



2016

Annual Agency Reports

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Annual Agency Reports

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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State/Province: Alberta
Submitted by: Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch
Date: May 11, 2016

Training

The Alberta Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch (branch) hosted the 9th delivery of the four-month Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy (WCLEA), seeing 11 Alberta officers graduate and be deployed to districts across Alberta. WCLEA is a joint training academy with participants from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Yukon.

Officers attended the yearly re-certifications in firearms and defensive tactics. To complement last year's Traffic Safety Management course, this year's defensive tactics re-certifications included a half day hands-on traffic safety course. Officers learned more about working safely in traffic, including review of arrest and detention.

In the spring of 2016, the branch recruited a full time curriculum designer. This position will assess all officer duties and together with the subject matter experts, provide evidence based training curriculum for all officers. It has been historically noted that in-service instructors are very knowledgeable about their disciplines; however, they may lack formal curriculum and adult education training to develop evidence based course training standards and curriculum that is defensible from a liability and job needs perspective.

Funding and Staffing Issues

The branch is one of several branches assigned to the Public Security Division of Alberta Justice and Solicitor General. The branch maintains a presence across the entire province with 138 (143 FTEs) sworn members, 26 administrative support staff and infrastructure situated in 55 districts (plus headquarters in Edmonton). The branch mandate includes conservation law enforcement (including public lands enforcement), protection of life and property from wildlife and public education and outreach. Due to budget restraints, the branch will not be hiring new officers to attend the upcoming WCLEA hosted in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Retirements

A significant number of officers retired over the past ten years and the branch has been trying to actively recruit to fill vacant positions. The branch has recruited 72 officers in ten years. Of the 138 sworn members in the branch, 40 per cent of the fish and wildlife officers in Alberta have less than eight years of service. In 2015, 7 officers retired or resigned from the branch.

Administrative support issues

When the branch was moved to Alberta Justice and Solicitor General in the fall of 2011, more than half of its clerical positions were held back in the former department. The branch is still relying on other government staff in shared locations to deliver frontline counter service. The branch received and recruited to 4 regional administrator positions in 2014 which has filled a large regional administrative gap. A new Branch Budget Administrator position was created and recruited to in 2015 in headquarters which coordinates the branch budget.

Problem wildlife program delivery

The branch has a mandate for protection of life and property and is responsible to respond to and control human wildlife conflicts that involve public safety or property damage. The branch provides scenario based human attack training for Predator Response Team Leaders (PRTL) and candidates.

Budget

The branch budget was reduced in 2016/17 by over one million dollars to \$20.9 M. Coupled with the reduction was a wage increase for union staff which has been allocated internally. In 2015 the branch was able to recruit to all officer vacancies. In 2016, the branch will have to manage any vacancies to offset the budget deficit.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

Special Investigations Section – Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit (MIIU)

The Special Investigations Section is the designated liaison for the sharing of intelligence and the facilitation of wildlife and fisheries investigations that transcend provincial or international boundaries. To accomplish this function, the Major Investigations and Intelligence Unit (MIIU) has established formal information sharing agreements with over 30 state and federal resource law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and regularly participates in cooperative enforcement efforts with resource agencies in all provinces and territories in Canada. These interprovincial and international investigations present very unique challenges for evidence collection, the ability to compel individuals to respond to charges (accused and witnesses), and the coordination and presentation of evidence within court systems in multiple jurisdictions. Successful investigation and prosecution of investigations of this type often requires the formal invocation of procedures that are defined within Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties that exist between Canada and many other countries.

Invasive Species Surveillance

The branch is supporting Environment and Parks (EP) in stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species into Alberta. It has provided significant input into amending Fisheries (Alberta) Act to inspect various conveyances to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. The act has been amended to include additional requirements for invasive species that officers can enforce such as boat drain plugs, failing to report, etc.

Public Lands Law Enforcement

The branch has added public lands law enforcement, primarily for recreational users to its conservation law enforcement mandate at the direction of the Government of Alberta. Officers will respond to and investigate priority offences under the *Public Lands Act* and related regulations. The use of the branch's complaint line – Report A Poacher will be utilized as the mechanism for the public to report public lands offences that are serious in nature (bed and shore damage, habitat damage, closed area contraventions, etc.)

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

Smart phone tracking application

Fish and wildlife officers in Alberta are monitored 24/7 by the Provincial Radio Control Centre (PRCC). Working with an Alberta-based company, the PRCC developed a smartphone application that allows officers to sign on and off duty with the centre. The application can run on any Blackberry, iPhone or Android platform. The application allows an officer to set an off duty time, provides for regular check-in at 100 minute intervals (or sooner) and allows the officer to easily notify PRCC that they are conducting a compliance check. All communication between the officer and the centre is conducted electronically using the smartphone data plan. Every time an officer sends a status update (by pressing an on-screen button) or moves more than 250 metres, the officer's GPS location is sent to PRCC and is displayed on their computer screen. On-screen buttons allow an officer to notify of an emergency or send a request for assistance. If an officer does not check in on time, a radio/telephone call is made to the officer by the PRCC to check their status. When an officer is outside cellular coverage, safety communication is supplemented by a satellite-based device (spot unit or sat phone).

Mobile office

The branch currently issues a Panasonic toughbook laptop computer to each officer. The computers are docked in each patrol unit and provide access to all databases and applications while in the field. In addition to the laptop computer, each patrol unit is outfitted with an incident capture system (Watchguard 4E). Patrol units are equipped with a silent partner partition to secure one prisoner behind the front passenger seat and the officer's kit and gear behind the driver's seat. A rifle and shotgun are both racked between the front seats next to the partition. Standard patrol units are a Chevrolet 2500 HD crew cab 4x4 and a Ford F-150 super crew 4x4 SSV (for less rugged districts).

Computer-aided dispatch and records management system

The branch has recently completed a business case to adopt a software package that will provide computer aided dispatch and a new records management system. The system is currently owned by the department and is in use by other divisions. It is intended to achieve efficiencies in data collection, enhance collaboration with other enforcement branches and improve officer safety. Currently, the branch is still waiting to implement a new RMS/CAD type of system.

A new radio system is coming

The Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Branch currently conducts all communications using smartphones, mobile field office computers and satellite phones. On Sept 1, 2016 the new provincial radio system will be fully operational to support the branch. The Alberta First Responders Radio Communication System will provide radio communication and inter-operability between all first responders province-wide.

Digital Forensic Analysis

The branch has entered the digital age by adding Digital Forensics Analysis capability. Our Computer Forensics Analyst is a Sergeant/Investigator in the MIU. FWEB has the ability to deliver digital forensics analysis of computers, cell phones, SD cards (like the ones found in trail cameras set over illegal hunting sites), GPS devices and other electronic data storage. Digital devices can be examined in house to take full advantage of the ever increasing use of technology and its ability to provide significant evidence in our investigations.

Technological data evidence

Two officers in the branch's Special Investigations and Forensics Section have received extensive training, one as a Forensic Video Technician enabling photo comparison and video analysis, and another is certified in Computer Forensics and cell phone data retrieval. This training has allowed for superior in house evidence gathering, greatly improving the cost effectiveness and timeliness of investigations.

Legal Challenges/Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

Alberta successfully defended a constitutional challenge to section 66 of the *Wildlife Act* which was brought by an accused (R. v. Craig Miller).

Section 66 of the *Wildlife Act* states:

(1) A wildlife officer or wildlife guardian may, without a warrant, enter on or pass over any land while lawfully engaged in the exercise of powers or the performance of duties or functions given him or her by, or that otherwise relate to the enforcement of this act, including those implied by s. 65.

(2) Subsection (1) does not in itself authorize the entry into any tent, building or other structure or any search or seizure.

Section 8 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* which is Part 1 of the *Constitution Act* states:

8. *Everyone has the right to be secure against unreasonable search or seizure.*

Following a detailed analysis, the Provincial Court found that section 66 of the *Wildlife Act* does not contravene section 8 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and is not void.

Court excerpt:

"The Wildlife Act is a regulatory statute. In a regulatory setting, section 8 does not prevent inspections from occurring without prior authorization. Reasonable limits upon the powers granted in this section are provided under subsection 2 and other sections of the Act. The power is not unfettered, nor is it vague. The powers granted to Wildlife officers and guardians under section 66 are granted to ensure compliance with the Act. Section 8 of the Charter is not engaged where there is an inspection to ensure compliance with the Act.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Staffing/Infrastructure Strategy

In 2016 the branch will be assessing its current staffing strategy and district delivery. One option will be to recommend reducing the number of districts from 55 to approximately 20 to consolidate office, admin staff, equipment and warehousing. This may afford increased efficiency and overall cost savings. The branch has become increasingly involved in project based law enforcement. This option may allow a more efficient allocation of manpower.

New cellular communication plan

The branch has recently moved away from a standard cellular phone and has issued all officers with an iPhone. New competitive pricing plans have led to a 60 per cent decrease in monthly phone bills. Applications for the phones and user functions may allow the smartphone to replace many of the functions that the current mobile office provides.

Change in Standard Patrol Vehicle

The branch has recently begun leasing ½ ton F150 trucks for officers in the south and central parts of the province. This is a change from the standard ¾ ton that has been traditionally used. This change has resulted in significant savings in lease and fuel costs with these lighter vehicles.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

Power DMS

The branch has initiated the migration to Power DMS. Power DMS (Document Management Software) was created to manage the publishing and maintenance of policies, directives and other documents and thereby greatly reduce the cost of man hours and the frustration of tracking the distribution of information to employees. It will also be used to deliver the Field Training Officer Program. This program will be live for all staff in June, 2016.

Provincial surveillance team

The branch maintains a provincial surveillance team to effectively and discreetly monitor suspected illegal activity and, utilizing mobile, static and technical surveillance techniques, obtain intelligence and/or evidence in a timely, legal, and professional manner.

The branch has made a concerted effort to modernize and enhance the technical capabilities of the surveillance team by using remote camera systems and other specialized equipment to assist in gathering evidence and increase the effectiveness of team deployments. This capacity has helped secure important evidence in several high profile poaching investigations, leading to numerous convictions resulting in heavy fines, orders for restitution, equipment/vehicle forfeitures, licence suspensions and jail sentences. The surveillance team has been called into service by police agencies to aid in their investigations into organized crime activities and has made significant contributions to the successful outcome to those investigations.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State/Province: Colorado
Submitted by: Bob Thompson, Lead Wildlife Investigator
Date: 5/10/2016

Training Issues - In Colorado the Division of Wildlife and Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation was merged into one agency, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), on July 1, 2011. Historically, both sides (Parks and Wildlife) would send new recruits to a POST certified law enforcement academy at different times of the calendar year. In 2014 going forward the wildlife officer and parks officer recruits will go to the same POST academy. In the 2016 POST Academy there are currently eight wildlife officer and twelve park ranger recruits attending the POST academy through the first week of May. The eight wildlife officer trainees will spend the remainder of the calendar year in specialized training to become wildlife officers. The twelve park officer recruits will spend the next six months in specialized training to become parks officers.

Colorado faces the same issue of finding qualified recruits that most other natural resource agencies face. Colorado has high training standards and do not intend to diminish those to pick up more applicants.

Funding and Staffing Issues - CPW is an important and valuable agency to all Coloradoans and visitors. CPW provides services that affect everyone that lives in or comes to Colorado. This includes 42 state parks and more than 300 wildlife areas covering approximately 900,000 acres, big-game management, hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education. CPW's conservation efforts strive to balance outdoor recreation with wildlife and natural resource management and stewardship.

The economic return on investment of activities supported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife is massive. The agency's annual budget is about \$190 million which, in turn, supports activities that result in over \$6 billion in total economic effects (including state park visitation, hunting, fishing and wildlife watching), spread throughout Colorado, from metro areas to rural communities.

CPW receives no general fund or citizen's tax dollars to support wildlife management, state parks or outdoor recreation programs. As an 'enterprise' agency mandated in statute, CPW relies primarily on license sales, state parks fees or registration fees to support programs. CPW funding streams are required by law to be separate and we do not inter-mingle wildlife and parks funding. Wildlife funding is spent on wildlife programs and activities. State Park funding is spent on state parks operations and programs.

CPW's has faced funding challenges in the recent past and will into the future. CPW is projected to face increasing budget shortfalls in FY16-17 and into the future. The budget outlook is made worse by expected increases in costs such as personnel, health care, operations and utilities. And there are expenses such as dam repairs, building and property maintenance, new hunting and fishing access, and technological upgrades that are needed to maintain Colorado's world-class outdoor recreation opportunities. Maintaining our current level of service with increasing deficits will be increasingly difficult.

CPW has already reduced costs to balance our budget. Both before and after the merger, our agency has taken several steps to tighten our belts. CPW has had budget cuts totaling more than \$36 million with over 70 permanent positions eliminated. For now, CPW has continued a high level of service, even with substantial cuts. But cuts and delayed investments inevitably take a toll. CPW has taken drastic steps to tighten our belts while continuing to provide a high level of service.

In summary CPW's funding model makes us reliant on user fees to support our programs. Our agency is stream-lined and committed to providing the public with a high level of service, but this continues to be a challenge with current and increasing funding gaps. Financial sustainability for CPW is a key for maintaining our wildlife and outdoor heritage. CPW is currently in the process of implementing a strategic plan and exploring all options to achieve the goal of financial sustainability into the future

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends – Colorado is a destination state for the hunting of mule deer and elk. Colorado has some of the largest populations and largest antlered of these two species in the nation. Unfortunately this wildlife are often taken illegally and transported across state lines to the state where these subjects that poach reside. Colorado currently works closely with the USFWS and these other states where poached Colorado wildlife are taken in a cooperative law enforcement effort to bring these poachers to justice. Colorado also relies heavily on the Interstate Wildlife Violator compact, especially the failure to comply with the provisions of a citation, to assist in these law enforcement efforts.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts - Colorado works cooperatively with many state agencies, federal agencies and other law enforcement/judicial entities. A great example is a major hunting check station conducted in the fall hunting season with assistance from wildlife officers with the Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wyoming Game and Fish Department. CPW law enforcement, wildlife managers, and internal representatives alike conducted a hunting checkpoint on I-70 for traffic heading east near Idaho Springs Oct. 20-21, 2015. This operation required the participation of over 200 wildlife officers over the span of a 36 hour period. This event also featured an impressive partnership between 12 agencies to make this operation a success. Law enforcement interacted with more than 1,000 vehicles and nearly 2,000 individuals.

On site, you would see a contrast of colors between the orange vests of CPW officers conducting checks on hunter's vehicles, the pink vests given to members of the media, and the red brake lights of vehicles stopping at the checkpoint. District Wildlife Manager (DWM), Mark Lamb said it best "this checkpoint is our best bet at catching hunters heading back from their hunting experiences in the high country".

This operation concentrated on more than just enforcement of the law and checking hunters for proper tags, it helped to gain logistical information regarding hunters in the state of Colorado as well. It is this information that was gained through this operation that allows for CPW to track hunter's habits and gain public input on the operation.

Eighty-seven CPW citations were issued including 72 written violations and 46 written warnings. DWM Ty Petersburg said verbal warnings also occurred in equal numbers. These numbers overall show the responsibility of hunters considering less than 20% of sportsman and women were

ticketed. Most hunters and fisherman continue to promote the conservation of wildlife throughout the state for future generations to enjoy.

Although the check station was mandatory for hunters to participate in when driving down the interstate and pull into the check station lane, some CPW officers were on nearby hillsides that over looked I-70 to spot questionable vehicles that might be carrying illegal game that they have taken and did not divert into the check station lane. Those cars were stopped by local law enforcement or sent back up to the check station to have the game evaluated by the officers.

Biological data collection was also an important feature of the check station. More than 600 animals including elk, deer, bear, small-game and fish were checked by wildlife officers.

The check station on I-70 wasn't the first time CPW has implemented a check station for hunters. Last year CPW implemented a check station for hunters on a smaller scale in Lamar where 85 CPW employees participated in a 30-hour check station. Although the I-70 check station wasn't the first, it is one of the largest wildlife check stations and a served as a great tool to protect Colorado's wildlife.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement – Colorado continues to update and enhance the electronic forensics capabilities as “internet wildlife” crimes with all the social media outlets are ever increasing. Colorado contracts with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for wildlife/DNA forensics. One of the more exciting pieces to having a successful check station operation mentioned above was the implementation of an application that was created by Law Enforcement Technology Specialist Ken Shew and Office of Information Technology Greg Harris to help log hunters information and make the process of evaluating hunter's licenses faster. Contrary to past check station operations that had to log all of the hunters information by hand, this year there was an app that just required a scan of the bar code on a hunter's license and entering the individuals and harvest information on a hand-held device.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement - None

Cost Savings Initiatives - None

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues – On March 9, 2015, Wildlife Officer Nate Martinez and Moffat County Deputy Bhrent Shock was taken hostage by James Brent Damon, age 46, and Georgie Hand, age 43 in a very remote part of northwest Colorado. The man and woman team, both natives of Mississippi, had been on a crime spree across the western states including Colorado and also Mississippi. Damon and Hand were wanted in Utah, Colorado, Mississippi and Wyoming at the time of the incident.

Deputy Shock had responded to investigate a trespassing report involving a white Ford Explorer parked on private property north of U.S. 40 near Dinosaur, Colorado and Officer Martinez was close by and responded to assist. The Explorer was damaged and inoperable and the occupants were not around. Damon and Hand had walked uphill, away from their disabled vehicle. Damon was armed with a 9 mm handgun and Hand had a BB gun pistol and was hunkered down under a small cedar tree.

Officer Martinez walked up the hill toward them just looking for footprints or any evidence related to the abandoned vehicle. Officer Martinez companion dog had located the couple and was barking at them. Officer Martinez contacted the couple and was inquiring as to if they were OK and if they needed any help. Officer Martinez glanced down the hill and could not see Deputy Shock and when he glanced back Damon had the 9 mm pistol pointed at his head. The couple disarmed Officer Martinez of his gun and law enforcement equipment and Damon gave the 9 mm pistol to Hand and Damon kept Officer Martinez S&W M&P .45 pistol after racking it to make sure it was loaded.

Shortly after that, Damon and Hand walked Officer Martinez down the hill toward the Explorer, where Deputy Shock was still examining and flagging where the vehicle had run off the road. Damon and Hand had the pistols in their jacket pockets and pointed at Officer Martinez as they approached Deputy Shock.

Immediately, Damon pointed his gun at Deputy Shock's face and told Deputy Shock to get on the ground. Deputy Shock's gun, Taser and police radio were taken, and then his right wrist was handcuffed to his duty belt, while Damon pressed a gun to the deputy's head. Then Damon asked Hand which patrol vehicle they should take and Officer Martinez told Damon to take his vehicle and tossed his keys toward the couple. Hand collected the keys and went to get the truck.

At this point Damon had the two officers on the side of the white Explorer that could not be seen from the highway with Officer Martinez sitting on the ground and Shock was kneeling with his one hand cuffed to the back of his belt. Damon had Officer Martinez's gun in his right hand and Deputy Shock's gun in his left hand. Officer Martinez stated that he knew they were going to die, but he wasn't going to die without a fight and Officer Martinez made the decision to get his own handgun back.

During the ensuing violent struggle, Deputy Shock was able to trip Damon to the ground and Officer Martinez regained control of his gun. Damon was now on top of Deputy Shock and Officer Martinez tried to fire a round, but his gun malfunctioned. Officer Martinez cleared the malfunction and was able to fire one round into the back of Damon's head, immediately incapacitating and killing Damon.

Officer Martinez then raced towards Hand who was heading to Officer Martinez's vehicle and ordered her at gunpoint to drop what was in her hands, proned her out, and took items off of Hand and then held her there until back-up officers arrived some time later to handcuff Hand. Hand was transported to the county jail to await charges and eventual trial.

Georgie Hand, now 44, was convicted of all charges on April 7, 2016 after nearly three hours of jury deliberation and eight days of trial. The jury found Hand guilty of two counts of aggravated robbery, two counts of second-degree kidnapping, two counts of menacing, two counts of disarming a peace officer and third-degree criminal trespassing. Sentencing will take place at 10 a.m. June 13, 2016.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State/Province: Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Submitted by: Kevin Buerfeind
Date: 16-05-2016

Training Issues

ECCC remains committed to provided advanced investigative skills training to officers, however has also shifted focus to provide for training on the use of Intelligence to detect and identify the worst forms of non-compliance with the greatest environmental and conservation risk. In the last year, we have standardized our product line across the country, we have implemented new methods for requesting and tracking intelligence and we have bolstered our intelligence training for managers, analysts, and officers to better align intelligence with operations.

Funding and Staffing Issues

Funding remains equivalent to previous years allocations.

ECCC has staffed Intelligence Manager and Intelligent Analyst positions in order to more effectively uncover and identify non-compliance, target the worst offenders, and identify optimal points of intervention. However recent year deficit reduction plans have resulted in an overall decrease in officer positions and efforts are underway to secure funding and identify areas of increased pressure.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

ECCC Enforcement Branch has undergone a formative change to integrate and align intelligence and operations. The Branch has been using intelligences resources for a number of years to better focus our activities; however the renewed emphasis on the aligning intelligence with operational programs will better allow the Branch to make more informed and forward thinking decisions. At the tactical level, we will be more proactive by targeting the worst offender, and at the operational and strategic levels, we will use intelligence to identify national trends and over-the-horizon issues to help establish new enforcement priorities and re-allocate resources as required.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

- ECCC Enforcement Branch has been working on “Project Aurora” over the last few years, the focus of which is enhancing the tracking of Polar Bear hides to ensure ongoing legal transboundary movement. With internal partners of the Canadian Wildlife Service and Science and Technology, and external partners of the territorial governments, tracking projects using existing and new technology such as pit tagging, DNA and stable isotope analysis is being explored.

○ Partner Agency Support

ECCC Wildlife Enforcement Officers in various regions continue to maintain effective operational working relationships with provincial, territorial and federal counterparts. Recent changes with some partners have leveraged each other’s resources by designating other agency officers as “first responders”. This allows

for officers from other agencies to effectively respond to emerging issues that they are locally presented with, but will hand off the file to the responsible agency for them to follow up according to their mandate.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

Nil to report

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

A recent Supreme Court Decision regarding the indigenous rights of Metis persons in Canada is being evaluated for its impact on law enforcement and conservation. The essential element of the decision is that the federal government has been determined to be responsible for Metis and Non-status Indigenous persons in Canada.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

On an ongoing initiative, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate is continuing to use activity/project planning for proactive activities. This allows us to map out detailed descriptions of enforcement activities for a fiscal year and then effectively direct the appropriate financial and human resource activities towards those activities. This moves away from constant adjustments throughout the year and ensures integrity in the identification of needs and our proposed enforcement response. Furthermore, this is expected to gain additional benefits for reporting purposes, where officer activities can be easily reported both from enforcement and financial aspects.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

The ECCC Wildlife Enforcement Directorate is an active participant in INTERPOL . Director General Sheldon Jordan currently sits as the Chair of the Wildlife Crime Committee.

The United Nations General Assembly recently adopted a resolution on tackling Illicit Trafficking in Wildlife. This is an important signal to worldwide organizations and networks that wildlife crime is recognized as a growing concern.

Within Canada, several federal departments fight crime under liaison with Interpol. For example INTERPOL Notices are international requests for cooperation or alerts allowing law enforcement in member countries to share critical crime-related information. Notices that originate from wildlife enforcement agencies are published by INTERPOL's General Secretariat at the request of National Central Bureaus (NCBs). In addition, INTERPOL's Environmental Security Sub-Directorate conducts open source environmental scanning to identify transnational environmental crimes or incidents. This facilitates the collection of information on transnational and significant issues, contributing to information sharing and information development and ultimately supporting the prevention and reduction of crime. The alerts contain information on wildlife and pollution arrests/charges/prosecutions taking place worldwide.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State/Province: Illinois
Submitted by: Rafael Gutierrez
Date: May 1, 2016

Training Issues

New Hires:

In July 2015, a recruit class of 13 completed the Academy and was put in the field with veteran officers to perform observational training until the Field Training Process was approved to begin. Due to the budget stalemate and potential layoff of 33 officers statewide, these trainees have been continuing to obtain knowledge by riding with veteran officers but are unable to move forward in formalized field training until the budget stalemate is resolved and layoffs are either administered, taken away from possibility or ordered otherwise by the Governor's Office.



In-service Training: Due to budget constraints, the Academy and lack of manpower, OLE training has suffered during the past year. The training section has only conducted mandated and critical training in order to make ends meet.

Officer Safety Training: The OLE training section continues the decentralized firearms training program since 2009. The results of this change have been positive and beneficial. The decentralization allowed each region and district to be more flexible, thus eliminating scheduling conflicts and overtime concerns. The training staff was able to provide more focused instruction, run a safer range, and address issues more efficiently. An Instructor level firearms curriculum was

established and approved by command which allows our own Master Instructors to certify new Firearms Instructors which allows us more flexibility and cost savings as instructors are needed.

The DT and firearms staff again merged to provide scenario based training for all OLE officers and supervisors. The cross training was well received by all who participated as it provided officers a more realistic training scenario to enhance their skills.

The firearms staff is again providing the firearms qualification shoot for the OLE retired officers this year.

The OLE training section continues the training of defense tactics (DT) while researching new and improved training methods. The DT program is implemented quarterly on a region or district level allowing more flexibility for scheduling of officers training. We have added more instructors to fill positions vacated by promotion or retirements. We expanded upon the ground fighting techniques to improve officer safety due to increased statistics nationwide on altercations with Law Enforcement that ended on the ground. We continue looking to expand our DT program to include water based tactics that will assist if an officer ends up in the water with a subject.

Field Training Transition: The OLE Training section developed a new Field Training curriculum based on the San Jose Model for Field Training Officers. All current Field Training Officers were given transition training to move them from the former method to the new method and educate them on the new procedures and process which will save the Department in many ways both fiscally and operationally. A new program was purchased to assist with the new method which will result in greatly improved record keeping and administration for field officers, trainees, command and civilian employees.

Physical Fitness and Water Survival Program: The training section is continuing to develop a program to implement a physical fitness program for all sworn officers to encourage each to participate in a fitness program and complete a wellness test each year. With the fitness program, water survival training is proposed to be implemented on a yearly basis as well.



Computer Training: The OLE training section continues to develop a computer training course for all skill levels of officers which continues to result in numerous wildlife cases being detected and solved. Also, there has been a more timely and efficient submittal of division paperwork which has been greatly beneficial. We also purchased the new electronic Field Training Program which allows us to complete all necessary field training documentation digitally and submit it real time for more accurate reporting and quicker resolution to problems that may arise with a trainee.

Wildlife Forensic Training: The OLE Training section sent a CPO with forensic experience to attend a Wildlife Forensics Conference to obtain more knowledge and obtain materials to bring back to the OLE for development of training to administer to the field officers. The officer obtained numerous skills and useful information which was brought back and utilized with many hours of in-field research to develop a manual to assist field officers in the use of wildlife forensics in the field to develop cases.

Outreach Training Programs: The OLE training section conducted numerous recruiting seminars, career fairs, and presentations in an effort to recruit qualified potential applicants for future classes.

The OLE training section continues the internship program consisting of up to 48 internships per year. College students who wish to pursue a career in Law Enforcement/Natural Resources apply for an internship of up to 12 weeks during which they ride with a Conservation Officer (CPO), watch, listen, ask questions, and participate in many of the duties of a CPO. These internships provide a wonderful learning experience to students who the IDNR OLE hope become future applicants.

The training section also works with many high school students who are trying to determine a career path. Upon request, high school students from around the state are scheduled to meet with a CPO or supervisor and are given an overview of the duties of a CPO as well as the mission of the IDNR and the Office of Law Enforcement.

The OLE training section attends numerous career fairs at colleges and high schools to educate students about the mission of the IDNR as well as the Office of Law Enforcement.

The OLE training section offers training to outside agencies to assist in Conservation related enforcement techniques and methods of patrol as well as operational training for specialized equipment such as snowmobiles.

Funding and Staffing Issues

The fiscal year 2015 budget reflected an increase of more than \$3.8 million or almost 16.5% over the fiscal year 2014 allotment. However, these figures are misleading as these increases were restricted for specific expenditures or did not reflect increases in actual dollars as explained below. Therefore, although Fiscal Year 2015 did show signs of improvement, fiscal conditions for the State of Illinois continue to be watched closely and spending is limited to only those purchases absolutely necessary for operations.

The majority of the increase in fiscal year 2015 was in the personal services and fringe benefits lines, in the contractual services line, and in the conservation police operations assistance fund. The increased funds in the personal services and fringe benefits lines accounted for \$2.9 million of the total \$3.8 million increase over FY14 and was for a new recruit class of 15 cadets hired in

January 2015. Personal services and fringe benefits dollars can only be used for the salaries and related expenses of OLE personnel and cannot be used for other operating expenditures.

\$792,000 of the increase over FY14 was in the contractual services lines. This line is typically used for such things as repairs to equipment, leases of storage space for OLE equipment, and costs associated with the training of the new cadet class. However, the additional \$792,000 was not available for these types of expenditures. Central Management Services purchases vehicles for the various State agencies and then requires the agencies to pay quarterly maintenance fees for the repair and upkeep of these vehicles. In years past, the Department of Natural Resources paid the quarterly maintenance fees for the entire agency. However, in FY15, the agency began requiring each division within IDNR to pay their own vehicle maintenance fees. The OLE's contractual services line was increased by \$792,000 to allow the division to make these payments.

Finally, the OLE's conservation police operations assistance fund reflected an increase of \$231,500. However, this was merely an increase in spending authority rather than an increase in actual dollars as the operations assistance fund is a cash account and spending is limited to the actual amount in the account up to the spending authority limit. This account, funded primarily through fines, donations and watercraft registrations, was established primarily to allow the department to address its aging fleet of work boats, snowmobiles, ATVs, laptop computers and for the procurement of other items necessary for an officer to perform his duties. In FY15, the Office of Law Enforcement used these funds to complete the procurement of eleven 20' and fifteen 18' daily work boats with trailers and motors, and to purchase three 25' Brunswick 750 Impact Rigid Hull Inflatable patrol boats, one 24' Boston Whaler Justice patrol boat and one 23' Boston Whaler Guardian patrol boat, a radio/communications system analyser oscilloscope and tester, plus new first aid kits for all squads and patrol boats.

The other operating lines of the OLE actually decreased in FY15 by more than \$120,000 which put pressure on the division to fund the normal operating costs of the OLE while also having to incur the additional costs of training a class of new cadets.

Even with the addition of the new recruits, retirements continue to take its toll on the OLE sworn headcount levels. The Office of Law Enforcement sworn headcount at the end of fiscal year 2015 was just 139. At the end of fiscal year 2007, sworn law enforcement personnel numbered 166.

Equipment Issues

Since its creation in FY13 the newly created Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund (CPOAF) has had almost \$3 million deposited in to it with \$1.6 million spent. This fund is used to replace our aging fleet of equipment such as work boats, patrol boats, outboard motors, snowmobiles, ATVs, laptops and other necessary equipment for CPOs to perform their job duties. Since its inception we have purchased 26 aluminum Jon boats, 17 new ATVs, 17 new Intoximeter RBT-IV portable breath testing machines, 96 sets of body armor, 150 rifle mounts to be installed in patrol vehicles, rifle and pistol ammunition, 150 first aid trauma kits and 5 patrol boats. No new equipment has been purchased in FY16 due to the lack of a budget approved by the legislatures.

All officers are issued laptop computers and would not be able to perform their daily duties without this critical piece of equipment. With the advanced age of the computers and the improvements in technology, it is imperative the department remain on a program to replace the laptop computers every 3 years. The purchase of 45 laptops in FY12 was the beginning of this initiative. In FY13, the Department purchased forty-one laptops, in FY14 sixty-three laptops and in FY15 forty

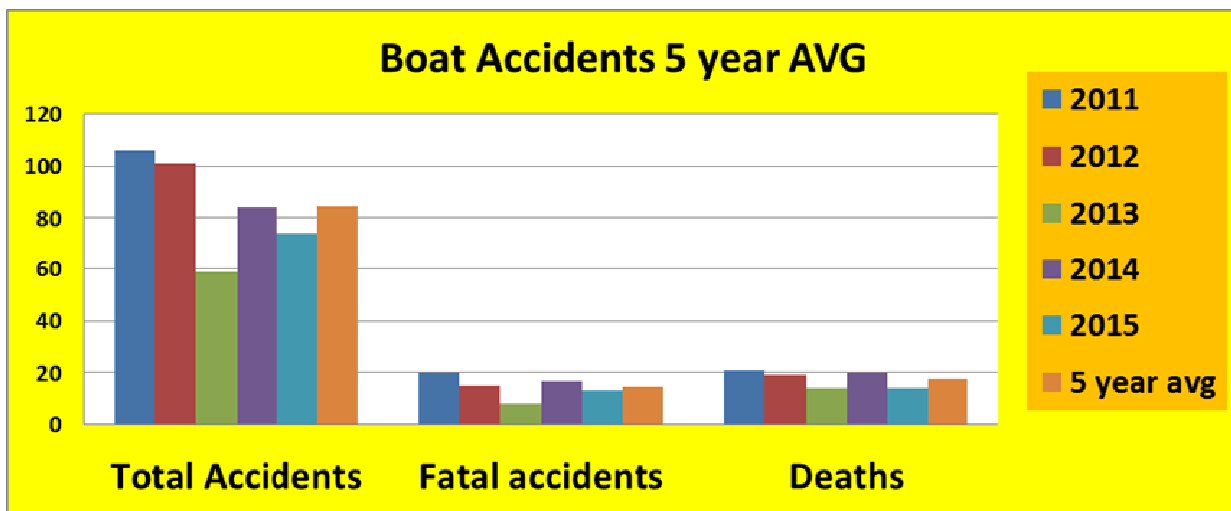
laptops. These purchases put the department at a 3 year rotation for laptop replacements which is what our goal was back in FY12.

There will be no equipment purchases for FY16 due to the lack of a state budget. In FY17 the department's equipment priority will be to replace more patrol boats which are 20-25 years old. We will also look at purchasing more ATVS/UTVS, moving radar units and in-car video cameras.

Recreational Boat Enforcement

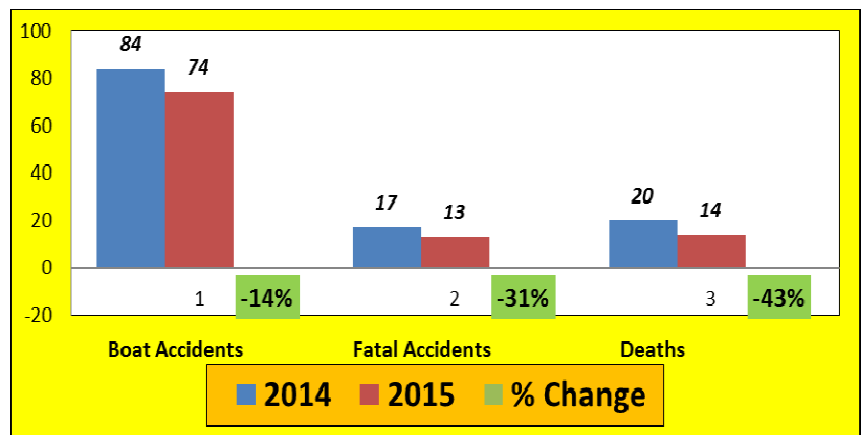
(Federal Fiscal Year 2015)

Illinois Conservation police investigated 74 boating accidents which resulted in 49 injuries and 14 fatalities in FFY 2015. The five year Illinois average is 84 accidents, 58 injuries and 18 fatalities. Although the Department continues to show an overall decline in the number of accidents, injuries and fatalities over 5 years, it is important to review information to determine internal and external factors impacting recreational boating and enforcement efforts.

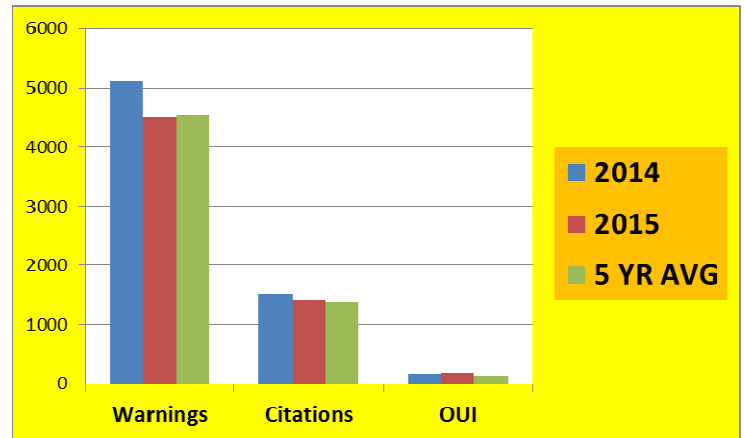


The graph above shows FFY 2015 accident information to be below the five year average. The graph below compared FFY 2014, FFY 2015, and the 5 year average Boat accident information.

Illinois Conservation Police experienced an across the board decrease in boat accidents, fatal accidents and boat accident related fatalities in FFY 2015. Illinois boat accidents decreased by **(-14%)** from previous FFY 2014. This was **(-15%)** below the 5 year average. FFY 2015 fatal accidents decreased by **31%** from the previous FFY 2014 and remained **12%** below the 5 year average. Finally, the boat accident related death decreased by **43%** from FFY 2014 and was **26%** below the 5 year average.



Illinois Conservation Police citation and written warning enforcement declined from FFY 2014. Citation activity dropped **(-6%)** and written warnings declined by **(-13%)**. Compared to the 5 year average, FFY 2015 citation enforcement was **2%** above, written warnings **(-1%)** and OUI came in **22%** above the average. Operating under the influence arrests increased from 159 to 179 **(11%)**. Personal flotation device and operating under the influence remained the top boating violations cited by officers. The early flooding and academy training may have contributed to an overall reduction of on-the-water hours and a decrease in enforcement activities with the exception of OUI arrests.



Recreational Boat Safety hours increased **10%** over FFY 2014. Officer self-initiated boat inspections increased slightly by **1%** over FFY 2014, and assigned registration investigations also increased by **14%**. Sworn personnel headcount remains at 131 with 108 of those Conservation officers and trainees.

Registered Boats	
2013	271,116
2014	252,094
2015	233,062

Boating Patrol Log Report			
Year	Boat Inspections	Registration Inspection	RBS Hrs
2013	17,512	228	40,734
2014	15,070	264	38,275
2015	15,280	306	42,379

The trend of declining watercraft registrations continued in FFY 2015. FFY 2015 watercraft registration numbers dropped **(-8%)** from the previous FFY 2014.

Summary:

The statistics show stable headcount numbers but a slight decrease in boating enforcement with the exception of an **11%** increase in OUI arrests. The increase in boating enforcement hours have reduced the number of overall accidents and injuries from the previous FFY 2014. Weather conditions and water levels have remained stable as well; creating ample opportunity for recreational boaters. The total hours worked on the Recreational Boat Safety Grant (RBS) increased about 10 % from 2014. A total of 42,379 personal service hours were recorded. The three year average is 40,463. Time spent on the program varies with available funding and manpower associated with administering programs, which can be claimed as expenditures towards the RBS Grant.

USCG Recreational Boat Safety Grant: In FFY 2015, the IDNR received approximately \$1,641,669. This money was used to support operations directly related to the enforcement, boat access and safety. The decrease is again mainly due to the decrease in boat registrations. As mentioned previously, it appears the economy continues to affect recreational boating as seen in the reduction of boat registrations. The OLE, through the Special Operations Fund monies, has procured several large purchases of equipment (boats), which has helped in increasing claimable expenditures. The increase in expenditures has assisted in bridging the gap created through the loss of boat registration numbers. The current USCG funding allocation for FFY 2016 is \$1,660,110.

It is important to remember the RBS program determines funding using the following criteria:

- 1/3 number of registered boat compared to other states/territories
- 1/3 previous years expenditures coded towards the RBS Grant
- 1/3 equal distributions of remaining funds equally among states/territories

Homeland Security

State/Federal Interoperability:

The Office of Law Enforcement (**OLE**) continues to serve as a member agency with the Illinois Terrorism Task Force (**ITTF**). In addition, the **OLE** continues to serve on the **ITTF** Transportation and Critical Infrastructure Security (formerly the Transportation Committee) and the Crisis and Prevention Committee. Serving on the committees allows the **OLE** to develop partnerships with other state and local law enforcement agencies to help prevent, respond to and recover from an attack on the waterways of the State.

In addition to communicating with fellow State agencies, the membership in the **ITTF** allows the cooperating agencies to identify special equipment and needs to mitigate gaps in emergency response and protection of critical infrastructure.

Similarly, the **OLE** has continued to serve on the United States Coast Guard Area Maritime Security Committees (**AMSC**) in St Louis, Chicago, Peoria and the Quad Cities. The **AMSCs** specifically deal with ports on waterways in which the State and Federal governments have concurrent jurisdictions. Working with the USCG also helps merge information and response assets, ultimately increasing the safety of our waterways used for commercial transportation purposes.



Training:

- The OLE was again able to provide pursuit and stop training on the Mississippi River in Alton and Carlyle Lake April 2015. Homeland security boats (approximately 10) were deployed for familiarization training with approximately 30 officers attending.
- ITTF Transportation Committee Conference (E. Peoria) 12 Officers attended and provided watercraft demonstration and trained on Illinois River



Grants: N/A

Outlook:

Homeland Security dollars continue to decrease as a result of budget restrictions at the Federal level. The ITTF has seen significant reductions in the amount of grant dollars awarded to the State. The USCG has experienced similar decreases in grant monies. The OLE will continue to seek additional funding through the ITTF as well as the USCG (Port Security) Grants in a continued attempt to enhance response and mitigate gaps in security on the State's ports and waterways.



Major Law Enforcement Trends

In 2013, a joint investigation between the Illinois DNR, USFWS and Missouri DNR was launched. Information concerning the illegal harvest, sale and international export of Ginseng spurred the investigation. The investigation focused on ginseng dealers in Missouri and Illinois but led to dealers and diggers in Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Tennessee and New York. Undercover officers conducted sales, surveillance and gathered intelligence throughout the two year period. Subpoenas for financial records were obtained and thousands of purchase records were scoured to discover patterns of deceit. The information was used to support the application and issuance of Federal Search Warrants executed on 5 Illinois ginseng dealers,

one of whom operates out of Missouri, and three additional dealers in Missouri. Teams of officers involving nearly 100 personnel from IDNR, USFWS, MDNR and IRS executed the warrants in 2015 after the ginseng season began. Hundreds of pounds of illegal roots, multiple firearms, computers, cell phones and business records were seized during the warrant executions. Falsification of records, falsification of certifications, buying illegal ginseng, buying ginseng out of season, felony Lacey Act and money laundering charges are pending against the dealers.



In 2014 Officers in Illinois and Indiana began to compile data on licensed hunters and fishermen to look for residency falsification of customers. The focus was on subjects claiming dual residency to save money on licenses and permits. In September 2014 a task force of officers from both states was assembled to conduct the investigations on the subjects identified. 64 cases were identified as possible in Illinois and 54 cases identified as possible in Indiana.

From the Illinois subjects identified, 28 cases were built in Illinois and charges filed with over 199 counts of falsification being documented. An additional 9 cases were identified as Indiana falsification not Illinois violations. Over \$65,000.00 was defrauded from Illinois in permit/license monies. 23 cases have been adjudicated so far resulting in recovery of \$33,377.50 in restitution so far. Additionally 21 years of suspensions have been instituted and \$8117.00 in fines collected. 5 remaining cases involving some of the largest monetary losses are still pending.

Unique Cross Boundary Cooperative Efforts

Illinois has two officers dedicated to a task force for identifying and apprehending persons involved in

the importation of invasive and disease susceptible aquatic life, primarily Asian Carp. The two officer team is referred to as the Invasive Species Unit (ISU). Below is a synopsis of cross boundary cooperative efforts performed by the team along with a few activities performed by the Illinois Conservation Police as a whole.

The Invasive Species Unit worked in correlation with the New York Department of Conservation after an inspection of an Asian market in Illinois resulted in the seizure of live non-approved species (Chinese muddy loaches) and crawfish. New York Conservation Officers inspected and interviewed the seafood importer at the New York Fulton market the next night. They were able to obtain shipping documents and samples of loaches from the supplier for identification purposes. DNA testing conducted at the Chicago Field Museum on Natural History on the loaches seized from Illinois identified the specific species of loaches. The New York Department of Conservation issued citations from the Illinois Conservation Police to the importer for the illegal importation of live non-approved species into Illinois.

The Invasive Species Unit worked with the Ohio DNR on a case involving the Cleveland Park to Shop Market in Ohio selling whole/undressed Diploid Grass Carp. An Illinois licensed wholesale aquatic life dealer purchased the fish from commercial fishermen on the Illinois River and sold them to the Park to Shop Market in Chicago. The same individual owned both stores and was cited by the Ohio DNR for possessing whole Diploid Grass Carp. The ISU inspected the Chicago market and took enforcement action for the business operating a wholesale and retail aquatic life market without the licenses.

The Invasive Species Unit and Ohio DNR successfully identified an Ohio fish dealer who was illegally importing fish to Chinatown in Chicago, Illinois without a non-resident aquatic life dealer's license or VHS import permits.

The Invasive Species Unit assisted the Indiana Department on Environmental Management with identifying the suspected driver of grease Disposal Company who illegally pumped waste grease from his truck into a municipal sewer system.

The Invasive Species Unit worked with the Missouri Department of Conservation to identify Illinois residents who illegally sold or purchased captive wildlife from the exotic animal auction in Macon, Missouri.

The Invasive Species Unit worked with USFWS and Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife while investigating the importation of a live injurious species (Rusty Crayfish) into Illinois.

The Invasive Species Unit worked with USFWS and New York Department of Conservation while investigating the live importation and sale of a restricted species (Asian Swamp Eels) in Illinois.

The Invasive Species Unit worked with USFWS in determining source of dead Snakeheads in Chicago's Korean Village market. It was determined the Snakeheads were dead prior to being imported into the U.S.

The Illinois Conservation Police assisted Wisconsin DNR with an investigation regarding a wholesale ginseng dealer illegally buying root from Illinois residents.

The Illinois Conservation Police assisted Colorado Parks & Wildlife with an investigation regarding an illegally taken Elk. The Illinois Conservation Police interviewed the suspect; and seized the gun, processed meat, and antlers for Colorado.

The Illinois Conservation Police and Indiana Department of Natural Resources conducted a joint investigation into the fraudulent application for residency licenses and permits. Violations were documented by officers and prosecuted by the Illinois and Indiana Attorney General's Offices.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

Illinois legislation in 2015 saw minor changes in resource law dealing with the use of crossbows by youths, youth hunting license age requirements, changes in boat operation ages and safety requirements, and the opening of a bobcat season. However, from the general law enforcement side there were significant changes, most all of which came from the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act.

A Youth Crossbow law passed allowed an individual with a youth hunting license to use a crossbow during the first half of the regular deer archery season. Although this law was meant to include more persons with the ability to use a crossbow, the bill was not well written and posed some problems that could have been avoided had DNR and law enforcement been made a part of it. Coupled with that bill was one that changed the age for the youth license from 16 to 18 years old. Another law passed to allow the hunting and trapping of bobcats within the state. The first bobcat season will start this fall. However, there is currently a bill that would again outlaw the trapping of bobcats.

A new boating law took effect January 1st making boat safety education mandatory for anyone born after January 1, 1998 and operating a watercraft with 10 horsepower or higher. It also mandated abbreviated safety education for persons renting watercraft.

The biggest change for law enforcement came with the passage of the Police and Community Relations Improvement Act. This law changed the way officer involved deaths in the line of duty were investigated, made additions to the types of crimes mandated to be reported, required minimum in-service training requirements (annually and every three years), prohibited the use of chokeholds unless deadly force is justified, and created the Law Enforcement Officer-Worn Body Camera Act. Additionally, law enforcement was mandated to complete a uniform pedestrian stop card and/or stop receipt, if their stop included a search or frisk, or any type of citation or summons. Pedestrian stops made while enforcing the Fish and Aquatic Code, Wildlife Code, and Herptiles Code are excluded from having to complete the uniform pedestrian stop card and stop receipt, but not while enforcing laws within the state park system.

Finally, a bill aimed at prohibiting the use of drones for scouting then hunting within 24 hours was turned into the "Unmanned Aerial System Oversight Task Force Act", which allowed for 22 members (two of which are conservation police officers). The committee is to consider commercial and private use, landowner and privacy rights, general rules and regulations, and prepare recommendations for the Governor by July 1, 2016.

Cost Savings Initiatives - None

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: Indiana

Submitted by: Major Terry Hyndman

Date: 5/5/2016

Training Issues

- Indiana was accredited in our BOAT program by NASBLA and we are in the process of training all of our personnel in Basic Crewman, Tactical Boat Operation and Boat Based Search and Rescue (where applicable).
- Indiana continues to train our personnel standard field sobriety procedures, as well as the NASBLA backed seated field sobriety testing.
- Indiana trained eighteen officers in how to safely handle venomous reptiles. A court ruling had blocked us from regulating wild animals that were captive bred/raised, and as a result we saw a huge influx of venomous snakes. The training was a proactive step to be able to respond and safely capture/remove these exotic animals. The Indiana General Assembly later provided legislation that corrected the statutes that the court had said were in err.
- Indiana's hiring, and initial training process for our new officers, has undergone some changes with more of a focus on core values.
- All of our officers are now issued tourniquets and trained in their application.
- Leadership training is being offered to all field officers and staff members. The training includes courses taught by the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, The FBI National Academy and the National Association of Conservation Law Enforcement Chiefs. In addition we encourage our personnel to seek out other courses such as Breaching the Barricade and the Global Leadership Summit. We have also started a library in each of our districts that are stocked with leadership related books.
- We are in the process of obtaining NARCAN for all of our officers through a criminal justice grant and will train all of our officers in its use.
- Although the agency does not have the funding available to purchase Tasers, we are permitting our officers to carry Tasers that have been offered to them from prosecutor's offices and other community organizations. Our training section is using outside agency instructors to certify officers in their use. We offer this training each spring and fall.

Funding and Staffing

- As with most other agencies, Indiana has numerous vacancies due primarily to budgetary concerns. At the current time Indiana has 26 officer vacancies with permission to fill 12 of them. We also have five civilian positions that are vacant in our general headquarters and our 24 hour dispatch center that are being looked at on a case by case basis by the strategic hiring board.
- Our officers are driving a worn out fleet of vehicles, even though we had budgeted to regularly replace our commissions. It is not unusual for vehicles to have 190,000+ miles on them, with multiple vehicles having in excess of 200,000 miles on them. Our Director has lobbied hard for aggressive replacement of these vehicles and we are starting to see some progress from his efforts.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement

- Indiana continues to work with Kentucky, Illinois and Ohio in establishing highly visible patrols on the Wabash and Ohio Rivers for commercial fishermen, especially as it pertains to trophy catfish, sturgeon and paddlefish. Training our officers in the techniques used by commercial fishermen, and immersing them in specific and targeted patrols has increased our officer's confidence and made them more proactive in their fishing patrols.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

- Our investigation section has worked closely with other DNR divisions, as well as other states, in tracking down individuals that fraudulently claim residency in Indiana for the purpose of purchasing hunting and fishing license.
- Note information listed above concerning species of fish that have a high demand due to their value and we fear are in jeopardy due to overfishing.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

- Our officers continue to have tremendous success in the use of SideScan Sonar devices, as well as the use of underwater ROV's. These devices have helped reduce the amount of time our divers have to spend underwater.
- Our dive team continues to utilize full face masks with diver to diver and diver to surface communications. In addition, our divers are now utilizing bailout blocks as part of their diving regiment which eliminates the need to remove you full facemask if you run out of air.
- We are in the process of trying to build a rapport with the community leaders of the Myanmar community. We receive a large number of complaints that are directed to the Burmese population for not following hunting and fishing regulations. There is an indication that this may be due to culture upbringing and we hope that our outreach program will bridge the cultural gaps resulting in voluntary compliance with our natural resource laws.
- We continue to expand our K-9 program and now have thirteen certified dogs. This has been made possible by our Director building partnerships with conservation organizations in the funding of these dogs.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

- As noted earlier, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled that our authority statute had an "or" where an "and" should have been, and as a result they took away our jurisdiction over captive bred wild animals. The legislature corrected the language, but not before they eliminated our authority over captive bred cervidae. All deer, elk, etc. are now exclusively under the authority of the Board of Animal Health. This change now makes the high fenced hunting of deer and certain goats legal in Indiana.

Cost Savings Initiatives

- We continue to move towards a paperless operation in effort to save both time and money. We are currently evaluating ways to eliminate paper time sheets and mileage logs, while being able to comply with state mandates.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

- We have increased the training level of our peer support team. Each district has a minimum of one peer support officer that has been trained in critical incident stress management. We have these officers, along with our chaplains (a minimum of one chaplain per district with some districts having as many as three) reach out to any officer that was involved in a difficult death investigation, or that may be showing signs of stress in their personal life.
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: Iowa

Submitted by: Mark Sedlmayr

Date: 5/20/2016

- **Training Issues** – no new training initiatives
- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – Funding continues to be an issue within the state fish and wildlife trust fund. The trust fund is derived from license dollars and funds the wildlife, fisheries and law enforcement sections of the department. The past few years we have been given a status quo budget with the cost of operations ever increasing. We have been able to make some adjustments and tap into some additional federal dollars but with salaries and patrol vehicles making up approx. 93% of our budget there is little room to cut. We currently have 4 open positions with another retirement in May. It does not look like we will be able to fill those vacancies in the near future until more funds become available.
- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – non- resident issues continue to be our main problem. Either falsely claiming to be a resident or coming to the state and not having deer tags or getting illegally from residents to place on illegal deer. Most of the time these cases involve payment of some form to landowners or the people providing tags. We also have non-resident landowners bringing individuals in to hunt on their lands and are charging them to provide illegal tags.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – We have been extremely successful in working with several other states to infiltrate illegal operations going on in Iowa. Our USFWS agent here is extremely helpful in working with us and the US attorney to bring forth lacey act charges for illegal deer and fur harvesting activities. Some of the states we have worked with this year are Colorado, Florida, Alaska and Alabama. It is refreshing to be able to count on assistance from these other states when we have major cases occurring.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – Increased use of social media seems to be our newest and best way to catch violators as I am sure is the case all across the nation.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – This year we had several legislators try to move on changing the open fields doctrine as it applies to our officers. This came about on a deer baiting case. There was another law passed that eliminated the requirement of trappers to get a free permit to hold hides over 30 days past the trapping season from our officers. This ultimately made the trapping season never ending unless we can catch violators in the field. It also took away the restriction of holding game past the 30 day time limit after the season. This new law essentially took away another tool from our tool box.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – We have instituted a more efficient way for the officers to code their time working in the field. We have identified certain tasks and duties that are eligible for federal cost share dollars and have been more accurately coding those duties. Another cost saving initiative is purchasing more fuel efficient patrol vehicles. Purchasing less expensive in car computers that will still hold up to the rigors of the job.
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**
-

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2015 Agency Report

State/Province: KANSAS

Submitted by: Col Kevin Jones

Date: 11 May 2016

Training Issues

Training remains a top priority with the Law Enforcement Division. There is a continuing review process of our new officer training program with modifications being made when deficiencies are identified. The Division is also focusing attention on specialized training and career development opportunities for all personnel in the work force.

Funding and Staffing Issues

Salaries and position compression have been an issue for many years. The last cost of living increase for employees occurred in 2008 and 2006 was the last time an actual step increase was given. At the beginning of the current fiscal year an initial plan was implemented to correct this situation. Position compression was addressed as well as consideration for time served in the current position. This program has been working down through the positions and conclusion to this salary adjustment process is to be completed shortly after 1 July 2016. As part of the plan the salary increases were tied to moving from “classified” to “unclassified” positions. “Classified” positions are a part of the State civil service and subject to statutory requirements. “Unclassified” positions are basically “at will” and are not subject to the those statutory requirements. In part this means that while there are certain hearing and appeal processes for disciplinary action tied to “classified” positions, those same statutes create greater limitations on providing raises in salaries or compensating skill sets or accomplishments. While giving up statutory civil service protections by going to “unclassified” status within State employment, the field officers are actually covered by the State’s Civil Service Act through their contract with the Department.

During the past year the Commission gave approval to increase in license and permit fees. This is the first increase in hunting and fishing license fees since 2002, and the first increase in resident deer and turkey permits since 1985. There had been some adjustment in non-resident permit fees over the time they have been in existence. It is estimated that the fee increases will generate in excess of \$6 million.

Boating registration fees have not changed and this is contributing to a declining balance in the State boating funds. Consideration is being given to increasing registration fees and possibly including requiring registration of paddle-only craft such as canoes and kayaks.

Staffing has been challenging during the past year. The Division has maintained at least six vacant positions for well over a year. This actually represents over 10% of our field level officer positions. Authorization to fill the positions is granted, but finding qualified applicants is the

biggest problem. Finding people with the knowledge, skill sets and interest to become Game Wardens is difficult. We still face challenges with diversity issues. While women have been Game Wardens for many years, their numbers are still quite low. Additionally, other minority groups are not present in the work force, but minority applicants rarely apply for any vacancies.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Overall the Division still concentrates the majority of its time to our traditional law enforcement efforts in fisheries, wildlife and boating enforcement. However, the amount of time being spent on activities outside the traditional activities continues to increase. Participation in the State's emergency management programs continues to increase. The designation of the Kansas and Arkansas rivers a part of the National River Trails system is beginning to bring increased interest to a broader group of the public. While there are only three navigable rivers in the state, and the Kansas and Arkansas being two of them, there is an interest by the public to recreate on them. In the case of the Arkansas River, a large portion of the river channel in dry due to the water use and re-charge issues in western Kansas. As a result, the dry, navigable river channel is seeing increasing use by ATV and UTV vehicles. This is fast becoming a travel corridor for off-road vehicles that connects several towns and cities along the course. Formal and informal clubs and users groups are being formed as a result. With the increase interest, the demand for law enforcement is increasing. While the river channel is considered public land, there is no one agency in charge of managing it. Illegal dumping of trash and other materials is occurring at an increasing rate. Additionally, conflicts and trespass issues are also increasing between adjoining landowners and users. The Law Enforcement Division is taking on an initiative to increase patrols through this area and help to stop illegal dumping and ease tensions between groups.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

The Division has several on-going investigations with neighboring states and with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

The Division is in the process of acquiring body cameras for the remainder of the division's officers. Last fiscal year 20 body cameras were deployed for testing and use. During the current fiscal year the remaining officers will be equipped with cameras. Officer acceptance of the cameras is high; in many cases officer have been requesting cameras. The value of the cameras has already been proven in dealing with complaints against officers, and actually more significantly the recording of voluntary statements and admissions to violations.

The Division is considering options to replace the EO Tech sights on our rifles. This comes in the wake of issues concerning these sights shifting their point of aim when exposed to extreme high or low temperatures.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

The recent Legislative session saw another attempt to further mandate illegally taken wildlife to be returned to the landowner and additionally make the act retroactive for 10 years. This has been a continuing issue in the Legislature and has required a large effort by Secretary Jennison and Chief Legal Counsel Tymeson to prevent its passage. It is unknown if this issue will arise in the next session.

Legislation directed at mandating the use of body cameras has not been successful; however, a new provision to the Open Record Act directs that audio or video recordings made by law

enforcement are not generally available to disclosure. The new law specifies that disclosure is to be granted only to the subject of the recording, or their guardians or legal representatives. The law does not allow the news media access to these recordings.

An attempt to amend the Dangerous Regulated Animal Act was stricken from the Legislative calendar. The amendment would have allowed “full contact” with young, large cats weighing less than 10 pounds and incidental contact with these cats weighing up to 25 pounds. There were other provisions relating to controlling the animals and the requirement for people to sign waivers.

A ballot initiative to preserve hunting, fishing and trapping subject to reasonable laws and regulations as a Constitutional right passed the Legislature. The provision to change the State Constitution to include this provision will appear on the ballot for the November general election.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
Conservation Officers Service
Manitoba Sustainable Development
Jack Harrigan
Chief Conservation Officer
May 25, 2016**



Training Issues

Manitoba Sustainable Development is training new officer recruits through the Winnipeg Police Service Academy. The Department continues to accept recruits trained through the Atlantic Police Academy, Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy, as well as those trained by other law enforcement agencies.

Training and qualifications in defensive tactics, firearms, emergency vehicle operations, etc. is still

conducted by in-house officer instructors. Officer instructor availability for in-house training is a challenge due to turn-over and regular duty work priorities. Lack of funding for specialized training is also an issue.

Funding and Staffing Issues

Recruitment and Retention of full time Conservation Officers continues to be a challenge with vacancies due to resignations, retirement, and decreasing applicant numbers. In the last year, 5 full time Conservation Officers have resigned to take positions in other jurisdictions. Currently, of the 124 Conservation Officer Positions, 11 are vacant, 12 officers are eligible for immediate retirement, and approximately 25 will be eligible to retire within the next 5 years.

The Conservation Officer Service received a small ~ 1% reduction in operating budgets.

Outfitting of tablet computers to officers remains suspended due to funding pressures and delays in implementation of the TraCS software.

Night flights to detect illegal night lighting were reinstituted after being discontinued for a number of years due to budget pressures.

Expenditure management and a hiring freeze were recently instituted as a result of a Provincial election with a new Progressive Conservative Government being voted in after 16 years of a New Democrat Party Government.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Social media continues to have an impact with several resource enforcement actions initiated from video of legal and illegal wildlife harvesting and public reactions to these activities. Night hunting by rights based harvesters continues to come under public scrutiny by various lobby groups and municipalities, some wishing to see it banned outright. The new Premier has made a promise to work with all indigenous stakeholders to work towards banning night lighting practices by rights based individuals.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

There were no cross-boundary cooperative law enforcement investigations initiated this year. The Department does remain committed to working with various agencies outside Manitoba's borders either directly or through affiliated associations.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

Implementation of the TraCS software program to replace the outdated DOS enforcement database programs continues to move slowly forward. A Request for Proposals to implement the software in the Manitoba network was tendered this past year and the bid review process is underway. A Request for Proposals to implement an electronic hunting and fishing licence system was tendered and the bid review process is underway. This will be a huge bonus for officers as currently all licences are issued by hand and there is no electronic database for officers to access licensing information.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement

The Conservation Officer Act was proclaimed in October 2015. The new Act officially recognizes the Conservation Officer Service and consolidates appointments for various pieces of legislation, both provincial and federal. The new Act also sets out disciplinary procedures and training and qualification standards. The CO Act also formally establishes the title of Conservation Officer to replace Natural Resource Officer. A re-branding of the badge and patrol vehicle was also undertaken at this time.



The new Fisheries and Wildlife Amendment Act (Restitution) received royal ascent and was proclaimed this past summer. The new Act allows restitution to be collected after a person is convicted of an offence where specified fish or wildlife was unlawfully killed. The restitution collected is over and above any fine ordered by the court and cannot be waived. Monies collected are deposited into the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Fund.

The Water Protection Amendment Act (Aquatic Invasive Species) Bill was likewise proclaimed this past summer and allows new inspection, enforcement and administrative powers to address the threat of aquatic invasive species. Zebra Mussels have been found in Lake Winnipeg and the Red River and it is hoped this Act may help to mitigate the impacts.

The Wildlife Amendment and Fisheries Amendment Act Bill proclaimed this past summer updated various enforcement powers for Conservation Officers as well as authorizing reciprocal suspensions with other jurisdictions. In addition, the Bill allows the department to now refuse the issuance of any licence issued under The Wildlife Act for failure to pay a fine levied by the courts.

Cost Savings Initiatives

Increased select high visibility peak period enforcement activities and more teleconferencing continue in an effort to save money and ensure resource enforcement and public safety standards are met.

A \$65,000 grant was obtained through the Criminal Property Forfeiture Fund disbursement process that enabled us to purchase six pairs of Gen 3 night vision goggles for officer use.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

Discussions with other government departments have begun towards establishing a Provincial call centre operation and call-in and call-out protocols for on duty Officers. It is hoped this will help address safety concerns including working alone procedures.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: Michigan

Submitted by: Chief Gary Hagler

Date: June 1, 2016

• Training Issues

- 35 conservation officers graduated last year and are now fully employed in the field. There are currently 17 recruits in the conservation officer academy who will graduate in June and start their Probationary Training Program (PTP). They will train with Field Training Officers (FTOs) for the next 20 weeks.
- Our Department transitioned patrol rifles this past year. M1A .308 caliber rifles were traded for the AR-4/15 platform. An overwhelming number of officers supported the change as it is much lighter, has much more round capacity and offers less recoil.
- District 5 conservation officers received annual training to prepare for wildfire response. The training includes wildfire behavior and what to expect at a wildfire. Law enforcement response tactics during a wildfire and law enforcement's role on a wildfire are also part of the training. Evacuations, traffic control, origin/scene preservation and looting prevention are all an important part of LE's role. Airplane tactics and radio usage were also discussed. The training helps conservation officers be more prepared for a wildfire which, in turn, helps keep them and the public safe.
- District 7 has provided refresher training for operating under the influence (OWI) and conducted follow up OWI training concerning boater's safety. The boating OWI training was conducted in accordance with new and updated procedures being utilized and taught by NASBLA.
- Officers have been instructed and updated on gang awareness to address the recent increase in gang activity within Grand Haven and Holland State Parks. District officers teamed up with Michigan Department of Correction's gang task force, the Ottawa

County Sheriff, Grand Haven PD and Allegan County Sheriff to address the gang related problems within the state parks.

- Members of the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit (GLEU) trained 37 conservation officer recruits in the topics of state licensed commercial fishing, tribal subsistence and commercial fishing, and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) enforcement.
- The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) personnel trained the conservation officer recruits in the area of evidence identification, preservation, documentation and collection.
- The SIU has continued to be involved with supporting the Wildlife Covert Investigators Academy (WICA) by providing one detective to function as an instructor role player. Lt. Dave Shaw attended WICA as a student and found it to be extremely valuable experience.
- **Funding and Staffing Issues**
 - The Division's recruiter program has been updated. There are now 13 new recruiters who perform employment and recruiting duties on an as-needed basis. All are outfitted with equipment to better sell our career as conservation officers to students and job fair attendees. We attempt to identify all qualified candidates in this process.
 - GLEU backfilled one of the several open positions within the unit. The position that was filled covers northern Lake Michigan as well as the majority of Lake Superior.
 - SIU is still operating with three detectives and one supervisor.
 - There was an effort by management to significantly increase the number of personnel in both units. However the budget request to accomplish this was not approved through the state's budget process. With the small number of personnel assigned to the district, both units are selective with the investigations and initiatives that are undertaken. Cases are evaluated based on severity and scale of the suspended violations, potential damage to the resource and likelihood of a successful investigation.
- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**
 - Conservation officers routinely take part in table top exercises to address any potential threat from the DC Cook and Palisades nuclear plants located in SW Michigan. The officers are charged with conducting an "on water" response in the event of an emergency. The officers are to establish a safe perimeter on Lake Michigan and then take measurements of any nuclear fallout with their issued dosimeters. NBC gas masks will soon be issued to protect the involved officers in the event of a nuclear crisis. The gas masks may also be used to address other issues such as possible terrorist attacks or working with other local law enforcement agencies whenever a tactical law enforcement response is required.
 - AIS enforcement is the most significant emerging issue that District 25 has been tasked with handling. AIS enforcement is certainly outside traditional fish and wildlife enforcement activities. GLEU has focused enforcement efforts and initiatives to deal with the issue. SIU has assisted with undercover contacts and surveillance to further investigations and gather evidence of intentional violations.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**
 - Homeland Security: Officers continue to work together with the US Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Homeland Security along the Canadian

Border in the Sault Ste. Marie, St. Mary's River region. A number of joint patrols are routinely conducted in this area utilizing officers with both marine and snowmobile support. Due to conservation officers' familiarity in working these waterways both in the summer and winter months, a very high number of contacts are made during each patrol and they are recognized as an integral part of the border security team.

- Homeland Security: The Mackinac Bridge and the Straights of Mackinac have been on the radar for terrorists and the threat of a potential attack is real. Conservation officers work closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, Michigan State Police Dive Team, sheriff's departments and emergency management administrators to coordinate patrols during high activity and events. Conservation officers contribute high level rural policing in northern Michigan utilizing their training and specialized equipment to enforce laws and assist other agencies in the homeland security arena.
 - Mackinac Bridge: Over 3.5 million vehicles annually.
 - Embridge Pipeline: 23,000,000 gallons flows through daily.
 - Commercial shipping: Hundreds of ships yearly.
- Emergency Management staff worked collaboratively with Department personnel to support the response and recovery efforts due to severe storms which affected Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties in August of 2015. These activities earned several members of the Department the State of Michigan, Office of Good Government recognition coin for teamwork.
- The Division provided support to 47 security missions statewide. These missions included cooperative activities amongst local, state, federal and tribal entities to support protection of critical infrastructure and key resources, and citizens and visitors of the state. These activities develop and strengthen positive relationships with the citizens, local municipalities, various disciplines and law enforcement agencies.
- Tribal Cooperation - Michigan conservation officers partner with tribal law enforcement agencies in northern Michigan within the 1836 treaty boundaries. Officers coordinated with tribal officers during two specialized high profile hunting/fishing activities. Tribal officers are scheduled along with Michigan conservation officers to patrol the elk hunt and sturgeon spearing season. These two activities are very regulated with low number of permits available. Michigan and tribal conservation officers work side by side in assuring that the resource is protected from overharvest.
 - Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians
 - Sault Ste. Marie tribe of Chippewa Indians
 - Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians
 - Bay Mills Indian Community
 - Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
- District 6 is the home of the Professional Powerboat Circuit race event known as River Roar. This event brings an influx of tens of thousands of spectators and recreational boaters to Bay City, Michigan. The event takes place on the Saginaw River within the City limits of Bay City. Officers work in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard in providing security and safety on the water and actively assist with securing race boundaries, as well as utilizing group patrols specifically targeting alcohol and safety violations.
- Operation Lifesaver - District 3 and District 5 Conservation Officers, the Michigan State Police, Crawford and Otsego County Sheriffs and Lake State Railroad conduct a patrol

directed to catch railway trespassers in an effort to prevent accidents. Uniformed troopers are put on a railway service truck which runs the tracks and radio illegal snowmobile activity to conservation officers and deputies on snowmobiles located at various crossings. This patrol helps eliminate the needless injuries and deaths at highway rail intersections and along the railroad right-of-way.

- District 3 and District 5 Conservation Officers, Michigan State Police, Kalkaska and Antrim County Sheriffs conduct a patrol both on the land and on the waters of Torch Lake targeting the sand bar area. Crowds of 10,000 people and boats gather on the sand bar during the July 4th weekend. Marine safety, disorderly conduct, drug and alcohol violations, and trespassing are the major issues encountered.
 - District 5 Conservation Officers, Michigan State Police and the Roscommon County Sheriff conduct a patrol to police the Bud Bash event sponsored by Budweiser on Houghton Lake. Crowds of 4,000 people and boats gather near the bar on shore that sponsors the event. Marine safety, drug and alcohol violations, disorderly conduct and gross indecency are the major issues encountered.
 - District 7 officers conducted targeted patrols on the state border to address the illegal transportation of deer into the state from CWD states. Several contacts were made and tickets were issued for illegally importing deer into the state from a CWD state.
 - GLEU has conducted numerous patrols on border waters with the USCS. These patrols have targeted illegal movement of fish as well as drug and human smuggling.
 - GLEU has conducted several joint patrols and investigations with law enforcement from the five 1836 Treaty Tribes to address illegal activity in the Great Lakes tribal fishing industry.
 - GLEU investigators have worked with neighboring state investigators with sharing of information regarding potential illegal cross border movement of aquatic species.
 - GLEU worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) inspectors and Customs and Border Patrol agents with inspecting exotic fish shipments at the Detroit Metro airport coming in from the Philippines.
 - SIU detectives have continued to have routine contact with various states' and provinces' special investigators on an array of different cases. Information is shared and assistance is provided regarding specific investigations as well as potential mutual targets of interest.
 - SIU assisted the state of Wisconsin's operation MOOSE NACLAC by providing 73 detailed record reports on Michigan citizens identified as committing potential license fraud.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**
 - The Division has piloted an online accident/crash report management solution to automate our accident reporting process. This solution enhances service to the public by simplifying report data entry, storage, access and distribution. The solution will be implemented division wide in 2016. The Division has also piloted an electronic citation solution which enhanced efficiency and increased productivity through the interface with court records management systems.
 - There has been an increase in the use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) in illegal hunting/fishing activity. Training was given on how to use media outlets to track illegal activity and suspects. Several illegal game cases have subsequently been made by

conservation officers. Social media is also used by the public to advertise for RAVE parties that are encountered on state land.

- GLEU participated with several partners working to develop an advanced electronic data-reporting mechanism for charter fishing captains, commercial fishers and fish wholesalers through a LEAN process review.
- GLEU presented the LED FirstNet use case; Great Lakes Response and Enforcement at the Michigan Statewide Interoperable Communication Conference. This large conference was attended by personnel in the communications realm from all over the state from local, county and state levels along with attendees from the Federal Response Agencies.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

- 2014 federal court ruling placed the wolf back on the endangered species list suspended Public Act 290 (ability to kill a wolf attacking livestock) and Public Act 318 (ability to kill a wolf attacking a dog). It also limited the Department's response options as we can no longer issue depredation permits to those suffering ongoing losses to their livestock. There have been ongoing wolf complaints ranging from wolves walking out of the woods towards people walking their dogs, walking down upper peninsula (UP) city streets and killing deer in town. There have been 28 wolf complaints filed with one UP police chief in the past year. It appears that public tolerance for wolves has been trending downward in the western Upper Peninsula.
- The Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) released new standards for snowmobile noise emissions testing. These new standards identify separate procedures for 2-stroke and 4-stroke engines. The new testing standard allows you to test the sled at a lower rpm which should eliminate the problems that have been experienced in the past with the clutch engaging while the brake is held and burning up belts. It will take a legislative change to make the new standards law and until then we will be operating under the previous standard.
- In a number of counties we are facing challenges related to prosecution for natural resource offenses. While challenges have existed, and will likely always exist at some level, the frequency at which our officers are encountering dismissed, reduced, or severely altered charges, resulting in disappointing case dispositions, seems to be on the incline. In particular, it is the deer cases, or deer related cases, that seem most susceptible. One possible reason/theory might be the recent enhancements to penalties for illegal taking of deer. The new "trophy" penalties may be an issue for prosecutors and judges who are not familiar with natural resource laws and who are led to believe that we have a deer over-population problem within our state. Convincing prosecutors and judges that are not fully informed to ramp up penalties and fines for deer violations while projecting struggles with controlling the deer population will take focused, coordinated efforts by the Department, its employees, and stakeholders.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

- Officers have been included in a work group to gather information regarding the new 2016 LED Strategic Plan. This provides a clear road map for success.
- The Division has a representative who will sit on the Department's Lean Processing Team to work on making the Department as a whole more efficient and cost effective.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

- The Report All Poaching (RAP) Hotline received 36,790 calls in 2015 ranking the second highest volume of calls since 1997 and generated 7,089 complaints.
- Through the award of a Homeland Security Grant Program project, LED procured air purifying respirators for use by enforcement officer during activities where exposure to respiratory hazards may exist. Such activities may involve the exposure to weapons of mass destruction or to chemical agents for crowd control. Respiratory hazards in these cases may include particulates, gases or vapors, and biological or chemical agents. In some cases, these exposures may represent Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) conditions. The primary purpose of this program is to ensure all enforcement members are protected from exposure to these respiratory hazards.
- Large RAVE parties are becoming increasingly popular on state land. The parties are organized using a social media outlet and have attracted crowds of 1000 people. Disorderly conduct, drug and alcohol violations, gross indecency, litter, careless use of fire, and state land use rule violations are the major issues encountered.
- Officer patrols on Belle Isle continue to be a priority for the Division.
- SIU organized and led the LED investigative response to the state's first documentation of CWD infected free ranging white-tailed deer. The investigation centered on identifying possible avenues of disease transmission. Major areas of investigation included, importation of game from CWD positive states and provinces by hunters from Michigan, deer processors, taxidermists and POC facilities. Results from the investigation revealed the greatest risk of CWD being transmitted came from violations concerning the importation of whole carcasses being home processed and land discarded. Several regulation recommendations were identified through the detailed examination.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: Missouri

Submitted by: Larry Yamnitz

Date: May 13, 2016

- **Training Issues** – For the fourth consecutive year, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) is conducting a training academy. The academy is Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified and consists of conservation law, boating operations, waterfowl school, firearms training, land management practices, trapping, fish kills, defensive tactics, etc. Pending successful completion of the academy, eleven conservation agent trainees will graduate at the end of September.

Recent changes in POST reporting requirements have led to changes in our training programs. Missouri conservation agents now maintain annual minimum Continuing Education Hours (CEHs) in the subjects of Legal Studies, Interpersonal Perspectives, Technical Studies, and Skill Development, as opposed to three-year minimum CEH requirements. We have also standardized our defensive tactics training into five “blocks” of instruction. This format is designed to spread our training throughout the year, simplify lesson plans, and make it easier for agents to meet training requirements if they miss a block of instruction in their region.

Conservation agents from across the state attended a four-day Wildlife Human Interaction Training (WHIT) program. This training prepared staff for incidents involving wildlife-human encounters including; securing the scene, assisting victims, collecting evidence, handling the media, and capturing the animal.

Protection Division held a statewide conference for all Division personnel in 2016. Training and discussion took place on a variety of topics including; *The Wildlife Code of Missouri*, Non-Bias Policing, Understanding the Threat (Sovereign Citizens), The Spirit of Leadership, and Law Enforcement Trauma and Wellness.

Protection Division also graduated three supervisors from the National Conservation Law Enforcement Leadership Academy (NCLELA) in September. All three graduates rated the program as excellent. Two additional supervisors are attending the 2016 NCLELA. As part of our ongoing efforts to promote diversity amongst the ranks, MDC sent seven female conservation agents to the IACP Women in Law Enforcement Leadership Training in 2015. Protection Division also hosted the 2015 AMFGLEO Investigators Conference in June.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – The Department’s budget has remained stable over the last few years. Protection Division currently has 200 FTEs and while we haven’t been able to add new positions, we have reallocated existing positions to better accomplish our mission. For example, the Confined Wildlife Enforcement Unit, formed in 2014, has been effective in providing firm, fair, and consistent enforcement of confined wildlife and commercial permit regulations, with special emphasis on captive cervid regulations.

Salary continues to be an issue with all Department staff. Protection Division recently lost four conservation agents to better paying jobs with outside agencies. Department Administration is working with the Conservation Commission to address this important issue.

Diversity in employment continues to be a priority for the Department and our Discover Nature Girls Camp programs are helping us connect with a more diverse audience. Due to their popularity, Protection expanded these camps to all eight regions in 2015, with an additional urban Discover Nature Girls Camp scheduled for St. Louis in 2016.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – In 2015, Missouri’s Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 992 violation reports which resulted in 193 arrests and \$9,100 in rewards paid. The OGT trailer was utilized at eleven special events throughout the state.

During the 2015 deer season, 4,530 hunters donated 228,306 pounds of venison to Missouri’s Share the Harvest program. This represents an increase from 2013 and 2014 donations. Conservation staff, in addition to our program partner, the Conservation Federation of Missouri, are continually working on securing funding for this valuable program. The Governor of Missouri continues his active interest in Share the Harvest and has assisted in bringing more public awareness to the program.

Conservation agents have been increasingly called to respond to swift-water rescue emergencies. Agents from across the state have participated in swift-water rescue training and have put that training to use on several occasions. Recently, three agents were recognized for their heroic efforts during a flash flooding emergency in late 2014. Conservation Agents Anthony Maupin, Jade Wright, and Eric Abbott were presented with the Governor’s Medal of Valor Award for their efforts to rescue Missouri citizens trapped by dangerous floodwaters. Governor Jay Nixon presented the awards himself at the Capital with the agents’ family and friends in attendance.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – Missouri continues to work with our partners in the USFWS and the US Attorney’s Office to wrap up federal cases against eight individuals indicted on the Operation Roadhouse paddlefish poaching investigation. Despite this significant accomplishment, illegal harvest and transportation of paddlefish roe is ongoing and our Special Investigations Unit continues to work with field agents to address this serious issue. Other investigations involving illegal commercialization of wildlife resources and unlawful movement of captive wildlife are ongoing.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – Protection Division continues to embrace technology to better protect Missouri’s fish, forest and wildlife resources. The “Agent Mobile” application is currently in its second phase of implementation. This new app combines our S3 permits system, arrest record, written warning, and Telecheck databases into one format that conservation agents can access via their iPhones. As with any new technology, bugs are still being worked out, but initial reports from field staff have been positive.

The Department continues to promote electronic hunting and fishing permits, with electronic deer and turkey permits available for the first time last fall. Electronic “signatures” have been addressed through a mandatory checkbox when purchasing an electronic permit. In addition, our MO Hunting app allows for electronic invalidation (notching) of deer and turkey permits and the ability to telecheck deer and turkey directly from your mobile device. Paper permits are still available and can be printed from a home computer. The Department is also considering a “hard card” refillable licensing format for most hunting/fishing licenses, but challenges regarding invalidation still remain for deer and turkey permits.

Agents continue utilizing Telecheck spot checks to verify the accuracy of the Department’s electronic big game reporting system. Specifically, agents saturate a county on a given day and pay a personal visit to each hunter who checks their deer/turkey harvest. Honest hunters are happy we’re following up on the self-reported Telecheck system, and unscrupulous hunters are somewhat surprised when an agent shows up at their door within an hour of their check. Violations for permit fraud, over-limits, and fail to properly tag/check are not uncommon.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – On January 30, 2015, new comprehensive captive cervid regulations, passed by the Conservation Commission, went into effect. The new regulations banned the importation of live white-tailed deer, mule deer, and their hybrids from other states; improved fencing standards for all facilities holding captive cervids; and improved record keeping requirements. However, a lawsuit filed by the captive





cervid industry led to an injunction on these new regulations. The court battle is ongoing. In the meantime, Protection Division continues to diligently enforce the previous captive

cervid regulations still in effect.

The 2015-2016 Legislative Session has been comparatively mild in regards to legislation targeting the Department. Of interest this year is Senate Joint Resolution 19 which attempts to increase the Conservation Commission membership from four to six, with no more than three Commissioners from the same political party. The Department continues to monitor this legislation closely.

As everyone is well aware, coverage of the events in Ferguson, MO over the past year contributed to negative public perceptions towards law enforcement across the nation. As a result, Conservation Agents Lexis Riter and Kevin Powell took it upon themselves to do something about it. They engaged the citizens of Ferguson with a Kid's Fishing Clinic sponsored by the Department. The event was an important early step in rebuilding trust and support between area residents and local law enforcement. Agents Riter and Powell received the Department's Workforce Diversity Award as a result. The smiles on the faces of the participants tell the rest of the story...

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – Protection Division currently has approximately 120 Protection Volunteers who assist conservation agents and other Department staff with projects including; enforcement patrols, outreach and education programs, training scenarios and wildlife surveys. The volunteer program continues to be a valuable recruitment tool.
- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - Protection Division continues to work diligently with Wildlife Division and other partners on feral hog eradication efforts in Missouri. Cage trapping and aerial gunning continue to be effective control measures. The Conservation Commission recently passed regulations prohibiting the taking of feral hogs on all lands owned, leased or managed by the Department in an effort to further reduce the incentive to transport and release feral hogs on Department areas.

CWD has now been found in northeast, central, and east-central Missouri. The first cases of CWD in Missouri were detected in 2010 and 2011 in captive deer at private big-game hunting preserves in Linn and Macon counties. A total of 11 cases were confirmed in captive deer at the facilities. The total number of Missouri free-ranging deer that have tested positive for

CWD is 33 with 21 found in Macon County, 9 in Adair, one in Cole, one in Franklin, and one in Linn. Protection Division continues to be very active in CWD containment efforts serving on landowner contact and shooting teams.

Missouri's reintroduced elk population continues to do well in the Ozark Region. Current population estimates have the herd at approximately 120 animals. Unfortunately, one of our mature bulls was poached in January and the antlers sawed off using a chainsaw. Conservation agents have interviewed dozens of people and followed up on over 200 leads but have yet to find the person(s) responsible. Agents have been relentless in conducting their investigation and we are hoping it's just a matter of time before an arrest is made.



Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2015 Agency Report

State/Province: Nebraska

Submitted by: Craig Stover

Date: 5/23/2016

- **Training Issues** - Transitioning to the new state-wide radio system has taken longer than anticipated. Expanded quality training has finally begun to pay off. Over the past two years the division has invested more time and effort in developing a side scan sonar team. Implementation of this unit has helped to save hundreds of man hours when compared to past recovery operations. The State recently passed a bill requiring mandatory twenty hours of continuing education each year for law enforcement personnel. So far this hasn't presented much of a challenge by utilizing a mix of hands-on and online training. Our state police academy is now 16 weeks which has eliminated one class annually. This change is making very difficult to schedule new hires for training as the enrollment demand exceeds their class capacity. Lastly, leadership training and career development has become a priority with the turnover in staff.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** - Manpower has remained static for the past 30 + years however we have the majority of positions allocated to our division filled at this time. Two positions did receive state funding however they are being held open at this time due to an internal sequester of monies resulting from declining fund balances. Two other field conservation officer positions were filled as boating conservation officers for two reasons; 1. There is a definite need to expand our boating safety efforts and 2. This option better utilizes under spent funds via the coast guard grant. Roughly 30% of our field workforce has been replaced within the past 5 years. A trend which will continue into the near future and our entire supervisory cadre with the exception of one person will turn over within the next six years. In addition to manpower numbers, the main staffing challenges are pay compression between our field and supervisory staff and coming up with a solution to reduce our supervisory span of control.
- **Funding and Staffing Issues** - The law enforcement division continues to dabble, with attempts to expand, our long term investigation capabilities. Alcohol and drug related issues / problems are beginning to dominate warm weather field activity. As a result, cross collaboration with our local sheriff's offices and state highway patrol is increasing.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** - Until recently, the state has been without a permanent USFWS Special Agent which has hampered some of our cross jurisdiction efforts. Outstanding working relationships at the field level with the surrounding states have allowed us to get done everything we possibly can.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** - While some improvements have been made, more work is needed to develop skills in investigating information gathered from electronic media accounts and database searches/records analysis.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** - Paltry fines resulting from some resolved outstanding cases involving the gross overharvest of wildlife has recently garnered some attention from sportsman's groups and State Senators. While there has been some recent outside interest in joining the Wildlife Violator compact and expanding our enforcement capabilities we will have to wait and see how this interest develops in the future.
- **Cost Savings Initiatives** - With fuel costs making up roughly a quarter of our operating budget, as long as prices stay down, operating monies are adequate. Also, the reprioritization of two field CO positions to boating safety officers combined with expanded boating under the influence enforcement and a focus on boating safety will return some additional funds to the agency.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: North Dakota

Submitted by: Chief Robert Timian

Date: May 12, 2016

- **Training Issues** – In April 2016, in an effort to expand on boating and BUI tactics, two of our officers attend classes with Arizona's Game and Fish Officers. The training was a good experience for our officers and we hope to continue the training for the future.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – We recently went through our hiring process again because of retirements and resignations, to fill three District Game Warden and one Game Warden Pilot positions. We anticipate within the next year additional retirements.

We are currently working on our division's budget requests for the 2017-2019 Biennium to reflect increases in training needs and staffing needs.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – For 2016, we will be assigning some officers for additional boat patrol, for several Lakes that have seen an increase in recreational boating. We will be promoting the Operation Dry Water this year to coincide with the additional patrol assignments.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** - We continue work through MOU's with our local law enforcement agencies for a specific River patrol task force in the Bismarck/Mandan area. The impact this patrol task force has had is seen by all users of the Missouri River system through the Bismarck/Mandan area. We continue to pursue discussions with the four reservations on Enforcement jurisdictional issues.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – We are currently in the process of updating our two Boston Whaler boats with new camera systems, which will be the same as the systems that we have in our patrol trucks. This will allow easier use by our officers being that they will now be the same.

Over the last year our division installed new consoles and MDT's in our patrol trucks. The new CAD (Computer aided Dispatch) system with GPS location was implemented last fall and has been a great benefit to our officers in instant information and officer safety.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – We are currently starting our review process of potential legislation for the upcoming 2017 Legislative session. There has been a lot of preliminary discussion on the public side, in regard to expanding coyote hunting opportunities.
- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - Even with the slowdown in the oil patch of North Dakota, we continue to see an impact with the states natural resources. We are seeing an increase of fail to appear on citations with bad addresses which increases our in house processing for suspensions.

The state's new Risk Management division requirements have been impacting our ability to secure necessary rental agreements for offsite storage space and boat slips.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: OHIO

Submitted by: Ken Fitz, Executive Administrator, Law Enforcement

Date: April 18, 2016

- **Training Issues**

The Ohio Peace Officer Training Council continues to add mandatory training topics and hours to our requirement to maintain our peace officer status. This year the number of hours

increased from 4 hours to 11 hours. We are continuing our law enforcement training program at 36 hours of training per officer per year.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

An increase in nonresident hunting license fees as well as the establishment of a nonresident deer permit was debated in the Ohio Legislature. These proposals were not enacted by the Legislature. The ODNR Division of Wildlife commissioned an in-depth study of the agency's license and permit pricing structure, which was completed in 2015. This resource will be utilized as the agency reviews all sources of funding and the opportunity for a price modernization plan. Our last license fee increase is over a decade past.

The number of commissioned wildlife officers in Ohio remains somewhat stable; however current vacancies and projected retirements within the next 18 months will present challenges. The last wildlife officer cadet class was completed in the summer of 2014; without an increase in funding there has been no time frame established to conduct the next training academy. We are currently at 135 commissioned officers, at full staffing we are at 154.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

At the request of other agencies, efforts were continued in combating illegal drug use, both on and off of ODNR lands. Wildlife officers found several drug operations on state land, including marijuana grow operations, meth labs and even heroin buried in a jar on state land.

In addition, we assisted other ODNR divisions with special projects, including major events such as fireworks displays, and in conducting vessel safety inspections. These activities are outside of our normal duties.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

Three subjects were convicted in the U.S. Southern District of Ohio on twenty three charges related to violating the Lacey Act, one count of conspiracy and one count of wire fraud. All of the charges were related to illegal trafficking in live white-tailed deer. One of the subjects owned hunting preserves in Logan County, Ohio, and Live Oak, Florida. One of the subjects was the operator of the site in Ohio. One of the subjects was a part-owner of the hunting preserve in Ohio and also owned an extensive high-fenced property containing white-tailed deer in Climax, Georgia.

The case involved illegal shipments of deer to Florida from Ohio and an attempted shipment of deer to Georgia from Ohio. The deer herds involved with these shipments were not certified to be free from chronic wasting disease, tuberculosis and brucellosis. Federal law requires interstate shipments of deer to be certified to be disease-free; because the deer were not certified as disease-free, deer herds (both captive and wild) in Florida were potentially exposed to these diseases

The attempted shipment to Georgia was intercepted in Ohio on Interstate 71, about 50 miles from the Ohio River, when Ohio Division of Wildlife Officers noticed deer noses and antlers inside a cargo trailer and stopped the truck which was driven by employees of the hunting preserve located in Ohio.

It was determined that the men had placed federal identification tags from a certified deer that had previously died into the ear of an uncertified deer they were selling. They then sold breeding services and semen from the deer to breeders around the United States.

The defendants also sold illegal white-tailed deer hunts at a hunting preserve in Ohio. They induced clients from around the country to hunt at the preserve— charging customers from \$1,000 to \$50,000 to kill deer inside his high fence preserve when the facility did not have a hunting preserve license. The customers then took the bucks back to their home states including: Florida, Michigan, Alabama and Virginia.

One defendant was ordered to pay \$1.6 million in fines and restitution, the largest sum of money ordered of an individual to pay for a wildlife crime in the United States. The total amount in fines and restitution exceeded \$1.725 million dollars. This amount included: \$600,000 to the Ohio Wildlife Habitat Fund, \$200,000 to the Ohio Endangered Species Fund, \$100,000 to Ohio TIP, \$300,000 to the Lacey Act Fund and \$400,000 to Franklin County Metro parks.

The case was an example of an outstanding cooperative effort by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, United States Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife, Franklin County Ohio Prosecutor, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

At the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Law Enforcement Committee meeting in 2013, a presentation was given by Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) officers regarding a bait dealer inspection project they had conducted, due to a concern over the possibility of round gobies being introduced into their inland lakes.

OMNR research had shown that they had 42 million bait sales a year, with approximately 1 in 68 bait purchases containing a round goby. This translates to over 617,000 gobies potentially being moved in bait containers.

After hearing this presentation, we decided that the bait industry was a potential means of movement of invasive species here in Ohio, especially Asian carp, as they are present in the Ohio River watershed. There are 1.3 million anglers in Ohio, approximately 3,875 square miles of water and about 558 licensed bait dealers. All of this combined with the potential to move bait easily in and out of the Lake Erie and Ohio River watersheds caused us to act.

We had several things we wanted to look for when conducting the inspections. This included the sources of bait, record keeping or other types of violations and of course fish in the tanks that should not be, or that are a threat.

Beginning the project in 2014, Officers conducted 44 inspections, representing a small percentage of the total number of bait dealers across the state. During these inspections we found 16 violations and only one invasive species, a gambusia or mosquito fish. However, while it was being held in a bucket during the inspection, the gambusia gave birth and soon we went from one specimen to several dozen.

After an evaluation of the 2014 project, an extensive training plan was developed and presented in each district, with the assistance of Division fish management staff. This training included identification of bait fish and invasive species. We purchased equipment, including ladders, buckets, nets and underwater cameras. Clear goals for the project were outlined and educational materials to be distributed to bait dealers were developed and produced.

Several goals were set for the project in 2015. These included determining sources of bait for sale in Ohio, determining if invasive species are present or common in the industry, teaching bait dealers what to watch for and ensuring compliance with the regulations.

During 2015, 463 inspections were completed, which is about 83% of the licensed bait dealers in the state. During these inspections officers encountered 78 violations, which resulted in 5 summonses being issued and warnings given for the remaining 73, (mostly paperwork issues). We determined that bait being sold was not only from Ohio, but also from Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Texas, West Virginia and Wisconsin. It was determined that the bigger the dealer, the more likely that their bait would be coming from out-of-state.

Most importantly, we found that aquatic invasive species are not prevalent in the industry. In 2015 we encountered two invasive sticklebacks, and one more gambusia. In total, for the two years of inspections, we documented only 4 invasive fish during 507 inspections.

We feel the industry is now better educated about aquatic invasive species, as well as our laws for the bait industry. In the future we will continue to work towards protecting our fish and wildlife resources by being proactive. Plans are to continue these efforts as we know the threat of invasive species will not go away.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

The Ohio Supreme Court ruled on a challenge to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 1531.201: *Civil action to recover possession or value of wild animal*. The code states in part "...In addition to any restitution value established in division rule, a person who is convicted of a violation of this chapter or Chapter 1533. of the Revised Code or a division rule governing the holding, taking, buying, sale, or possession of an antlered white-tailed deer with a gross score of more than one hundred twenty-five inches also shall pay an additional restitution value that is calculated using the following formula: Additional restitution value = ((gross score - 100)2 x \$1.65)..."

The Court concluded that ORC 1531.201 is unambiguous and clearly expresses the intent of the legislature. Therefore, they held that ORC 1531.201 mandates that ODNR recover the civil restitution value of an antlered white-tailed deer with a gross score of more than 125 inches from an offender who has been convicted of a violation of ORC Chapter 1531 or 1533 or division rule. The Court further held that ORC 1531.201 permits ODNR to file a civil action to recover the civil restitution value even though it had seized the deer's meat and antlers as evidence during the criminal investigation and was awarded possession of that evidence as a result of a conviction for a violation of ORC Chapter 1531 or 1533 or division rule.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

To improve the efficiency of the agency as a whole, the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) was upgraded to allow the central dispatch center to route calls to the correct officer across all of ODNR to provide an improved customer service. Under the old system the CAD was an internal agency use only, and was not a central dispatch facility.

The Turn In a Poacher program 1-800 number was moved from an outside call center to the central dispatch center, providing a quicker response and cost savings to the agency.

Hiring of additional officers was delayed due to budgetary concerns as no license fee increase occurred. In addition, the decision was made to temporarily limit the number of plain-clothes investigators to three per district, down from four. When the next class of cadets is hired, we will allow uniformed officers to apply for the investigator positions.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**

None to report at this time.

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State: OKLAHOMA
Col. Robert Fleenor, Chief
Prepared by: Capt. Bryan Wilkerson
Date: May 10, 2016**

The following report covers the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (FY2016) for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division.

AGENCY OVERVIEW:

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Law Enforcement Division game warden's primary responsibility is to enforce the State's wildlife laws. Game wardens also participate and assist in all phases of the Wildlife Department's operations and programs.

The division consists of 118 employees, with a field force of 90 game wardens, 16 game warden supervisors and 8 district chiefs. Central office staff includes the chief, assistant chief, operations manager and one secretary.

In addition, the agency has a reserve force consisting of 43 reserve officers who are agency employees assigned to various divisions whose primary duties are other than law enforcement.

The division operates with a straight-line chain of command.

TRAINING ISSUES:

All new game wardens undergo a five week training and orientation at Department Headquarters in Oklahoma City, then ten weeks in a Field Training and Evaluation Program with a Field Training Officer, two weeks of which the new game warden will spend working with his Lieutenant. In addition, they also attend the 600-hour Oklahoma Basic Law Enforcement Academy, all totaling nearly 30 weeks of training prior to solo assignment.

All game wardens are required by state mandate to complete twenty-five hours of law enforcement training and two hours of mental health training each calendar year. In addition, all supervisors are also required to attend twelve hours of supervisory training each year. New supervisors are required to attend 24 hours within one year after promotion.

All commissioned wardens and reserves are required to train and qualify annually with issued pistols, shotguns and carbines. In addition, game wardens must also attend an annual 8 hour defensive tactics refresher course.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES:

Funding remains basically unchanged from the previous year. We are fortunate that we are a revenue based agency and not experiencing any funding shortfalls.

Three new game wardens were hired during this period; the open positions are a result of retirements.

We were able to purchase 21 Chevrolet Silverado four-wheel drive extended cab pickups and 2 crew cab pickups. Seventeen of the trucks have been converted to use CNG. The state now has a mandatory Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) requirement for most state vehicles. The CNG requirement cost the Division \$10,200 per vehicle for each aftermarket conversion for a total \$173,400 additional cost for vehicles. The fuel savings fluctuates as the price of CNG to gasoline changes. Compressed natural gas continues to be a more economical option to gasoline. The equipment installed on this years trucks include LED light bars, tool boxes, locking double gun racks, and grill guards.

We also were able to purchase a two patrol boats, one a standard 21' equipped with an outboard motor the second an 18' with a jet drive for working shallow waters and rivers. We leased one John Deere Gator UTV with an hourly agreement, and purchased one ATV for use in south central Oklahoma.

We have ordered Remington 870 pump shotguns equipped with extended magazines, side saddles, speed feed stocks and slings to replace aging shotguns for all game wardens. We are currently researching body worn cameras to document contacts with the public and critical incidents. We are continuing to replace self-inflating PFD's with new hydrostatic inflatable models 25 new PFD's were purchased.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS:

Wardens are increasingly using social media to detect wildlife violations, with the proliferation social web sites and services in combination with a younger generation of wardens; we expect this trend to continue. The cases tend to fall in to two distinct types, the first being a posting to sell wildlife or wildlife parts and the second a posting which shares an illegal activity with friends or other online contacts.

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS:

The division continues to cooperate with every state in efforts to combat fraudulent license applications and interstate wildlife violations.

We continue to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service in enforcing the federal laws occurring in our state.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT:

We implemented a law enforcement Facebook page edited by selected game wardens. The page continues to be instrumental in developing leads in wildlife cases from the public, and serves as a method to provide feedback from the public on our law enforcement efforts. The benefit of social media is the low cost to the agency and the ability to disseminate focused information to interested constituents.

The Department continues to conduct the hunter education course on-line this has decreased the demand for traditional classroom courses taught by game wardens.

STATE, REGIONAL, AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT:

The Oklahoma Legislature started its session in early February and it has been a contentious session from day one. No less than three bills were filed limiting game warden access to private property. After much wrangling and hard feelings on both sides the offending language was removed, only to be replaced with 365/24/7 feral hog hunting on private/public lands with owner permission. This legislation may prove problematical to our game wardens, especially during fall hunting seasons. We had an Agency request bill that dealt with making the wanton waste statute easier to use, but it ran into negative issues in the Senate. Lets hope that next year goes better!

COST SAVING INITIATIVES:

Fuel costs continue to be a concern in Oklahoma. Game wardens are encouraged to use time management and to work wisely while conducting their patrols. Fuels saving initiatives have been implemented to help offset costs, including the installation of CNG conversions, which will greatly impact our fuel bill.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:

We have formed a committee to update the division's Procedures Manual. The committee assigns sections of the procedure to members who then meet once per month to evaluate the procedure. We plan to complete this work sometime in 2016.

Enforcement of the illegal harvest and sale of paddlefish eggs for caviar continues to be a major enforcement issue. Game wardens maintain an increased enforcement emphasis during the annual spring spawn to help curtail the illegal activities associated with the illegal caviar trade.

Game wardens are involved in several Department programs that involve the recruitment and retention of anglers and hunters. The programs include an annual Wildlife Expo held each September in Guthrie, Oklahoma, and regional and annual Archery in the Schools statewide tournaments. Both programs require an enormous amount of manpower and associated costs in these popular and worthwhile projects. Other programs include the annual Wildlife Youth Camp, STEP programs and Aquatic Education. The recruitment and retention of fishermen and hunters and the sale of licenses to them is vital to our agency.

AMFGLEO/WAFWA Law Enforcement Annual Report

State Report – South Dakota

*By: Andy Alban
Law Enforcement Administrator
Division of Wildlife
South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks*

This report covers the period April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, for the State of South Dakota, Department of Game, Fish and Parks - Division of Wildlife - Law Enforcement Program.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Are officers 100% Wildlife Law Enforcement or Mixed: **Mixed**

Straight Line Reporting Structure: **No** – Regional Supervisor positions are not required to be LE

Number of Officers: **77 total officers in Wildlife Division:** 53 CO's, 12 District CO Supervisors, 4 Regional CO Supervisors, 1 Training Supervisor, 1 Regional Supervisor, 1 Regional Program Manager, 2 CO Specialists, 2 Investigators, 1 LE Administrator.

TRAINING ISSUES

Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC)

We are just starting our own, in-house, EVOC program. In the past, we have relied on EVOC instructors within the SD Highway Patrol to provide the training to our officers. While we are still planning on working with the HP's, we feel there is great benefit in having our own EVOC instructors within the agency. We are currently looking at the certification process, what training to initially attend, and hope to have six instructors certified by the end of the year. We have selected one instructor per region (4), plus two within LE Administration.

University Law Enforcement Class

In August, 2015, the South Dakota Board of Regents approved a new degree program for South Dakota State University (SDSU) that is only offered in four institutions nationwide – natural resource law enforcement. This degree program will build a firm foundation for students in environmental policy, natural resource management, criminal justice and conservation biology. SD GFP collaborated with SDSU and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for approximately two years in forming the program. There is a need for qualified candidates in the conservation law enforcement field and for these students to have natural resources, law and sociology coursework. Twenty-five incoming freshmen enrolled in the program for fall of 2015, and more are expected to follow in successive years. This degree will aid state and federal agencies in the recruitment of prospective conservation officers/game wardens, park rangers, federal enforcement agents and refuge manager candidates.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

License Sales Update

Nonresident small game licenses are a major source of revenue for the agency. The 2015 pheasant index increased 42% compared to the 2014 index, but was still 30% lower than the 10-year average. This increase in pheasants resulted in the sale of over 85,000 nonresident small game licenses in 2015 (an increase in more than 7,000 licenses from 2014 totals).

Conservation Officer Turnover

We experienced some turnover within our workforce of Conservation Officers over the past year. At this time of this document, 51 of 55 field positions were filled. We have four CO Trainees at various stages in the training process to fill those vacant duty stations. Our officers begin their tenure by attending the State Law Enforcement Academy, in Pierre, and there are three sessions offered each year. The Wildlife Training Officer Program (field training) is approximately 13 weeks in length. It takes roughly eight months to fully train an officer before they are placed in a solo duty station; from pre-academy to academy to post-academy to field training.

New Performance Evaluation System for Employees

We have embarked on a new employee performance evaluation system within state government—ACES (Accountability and Competency Evaluation System). A pay for performance component is being added to the system as well. ACES is a comprehensive performance management system that improves the quality of performance communication between supervisors and their employees. It provides employees with tools for giving input on all aspects of their job, evaluating their own performance, and tracking their accomplishments. It gives supervisors tools to help them provide more meaningful, job-specific behavioral feedback. Feedback helps employees improve, grow, and develop in their current job and can help prepare them for higher-level roles and responsibilities.

In ACES, supervisors typically give their employees feedback during one or more brief *coaching* (“How’s it going?”) *discussions* throughout the year. A specific *development opportunity* is mutually identified during this discussion and timely feedback is given to the employee on the development opportunity in which he/she is currently focusing on.

At the end of the year, a formal performance appraisal is reviewed and discussed. The “ACE” provides performance ratings for all important aspects of the job and summarizes the performance communication and goal-setting that occurred during the year.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Issues

The Department significantly increased efforts to effectively manage and slow the spread of AIS throughout 2015. Evidence of invasive mussels was discovered for the first time in South Dakota in Angostura Reservoir (currently “suspect” for quagga mussels) and Lewis and Clark Reservoir (currently “infested” with zebra mussels) in 2014, prompting more regulations to be adopted with the goal of eliminating the amount of water moved from lake to lake. Enforcement efforts were primarily educational in nature and compliance was rather low. We plan on stepping up our enforcement approach in 2016.

Parks Law Enforcement Workgroup

We have partnered with our Division of Parks & Recreation to work on several law enforcement-related issues through the formation of a workgroup. We have six full-time park rangers within the agency. Items discussed include:

- Discontinuing the hiring of non-certified seasonal rangers
- Cross-functioning of conservation officers and park rangers
- Differences in hiring, training, and pay between CO’s and rangers

UNIQUE CROSS BOUNDARY OR COOPERATIVE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

Interstate (I-90) Road Check

A road check was held near White Lake, South Dakota, along Interstate 90 at the eastbound rest area near mile marker 301. This was held in conjunction with the opening weekend of the West River deer season, as well as ongoing big game seasons in adjacent western states. Additionally, pheasant and waterfowl seasons were in full swing within the state. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks provided the bulk of the personnel using both Conservation Officers and non-law enforcement employees. Representatives from other wildlife law enforcement agencies included state officers from Wyoming and Montana, and federal officers (Special Agents and Refuge Officers) from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Members from the SD Highway Patrol and the Aurora County Sheriff's Office were also present. The check began at 2:00 PM on Nov. 15th and concluded at 2:00 PM Nov. 16th. Over 3300 vehicles passed through the checkpoint, with approximately 20% of them having game/fish on board. From those vehicles checked for compliance, there were 147 violations detected.

Trophy Poaching Penalties

The Department provided additional monies (in addition to all criminal fines already being transferred) to local school districts in South Dakota for the illegal take of trophy wildlife. Over \$33,000 in liquidated civil damage monies have been transferred to school districts where the illegal wildlife was taken since legislative action was initiated in 2010.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

Hunters, Anglers and Trappers Can Now Carry Licenses on their Smartphone Devices

Hunters, anglers and trappers in South Dakota will notice now when logging into their account through the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks' (GFP) online licensing system that their small game, fishing or trapping license has a QR code in the upper right hand corner. This code allows GFP conservation officers to electronically scan the license on smartphone devices (Android, iPhone, etc.) while in the field in lieu of a paper copy. Hunters, anglers and trappers can log into their GFP account from their device to view their small game, fishing or trapping license and take a picture or screenshot of it with their device (Android, iPhone, etc.). This electronic version is an acceptable method of carrying a small game, fishing or trapping license. If hunter, anglers or trappers choose to print and carry a paper copy of their small game, fishing or trapping license, that continues to be an allowed practice. This **does not** apply to federal waterfowl stamps, tags and licenses mailed from the GFP licensing office. As technology evolves, GFP is committed to actively engaging with hunters, anglers and trappers across the state to provide them with the digital services that make it easier to do business with us.

STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ISSUES, LEGISLATION, LEGAL CHALLENGES, AND COURT DECISIONS IMPACTING NATURAL RESOURCES LAW ENFORCEMENT

2016 Legislative Session

The 2016 Legislative Session saw a number of bills introduced that had potential effects on our agency. Notable bills that passed include: a revision to the area where nonresident waterfowl licenses are issued and a revision to allow more individuals to utilize artificial light to hunt. Bills defeated include: an act to require legislative approval to purchase land, an act to limit the terms of conservation easements, an act to revise the minimum hunting age/requirements, an act to provide for an earlier archery deer season, and an act to authorize the use of handguns in hunting game birds.

2015 Legislative Session

Below is a summary of applicable legislation that was enacted in 2015.

- **HB1006 – An Act to allow bullheads to be used as bait.** This bill amends 41-12-8 to allow for the use of bullheads as bait in hook and line fishing. It is important to note that the bullheads are still considered a game fish, so they must be caught by legal methods. The bill also clarifies that carp and goldfish may not be used as bait and that cleanings of game fish may be utilized.
- **HB1082 – An Act to allow a law enforcement officer to issue a citation without a notary.** This bill amends 23-1A-5 (Petty offense procedures) and 23A-2-1 (Class 2 Misdemeanor procedures) and creates a provision to allow an officer to sign a ticket without obtaining a notary signature.
- **HB1146 – An Act to limit who may request to see a person's hunting or fishing license.** This bill amends 41-6-63 by narrowing the scope of license exhibition to just CO's and LEO's, instead of any person. It also creates a new law (41-9-11) and penalty provision (Class 2 Misdemeanor) that requires a licensee to provide information (name & place of residence) to any person who has legal authority to control access to the private land in question.
- **SB48 – An Act to revise certain provisions pertaining to the operation of personal watercraft.** This bill amends 42-8-102 and eliminates the half hour periods that PWC's were previously able to operate without lights. They are now required to display lights when operating between sunset and sunrise. Additionally, clean-up language was inserted into the statute to align with the USCG's efforts to get away from PFD Typing and consider them "wearable" devices.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) Update

South Dakota has been a very active participant in the Compact since joining in 2004. In 2015, our state reported 492 violator names to the database. During that period, 5,823 violators were entered nationwide in the Compact. Considering those figures, South Dakota entered approximately 8% of the Compact names.

Turn In Poachers (TIPs) Program Update

The South Dakota Turn in Poachers (TIPs) program continues to be operational and callers who have knowledge of illegal hunting and fishing activity could be eligible for rewards. The program provides an important avenue for citizens to report hunting and fishing law violations, and in the process, prevents the loss of wildlife that can result from illegal actions. In the annual reporting period from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015, the TIPs program reported 213 investigations initiated through citizen reports, leading to 126 arrests, \$18,558 in fines and \$30,100 in civil penalties. Callers can remain anonymous, and are eligible for rewards in cases that lead to an arrest. Rewards may range up to \$300 for big game and \$100 for small game or fishing violations. Higher rewards may be offered in extreme cases. Last year, over \$5,000 in rewards were paid.

The TIPs program has been going since 1984, and in that time citizens have generated over 10,000 investigations that have led to 3,700 arrests. Over \$156,000 in reward monies have been remitted to tipsters since program inception. Each and every call is a vital part of the work to preserve our natural resources. Individuals may call the TIPs hotline at 1.888.OVERBAG (683-7224) to report violations, or report via the TIPs website at tips.sd.gov.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2016 Agency Report
State/Province: Texas



Submitted by: Colonel Craig Hunter – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Law Enforcement Division
Prepared by: Major Larry E. Young
2016

Training Issues – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department – Law Enforcement Division (TPWD-LE) continues to encourage and promote relevant training to ensure game wardens are prepared to meet the demands of their job. Some highlights from the past year include:

- The Game Warden Training Center (GWTC) is in the process of rolling out a Use of Force Update to all game wardens. This training block will be given in two parts with an initial on-line 2 hour section, followed by a classroom section with group discussion and writing exercises. The Law Enforcement Division General Order governing the use of force is also going through an editing process to make sure it addresses the current issues and tactics of force. Body worn camera training will follow with a similar on-line format.
- The GWTC will be choosing a new sight system for the M-4 rifles to replace the recalled EoTech sights. While waiting for the replacement sights game wardens have been directed to practice/qualify with the traditional iron sight in different lighting conditions.
- At the direction of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Executive Director, the Game Warden Training Center has created an Advisory Board that meets annually and is comprised of ranking game wardens and members of the general public. The board discusses all aspects of hiring and training new cadets, they advise the training center staff on specific training needs, and provide guidance on curriculum and all matters related to effective operations of the GWTC.

Funding and Staffing Issues – TPWD-LE continues to maintain a substantial force of over 500 game wardens statewide. As with many agencies TPWD-LE has had to work with senior management, legislators, and constituents to ensure the strong tradition of Texas Game Wardens endures during difficult economic times. While there are still Law Enforcement Division concerns, such as the aircraft fleet and the vehicle fleet, the division as a whole has fared well. Some highlights include:

- The 60th Game Warden Cadet class reported to duty January 11, 2016 and after successfully completing the course of training they will graduate August 2, 2016. There are currently 43 game warden cadets and 6 park police officer cadets attending the 7 month long academy. This cadet class marks the second joint academy incorporating State Park Police cadets with the Game Warden cadets. All cadets will attend the NASBLA Officer Water Survival training that is also being administered to the field in regional segments.
- The 84th Session of the Texas Legislature approved funding for nineteen border game wardens. These nineteen additional positions increase the total Law Enforcement commissioned number to 551 Full Time Employee's.
- The Law Enforcement Division has hired two new Sergeant Game Warden positions to assist with ongoing operations by the division along the Texas/Mexico border.
- The Law Enforcement division continues development of the specialized teams by incorporating additional training and deployments as required. Teams include: Texas Maritime Tactical Operations Group, K-9 Team, Scout Team, Search and Rescue Team, Dive Team, Forensics Reconstruction and Mapping Team, and Marine Theft Unit. Additionally, four new Captain Game Wardens are now placed supervising the Dive Team, the K-9 Team, the SCOUT Team and the MTOG Team.
- The GWTC working through the Bobwhite Brigade organization has developed a new Game Warden Brigade program targeting conservation minded youth leaders. The first pilot class will be held in August of 2016 at the GWTC. This joint venture hopes to draw future conservation professionals from diverse backgrounds to complement our on-going recruitment mission.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends – Significant advances have been made by TPWD-LE in support of major conservation law enforcement trends. Whether working traditional conservation law enforcement efforts in federal waters or being the lead agency on border operations game wardens continue to adapt and excel as their job duties change and expand. A few examples of TPWD-LE involvement in these trends include:

- In FY 16 the Law Enforcement Forensic Laboratory received formal accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board. The accreditation signifies that the LE Forensic Laboratory conforms to ISO-IEC 17025:2005 and ASCLD/LAB-*International* standards and is accredited in the areas of non-human nuclear DNA and protein analysis. The TPWD LE Forensic Laboratory is the only state government wildlife forensic laboratory in the country to have accomplished this feat to date.

- Border operations continue to be an enforcement effort game wardens are involved with along the Texas/Mexico border and in the Gulf of Mexico. TPWD-LE game wardens fill a vital niche with their expertise of navigating the waterways and back country of rural Texas. Some of the most challenging areas for game wardens to patrol are the remote mountains and canyons in the Big Bend region of west Texas. While maintaining these patrols game wardens are constantly in search of illegal drug and human smuggling activity in addition to their enforcement efforts of the Texas Parks and Wildlife and Penal Code. These operations serve a dual purpose by allowing game wardens to practice conservation law enforcement while serving as a force multiplier providing security along the border.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts – TPWD-LE continues its involvement with several cooperative enforcement efforts with federal and state partners which include:

- In January of 2016 game wardens in southeast Texas received a phone call from a local landowner advising them that two Whooping Cranes had been killed. An individual had flagged down the landowner and advised him he was chasing some individuals in a grey pick-up truck that had shot and killed the Whooping Cranes. Upon arrival at the crime scene game wardens began the collection of evidence of the suspected killing of the Cranes as well as gathering statements from the community. Local TPWD Supervisors were notified of the situation and were in route to assist in the investigation along with a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Whooping Crane carcasses were analyzed by X-Ray Technology and it was the veterinarian's professional opinion that the birds were in fact shot and killed by a small caliber, similar to a .22 or a .17 caliber type rifle. This case was investigated jointly by TPWD game wardens and a Special Agent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the matter was resolved, with charges filed, in a very timely manner due to this cooperative effort and overwhelming support from the community.
- In March of 2016 game wardens in Brazoria County were notified by the U.S. Coast Guard about a vessel that was suspected of being involved with possible recreational fishing violations. Game wardens made contact with the vessel, under U.S. Coast Guard escort, at a local marina. Upon inspection of the vessel, three recreational fisherman were found to be in possession of 488 Red Snapper, 154 Vermillion Snapper, 1 Gag Grouper, and 1 Warsaw Grouper for a total of 1,910 lbs. of fish. This case was clearly a blatant disregard of fisheries regulations considering the recreational red snapper season was closed in Federal Waters, and only 4 red snapper per person are allowed in State Waters. Game wardens contacted agents with NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service to assist with prosecution of the case and confiscation of the fish which were sold to the highest bidder. Total values of the fish sold, include, \$9,500 (Wholesale value) and \$30,000 (Retail Value.) This was a Joint State/Federal Enforcement effort with several State and Federal violations pending.

- TPWD-LE has partnered with NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement, National Marine Fisheries Service since 2001 by maintaining a Joint Enforcement Agreement that provides federal funds for state game wardens to patrol coastal waters and points-of-entry for enforcement of recreational and commercial fisheries violations. This successful partnership has provided equipment and operational funds which have allowed for increased officer presence in the bays and Gulf of Mexico.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement –

- Game wardens patrolling 367 miles of Texas' coastline and 16 deep water ports will be utilizing newly-acquired advanced radiological and nuclear detection equipment that will help keep the state, its maritime ports and international borders, and the nation safe from a potential threat of a dirty bomb. Through a federal funded port security grant, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division was able to secure 1.1 million dollars in equipment and training on deployment and detection of this new threat. Beginning in late 2015 and early 2016 over 100 devices were assigned to Wardens along the coast and they were trained to use them by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Boat Operations and Training (BOAT) course on Small Vessel Radiological and Nuclear Detection (SVRND). This course was developed in coordination with the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) and is designed to elevate and enhance the RND capabilities of officers to conduct steady state, enhanced steady state and search operations on the waters of the United States. The training and equipment acquisition has been in the works for some time as the States Boating Law Administrator Cody Jones has been working with DNDO and Oakridge National Laboratory to develop the states program and concept of operations as part of the National Maritime Security Strategy and the Department of Homeland Security Small Vessel Security Strategy.
- The Law Enforcement (LE) Division continues development of effective communication processes and tools by utilizing a highly successful social media program. The LE Division has become a leader in outreach via Facebook and Twitter by proactively telling the "world" what game wardens do and using these media outlets to detect and gather tips on potential resource violations. The LE Division has also been successful in rapidly creating videos, having virtual ride-a-longs, and sharing these successes with dozens of other states' conservation law enforcement professionals through conferences and seminars.
- The Law Enforcement (LE) Division has continuously improved business management systems, and business practices and technology by working in collaboration with the Information Technology Division. More specifically, the LE Division has now created several internal mobile apps. These apps place relevant, timely information directly into the hands of the game warden, enabling them to do their jobs more safely and in the best interest of the constituent. For example, the License Verify mobile app allows game wardens to see the last five years of a constituent's TPWD license holdings. This mobile app was recognized as Best in Texas by the Center for Digital Government in 2015.

State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement –

- The 84th Legislature enacted several new laws directly impacting Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and a partial list of these laws is provided below.
- **House Bill 158** relating to the allocation and use of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods amended the Tax Code to authorize TPWD to receive 94% of the proceeds from the Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST). Since 2007, the Tax Code has contained language stating that TPWD is entitled to 94% of the total tax proceeds from the sales of sporting goods. However, the actual amount given to the agency has been dependent on the legislative appropriation of these proceeds in the General Appropriations Act. As a result, TPWD has consistently received significantly less than 94% of the SGST in from 2007 to the present. With this law, 94% of SGST proceeds are deposited into TPWD accounts without any future legislative action necessary. However, these funds still must be legislatively appropriated before they are spent.
- **House Bill 593** would require all peace officers - except officers employed in a county with a population of less than 125,000 - to attend animal encounter training. The training is required to be conducted with an emphasis on canine-related incidents and the utilization of nonlethal methods in handling the encounter. This version relaxes a previous requirement that would not allow the initial training to be conducted online. It also relaxes original wording that would require the training to be conducted at a minimum of every 2 years. It appears with this version, that once the training requirement has been met, future training in this area is not required.
- **House Bill 721** relating to the hunting or fishing license fee waiver for certain disabled veterans amended Parks and Wildlife Code to change the qualification for disabled veteran status. This law lowers the qualification from 60% disability to 50% disability, as defined by the federal Department of Veteran's Affairs. Resident and non-resident disabled veterans are entitled to free super combo licenses. This distinction also reduces fees associated with other hunting, fishing and combination licenses.
- **House Bill 1466** relating to Parks and Wildlife Department procedures for the transfer of ownership of boats or outboard motors; providing penalties; creating a criminal offense amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to require a vessel owner to notify the department within twenty days of transferring vessel ownership, or removing the vessel from the state or country. The new owner is required to apply for a new application for the vessel within twenty days.
- **House Bill 1579** removes allowance for removal of a shark's tail prior to final destination but allows possession of fins by commercial and recreational anglers. The bill gives TPWD authority over cooked, uncooked, or otherwise processed shark fins. Provides for Class B penalty for sale, possession for sale, transport for sale, or shipment for sale of shark fins which shall be pursued as a Class A if previously convicted within 5 years of trial date. (Effective date July 1, 2016)

- **House Bill 1584** relating to a voluntary donation to the fund for veteran's assistance when applying for a hunting or fishing license amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to allow hunting and fishing license customers to make voluntary contributions to the veteran's fund, both online and in person.
- **Senate Bill 158** would require certain law enforcement agencies to provide body worn cameras to all officers. The bill does provide for some grant money to offset the cost of the body cameras to the agencies.
- **Senate Bill 381** relating to tort liability arising from a volunteer's operation of a Parks and Wildlife Department motor-driven vehicle or motor-driven equipment amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt volunteers from civil liability for any act or omission made in operating a department vehicle, not including intentional, negligent or disregarded acts. The department shall compensate resultant injuries or damages caused in such circumstances by volunteers using department vehicles.
- **Senate Bill 1366** relating to the allocation to the Parks and Wildlife Department of the proceeds from taxes imposed on the sale, storage, or use of sporting goods amended the Parks and Wildlife Code to remove a statutory percent-based allocation of the Sporting Goods Sales Tax. In the past, a formula dictated that each account credited by SGST would receive a specific percentage of SGST transfers to TPWD: State Parks Account- 74%; Texas Recreation and Parks Account- 15%; Large County and Municipal Recreation and Parks Account- 10%, and Capital and Conservation Account- 1%. These percentages resulted in backlogs of state park and construction activities, since funds were not always appropriated where they could best fill agency needs. Striking this formula gives the legislature increased flexibility in appropriating SGST funds to these accounts.
- **Senate Joint Resolution 22** (proposing a constitutional amendment relating to the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife) amended the Texas Constitution to add language indicating that Texans have the right to use traditional methods to hunt, fish and harvest wildlife to conserve and manage wildlife, subject to laws and regulations. It also states that hunting and fishing are preferred methods of managing and controlling wildlife. This constitutional amendment was passed by Texas voters as a ballot proposition on November 3, 2015, by a 62% margin.
- **House Resolution 937** encouraging safe boating practices and paying tribute to the life of Kali Gorzell of San Antonio. This resolution points to the "Flats Boat" issue address by the United States Coast Guard in their Fall 2014 Boating Safety Circular (Please click on the link below for a pdf version) #88:
<http://www.uscgboating.org/assets/1/AssetManager/Fall%202014%20BSC%20rev%2003.pdf>

- Additionally, legislation was enacted creating several memorial highways across the state honoring game wardens that have been killed in the line of duty. The four game wardens honored with Memorial Highways include Game Warden James E. Daughtrey, Game Warden Joseph Marshall Evans, Game Warden Michael C. Pauling and Game Warden Wesley W. Wagstaff
- **House Bill 219** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.105 which designates a portion of Farm-To-Market Road 1293 in Hardin County as the Texas Game Warden Wesley W. Wagstaff Memorial Highway.
- **House Bill 1963** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.107 which designates a portion of State Highway 87 in Jefferson County as the Texas Game Warden Michael C. Pauling Memorial Highway.
- **Senate Bill 227** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.105 which designates a portion of Farm-to-Market Road 624 in McMullen County as the Texas Game Warden James E. Daughtrey Memorial Highway.
- **Senate Bill 288** amends the Transportation Code, by adding Section 225.106 which designates a portion of State Highway 16 in Young County as Texas Game Warden Joseph Marshall Evans Memorial Highway.
- The Federal Bureau of Investigation promulgates specific rules for law enforcement agencies that utilize its databases. As part of that, there is a security protocol referred to as the Criminal Justice Information Systems. This 186-page set of rules (currently called version 5.2) which dictates how Information Technology (IT) devices transmit and store information requires IT, purchasing, and LE personnel to all work together to ensure there is compliance. TPWD receives audits every three years in each of its two dispatch centers. The La Porte Communications Center was last audited in the summer of 2013 and the Austin Communications Center received an audit in early 2014. In addition to the communications centers, game wardens now have the capability to run registrations checks, background checks, and license verification information on their handheld devices.

Cost Savings Initiatives

- TPWD-LE continues to move forward with embracing new technology and incorporating new ideas and concepts into the traditional methods of accomplishing the agency and division missions. E-documents and interactive conference calls are replacing massive mailings and face-to-face meetings which were once the standard. As a result TPWD-LE disseminates information in a more timely and efficient manner at an overall cost savings to the Law Enforcement Division.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues –

- In 2015, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) was detected inside a captive cervid (deer) facility in Texas. In response to this detection, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission adopted rules designed to provide confidence in preventing the spread of the disease into other facilities or other areas of the state. As is with all new rules, education of the public in an effort to gain understanding and compliance has been a top priority for the Law Enforcement Division. Game Wardens have been provided training in the new rules, and have been working extensively with industry and the public to ensure understanding by all.
- In the state's ongoing effort to combat the spread of invasive zebra mussels in freshwater lakes rules require that all boats operating on public freshwater anywhere in Texas be drained after use. Persons leaving or approaching public freshwater are required to drain all water from their vessels and on-board receptacles (includes live wells, bilges, motors and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters). This rule applies at all sites where boats can be launched and includes all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not, personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/canoes, or any other vessel used to travel on public waters.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2016 Agency Report

State/Province: Wisconsin

Submitted by: Chief Todd Schaller

Date: 5-10-16

- **Training Issues** - describe any new or innovative training programs or techniques which have been recently developed, implemented or are now required.

The training program has been working through online training quizzes to enhance retention of simple identification of fish and ducks. This has been implemented with the recruit classes and has been made available for all officers. Initial reviews have been positive and it seems to have an impact on preparing officers for waterfowl season.

Training has been using e-learning through the use of video's and quizzes to enhance messaging and retention. Legal update was delivered this year through media site style broadcast.

More officers are being issued Tasers. We are current at roughly 30% of our officer are equipped with this LE tool

Officers have been issued AR style rifles with aim points. We are now training off hand shooting with the long guns. The shotgun program is in the process of being discontinued.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

We held our first joint recruitment for law enforcement limited term employees (LTE) with Parks and Forestry. Over 100 applications were received resulting in 40+ officers hired for the summer boating and camping season.

Due to F&G funded budget cuts, we lost 1.5 FTE positions, which included 0.5 of a non-credentialed support position, and 1 credentialed officer position. Additionally, we had a funding shift where 1.5 positions previously funded by F&G is now funded by GPR, and another 1.5 positions previously funded by F&G is now funded by Environmental Funds.

As far as vacant permanent credentialed positions, we began FY16 with 18 vacant (out of 198), and currently sit at 10 vacant (out of 197).

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

Cloud-based/Plain-paper Licensing System

Wisconsin recently transitioned from traditional durable license and tag products to a cloud-based system where customers can display their WI driver's license or DNR Conservation Card (similar to a credit card) after purchasing fish/game licenses. Wardens utilize smart phones during field checks to scan the products and then connect to the licensing system to verify purchases. Customers no longer need to carry additional licenses in their wallets.

For species that require carcass tags, these products are now printed on plain paper and can be generated at any DNR agent or at the customer's home. From the customer perspective, this system transition allows them to complete DNR transactions from their home, quickly, without the need to travel to a DNR licensing agent or wait for carcass tags to arrive in the mail. Overall, this system improves the customer experience and improves access to conservation activities—changes requested by a customer base that is accustomed to the convenient and instantaneous style of major online retailers, such as Amazon.com.

From the law enforcement perspective, the new system fundamentally changes the nature of basic compliance checks and alters the integrity of tagging products, but also brings new opportunities for real-time access to data and additional investigative resources.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

Operation Upper Miss & Operation Open Water (Lk Michigan)

In 2010, the USFWS began a 3-yr probe on four waterfowl hunting guides in reference to illegal hunting activities and Lacey Act violations committed during migratory waterfowl hunts on the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan. The probe included undercover hunting activities by USFWS agents. In February of 2015, four federal search warrants were executed on these guides to gather further evidence. Federal felony charges are pending and additional follow-up interviews (50+ clients) will be conducted in 2016 for potential charges of Wisconsin waterfowl hunting violations. Case open and active.

Great Lakes Issues

The Bureau of Law Enforcement's tactical boat operators were asked to assist the US Coast Guard and the Milwaukee Boat Patrol on the commissioning of the USS Milwaukee. The detail consisted of maintaining a security zone and a lake bottom survey prior to launch.

The Marine Unit is continuing to work with the USFWS on Lacey Act violations stemming from a commercial fishing case involving a WI wholesale fish dealer. Case pending.

Wisconsin has a continuous cooperative effort with the Red cliff and Bad River Tribes on joint commercial fishing enforcement patrol as required by the Lake Superior Fishing Agreement. We have also participated with the US Coast Guard on Port Security live scenario based exercises in the Duluth Superior Twin Ports area as well as table top exercises orchestrated by the Coast Guard Duluth MSO as members of Western Lake Superior Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC). We are well prepared in the event of a major disaster or homeland security issue.

Project MOOSE (Moved Out Of State Enforcement)

This ongoing case identified resident license fraud using a comparative analysis of the records from Wisconsin DNR and Department of Transportation (DOT). Wardens obtained a list from the DOT of 150,000 people that moved out of state over a three year period and compared the driver's license numbers to those in the DNR license files that purchased any resident license. This analysis identified 1292 potential leads from 45 states. A case officer reached out to every state to obtain a primary contact officer who could provide DNR license information from that state. Another case officer created a database to track all the leads and have a completely paperless investigation. Starting in late February, five training sessions were conducted around the state to familiarize staff with using the database and open source internet investigation.

Wardens then voluntarily check out a case from the database, conduct their investigation and attach report and citations to the lead in the database eliminate. These investigations are done online using license information and open source internet from anywhere using their laptop computer. Most contact with the suspects is done over the phone, using email or mailing letters. We have a six year statute of limitations for all license fraud violations.

Of the 1292 leads, 424 have been checked out with 163 of those cases being completed. The 163 completed investigations entered into the database have uncovered \$24500 of lost license revenue with 168 citations and 142 warnings being issued. The results of each case are also being shared for possible follow up with each assisting state.

Mississippi Flyway Council

WI Continues to be represented on the Mississippi Flyway Council where 14 states and 3 Canadian provinces address migratory bird hunting laws and track enforcement trends throughout the flyway. Flyway members review enforcement reports and present the report to the full council at the summer meeting. Members review state nominations for officer of the year awards and select the field officer for the flyway award.

Mississippi River Joint Effort

WI works cooperatively with the bordering states of IA, MN, and the USFWS Refuge Officers to address the many cross jurisdictional activity on the Mississippi River. Wardens continue to combine forces to focus on recreational boating enforcement saturation efforts during summer months. Train cooperatively with MN DNR for winter airboat operation, hold WI Waterfowl School in cooperation with the USFWS Refuge Staff. WI Wardens assisted the USFWS investigators with a Waterfowl Guiding Investigation. State and the USFWS meet bi-annual at a tri-state meeting to address cross jurisdictional enforcement related issues.

Tribal Enforcement Training

In March of 2016, approximately six DNR field wardens and supervisors attended a two-day training session, which was hosted by the Ho-Chunk Nation, on Public Law 280. Public Law 280 is federal legislation which regulates the authority of non-tribal law enforcement agencies on tribal lands. Knowledge of Public Law 280 is essential to ensure that non-tribal law enforcement officers properly exercise their authority while on the lands of tribal nations.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

We are currently working with Parks, Forestry, and Facilities & Lands to research, test, and identify the proper hardware for our next computer purchase for all permanent credentialed officers. Funding for these machines were provided in the current budget. Our goal is to find the proper unit that will be able to function both as a laptop and as a tablet. Field testing of computers from Dell and Panasonic is currently underway.

The agency is exploring tablets, or hybrid tablets to replace CF 31s. By this time next year we will have an experience with the new technology plus an experience with MS Windows 10.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement**

Law Enforcement Accountability; Regulation

The national police accountability trend continues to fuel legislative interest for policy development, particularly with regards to use-of-force investigations, addressing disparate treatment due to race/economic status, and the use of body-worn devices (e.g. bodycams). This inevitably creates additional costs, often unfunded, for administrative overhead related to policy development or program implementation. Particularly in the case of state conservation law enforcement, which is equally required to implement such policies/programs despite infrequently encountering the targeted “general” police issues, such initiatives often have a poor fiscal impact considering costs/benefits.

Emerging Devices

The crowd-sourced and venture-funded entrepreneurial economy is rapidly fueling innovative product development, particularly hybridized weapons or vehicles with significant technological integration. From a regulatory standpoint, currently enacted laws rarely

contemplate these devices, so the regulations impacting their use are often inconsistent, unintended, or inappropriate. This can cause negative conflict between regulators and innovators, which often results in legislative intervention in the spirit of economic development. Hydro-flight devices, drones, automated watercraft, remotely operated weapons, and bullet-tipped arrows are just a few examples.

Conservation Funding

Overall, ongoing funding is generally insufficient and unstable. The protectionist movement continues to have interest in contributing to conservation funding in order to increase their voice, perhaps in conflict with the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation. At the same time, sportsman and recreational user groups continue to discuss fair-share fair-pay revenue concepts for non-consumptive users, such as creating habitat stamps for “bird-watching” or requiring paid registration of non-motorized watercraft.

Wisconsin Legislative Issues

The WI Legislature continues to be interested in promoting natural resource participation, including hunting, trapping, and fishing, and consistently points to rule simplification and deregulation as a component to sportsmen recruitment and retention.

Additionally, a strong interest for increasing the rights of private property owners continues in the areas of shoreland, waterway, and, wetland regulation.

Legislative enactment highlights

- Removal of the backtag requirement
- Permitting private lease of state-enrolled managed forest land
- Permitting the sale of certain game bird feathers, including wild turkey
- Creation of an off-highway motorcycle program
- Increased opportunities for tag transfers to veterans; disabled individuals
- Inability to “group hunt” certain deer tags provided to youth
- Permitting “blaze pink” as an alternative to blaze orange for gun deer hunting
- Permitting the use of firearm-mounted lights at the point of kill for authorized night hunting (coyote, raccoon, etc.)
- Allowing certain adults to act as a “kill shooter” for youth that are unwilling to dispatch a wounded animal
- Broadening “hunter harassment” protections
- Modifying waterway and wetland regulations

Failed legislative initiative highlights

- Removal of the minimum hunting age
- Removal of the requirement for mentored hunting pairs to possess only one weapon
- Creation of a mentored trapping program
- Removal of the requirement to have a 2nd person act as a ski observer, in addition to the boat operator
- Restoring the pedestrian ability to cross railroad tracks (such as for accessing fishing or hunting locations)

Tribal Night Hunting

In the fall of 2015, the federal court system allowed the Lake Superior Chippewa Indians to hunt deer at night within the ceded territory of Wisconsin; roughly the northern third of the state. The inaugural season began on November 1st with minimal participation. State Wardens have been working closely with GLIFWC Wardens to enforce safety requirements for the hunt.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

Given our geographic distribution around the state, we have found that we need to deal with multiple cell providers to get adequate coverage in the field. In order to do this, we have data devices from Verizon, US Cellular, and Cell Com in different parts of the state. Over the last year or so, we've worked hard with each provider to find the best data plan available that will be cost efficient, as well as provide the amount of data needed by officers in the field. By utilizing shared data plans when possible, we've been able to significantly reduce our expenses for connectivity. We then used these savings to shift from built in Gobi devices to external Mifi devices, which we have found get much better reception and speed for our network connections in the field. Nearly all permanent staff in the Bureau of Law Enforcement have now been issued a Mifi device for the appropriate cell provider in their geographic area.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues**
