomish County Sheriff's Office with a search warrant in Darrington. A suspected indoor marijuana grow was discovered in the attic of an outbuilding. About 70 plants were seized. Officer Maurstad discovered a bobcat in a chest freezer which had not been sealed as required. The suspect also did not possess a small game license needed to lawfully hunt this animal. The suspect admitted to trapping it and putting it down with a .223 rifle. Clearly he has bigger issues, but the rifle and bobcat were seized.

Tribal Case

Officer Alexander learned from the Grays Harbor District Court that a Squaxin Island tribal member pled guilty in a case involving a deer she shot on private property, outside her ceded area. She received a criminal fine and was ordered to pay the \$2,000 civil penalty. The hunter was contacted on private property by WDFW after killing a deer. She claimed to be exercising her treaty hunting rights and said she had permission to hunt that property. She was way outside Squaxin ceded area and was actually not on the property that she had permission to be on. Federal court rulings have established guidelines on traditional tribal hunting areas (State vs. Buchanon).

Serial Poaching

Officer Alexander attended a two-day trial on an elk and deer poaching case three years in the making. After an extremely poor performance by the star witness, Officers Alexander, James, and Haw, and Sgt. Nixon, and a detective had to pick up the slack on the stand and help prove the case which involved a revoked hunter that was suspected of killing six elk and two deer in the two years his hunting privileges were revoked. A search warrant produced evidence of nine individual elk, two deer, a marijuana grow, and 22 weapons unlawfully possessed by the poacher and convicted felon.

Cheryl Dean and Ken Warheit The WDFW Genetics Lab did a fabulous job of matching labeled elk teeth to packaged and labeled meat to specific sets of antlers. Meat taken from a poached deer at the kill site was also matched to a bag of homemade beef jerky located in the suspect's house. The suspect was convicted of three felony crimes (Hunting while revoked 1st degree, Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Manufacturing Marijuana) and one Gross Misdemeanor (Unlawful Hunting of Big Game 2nd). He is also facing felony charges for Intimidating a Witness after threatening to kill the reporting party, and was housed in jail on violation of a related court order. A rifle and Raptor Quad Runner were also forfeited to the WDFW.



MONTANA



Washington Officers Assist Montana Game Wardens

A Skagit County man was handed a five-year suspended sentence to the Montana Department of Corrections this month for his part in a poaching case. Alan T. Sweet, 46, pleaded guilty earlier in a Montana Court to felony unlawful possession of game animals and misdemeanor accountability for hunting without a license. His partner, Brent Mercado, 25, pled guilty, but has the option of withdrawing his plea. The two men were charged after a citizen contacted WDFW Officers to report that the men had hunted illegally in Montana. The citizen offered authorities photos of Sweet holding the young bighorn sheep's head and other evidence. Our officers interviewed the suspect in 2007 and learned that as the two drove through Montana, they killed an antelope in Beaverhead County, and a mule deer and a bighorn sheep in Ravalli County.

Sweet admitted to holding a spotlight and claimed Mercado used the roof of his truck as a gun rest before he shot the bighorn from the highway. Neither man had licenses to hunt in the state. At this point, both men are pointing fingers at each other. . . . and at us. In one of the photographs presented as evidence, Sweet is posing with a dead animal and holding up his middle finger. The judge said that picture said it all. "It best represents your attitude in this case," Judge Haynes said. "You think you can come into Montana and take trophy resources and get away with it and then you try to minimize what really went on." The mule deer buck was killed in the tenth most valued trophy mule deer area in the country where thousands put in for a permit to hunt every year. Judge Haynes stripped Sweet of his hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges in Montana for life. Montana's compact with 30 other states means he'll lose those privileges in Washington State too. Sweet will spend the next 45 days in jail on top of the 45 days he has already served. He will also be required to pay \$500 in attorney fees. The five year suspended sentence is a felony conviction. WDFW Officers recently testified in the Montana court to put this long running case to bed.



Antler Hunting

The LT Murray Wildlife Area is closed to protect the wintering elk that are fed by WDFW. Because the elk migration route has been blocked by the placement of an elk fence. The elk fence was put in place to prevent damage to the private agricultural lands in the Kittitas Valley. The animals are concentrated around

the feed site most years until early spring due to snow in the higher elevations. Usually the bull elk will start losing their antlers in mid March through April. With the concentration of elk around the feed sites shed antlers can be easily found in the area.

With the increasing value of shed antlers, hunters will enter the closure to collect and later sell the shed antlers. The closure does not open to the public until May 1. Normally, by that time, most of the bull elk have lost their antlers and left the area returning to feed on natural vegetation.

Most of the people who illegally enter the winter closures are shed hunters looking to get a jump on the general public. The fine for entering the area is \$271 for failure to obey posted notice. Officers believe shed hunters entering the area illegally have the attitude that if they get caught it is just the cost of doing business.

Case Example

While checking the winter closure area in Robinson Canyon, LT Murray Wildlife Area, Officer Rogers observed a vehicle parked on private land near the elk fence. A check of the return gate showed a boot print.

About two hours later a subject came walking toward the gate from inside the closure. Officer Rogers

took a photo of the subject walking through the gate. When the subject observed Officer Rogers, he turned and walked away inside the closure. Officer Rogers yelled the suspect's name, advising the subject to stop and come back.

The subject turned and looked, then kept going. Officer Rogers called Sergeant Sprecher to help watch for the suspect attempting to leave the area. At about 12:30 pm, with no sign of the suspect, the surveillance was called off. The following morning Officer Rogers and Sergeant Sprecher contacted the man at his work site.

The man denied being inside the closure despite the picture of him walking through the posted re-entry gate. He went as far as shaving off his mustache hoping Officer Rogers would not be able to identify him. He failed to realize that where his mustache had been the day before was white compared to the rest of his tan face. Several charges will be filed.

Further investigation of this suspect revealed he is a convicted felon, who purchased a duplicate deer tag in October 2009 after he reported harvesting a deer in September 2009. Officer Rogers continues to investigate the paper trail.

A Second Time Around

Walter R. Wirkkala of Rosburg pled guilty in Wahnuk County Superior Court to two counts of Unlawful Hunting Big Game in the Second Degree in a case involving two poached elk. In exchange for the guilty plea, a third charge of making a false statement to a public servant was dismissed.

Wirkkala was the third person to settle the case which occurred November 4, 2008, during the modern firearm elk season. Edwin A. Wirkkala and Monica M. Wirkkala each pled guilty to Making a False Statement to a Public Servant in 2009.



The plea agreement was the result of an investigation conducted by WDFW Officers, who received information that on the morning of November 4, 2008 a legal hunter had spotted a herd of elk with four bulls in it.

The hunter pulled off the road and was planning a stalk when a pickup driven by Edwin Wirkkala pulled up on the county road above and stopped. Rifle shots rang out above and the legal hunter watched as two elk went down. One of the two elk was wounded and dragged itself to the edge of the field while the rest of the herd ran off.

Instead of immediately dispatching the wounded animal and applying harvest tags as required by law, the shooter left the area. Later that morning, Edwin Wirkkala returned to the scene in the same truck with Monica Wirkkala and drove out into the field. Monica Wirkkala went to the back of the field and shot the wounded elk. Walter Wirkkala showed up with his grandfather to recover the second elk.

Initial statements taken by WDFW Officers from Walter, Monica and Edwin were later determined to be false. While they all initially claimed Walter Wirkkala was riding around with his grandfather, who had a disabled hunter permit, the investigation showed otherwise. Hunters who possess a disability permit to hunt big game may legally designate a hunter, who is required to be within ¼ mile of the disabled person while pursuing game. In this case, the grandfather was never present.

As the facts came together Officers found that Edwin Wirkkala was in his truck and Walter Wirkkala was in another car. They saw the elk and Walter Wirkkala opened fire, shooting three times, and hitting two bull elk. They both left the area and went home. Edwin picked up Monica Wirkkala who was at home at the time of the shooting. She had a valid elk tag. Walter Wirkkala picked up his grandfather who was also home at the time of the shooting. The two illegally killed elk were located at another residence in Rosburg and seized along with Walter Wirkkala's rifle.

According to Sergeant Chadwick, this was a classic case of party hunting. Under the guise of a disability permit, Walter Wirkkala went out and shot two more elk for a group of people that did not actually hunt that day.

Walter Wirkkala was an archery hunter, which means he did not even qualify to hunt elk with a modern firearm. He also he killed two elk when the limit is one. Edwin Wirkkala had already shot an elk earlier in the week on opening morning. The bottom line is that legitimate elk hunters, like the one that witnessed all this, was robbed of an opportunity that he actually deserved.

This is not the first time Walter Wirkkala has been in trouble with WDFW Officers. In November 2005 he was investigated for shooting two elk for his hunting party. He pled guilty in that case and was fined \$2,000. He also lost his hunting privileges for two years.

In the plea agreement settled last week for the 2008 charges, Walter Wirkkala was sentenced to ten days in jail, will pay over \$3000 in fines and will lose his hunting privileges for four years.

Edwin Wirkkala spent two days in jail and paid over \$2,000 in fines for his involvement.

Monica Wirkkala paid over \$400 for her part in the case.

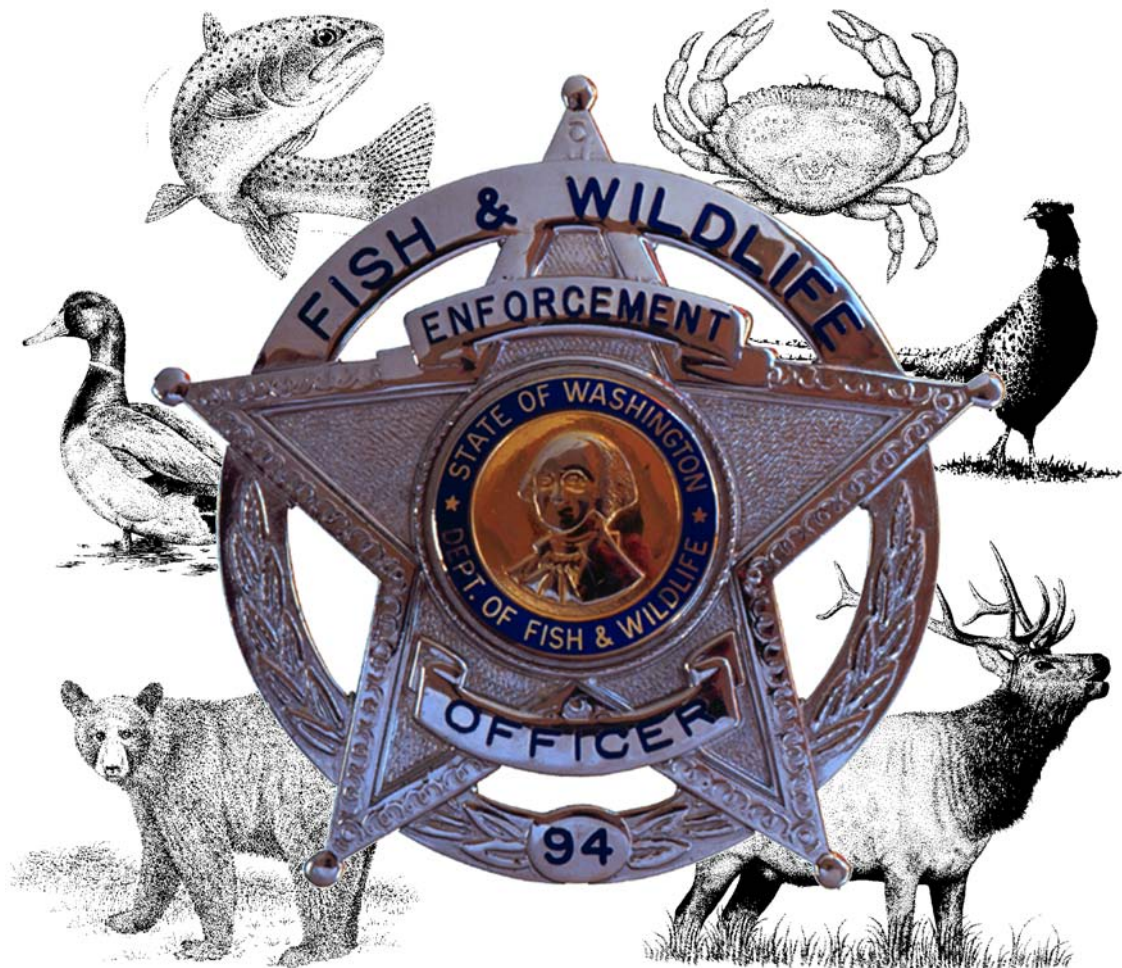




RESCUED (WELL, SORT OF)

Officer Bolton was contacted by Yakama Nation Police who requested his assistance with a search and rescue of five tribal hunters that were missing from the previous day. Officer Bolton received a tip from a land owner in the Bickleton area where tribal members were stuck in the mud in a remote location. Officer Bolton took a Yakama Tribal Officer out to the location and found the five subjects stuck about five miles behind locked gates.

Officer Bolton checked firearms in the vehicle and found one rifle was loaded. Officer Bolton interviewed the subjects and one of them admitted to shooting two closed season doe deer. None of the subjects had tribal ID's or valid drivers licenses, including the vehicle operator. The two deer were stashed in the brush and recovered. The Yakama Nation Officer issued a citation to the shooter for the closed season deer and Officer Bolton cited the shooter for the loaded rifle.





TURKEY CHECKS



Region 1 officers conducted a turkey check-station on April 18 (opening weekend) in Lincoln County. Officers contacted 231 hunters, issued 21 arrests, and 18 warnings. Arrests consisted of: 7-Fail to tag turkey, 2-Transport turkeys without written statement, 6-No proof of sex, 2-Fail to produce wildlife for inspection, and 2-Felon in possession of firearms. One vehicle with two subjects was contacted at the check-station. They stated that they only had two turkeys. Upon further inspection, Officer Spurbeck discovered that they had a total of four turkeys with just legs, breasts, and no carcasses. The suspects had several tagging issues including not enough tags, no evidence of sex, and one subject was a convicted felon. Two firearms were seized and numerous charges filed with the prosecutor's office.

Officer Hahn made a turkey case stemming from last season, when two subjects were shooting turkeys with arrows at night while the birds were in their roost. The suspects were trespassing this year in the same area and contacted by a landowner. Officer Hahn followed up on the suspect's vehicle registration, and later obtained confessions.

Officer Spurbeck responded to a call this spring of a subject killing turkeys during closed season in the Deer Park area. A youth had killed two turkeys with a .22 rifle. The father initially denied anything had occurred, and later admitted what his 14-year-old son had done. The gun had been removed from the property by the mother, who attempted to have it taken to Idaho. After further investigation, and assistance from Sergeant Rahn and Captain Whorton, both parents were found to be convicted felons. Five firearms were seized out of a vehicle at the mothers work site while she was waiting for a relative to pick them up.



Bill Garland



INTRODUCTION: HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS

As humans continue to encroach on natural habitats, conflicts between man and nature continue to develop. Fish and Wildlife Officers will respond when potentially dangerous animals such as bear and cougar threaten public safety, but sometimes, it's the animal that needs rescuing from humans.

Hey! That's Not My Cat!

Officer Czebotar assisted Officer Miller with a bobcat that ran into the residence of an unsuspecting citizen hoped over the citizen's TV and up into a loft area. The bobcat stayed there until Officer Czebotar and Officer Miller arrived. Jefferson County Animal Control was also on scene. With the help of Jefferson County, the bobcat was drugged, and Officer Czebotar used a catchpole to get the animal into a cage. As soon as Officer Czebotar secured the catchpole around the bobcat, the fight was on. After wrestling with the cat for several minutes, Officer Czebotar subdued the cat with a "sleeper hold," and the cat was safely placed into the animal transport cage and removed from the property. Once in the cage, the drugs took effect. Officer Czebotars and Miller released the bobcat into the woods.

Here Kitty Kitty

Officer Treser took a call from a homeowner in Carlton who stated there was a cougar in a tree next to his porch. The cougar was a kitten weighing about 20 lbs and tracks around the house indicated a female cougar with another kitten in the tree. The land owner's dog was out during the night and had probably treed the kitten. The land owner agreed to keep the dog kenneled to permit the female to come back and recover the kitten. The next morning the kitten was gone.

Young Animal Removed

Ever come home to find that your housecat looked nothing like you remembered? Officer Schroeder responded to a report of a cougar in a garage in the Glenoma area in Lewis County. He arrived and found the young cougar crouched under a truck in the garage. Officer Schroeder talked to the residents in the area and explained the options. Those options included moving away, calling the fire department (don't they remove cats?), andok, so I'm kidding. The first plan was to scare the animal out of the garage and into the nearby timberlands. The plan started fine, with the cougar walking out of the garage, but it was immediately apparent that the young animal was not itself. The cougar looked extremely thin and lethargic and made no attempt to run away. The cougar walked to another nearby house and scratched on the front door of the house and then proceeded to hide in that garage. Onto Plan B...Officer Schroeder made a quick call to the Cowlitz Wildlife Area office and asked for some help. Richard and Casey arrived a short time later and the animal was darted and immobilized. The yearling cougar was all skin and bones and would have hardly pushed 30 pounds. The poor condition of the animal led the officers to dispatch it.



Whale Stranding

While a number of gray whales die naturally each year in Puget Sound, mortalities have reached a higher than normal rate so far this year. Sergeants Makoviney and Jackson along with Officer Czobotar responded to a stranded gray whale at the mouth of Deer Creek at the north end of Oakland Bay, in Mason County. The dead whale washed ashore and NOAA and other officials also responded.

Additionally, Officer Lee spent a considerable amount of time monitoring a dead gray whale on Samish Island that received a lot of attention from media and local residents. Officer Lee worked with the Marine Mammal Stranding Network volunteers on the issue.





ELK RELOCATION

Officer Moszeter assisted the Upper Snoqualmie Elk Management Group with collaring a young cow elk. The group has been using a homemade clover trap to collar the last few elk and Officer Moszeter was very impressed with the way the group handled and processed the animal.





Tied Up With Deer Problems

A citizen reported two mule deer bucks in Watson Draw, Okanagon County whose antlers were attached with twine or rope. Sgt. Brown arrived and found the bucks laying down in the sage brush, antlers tied together with black cord tangled around them. He darted only one buck, as the other was too exhausted to cause much trouble. Eventually the darted buck lay down and the cord was cut off. Both animals went their separate ways.



EYES IN THE WOODS

Who We Are:

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

What We Do:

Work closely with WDFW personnel to:

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



Our Vision Statement:

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

Our Purpose:

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

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



A Thank You Letter



City of Tacoma
Police Department

May 28, 2010

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Attn: Mr. Phil Anderson, Director
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The officers of Sector Two, Squad 12A, of the Tacoma Police Department, and I extend our appreciation for the dedication and professionalism of your officers during the coordinated capture of a bear that entered the city.

The bear's presence was causing significant disruptions in a densely populated area of Tacoma on May 18-19, 2010. The presence of the bear in our city also represented a danger to public safety, and one which we, the police, are not equipped to handle without harming the animal or causing additional risk to the citizens.

Your Incident Commander, Sgt. Ted Jackson, provided timely information about the status of the track and safety precautions regarding bears to Tacoma Police and to local school officials. This enabled us to manage our responsibilities and keep a local middle school open and safe.

For their enthusiastic and professional response, we want to thank Officers Dustin Prater, Jason Czebotar, Jason Langbehn, Jeff Summit, K-9 handler Bruce Richards and K-9 Mishka. Their team effort ensured the positive outcome.

Once the bear was captured, the team seized an opportunity to build positive public relations by allowing closely monitored photography and some contact with the bear by the local news media. This helped create public confidence that the bear would be treated humanely and released in a suitable environment.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife resolved a potentially dangerous situation and protected the life of a bear that might otherwise have been destroyed or struck by traffic from the adjacent state route.

The Tacoma Police Department and the citizens of Tacoma want to thank your officers for their dedicated and specialized service to the City. They are a credit to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and to the citizens of the State of Washington.

Sincerely,


Assistant Chief Robert Sheehan
Operations Bureau Commander

ANONYMOUS REPORTING FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS JUST GOT EASIER

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



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**



Crab? What Crab

Officer Olson observed two males harvest a couple of crab from the Seattle waterfront, put them in a bag, and walk off in separate directions while the season was closed. An officer's instinct is to stay with the bag. Somehow, Officer Olson managed to round up both suspects (he's young and fast). The duo denied having any crab..... or maybe they just forgot. After they were arrested for failing to produce catch for inspection, Officer Olson located the bag containing nearly 20 crab, hidden under the Spokane Street bridge. A couple of days later Officer Olson found four guys with 65 closed season crab that they had tried to hide.



Remember To Coach The Client

Officer Fairbanks was checking recreational steelhead fishermen on the Bogachiel River when he observed an obviously guided trip. Licenses are required to take passengers for hire for the purpose of fish guiding. One strategy used by some unlicensed guides to avoid being caught is to coach the client and advise inquiring officers that they are just fishing buddies as no license is required to take friends fishing. The look on the guide's face was priceless when the client asked to borrow Officer Fairbanks' pen so that he could write his guide a check. Officer Fairbanks easily made the case of unlicensed guiding.



My Brother Did It

Officer Maurstad contacted a man fishing on the North Fork of the Snohomish River who did not have a fishing license. The fisherman provided a name which was a close match to a subject with several arrest warrants for Driving while Under the Influence (DUI). The man, who spoke little English, did not deny the warrants were his but did mention he had several brothers. When asked if he ever had a DUI, he asked, "which one?" The physical description matched so he was booked into the Snohomish County Jail. At the jail, he provided yet another date of birth. The next day, Officer Maurstad had a message on her cell phone from the jail stating that the subject booked had used his brother's name. When they found out his real name, they discovered he had two outstanding felony warrants. The moral of the story is, if you use your brother's name, choose the brother without warrants.





Netter Caught

Officer Jones responded to a call regarding illegal gill-netting on Dakota Creek because the suspect was known to have violated in the past, Officer Jones had Whatcom County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) assist in locating the subject. As expected, the suspect made a run for it as Enforcement converged on the scene. WSCO, Border Patrol, and Blaine Police Department all converged on his residence, where he was questioned by Officer Jones. The suspect's statement was taken along with the evidence, and the man was cited accordingly.

Banks Lake Night-Time Emphasis Patrol Results In Several Arrests

Grant County officers planned and participated in an emphasis patrol with the cooperation of the Grand Coulee Dam Security Patrol. The patrol was conducted in response to the annual whitefish fishery that occurs every winter on Banks Lake. The whitefish spawn near the rocky shorelines at night, leaving them easy targets for those wishing to snag, dip-net, or gill net. Night vision goggles and security personnel at the Bureau of Reclamation were used to locate and identify the type of fishing activity that was taking place around the North Dam area in Grand Coulee. Officers watched several groups, and were able to intercept the fishermen as they headed back to their vehicle with bags of illegal fish. When the officers contacted the first group of men, they claimed that they did not know that netting fish was illegal; however, they had hidden their dip nets in the brush prior to leaving and returning to their car. The emphasis patrol resulted in four different subjects receiving citations for fishing with dip nets.

Steelhead Case

Officer Fairbanks received information that a couple of subjects had retained four wild steelhead from the Clearwater River. This exceeds the yearly limit for wild steelhead. Upon locating the drift boat, the one subject present denied any knowledge of steelhead. Officer Fairbanks located four fresh egg skeins, which the suspect now claimed were from Chinook salmon on the Sol Duc River. Officer Fairbanks offered to have the eggs genetically tested. The suspect then decided to admit to killing a wild steelhead hen and removing the eggs.

- DON'T BE A RESOURCE HOG -

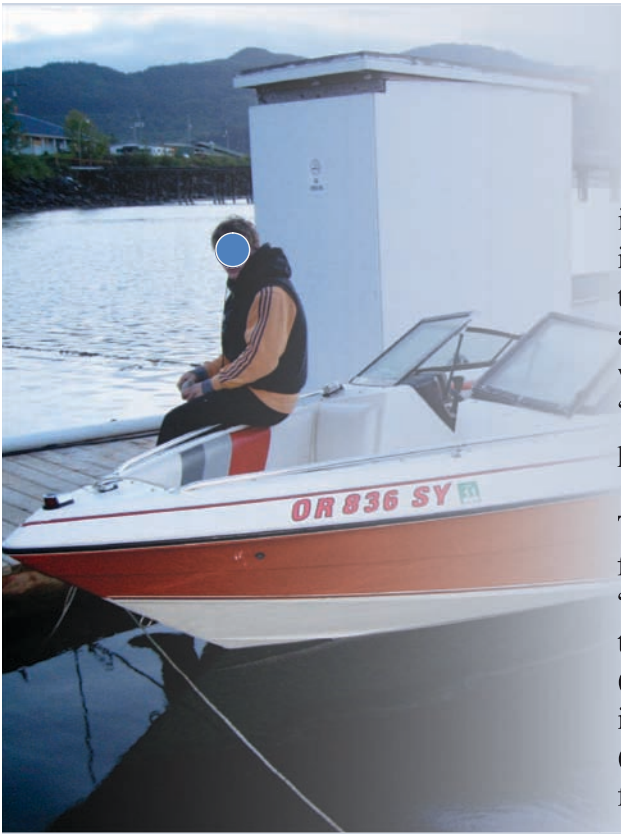
OBSERVE LIMITS AND SAVE SOME FOR THE LITTLE GUYS



“ little fishermen who did everything right..”



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



Coastal Halibut Patrol

Several patrol boats were sent to the North Coast to monitor the halibut fishery and be an available resource for vessels in need. While checking the fleet as they returned from the fishing grounds, they saw an 18' ski boat speed by with three guys trying hard not to make eye contact. We normally get a wave, although sometimes it's without all the fingers.....but still a wave nonetheless. This familiar vibe that we identify with as "please, please, please don't check us" usually results in the opposite outcome.

The vessel was boarded and the men showed Sgt. Chadwick a five-gallon bucket of rockfish and one lingcod. They claimed "No more fish." Sgt. Chadwick began a more thorough inspection, and by the time he was through, he counted 93 bottom fish, (and a closed season Chinook salmon. Fish had been hidden in the open bow, the ski locker, and the engine compartment (c'mon, we always look there). The vessel was seized for forfeiture proceedings and secured at the US Coast Guard station.

Trout Snagging

While at Riffe, Officer Schroeder observed two subjects catch their limit amazingly fast. However, while watching the subjects, he observed one of the trout come in backwards. The fisherman was even nice enough to hold the rod and fish (hanging by its tail) in the air to show his partner, letting Officer Schroeder get a good look. The subject was cited for retaining a foul hooked fish.

So Simple Even A Captain Can Do It

Captain Anderson had just cleared a meeting with Grant County PUD at Wanapum Village and decided to check the Lower Crab Creek Wildlife Area. He observed a car parked next to the creek and an individual sitting on top of the vehicle. After watching him for a few minutes, it became apparent that the man was possibly acting as a look out. Captain Anderson crept close and saw another man standing up to his waist in the creek using a large dip net to catch fish. When the Captain approached, the man in the water ran into the reeds alongside the creek in an attempt to hide. But it became apparent that the officer was looking at him, and he waded back into the water and quickly dropped the net into the fast current, hoping to destroy the "evidence." The man was issued a citation for illegal netting and failure to submit gear for inspection.



Officers Receive Praise via Commendation/Complaint Form

“I was fishing for ling cod on Sunday, May 2, between Allen and Burrows Islands when a patrol boat approached and Officer Jeff Lee and other officers came to check us. They were courteous, efficient, knowledgeable, and just gave a nice encounter. I appreciate the work done by Enforcement and know it is effective in encouraging good behavior from fishermen. The combination of respectful treatment with certainty that laws will be enforced really helps. Thanks. I'm glad to pay my taxes and license fees for this quality of service.”

A commendation or complaint can be made at any time by letter, telephone, in person or by submitting the online form. Any supervisor can accept your comments. Your statement will then be forwarded to the appropriate Captain for review and assignment. You will be contacted by a supervisor as soon as possible for consultation and further explanation of the process.

Visit the online Form At:

wdfw.wa.gov/enforcement/surveys_feedback.html

Spring Razor Clams And Other Things

Coastal beaches were descended upon by eager clam diggers and their families. Overall compliance was high, but we always seem to find a few who have trouble counting clams (the limit is 15) and remembering where they put them. On the Grayland Beach for example, Officer Chamberlin and James found three people who had hidden 58 clams over their limit in the spare tire in the trunk.

On the Long Beach Peninsula, Officer Hopkins was also checking razor clam limits. But in his case, he discovered some problems you wouldn't necessarily equate with this kind of enforcement. While he was checking harvests, his attention was drawn to a pickup that sped by him with little apparent concern for the pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area. He stopped the driver, who was acting very nervous. The man couldn't find his drivers license, but gave Officer Hopkins his personal information. Officer Hopkins ran the man's name and he returned as a convicted felon. Through a consent search of the vehicle, Officer Hopkins located an open bottle of Jagermeister, an open Rainier beer, a methamphetamine pipe, and a substantial amount of methamphetamine. It's probably safe to say this is not the kind of guy you want racing up and down the beach (which is considered a state highway with all applicable rules in effect). The man was booked into jail for drug pos-

session and cited for Open Alcoholic Container, Speeding on Beach, and No Proof of Liability Insurance.

During another contact, Officer Hopkins stopped a vehicle on the beach with license plates that had been expired for a year. Officer Hopkins was not able to check his drivers status because of system difficulties, so he was cited for the expired tabs and allowed to carry on. Officer Hopkins felt that something was not quite right about him though. So the next day, when the drivers licensing system was up and he determined the man was a convicted sex offender (Rape of a Child) out of Klickitat County. The man had told Officer Hopkins that he had lived in Ilwaco for about two months. Officer Hopkins contacted the Pacific County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Langendorfer advised Officer Hopkins that he had been looking for this man for several months now because he had information that he had been living in the area and he had failed to register as a sex offender in Pacific County (Sex offenders have 24 hours to register upon moving into a county). Officer Hopkins, PCSO Deputies, and a Long Beach Police Dept. officer canvassed the peninsula looking for him. He was located at his new place of employment; a go-cart track that caters to the youth. He was taken into custody and booked into jail on one charge of Fail to Register as Sex Offender (Class C Felony).



No Open Commercial Season



Officers Willette and Stephenson received a call for service regarding two people selling Red Rock crab out of their truck in Renton. The reporting party got a license plate and a good look at the subjects. Through a little leg-work, the officers learned that the owner of the vehicle is a man that has been cited for crabbing violations multiple times. They arrived at his residence in Burien just as the two were exiting the vehicle. Initially, both upheld that they had no crab; however a quick glance in the two coolers in the bed of the pickup revealed numerous crab legs. Eventually, the man admitted to crabbing closed season and without a license at Ray's Boathouse in Seattle, and selling 15 crab for \$31 in Renton. He was cited accordingly.

Too Many Crab Pots

Officers seized 80+ commercial crab pots illegally deployed offshore of Washington. The operator had exceeded his commercial crab pot limit by 200 traps, giving him a sizeable (and illegal) advantage over the competition.





STOLEN CRAB GEAR

Officer Beauchene received information from Sgt. Mullins regarding the theft of 35 crab pots in North Puget Sound. With assistance from Lummi Indian Nation Police, a possible suspect was identified. The suspect's residence is a compound-like area not visible from any legal land-based vantage point. Not to be deterred, Officer Beauchene obtained air support (a helicopter) from the Department of Homeland Security. During a flyover they located what appeared to be the gear, concealed upon the property. Due to various issues (numerous tenants, no clear owner, less than 100% certain it is the gear) no warrant was sought. Lummi Tribal Police received permission to retrieve the gear, which was, in fact, stolen gear, and returned it to the owner (valued over \$4K). Additionally, about 32 crab pot buoys from a different theft were also recovered. After a great deal of follow up, (including witness statements), and thanks to some fast work by both Officer Beauchene and the Lummi Indian Nation Police, the stolen crab gear was recovered within 48 hours!

INTERSTATE TRAFFICKING IN STURGEON BROODSTOCK


WDFW Police Officers teamed up with Oregon State Police to address the trafficking in brood stock sturgeon taken illegally from the boundary waters of the Columbia River. Sturgeon over 60" in length are considered broodstock, and are protected from harvest because they are long-lived, slow growing, and slow reproducing animals. Poachers seek these animals for both their flesh and roe. The roe, known as caviar when processed, can bring as much as \$200 per pound in a processed state, and a mature fish can carry up to 50 pounds of roe. A long term investigation involving state and federal law enforcement agencies resulted in identifying multiple suspects involved in catching, selling and buying sturgeon illegal to possess, however, not all the cases have been adjudicated. Jessie Sampson of Harrah, Washington, pled guilty in March 2010 in Skamania Washington to a reduced charge of Commercial Area / Time 2nd for the sale of two broodstock sturgeon. Sampson spent 35 day in jail and was ordered to pay \$1575 in fines. He was put on probation for six months, during which time he cannot fish or have any fish and wildlife violations. He was transferred to Oregon pending trial for another sale of brood stock sturgeon. In that case, Sampson pled guilty to Unlawful Possession of Food Fish, a Class C felony. He was sentenced to 24 months of supervised probation, credit for time served (5 days) , \$392 in fines.

COLUMBIA STURGEON

Oregon State Police Sgt. John Katzenstein contacted WDFW Officer Dan Bolton at the Celilo boat ramp on the Columbia River and said he observed a tribal vessel pulling a gill-net and heading toward the Dalles Dam boat ramp on the Washington shore. Officer Bolton arrived after the boat was tied up and inspected it. He saw many sturgeon that were still entangled in a gill net onboard. When he asked the subjects if they measured the sturgeon, the operator said that there were so many in the net when they pulled it, he made the decision to measure them back at the dock. OSP Troopers responded to Officer Bolton's location to assist and discovered 13 sturgeon measuring under the minimum size limit. After measuring, OSP Troopers worked on reviving and releasing the sturgeon while Officer Bolton issued citations to each of the three subjects. Despite release efforts, three of the fish were belly-up upon Officer Bolton's return an hour later.

SHALLFISH THEFT





WDFW officers working with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, made the arrests after serving search warrants on G & R Quality Seafood—also known as Quil Bay Seafood—in Quilcene. Officers seized hard-shell clams, oysters, a 16-foot fiberglass vessel, five firearms, and a van. The seized shellfish did not bear required certification from the state Department of Health (DOH) and were destroyed as required by state law. Information gathered during the investigation turned over to the Jefferson County Prosecutor's Office, or, depending on any nexus with interstate commerce or transportation, may be addressed in the federal system.

WDFW's investigation was conducted in cooperation with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Coast Guard. During the course of the investigation, WDFW Officers, sheriff deputies, NOAA enforcement agents and Coast Guard officers interviewed more than 20 suspects linked to the violations.

Based on the investigation, WDFW detectives believe the seafood company employed harvesters to steal thousands of pounds of oysters and hard-shell clams from state and private tidelands in the Quilcene, Dabob and north Hood Canal areas. WDFW is the primary agency charged with enforcing the DOH's criminal code violations related to sanitary shellfish – and fish and wildlife police officers routinely patrol harvest grounds and market places in an effort to ensure public safety. All shellfish harvested for commercial purposes must be accompanied by a certificate of health, declaring that the product is safe and sanitary for human consumption.

The cert tag follows the product all the way to the end consumer and becomes an important tracking tool. It is believed that many certificates were falsified to reflect that clams stolen from public and private beaches came from beaches where the company had leased property and had certification. If tag information is not accurate, outbreaks from eating contaminated shellfish could never be traced back to the shellfish origin.

We must be clear that during more than a dozen surveillances, WDFW Officers did not detect shellfish being taken from polluted beaches. From what we know, the alleged thefts involved public and private property that are classified as "approved" - in other words, shellfish taken from these areas were safe to eat – potential consumers were just unknowingly eating stolen property.



ABALONE POACHING

An investigation by the Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division Special Investigations Unit (SIU), working in conjunction with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA OLE) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Officers, led to the conviction and sentencing of two Gold Beach area men related to activities surrounding the unlawful taking of flat abalone along the southern Oregon coast. One of the men convicted, Kevin Hiersche, age 51, was the only person in Oregon to be issued a permit by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) to harvest wild flat abalone. He was also the only person legally allowed to commercially harvest wild abalone along North America's west coast.

"Mr. Hiersche was entrusted with a tremendous privilege, but greed and temptation led him to violate that trust in the worst possible way," said OSP SIU Sergeant David Anderson. The OSP SIU is primarily responsible for conducting in-depth and complex investigations of individuals or groups in violation of fish and wildlife laws and regulations, with specific emphasis on those violators that are flagrant or illegally commercializing fish and wildlife resources.

In March 2009, OSP investigators served a search warrant at Hiersche's residence and seized evidence including a personal log and invoice books. Thirty pounds of frozen, vacuum-sealed flat abalone that Hiersche and Daniel Wright illegally harvested in 2009 without a valid permit were also seized. Wright assisted as a tender while Hiersche dove from his boat named the "Jerry Lee." Hiersche admitted to investigators that he reported false harvest poundage, and a review of seized personal log books revealed he exceeded annual allowable harvest amounts in seven of the eight years he had a permit.

In August 2009, a Curry County Grand Jury indicted

Hiersche on 44 misdemeanor and felony counts and Wright on five felony counts. In January 2010, both men entered guilty pleas and received the following sentences in Curry County Circuit Court:

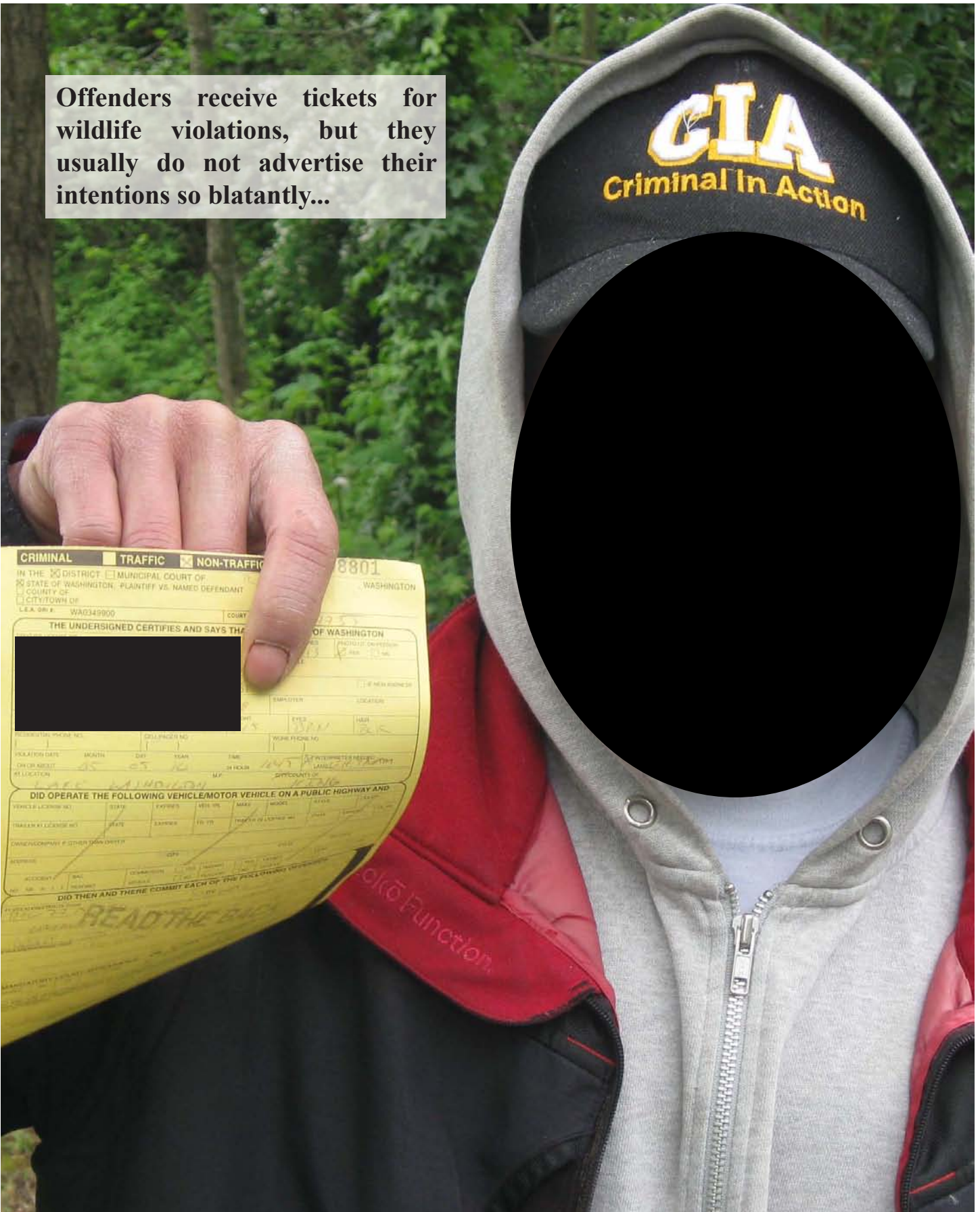
Hiersche: One count of Unlawful Taking of Flat Abalone Closed Season (class C felony); Two counts of Unlawful Taking of Flat Abalone Closed Season (class A misdemeanor); One count of No Wholesalers License (class A misdemeanor); One count of Falsifying Business Records (class A misdemeanor). He was sentenced to 40 days in jail, 36 months probation, 120 hours community service, \$21,000 in fines, \$18,538 in restitution to ODFW, and ordered to have no contact with Wright.

Wright: One count of Unlawful Taking of Flat Abalone Closed Season (class C felony). He was sentenced to: 10 days in jail, 18 months probation, \$2,500 fine, Pay \$5,000 restitution to ODFW, Pay \$800 attorney fees, and ordered to have no contact with Hiersche.



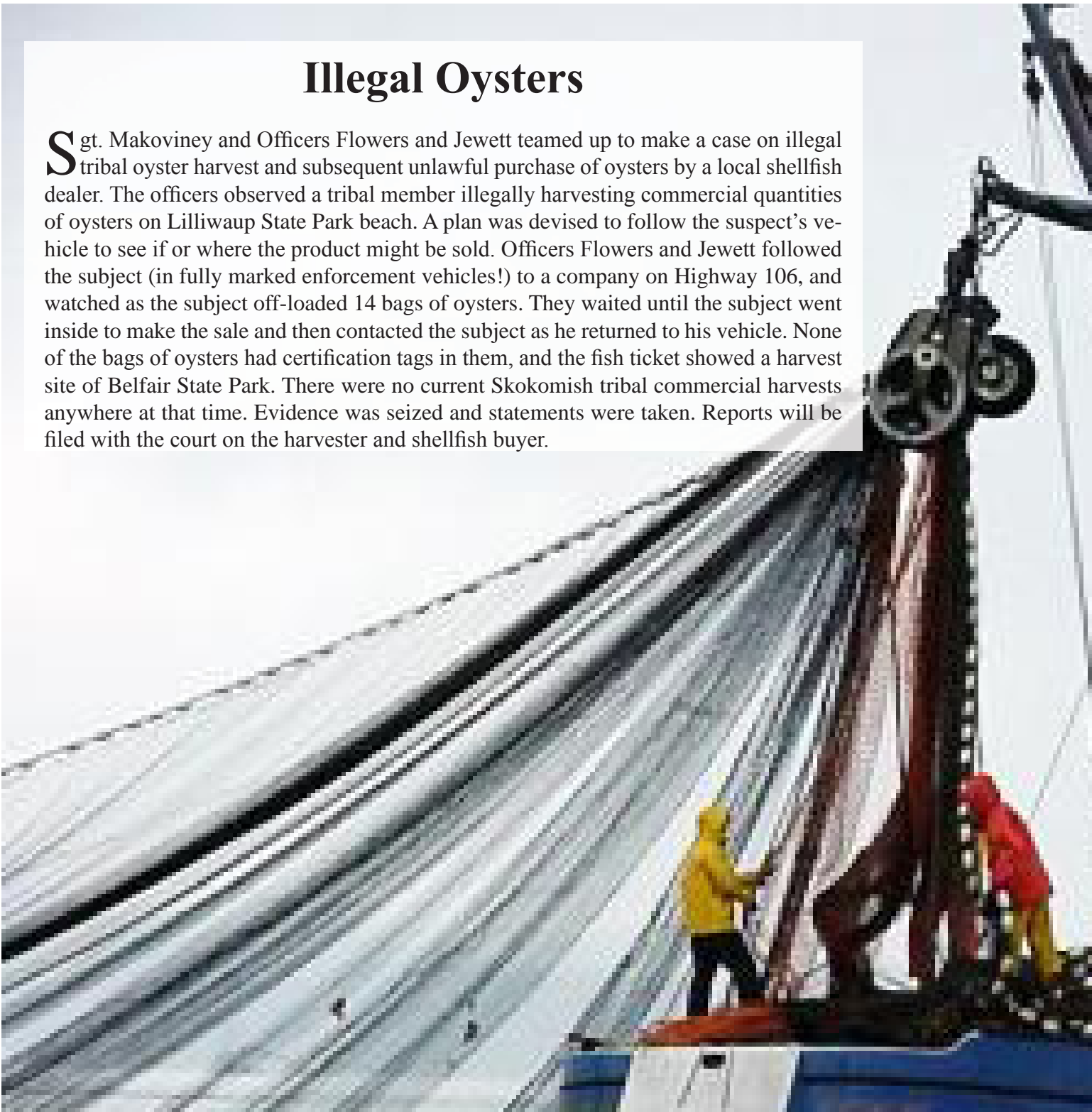


Offenders receive tickets for wildlife violations, but they usually do not advertise their intentions so blatantly...



Illegal Oysters

Sgt. Makoviney and Officers Flowers and Jewett teamed up to make a case on illegal tribal oyster harvest and subsequent unlawful purchase of oysters by a local shellfish dealer. The officers observed a tribal member illegally harvesting commercial quantities of oysters on Lilliwaup State Park beach. A plan was devised to follow the suspect's vehicle to see if or where the product might be sold. Officers Flowers and Jewett followed the subject (in fully marked enforcement vehicles!) to a company on Highway 106, and watched as the subject off-loaded 14 bags of oysters. They waited until the subject went inside to make the sale and then contacted the subject as he returned to his vehicle. None of the bags of oysters had certification tags in them, and the fish ticket showed a harvest site of Belfair State Park. There were no current Skokomish tribal commercial harvests anywhere at that time. Evidence was seized and statements were taken. Reports will be filed with the court on the harvester and shellfish buyer.



Unlicensed Broker

Officers Olson and Chamberlin conducted an inspection of an unlicensed Wholesale Dealer operating in the Edmonds area. The subject had brokered a large amount of salmon, tuna, cod and halibut to a fish business in Federal Way. After obtaining all the invoices and documenting the license status of the subject, the two Officers drove to Edmonds. The subject was doing most of his business out of his house, delivering the fish from cold storage facilities to retail markets. He was issued a citation for brokering fish without a Wholesale Dealer's license.

Commercial Market Inspection

Marine Division Officers conducted several retail market inspections in the Renton and Bellevue areas. A business in Renton was given a verbal warning for failing to properly display their shellfish certification tags for the public. Several displays of smoked salmon on display at this business led the Officers to another one located in Bellevue. That operation was admittedly smoking and packing salmon, but did not have the required Wholesale Dealer's license. However, the owner claimed to be in possession of a "Processing" license for seafood issued by the Department of Agriculture. Officer Olson contacted the Department of Agriculture, and was informed that the business had not been licensed to process for two-and-a-half years. The subject was issued a citation for processing and brokering seafood without a Wholesale Dealer's license. To confirm ownership of the company a call was placed to the Department of Revenue (DOR). DOR confirmed that the owner had never paid taxes for conducting business in Washington State. Since the owner had been in business for over four years, a notice of back taxes owed was mailed to the owner.

The Officers then inspected another business located in Bellevue where several violations were found, to including commercial fish receiver's failure to account for commercial harvest, failure to document the source of the product, failure to label the species of salmon and indicate that it was farm raised, and failure to properly display shellfish certification tags on customer self-serve containers.



PHOTO: Block seine fishing: Unrelated to fishing violation articles



ILLEGAL CHARTER

In Washington State, prospective salmon charters must purchase an existing license from someone going out of business. The legislature designated commercial salmon charter licenses as “limited entry,” placing a cap on the number of participants and licenses, in response to declining salmon resources and over-capitalization of the industry. Charter licenses are required for a vessel to take passengers for hire in Columbia River waters below the Longview Bridge. With the help of WDFW Detectives and Officers from Region 6, Officer Pat Anderson executed search warrants and the removal of an illegal charter operating in the Cathlamet area of the Columbia River. The vessel was seized for forfeiture action.





Unregistered Off Road Vehicles (ORV)

As Officer Snyder and Officer Day were leaving the boat launch on the Old Vantage Highway, they noticed a pickup and two motorcycles. Noting that there are no places to ride motorcycles on the adjacent departmental grounds, they initiated contact with the persons. Both riders were cited for no ORV registration and for unauthorized vehicles on department grounds. They were also warned for riding motorcycles on a public roadway.

Closed to Motorized Vehicles

Officers Day and Snyder contacted two subjects with motorcycles near the Old Vantage boat launch. The entire area is closed to motorized vehicles. The subjects stated that they didn't know and had come from the other side off of private property after damaging one of the motorcycles. After one subject claimed to have lived in the area his whole life, it became painfully obvious he was a lying. Officer Snyder got a confession once Officer Day located department signs near where the two had entered the area. The two were cited for unlawful entry and having unregistered ATVs. They were verbally warned for driving on county roads and being suspended 3rd degree.

Illegal Brush Pickers

Sergeant Nixon contacted a group of illegal brush pickers in a van in Capitol Forest. Numerous suspects fled into the woods and Officers Alexander and James responded. A second van was stopped and contained additional illegal specialized forest products. Fifteen citations were issued and one subject was booked into jail on a high priority warrant. One thousand dollars worth of brush was seized and turned over to a DNR buyer.

Illegal Marijuana Grow

The ERAD Team searched the Lower Crab Creek Wildlife Area for any new illegal marijuana gardens. Officer Myers found some grass bent over that looked suspicious. As the team moved slowly into the Russian olive thicket Officer Grant spotted a camouflaged tent and an individual sitting on the ground enjoying a cup of noodle soup. Unfortunately, the brush was so thick that the suspect was able to escape as officers attempted to approach him. Inside the camp, officers found approximately 1,700 freshly planted starter cups each containing at least five seeds each. The grove of trees had been hollowed out in several areas in preparation for planting. The camp was fully outfitted with propane tanks, a large supply of food, a stove, numerous large bags of fertilizers, several hand tools and two rifles. A sweep of the tent for suspects revealed a camera and a cell phone. The tent was sealed and taken down for transport back to Ephrata where officers will secure a search warrant for the contents in an attempt to identify the suspect. The tent and contents were removed from the area using two department ATVs. The firearms were also seized and the potted plants destroyed. Arrangements will be made to have the camp cleaned up.

Forest Product Theft on Private Timber Company Lands

Officer Fairbanks was enforcing forest products laws in Jefferson County, when he located seven individuals harvesting salal on state land without permits. He determined the individuals were using a permit for a private timber company lease and subsequently seized about \$500 worth of product, which was turned over to DNR. The holder of the lease was warned and advised to provide his workers with better maps.



Illegal Mudders Busted From Online Photos

Officer Baird received a report of ORVs mudding on WDFW lands from Yakima County Mountain Pass Deputy Sutliff. The mudding violation occurred in the area of Oasis Springs and Roza Road on the Wenas Wildlife Area. Three four wheel drive ORVs got into the mud holes and really went to town. Fortunately for Officer Baird and Deputy Sutliff, one of the mudders took a lot of pictures of the “mud good time” and then posted them on a local off-road vehicle club site. Officer Baird and Deputy Sutliff launched a joint investigation. After some photo enhancement they were able to identify two of the violator vehicles, tracked down two of the suspects. After confronting the suspects with their own photos and other information, they admitted to their indiscretions. Both were cited for the ORV mudding violations. The third suspect will hopefully be identified and tracked down soon.





Officer Maschhoff responded to the upper Carbon River after receiving a call about two subjects pulling logs out of the riverbed for firewood. Officer Maschhoff responded and located the men. They had pulled large logs and stumps up onto the levee and were cutting them up and putting them in a dump truck. After playing the name game; one subject was taken to jail on three warrants. Charges of obstruction, theft, unlawful hydraulic activities, and trespassing on county property were filed.

While patrolling near Vantage, Officer Day encountered four subjects harvesting elm tree branches for ALK Source Materials Inc., an Idaho-based business that sells the elm tree pollen for various allergy medications. The subjects were harvesting on Grant County PUD property without any permit.

Officer Klump patrolled in the area of Tibbits Mountain and ran into two feet of snow on the road. While the officer was turning the patrol vehicle around he heard a chain saw off in the distance. Officer Klump drove a little further, and discovered a vehicle in a remote area. Officer Klump turned his vehicle off to listen for the chainsaw and saw a very large tree fall into a draw. He then approached the individual who cut the tree down and asked to see his permits. The subject was very surprised to see Officer Klump and showed Officer Klump his expired 12-31-2009 firewood permits. Live tree cutting is illegal here.





Officer Jewett and a county deputy were patrolling an area near an active maple theft site on the Green Diamond 2100 Road. Four quads were located entering the theft site area. One of the quads was towing a trailer with two chain saws. After the individuals driving the quads noted Officer Jewett and the Deputy, they immediately turned around, and the chase was on. Two individuals were apprehended by Officer Jewett and another abandoned his quad and got away on foot. The quad with the trailer and chain saws were all impounded. Citations were issued for no ORV registration and two of the individuals were banned for life from Green Diamond property.

While removing an illegal net on the Bogachiel River, Officer Fairbanks was told of a subject cutting logs out of a logjam. After locating the site, Officer Fairbanks determined someone was helping themselves to illegal cedar in the form of shingle blocks. He documented the scene and returned with DNR Investigator Eison the next day. The suspect was found actively removing cedar blocks without a permit. Officer Fairbanks had previously arrested the same suspect for cedar theft.

Officer McQuary was leaving the Ice Harbor Dam area when a Boise Cascade Tree Farm employee flagged him down. The employee reported that two vehicles were trespassing in the tree farm, which is thoroughly posted due to large scale marijuana grows over the past several years. Officer McQuary caught up to the two vehicles. The occupants were from Tacoma and were camped at Charbonneau Park. They claimed to be in the tree farm looking for a place to target practice, and said they didn't see the numerous 8'x6' foot no trespassing signs until they were leaving the area. At the request of the tree farm manager, Officer McQuary will file trespassing charges with the prosecutor.

Officer Wickersham was informed that a subject who was investigated in 2008 and 2009 for theft of over \$20,000 in cedar pled guilty to the charges. He was ordered to ten days in jail, over \$1,500 in court costs and restitution totaling over \$17,000 to Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.





A LONG WAY FROM HOME

Officers Rosenberger and Beauchene conducted a boat patrol in North Sound. They made an emergency contact with a boater in distress. He was rescued from the chilly waters. After thanking the Officers profusely, he was heard to say, “this water is a hell of a lot colder than at the North Pole.”



Operation Spring Catch

Officers from Detachments Five and Three participated in the Operation Spring Catch emphasis patrol on the Columbia River along with the U.S. Coast Guard, Oregon State Patrol and the adjoining County Sheriff Marine Units from both states. The operation was conducted between Interstate 205 in Vancouver to the Longview Bridge. The agencies exchanged personnel during the two-day patrol to create cross-training aboard the participating vessels, which created a good interagency approach for enforcement on the state boundary. As a result of the effort, over 400 boats were boarded and/or inspected with 93 violation notices being issued, along with 142 warnings given. The two-day effort on the water was considered a success by all agencies involved. The goal of the operation was to enforce and encourage greater boating safety and enforce state and federal regulations pertaining to commercial fish guiding and charter operations, and current fishing regulations. Additional emphasis was placed on educating boaters about the Make Way rules within the navigational shipping channels. Local media boarded the patrol vessels and rode with the officers. All local television networks provided excellent media coverage



Boater Assist In Okanogan County: Officers Oswald and Scherzinger were conducting a boat patrol on the Columbia River when they contacted a man fishing from a boat. They observed that the back of the coveralls the man was wearing were on fire. Apparently the man had been sitting too closely to his propane heater and had ignited a fire. The fire was quickly extinguished. Unfortunately, the man didn't have a properly sized life jacket on his vessel. The officers advised that it was a good thing the man didn't have to jump into the freezing water. He was issued an infraction notice for the violation.

Attempt To Locate: Officers James, Alexander, and Zimmerman and Sgt. Nixon responded and assisted with a search and rescue in the Wynoochee River. A drift boat overturned with three occupants. Officer James assisted in locating the boat on the river and determining all occupants were unharmed.

Good Thing We Were There! Officer Johnson assisted by Sheriff's Deputy Good, Walla Walla County contacted a new Centurion ski boat occupied by four adults and one four-year-old child. One of the men was fishing so license and safety inspections were conducted. During the safety inspection Officer Johnson noticed water in the storage compartment adjacent to the engine compartment. Upon checking the engine compartment, it was found to contain water so deep it was questionable whether the boat would restart. The men, none of whom had any boating experience, said they had a brand new "PVC" plug in place. The bilge pump would not work and the boat was in serious jeopardy of sinking. With their vehicle and trailer many miles away Officer Johnson had the men turn on their blower (they did not know what it was or when to use it) and get their vessel underway to the nearest ramp. The Officers followed them to the ramp where they beached the vessel, bailed it out, and called for someone to bring them their boat trailer. All four men commented that they must be the dumbest boaters on the water, and thanked the officers for contacting and checking them. They had planned to sit and fish for several more hours, which certainly would have been tragic in the cold water with a four year old aboard.





Drowning Victim: Sergeant Erhardt responded to a call of an overdue fisherman at Blythe Lake. Upon arrival he observed the vessel drifting approximately 500 yards from the boat ramp. After a brief search along the shoreline, the man's body was located floating nearby. The officer surmised that the man had somehow fallen from his boat and drowned. Although fishing gear was recovered nearby, the victim had no life jackets in his vessel. Sergeant Erhardt assisted the Grant County Sheriff's Office and the Grant County Coroner with the death investigation and recovery of the body.

Tribal Assist: Yakama Tribal Police requested assistance with a vessel to attempt to locate two overdue fishermen on the Columbia River. Two young Yakama fishermen (18 and 20) attempted to take a rubber raft down the Columbia to fish off of an island but never returned. Sgt. Webb and Officer Hughes met Officer Orr at midnight at Bonneville Dam to begin the search. The Officers boated down river, eventually finding the two stranded on an island. Their plastic raft had been punctured. Both fishermen were a little cold, but uninjured. They were returned to their relatives. The potential search and recover operation ended as a successful search and rescue. Two other Yakama fishermen drowned previously in a boating mishap. The news reports the third member of the fishing party is presumed to have also drowned.

Distressed Kayakers: Sergeant Erhardt responded with Grant County Fire District 5 Search and Rescue to Warden Lake to assist two kayakers in distress. High winds and waves had overpowered the two who were unable to return to the launch area. Sergeant Erhardt and rescue workers located the boaters and were able to get them out of their kayaks and into the rescue boat. One of the "seasoned citizens" turned out to be a spry 81 years old. Both were checked by medical personnel on scene and released.





DRUG ARREST

Officer Willette seized six grams of black tar heroin from a man at the Jellum Gate on the Green River Gorge Road. She also located a hidden compartment, activated by a magnet, in the vehicle. The driver was booked on two outstanding warrants and will have additional charges filed against him for a myriad of violations. The vehicle was seized and turned over to WSP who will obtain a search warrant for the hidden compartment.

ERRATIC DRIVING

Officer Hopkins was behind a vehicle on SR4 in Wahkiakum County when he observed erratic driving (you don't want to know why he was driving erratically). Officer Hopkins ran the plate, and the driver returned as being Revoked First Degree. Officer Hopkins pulled him over and arrested him. The man was booked into the WCSO jail for DWLR 1st Degree and Operating a Motor Vehicle without Ignition Interlock (he has been convicted of DUI four times). He was held on \$5,000 bail.

ATTEMPT TO ASSAULT OFFICER ADJUDICATED

The King County Prosecutor's Office called Officer Willette to advise her that the man that tried to run her down during a DUI arrest last year, plead guilty to Attempt to Elude and his fourth DUI. The Department is also seeking roughly \$1,400 in restitution for damages to Officer Willette's vehicle that occurred during the incident.



WDFW OFFICER ASSISTS ADAMS COUNTY SHERIFF

Officer McGary along with an Adams County Deputy responded to a home invasion robbery call that had occurred at a home just north of Othello. Witnesses at the scene told the officers that four men had been drinking around 2:30 a.m. when one subject got angry and left the residence. The subject returned two hours later with two other masked men, armed with a sawed off shotgun, a knife, and a bat. The suspects tied the victims up with rope and beat one victim with the bat and shotgun. The victim had a circular bruise and scratch on the side of his face from where the suspect hit him with the barrel of the shotgun. Undisclosed items were taken from the home. The officers went to the home of one of the suspects, and after obtaining permission to search, found the man hiding in a bedroom. The suspect initially claimed that the other two suspects were unknown gang members who forced him to participate in the burglary. He was, however, the one holding the baseball bat during the robbery. He eventually admitted to taking several items from the house.

WATCH FOR HIDDEN KEYS

Officer Olson conducted a traffic stop late at night on a vehicle that was observed traveling in excess of 100 mph. After arresting the driver for DWLS 2nd, the passenger became irate. Since the passenger was intoxicated and unable to drive, Officer Olson decided to impound the vehicle. Officer Olson removed the ignition key from the vehicle and informed the passenger that the vehicle would be impounded, but offered to arrange for alternate transportation to a nearby location. Apparently, a hide-a-key was located and the passenger peeled out onto I-5 with Officer Olson pursuing. The vehicle again reached speeds in excess of 100 mph, while weaving in and out of traffic during the pursuit. The vehicle was eventually stopped and a high risk vehicle stop was conducted. Officer Olson booked the subject into the King County Jail for felony eluding. The defendant was given a warm reception by the jail staff after expressing his displeasure with the accommodations.



GREAT PIECE OF POLICE WORK

While patrolling Tanwax Lake Access, Officer Leonetti noticed two suspicious vehicles parked outside a house that he believed to be vacant. Officer Leonetti confirmed that the house was vacant, rang the doorbell and knocked on the door with no answer. Officer Leonetti then walked behind the house, and in plain view through a glass sliding door, he saw numerous marijuana plants and growing apparatuses.

Officer Leonetti took a place of surveillance and contacted Pierce County Deputies. The suspects left the house and Officer Leonetti followed, informing responding deputies of his location. The suspects were stopped and arrested. The suspects admitted to growing marijuana in two houses located on the property, and one vehicle was delivering marijuana to an undisclosed location. After Pierce County Statewide Investigative Unit units arrived on scene, Officer Leonetti forced entry into both houses. Nearly 250 marijuana plants were seized along with two houses, two vehicles, and all of the growing equipment.





AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTRODUCTION

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

On his off-duty time Officer Hobbs and his kids took in the local Ellensburg zoo (pet store). Officer Hobbs noticed an advertisement for African Clawed Frogs and a tank with several in it. Officer Hobbs and Sergeant Sprecher conducted a pet store inspection, seized six frogs, and issued a written warning.

Officer Willette rolled into Atlantic City boat ramp on Lake Washington just as a Cambodian man was releasing three red-eared slider turtles into the lake. She couldn't catch the turtles and asked why the man had released them into the lake. He replied it was for a New Year's celebration and he had to do it every year. He showed her a receipt from Seattle Supermarket, a well known Asian food store on Beacon Hill. She explained that it was illegal to release the turtles into the lake, and advised him he would be cited. She then went to the Seattle Supermarket, positively identified the turtles, and asked the store employees to advise their customers not to release live turtles into Washington waters.

Sergeant Jewell received a call from the Army Corps of Engineers regarding three, 60-foot vessels that had been transported to the Snake River from Lake Powell. The vessels were being stored near Charbonneau Park in Walla Walla County, and the owner had agreed to have them inspected for zebra/quagga mussels prior to launching them in the river. Sergeant Jewell called the owner and discovered he had already made arrangements with Region 1 Officers to conduct the inspection.



Officer Stephenson inspecting a vessel for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



SCHOOL KIDS RESCUED

Officer McGary conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for illegal lane travel, and learned that the driver's daughter was on a school bus stuck in deep water on a flooded county roadway. The driver led the officer to the scene near Royal Lake where the officer found a school bus stuck in the middle of a flooded road. The officer also observed a pickup that was also stuck in the water after it ran off the roadway attempting to get to the school bus. The water was up to the windshield of the pickup and a woman was seated in the vehicle.

She told the officer that she was ok, and said that she could wait. There were about 10 parents all standing around on the roadway watching their kids yelling for help. The majority of the students were very young and scared. Officer McGary waded out to the school bus up to his waist, moving ice chunks along the way to reach the bus. When the officer asked the bus driver how he was going to get the kids off the bus, he said he didn't know. Officer McGary returned to his patrol vehicle, backed it up to the school bus, and proceeded to load students into the bed of the patrol vehicle. After three trips, all 33 students and one bus driver were safely off the school bus and on dry land. Officer McGary returned to the pickup to assist the woman, but she had gotten out of her vehicle and swam to safety.



Big Surf

Officer Hopkins patrolled the razor clam dig on Long Beach, though the digging was slow. A fast approaching storm brought a large swell and waves to the beaches produced several “sneaker” waves. Officer Hopkins watched as one of these waves knocked down about seven people digging in one area. Most of them popped back up, however an older man stayed down. As the wave receded, he began to be swept out to sea. The man’s son had ahold of him with one hand as the water tried to push him out. Luckily, the man’s son held fast and pulled the man from the ocean though the elderly man was still in bad shape with a variety of heart problems, (including a recent open heart surgery). Officer Hopkins went down to the surf to assist. The gentleman had trouble walking and standing and felt faint. His face was very pale. Officer Hopkins requested an ambulance to come check him out and then drove him to the Oysterville approach to an awaiting ambulance.

Assisting With Tragedy

Sergeant Ward and Officer Klump assisted Chelan and Douglas county with two Search and Rescue missions. The first involved a search for a lost snowmobiler who was eventually found deceased in Kittitas County after he had become stuck and could not get his machine free. It was determined that he had died from exposure. The second involved a search for a missing 17 year old female from Wenatchee who was last seen leaving school. The body of the missing girl was discovered on the bank of the Columbia River near the Crescent Bar Resort area in Douglas County. Her death appears to be a homicide.

Injury Accident

As Officer Myers was driving to I-82 Pond #4, he observed an SUV leave I-82 and violently roll several times. Officer Myers advised WSP and drove through a field to the vehicle. Officer Myers could smell a strong odor of gasoline and was able to pry the passenger side door open and turn the vehicle off. The driver was conscious and able to answer Officer Myers’ questions. Officer Myers kept the driver stable until aid arrived.

Respond to Lost Subject

Officer Baird assisted WSP and Yakima County Sheriff’s Deputies in an attempt to locate a subject who called 911 to report having heart problems near a pond and SR12. The subject did not know where he was but could tell dispatchers what he could see and hear. The subject was finally found near the Naches River between Yakima and Naches. The subject was checked out by EMS personnel and was found not to have heart problems. The subject’s only complaint was sore feet from walking.



A new addition to Officer Olson's family

Congratulations to Officer Erik Olson and Mrs. Olson who gave birth, on June 4, 2010, to a 7 pound, 15 ounce - 21 inch girl named Ashlyn May Olson.



Hunter Education's Mik Mikitik Retiring After 30 Years of Service



September 30, 2010, will be a sad day for the Hunter Education Program as Mik Mikitik will be retiring. During Mik's career he successfully navigated the Hunter Education Training Program through the transition from Washington Department of Game to Washington Department of Wildlife into the merger with the Washington Department of Fisheries and finally into the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. This included charting a course across at least four reorganizations, which included Hunter Education being assigned to four different programs over that span. Despite those potential distractions, he remained focus on the big picture, and providing the best Hunter Education training program to the people of Washington State to promote safe, responsible, ethical, and legal hunting. Mik not only had a positive influence on Washington State outdoor recreation, but also Hunter Education programs throughout the U.S., as he was often used by the USFWS to evaluate programs in other states.

A huge component of Mik's success was his connection to all of the Hunter Education instructors. The number of certified Hunter Education instructors, which Mik is directly responsible for, grew from around 400 when he took over the program to almost 1,000 strong. Mik crafted the program with complete professionalism and the highest level of personal integrity anyone could ever encounter. Mik's leadership will be missed.

A date for a retirement party has yet to be determined. If you would like to make a donation for a retirement gift please send it to:

**Hunter Education Resource Organization (H.E.R.O)
POB 1904
Richland, WA 99352**

**If you have any questions please contact:
Butch Buffalo at: bbuffalo@verizon.net**

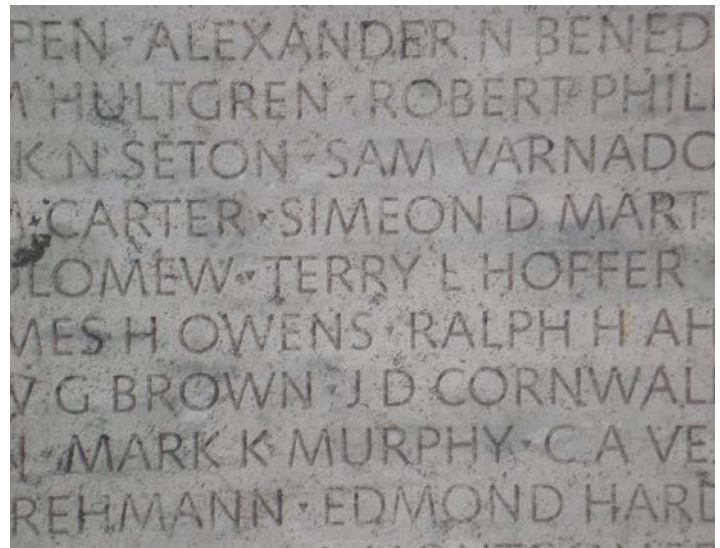
Mik in 1985 Newsletter Article



Mik Mikitik holds the exploded Marlin 336 which injured a student in a recent Hunter Education class. Note that the ruptured brass case is still locked tight in the receiver. Fast-burning pistol powder was incorrectly loaded into the .30-30 case causing the accident.

National Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony in Washington D.C.

On May 13-16, 2010 Sergeant Rich Phillips was honored to represent DFW Enforcement at the National Law Enforcement Memorial ceremonies in Washington DC. This year's ceremonies were important as the names of seven officers names from Washington State were added to the Memorial Wall. The torchlight ceremony on May 13th included the reading of the names of all 112 officers killed in the line of duty in the United States during 2009.



Sgt. Phillips and Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Deputy Ryan Phillips also attended the ceremony at the Capitol, honoring Law Enforcement Memorial Week. The President was the key note speaker.

In addition to the ceremonies, the group toured the Arlington National Cemetery, Washington Monument, and Lincoln Memorial.

While at the Law Enforcement Memorial, Sgt. Phillips located the name of Terry Hoffer, Washington Wildlife Agent killed in the line of duty on November 10, 1984.



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