



2013

Annual Agency Reports

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers

2013 Annual Agency Reports

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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Colorado Parks and Wildlife
Submitted by: Bob Thompson, Lead Wildlife Investigator
Date: 4/28/2013

- **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 and given a year to develop a merger plan and start the implementation process. In February, 2013 the first combined Parks and Wildlife Law Enforcement in-service training was conducted with break-out sessions for the Parks side and the Wildlife side. Historically, both sides (Parks and Wildlife) would send new recruits to a POST certified law enforcement academy at different times of the calendar year. After the POST academy training then each side would do specialized agency training to teach them to be a park ranger or wildlife officer afterwards. Parks would send their new recruits so that they could get their training and be ready to go before the start of their busy season which is the start of the summer. The Wildlife side would time their training so that the new recruits could work during the busy fall hunting seasons using the Field Training Officer system. For 2013 new recruits were sent to the POST academy as historically was done. Currently on the Wildlife side there are eight new recruits in the POST academy. Starting with the new recruit class of 2014 both sides will attend the same POST academy and then separate out for specialized training in their field (parks or wildlife). The option of having our own POST academy is being explored as well.
- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – On the wildlife side of Colorado Parks and Wildlife in the past a license fee increase would result in a funding reserve which over time would be spent down and another license fee increase would be sought to continue this cycle. CPW is at that crossroad again and will be looking at other possible revenue enhancing ideas, possible liquidation of some assets, and possibly some programmatic cuts.
- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – None to report
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** - An eight-year investigation by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has culminated in U.S. District Court Judge Christine Arguello sentencing Dennis Eugene Rodebaugh, 72, owner of D & S Outfitters of Meeker, to 41 months in federal prison for illegally baiting wildlife.

He must also pay \$37,390 in restitution to the state and forfeit two all-terrain vehicles and a trailer used in the commission of his crimes. Once he completes his prison term, he must serve three years of supervised probation and cannot hunt or fish anywhere in the United States during that time. In addition, he will face a hearing with state wildlife officials that could result in a lifetime suspension of his hunting and fishing privileges in Colorado and 37 other states.

"This individual showed grievous disregard for wildlife laws, a considerable lack of ethics and he never accepted responsibility for his actions," said lead investigator Bailey Franklin, district wildlife manager in Meeker. "It took tremendous resources and man-hours to bring him to justice and we are very satisfied with the sentence."

Judge Arguello also ordered that Rodebaugh terminate his outfitting business and pay for the reclamation of more than 40 sites in the White River National Forest where the salt he placed caused significant damage to the environment.

In September 2012, a federal jury in Denver found Rodebaugh guilty of six felony violations of the Lacey Act, a federal law that prohibits the transportation of illegally taken wildlife across state lines. Baiting wildlife is illegal in Colorado and most of Rodebaugh's clients were out-of-state hunters. As part of his sentence, Rodebaugh must pay a \$7500 fine that will go to the Lacey Act Reward Fund.

Although suspected of profiting from illegal baiting for two decades, state and federal wildlife investigators say that between 2002 and 2007 - the years that the investigation covered - Rodebaugh and his employee, Brian Douglas Kunz (56) of Wisconsin, used several hundred pounds of salt to attract elk and mule deer to an area where the outfitter had installed tree stands. They then guided their clients to the area where hunters shot the gathered big game from the stands.

According to the indictment, Rodebaugh earned nearly \$250,000 from the illegal hunts during the period of the investigation. However, wildlife officials believe that he may have earned much more from his illegal activity over the years he operated his outfitting business.

"This outfitter advertised a 90 percent success rate and drew numerous archery and rifle hunters from across the country," continued Franklin. "He made a substantial amount of from his illegal activity."

Charged as an accomplice, Kunz pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges of violating the Lacey Act. He received one-year's probation and ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000. Kunz is prohibited from hunting or fishing anywhere in the United States while on probation.

According to the indictment, most of Rodebaugh's clients were unaware of the illegal activity but wildlife officials did charge two individuals for knowingly taking wildlife over bait while hunting with
D & S Outfitters.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife investigators first learned of Rodebaugh's activities in 2005, when local sheep and cattle ranchers reported finding large salt deposits in the White River National Forest.

Acting on the tip, CPW officers and USFWS investigators began a two-year investigation of Rodebaugh and his illicit outfitting operation, serving him with a search warrant in September of 2007.

"The public should know that our officers are dedicated and diligent," said Northwest Regional Manager Ron Velarde, of Colorado Parks and Wildlife. "We are grateful to hunters and outfitters who follow our wildlife laws, but we will make every effort to bring violators to justice."

Wildlife officials say that in addition to being illegal and unethical, there are other serious consequences of using salt for baiting big game. It congregates wildlife in tight groups leading to an increased possibility of transmitting diseases and the accumulation of thousands of pounds of salt placed by Rodebaugh over several years has led to significant environmental damage in the Rio Blanco District of the White River National Forest.

"This individual risked the health of our wildlife and caused severe damage to their habitat,"

said Velarde. "He willfully violated numerous laws and placed many hunters in legal jeopardy. Our officers worked very hard to solve this case and we believe justice was served."

Velarde says that the substantial assistance from local sheep and cattle ranchers in this case illustrates the importance of the public's help is in solving wildlife-related crimes.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** - None to report
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** - None to report
- **Cost Savings Initiatives** - None to report
- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – an emerging issue in Colorado is the use of drones or unmanned aerial vehicles as an aid in the taking of wildlife. There is also a growing possibility that ant-hunting groups are suggesting using a drone to harass hunters who are legally attempting to take wildlife. Another issue is that over the last few years there seems to be an increase in the use of bait to take wildlife from big game, to waterfowl, to small game species. The only wildlife that bait can be used as an aid in the take is for furbearers.

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Wildlife Enforcement Directorate
Submitted by: Kevin Buerfeind, Environment Canada
Date: April 25, 2013**

- **Training Issues**
 - Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED) is a small National agency encompassing a huge geographic area. Previous years have proven difficult to establish a consistent agency or facility to deliver cost effective Firearm and Use of Force training as mandated per Department policy. WED is moving to establish a policy which ensures consistency in training standards.
 - WED is attempting to build capacity to provide opportunity for Officers from within WED from different regions in combination with external trainers to deliver department mandated training. Experienced WED certified SIMS instructors deliver in-house Use of Force resource law scenario based training. Use of Force training is supplemented by external trainers that are current in street techniques and standards.
 - WED is working cooperatively with the Canadian Police College and the RCMP to develop a standardized training for both Wildlife and Environmental Enforcement. In addition, there is a recognized need for advanced training in investigations, with emphasis an evolving legal standards and case law. The Canadian Police College is assisting WED in the development of an advanced investigators curriculum, which will be available to all officers as they advance in their career.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

- Environment Canada Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED)
 - Budget reductions on programs affected Environment Canada. A number of specific programs and functions were affected including the Enforcement Branch. This will include a combination of cuts to salary and operating budgets.
 - The reduction in salary expenditures will be realized through attrition and vacancy management. No existing employees will be affected and no major structural changes to how we deliver our program will be required.
 - Reductions in O&M will be realized through improving efficiencies in costs associated with administration, accommodations, travel, and vehicles.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

- Social networking – trade in wildlife on the internet has seen a marked increase resulting in WED adopting new investigative techniques, computer investigative training and enforcement strategies.
- WED has implemented a National Wildlife Enforcement Risk Assessment (NWERA) - designed to determine the highest risk species, protected areas and regulated activities under the mandate of the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate (WED). The process will involve proactive planning based on the priorities of the risk assessment and subsequent allocation of department resources. The process is augmented by the use of intelligence through the WED Intelligence program.

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

- **NEES**

- Environment Canada's Enforcement Branch, comprised of both Environmental and Wildlife Enforcement, recognizes that the north represents a variety of risks related to environmental incidents and violators. Environment Canada is currently leading an initiative, called the Northern Environmental Enforcement Strategy, to bring together federal partners with legislation governing northern activities. The intent is to share resources to ensure increased leverage and vigilance in the north. The program is still in its early stages.

- **CEC – NAWEG**

- Canada, Mexico and the United States have collaborated in protecting North America's environment through the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC). The NAAEC established an intergovernmental organization, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) which facilitates collaboration and public participation to foster conservation, protection and enhancement of the North American environment for the benefit of present and future generations. WED is an active participant through the CEC.
- The North American Wildlife Enforcement Group (NAWEG) -a network of senior federal wildlife enforcement officials from three countries(Mexico,

USA, Canada) work together to stop illegal shipments of wildlife by strengthening the enforcement of laws and regulations, information exchange and training enforcement agents. NAWEG provides guidance in developing priorities for regional cooperation in wildlife enforcement and develops strategies and proposals for cooperative enforcement activities.

- NAWEG has entertained projects in Canada involving specialized training (Intelligence), trade in reptiles, coral and Arctic species.

▪ **National Special investigations Training (NSIT)**

- NSIT is a concept that was developed as a Federal – Provincial venture in the late 1980's. The concept was born of the recognition that conservation enforcement agencies needed to pool their efforts to work on special investigations and this needed a specialized training forum. NSIT is governed by a Steering Committee of Federal and Provincial members.
- Steering committee selects and provides training needed for agencies to conduct covert Natural Resource Investigations, including:
 - Special Investigations Manager's Course
 - Case Manager Course
 - Undercover Operator/Coverman Course
 - Intelligence Course

▪ **Operation Bruin**

- During the summer of 2011, the USFWS in Alaska contacted WED Prairie and Northern Region (PNR) and advised that they were working on a file which would likely have some connections to Alberta big game hunters, an Alberta taxidermist and an Alaskan Outfitting/Guide business. The U.S. investigation showed that big game species such as Alaskan Brown Bears, Black Bears and Mountain Goats were suspected to be illegally taken in Alaska and some of the hunting trophies were then transported to Alberta for taxidermy processing.
- On September 8, 2011, the USFWS Special Agent I/C out of Alaska advised WED PNR that they were going to be orchestrating a takedown of the Alaskan Outfitter/Guide sometime in early October and they would be looking for assistance from WED PNR and Alberta Resource and Sustainable Development (ARSD) for possible search warrants and interviews in Alberta. Federal WAPPRIITA and Alberta Wildlife Act violations are suspected and both pieces of legislation would form the basis for any search warrants in Alberta. A number of Alberta hunting clients would also be interviewed by WED/ARSD to determine their potential involvement in Alaska, Alberta and WAPPRIITA violations.
- A Letter of Agreement was signed off between USFWS, ARSD, Alaska State Troopers and WED Prairie and Northern Region so that all agencies could work cooperatively in the investigation.
- Canadian charges were laid the last week of October, 2012 and there is an ongoing combination of trial and early resolution for all clients.

- **Saltwater Connection, Winnipeg, MB - Illegal Import of Live Rock**
 - The Canada Border Services Agency in Vancouver partially inspected a shipment declared as Decorative Rock being imported from Indonesia. The Importer was Saltwater Connection of Winnipeg, MB. The shipment was re-sealed and shipped in bond to Winnipeg. Officers in Winnipeg inspected the container identified as SCLERATINA, coral that is CITES listed Appendix II "Live Rock". Officers seized the shipment under Warrant and Jayson Daeninck and Saltwater Connection was charged in March of 2008 with 14 counts under WAPPRIITA. Sentencing on all 18 counts was completed on October 17, 2012. Penalties were levied for the illegal import of the large shipment (20,000 lbs) (1 count) of live rock, \$40,000 as well as for the smaller shipments of live corals (6 counts), \$3500.00 on each count and Giant Clams (1 count) \$7500.00 and the Seahorses (1 count) \$7500.00. Total penalties on Jason Daeninck were \$76,000.00.
 - The Corporation was sentenced to penalties of \$5500.00 on each of the 9 counts for a total penalty of \$49,500.00. In addition, the court ordered that the storage fees, consisting of \$10322.00 be paid to the Receiver General for Canada. The judge also ordered that, 90% of the monetary penalties (\$125,500.00) be directed to the Environmental Damages Fund.
 - **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**
 - **GPS trackers and Video Surveillance**
 - GPS tracking systems are suitable for vehicles, vessels, people and cellular device tracking. The cutting-edge GPS tracking systems are designed for optimal concealment incorporating a variety of surveillance technologies. Adaptable for the various phases of a surveillance mission, these solutions give valuable intelligence as to the 'pattern of life' of subjects, as well as being used for covert live tracking. State-of-the-art, tracking management software, users can track assets, vehicles or people.
 - **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement - None**
 - **Cost Savings Initiatives**
 - Increased use of video conferencing to enable projects or investigations
 - Mobile office in vehicle project – allowing officers to work from the field rather than returning to the office to enter data
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues - None to report**
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Illinois
Submitted by: Rafael Gutierrez
Date: April 29, 2013

Training Issues

New Hires: Recently, a recruit class of 14 completed the Academy training and are finishing up the Field Training Program and beginning solo patrol. The trainees will become promoted to Conservation Police Officers in June of this year. We have begun the testing process to develop an eligibility list for a class of another 15 trainees that are proposed in the upcoming budget. We had 299 applicants take the written exam for the list and scheduling for the P.O.W.E.R. test and swim test is underway. We anticipate having the testing process completed up to the Medical Exam by the time the new fiscal year begins. If the budget is approved, we will move forward with the hiring process and anticipate 15 trainees starting the 12 to 18 month training process in late September.

In-service Training: Due to budget constraints, the Academy and field training ongoing 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. This year we have a unique training opportunity for our firearms instructors to obtain specialized training from Viking Tactical instructors to give us another perspective for improving our own firearms training program which will take place in early May. The firearms staff is continuing to provide training on “Bounding Overwatch” techniques. This technique brings realistic and practical application to the training program and better trains the officers to function as a team during a real life situation, which was received very well by field officers.

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 are in the process of adding more instructors to fill positions vacated by promotion or retirements and are 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.

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.

Waterfowl Enforcement: The OLE training section has refined the Waterfowl Enforcement Training School again this year. All material is being updated, including the manual, wing boards, seed packets, mounts, and training props. Also, a digital photo album of ducks, geese and common seeds used for bait has been developed that is available to all officers on disk and electronically. We will be holding a week long waterfowl training for our new CPOs late this summer to prepare them for the upcoming waterfowl season by utilizing extensive classroom, scenario and field training to teach the enforcement techniques and regulations for the best enforcement of the waterfowl regulations.

Physical Fitness and Water Survival Program: The training section is currently developing 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.

Outreach Training Programs: The OLE training section conducted numerous recruiting seminars, career fairs, and presentations in an effort to recruit qualified potential applicants for the 2013 Recruit Class eligibility list and future classes.

The OLE training section revised 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.

Funding and Staffing Issues

The budget crisis for the State of Illinois continues. The Department of Natural Resources, Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) experienced a reduction of almost 15% in its budgeted appropriations from FY12 to FY13.

Illinois remains under a hiring freeze. OLE is able to fill command staff positions from within by promoting conservation police officers but can only hire new personnel with special permission from the Governor's office. The Office of Law Enforcement did receive approval and additional funding to hire a class of 15 new recruits in June 2012. This is the first class of new cadets since

January 2007. The class completed their classroom training in December 2012 and will soon have completed their field training. It is anticipated that all recruits will have successfully completed their training, be promoted to the title

of conservation police officer I and will assume solo patrol duties by May 1, 2013. At the end of fiscal year 2007 (June 30, 2007) with the addition of the last class, the Office of Law Enforcement's sworn personnel headcount was at 166. 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 March 2013 was just 130.

The Office of Law Enforcement is anticipating another recruit class of 15 cadets to be hired in September 2013 and has begun the process to develop an eligibility list. The written test for the trainee position was made available during the first week of April 2013. Office of Law Enforcement staff are also making preparations to have the applicants' P.O.W.E. R. fit tests, swim tests, oral interviews, psychological exams and medical exams of applicants completed prior to July 1, 2013.

The Office of Law Enforcement continues to work with a reduced budget in fiscal year 2013 by limiting purchases to only those items that are absolutely necessary to maintain operations, maintaining tighter fiscal control/oversight and requiring purchases be approved at the agency level rather than the regional level. However, it does appear that there is the possibility of some relief in the near future. The FY14 budget request submitted to the Illinois General Assembly represents a 20% increase over fiscal year 2013 funding levels. In addition, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources was successful last fall in securing the passage of a revenue sustainability bill that was signed into law by Governor Quinn. It is projected that the various sources of additional revenue that will be generated by this law will result in an additional \$1,000,000 or more for the Office of Law Enforcement's Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund. It is the hope of the OLE to allow this fund to accumulate funding for a while in order to purchase some much needed work boats to address an aging boat fleet that is currently requiring more frequent and more costly repairs.

Equipment Issues:

Over the past several years, the Office of Law Enforcement's annual equipment appropriation has been reduced from \$900,000 to just over \$51,000 in fiscal year 2013. However, it should be pointed out that in fiscal year 2013, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services (CMS) instituted a new program in which, for a monthly maintenance fee, CMS has assumed all responsibility for the cost of maintaining and replacing/purchasing all State of Illinois fleet vehicles. Because the Office of Law Enforcement no longer has to purchase vehicles or pay to repair/maintain them but must cover the monthly maintenance fees, funding that would have been in our equipment budget for the purchase of new trucks was transferred to another operating line to cover the maintenance fees. To date, we have been relatively successful in keeping pace with vehicle replacements (primarily 4x4 pickup trucks) at around 140,000 miles. Officer retirements and lower prices for new vehicles have helped in this effort.

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 that the department remain on a program to replace the laptop computers every 3-5 years. The purchase of 45 laptops in FY12 was the beginning of this

initiative. In FY13, the Department has purchased/ordered another 41 laptops in an effort to keep current technology available to our officers.

There have been insufficient funds in regular appropriations for years to address any significant replacements to speak of in a fleet of over 100 aging Jon boats and outboard motors. In recent years, funds have only gone far enough to replace a few outboard motors and no boats. It is the hope of OLE that the newly created Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund will generate sufficient funds to allow us to address the need to replace our fleet of daily work boats.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Illinois Conservation Police have 2 officers assigned to the Asian Carp Task Force. These officers have been instrumental in developing cases against out-of-state fish dealers who are transporting invasive species into or through Illinois without the proper permits or authorization. A third officer has been assisting with these enforcement efforts in a covert capacity.

Illinois Conservation Police Officers continue to utilize social networking to identify and arrest persons for unlawful hunting or fishing. As officers become better versed in computer technology, the number of these type of cases continue to increase.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative Enforcement Efforts

Illinois Conservation Police recently concluded 3 major wildlife cases involving the unlawful taking of approximately 56 trophy class whitetail deer. These cases involved lengthy complex investigations that spanned over several years. As a result of the investigating officer's hard work and determination, 11 defendants pled guilty to multiple wildlife charges in Illinois and other states. Illinois fines amounted to over \$56,000.00 and resulted in the forfeiture of numerous pieces of hunting equipment such as compound bows. Eight of the defendants received suspensions of hunting privileges of 297 total months for an average of 37 months each.

Illinois Conservation Police received assistance in the above cases from our counterparts in the following agencies; New York Department of Environment Conservation, United State Fish & Wildlife Service Law Enforcement, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Wyoming Fish & Game, Alberta Sustainable Resources Department, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Illinois will continue to work with other fish & law enforcement agencies throughout the county to apprehend violators. Illinois Conservation Police are very excited about a piece of particular Illinois legislation that will hopefully become law in the near future allowing Illinois officers to arrest persons for illegal possession of wildlife if the wildlife was taken unlawfully in any other state or country.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

Due to budget and staffing shortages, the Office of Law Enforcement has not had an opportunity to explore any new innovations or techniques. Current and foreseeable future efforts will be primarily dedicated to maintaining status quo.

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

2012 and 2013 have been very active years for legislation in Illinois. Illinois is still in the middle of a major pension and health care crisis. This pension crisis continues to be a major strain on the Illinois Department of Natural Resources budget. Currently, the Illinois Legislature is looking to reduce the pension strain by making major changes to the Illinois pension code. Some of the many changes being considered include requiring employees to pay more in monthly pension contributions, capping the maximum salary amount for pension calculation, increasing the minimum retirement age, and delay/reducing the cost of living (COLA) raises for retirees. In addition, Illinois passed a bill that ends free retirement health insurance for all active and future retired employees.

How these proposed pension changes will affect the IDNR Law Enforcement's budget is yet to be seen, but the uncertainty has caused a high number of retirements in key positions within IDNR Law Enforcement and the IDNR as a whole.

As a result of the worsening financial situation of the State of Illinois during the past several years, general revenue funds (GRF) appropriated to the IDNR by the Illinois Legislature has been steadily reduced. As a way to deal with the reduction of GRF monies, the IDNR has passed a "Sustainability" bill (Public Act 097-1136) that makes the IDNR less dependent upon GRF funding. The new law changes ensure a more stable source of income through charging fees for various activities or services. The major fees include:

- Twenty percent of all watercraft registration fees to be deposited into the Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund
- Yearly "Paddle Pass" stickers (for use of all small non-powered watercraft) of which 20% also deposited into the Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund
- Created yearly Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) public access stickers of which 1/3 is deposited into the Conservation Police Operations Assistance Fund
- Environmental Consultation Fees
- Aquatic Life license fee increases such as doubling fees for commercial fishing licenses
- Water Resource Permit Fees
- Motor vehicle registration surcharge of \$2 for each vehicle registration to fund Illinois State Parks
- Equestrian user fees
- IDNR public boat launch fees
- IDNR public beach use fees
- Certain certificate of title fees deposited into Illinois Fisheries Management Fund
- Oil well permit & assessment fees
- State Museum entrance fees
- IDNR Certificate of title fee increases and

Other legislation of interest that became law during the 2012 session includes;

- **Public Act 97-0948 - Conservation Police hiring:** provides that the college educational requirement for hiring purposes is deemed to have been satisfied by a military veteran applicant if such veteran has been awarded any one of the various campaign medals for service in a conflict or war area such as Iraq or Afghanistan.
- **Public Act 97-0931- OUI/DUI vehicle code penalties:** allows Illinois Conservation Police to request a reimbursement up to \$1,000.00 for services associated with an officer's response to an OUI or DUI arrest. This restitution is required to be deposited into the Conservation Police Officer's Assistance Fund.
- **Public Act 97-850- Transport of aquatic life:** provides that operators/owners of watercraft and sea planes must remove aquatic vegetation or aquatic life from their watercraft, trailer, or sea plane before leaving the area of a body of water. Also provides that an officer can stop and order a violator of this law to remove such aquatic vegetation or life from such equipment.
- **Public Act 97-733- Shark fin ban:** prohibits the killing or possession of shark fin for the purposes of using the fin for human consumption as a delicacy.
- **Public Act 97-1011- Removal of persons from DNR lands and license reinstatement fees:** Authorizes Conservation Police Officers to remove persons from IDNR lands for violations of the law or breach of peace. In addition, corrects technical language from the bill passed the previous year that allows the IDNR Law Enforcement to charge a license suspension/revocation reinstatement fee ranging from \$50 to \$250 for first time offenders or \$100 to \$500 for second time offenders. Applies to privileges or licenses related to fishing, hunting, ginseng harvesting, timber buying, operation of watercraft and snowmobiles, or from entering IDNR lands or sites.
- **Public Act 97-907- Hunting with Crossbows;** Allows hunters to archery deer hunt any legal species from the second Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday through the end of the archery deer hunting season, inclusive.

The following is proposed legislation that has strong support for passage in 2013;

- **HB1139/SB1170 - Unlawful possession of wildlife;** would make it unlawful for any person to possess any wildlife or wildlife parts taken unlawfully in another state or country (basically creates a state level Lacey Act violation).
- **HB1580/SB1620 - Wanton Waste of Wildlife;** would make it unlawful to waste any edible portion of a game mammal, game bird, or migratory game bird in which a bag limit applies. Defines edible portion as, at a minimum, the front shoulders and rear hams of a game mammal or the breast meat of a game bird or migratory game bird. Also would make it unlawful to dump or dispose of any wildlife carcasses or parts along or upon any highway, stream, public property, or private property without permission of the owner.
- **SB1831 - Hunting without permission;** Makes corrections to loop holes in the hunting without permission law by changing word "hunt" to "take", which has a broader definition than hunt. This will allow officers to arrest persons under the wildlife code who are shed antler hunting without permission or those who track or

drive game to another's property even if not in possession of a weapon. Change further defines hunting without permission to also include shooting wildlife on property of another even if shooter is not physically on the property of where animal is shot. Law also allows landowner to designate a person to make decisions about hunting without permission for prosecution purposes (benefits absentee landowners).

- **HB743 - Increases youth firearm deer season from 2 to 3 days**
- **SB2362 - HERP Act;** Removes laws regulating reptiles and amphibians from the Aquatic Life Code and puts them in their own new Act with stricter penalties. This will help better regulate the reptile trade
- **HB1003/SB2347 - Deer/Turkey bait change;** Clarifies “water” is not considered bait.
- **HB2492 - ORANGE SKI FLAG REQUIREMENT;** would require motorboats to display an orange flag when towing a water skier or tuber.
- **HB1011/SB1310 - Watercraft violation changes;** Makes water skiers and tubers being towed by watercraft be counted as part of the watercraft's capacity; Increases penalties for certain boat rental violations from Petty Offenses to Class B Misdemeanors; increases penalty for falsifying a watercraft certificate of number from a Petty Offense to a Class A Misdemeanor; makes a change in the emergency lighting requirements for law enforcement watercraft
- **HB2619/HB2492 - Crossbow ages;** would allow the use of crossbows for hunting for persons age 14 & under and those persons age 55 and older. Currently, only qualified disabled persons and seniors age 62 and older can use crossbows for the whole hunting season.

Major debates continue in the Illinois legislature regarding the passage of a “concealed carry” law and assault weapons/high capacity magazines ban or restrictions. Currently, Illinois is the only state in the country without some type of concealed carry for civilians.

Cost Savings Initiatives - See “Funding Issues” above.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Indiana
Submitted by: Colonel Scotty Wilson
Date: May 17, 2013

- **Training Issues**

The IDNR LE Division has increased recruiting efforts and is now conducting a hiring process every year. In the past the hiring process occurred every two or three years. This transition to an annual hiring process has become a nearly fulltime endeavor. At the same time financial restrictions have caused the Division to become much more efficient with the way we train our new officers. An emphasis has been placed on our the field training aspect of a new officer's training along with continuing education courses for both new and veteran officers.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

Funding remains the same for the next biennial budget. Our staffing level of 214 sworn officers has not been reduced.

We are in the midst of requesting an increase in hunting and fishing license fees to cover current program and staffing levels within the Divisions of Law Enforcement and Fish and Wildlife.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** - None to report
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**

The IDNR LE Division has entered into an agreement with the USFWS to educate various groups on evasive species that have a serious impact on our natural resources. This effort is focused on but not excluded to commercial industries such as bait shops, fish haulers, commercial fishermen, etc... However this education effort includes Indiana State Police motor carrier units and local law enforcement.

We are currently working with Illinois to develop an MOU on hunting and fishing laws/enforcement on the Wabash River boundary waters.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

The IDNR LE Division has recently begun the task of testing and implementing electronic citation and warning systems. This system will automate many of the time consuming tasks associated with citation and warning administration. By streamlining the citation process, officers can produce more accurate and legible paperwork in less time, providing for more constructive time management and increased patrol and public contact hours.

The IDNR LE Division has secured a purchasing agreement with an aluminum boat manufacturer (Metal Shark Boats) to procure purpose built, patrol oriented law enforcement patrol boat platforms that meet the operational needs of marine enforcement efforts. Instead of relying on "converted" recreational boat platforms, the IDNR LE Division has been able to "customize" purpose built boats, tailoring them to the needs of Indiana's Conservation Officers.

The IDNR LE Division is currently in the research and testing phase of a project which will replace the current compliment of Officer laptop computers with ruggedized “tablet” style computers and tethered “smart phones” to provide greater flexibility and operational environment capabilities. All this will provide the field officers with instant access to critical information, as well as, citation abilities, no matter where they are or what the environmental conditions may be.

The IDNR LE Division is exploring several options for the enhancement of the current Records Management System (RMS). This enhancement would be in the form of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. Such a system would allow for better information gathering and dissemination throughout the Division, along with more accurate monitoring and relaying of information to field officers, all at a much more rapid rate.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** - None to report
- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

The IDNR LE Division has worked very diligently to create an efficient, yet productive full service law enforcement presence in Indiana.

The IDNR LE Division has implemented a regimented vehicle maintenance system that promotes preventative maintenance and immediate remediation of mechanical problems. This method keeps small issues small and allows for the detection of potentially larger problems prior to catastrophic failures.

The IDNR LE Division continues to update and modify its Records Management System (RMS) to improve officer efficiency and unnecessary, redundant paperwork issues.

The IDNR LE Division has become much more efficient in the use and administration of Federal, State and Agency grant opportunities. These opportunities have allowed the Division to upgrade its marine enforcement and response capabilities. The Division is moving from a fiberglass hull heavy boat fleet to a more efficient and resilient aluminum hull fleet (providing savings in repair, maintenance and fuel costs). Additionally, the Division has been able to procure advanced underwater imaging systems in for form of two submersible ROV units and several tow-fish style side-scan sonar units. Lastly, the Division has been able to completely re-outfit and increase the size of its top of the line SCUBA program. These upgrades provide for a highly efficient, responsive and capable marine resource protection program.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - None to report
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Kansas
Submitted by: Kevin W. Jones
Date: April 2013

- **Training Issues**

To comply with the State's annual training requirements, we have held an annual training event where officers are updated on a variety of topics, ranging from law changes to stress management. The 2014 training year will not be conducted in the same fashion as the past. This coming year the training will be going to the field, holding regional training sessions with smaller groups of officers. The focus of the training will be built around water based law enforcement. This includes a large portion of the training time actually in the water. The purpose of the training is to provide officers a better understanding of how to survive an event where the officer ends up in the water, whether by accident or by a subject taking the officer into the water. While a large portion of an officer's time is around or on the water, up to now there has not been a lot of training which occurs in the water.

The division is in the process of reviewing and changing our training process for new officers. The focus in the process is to do a better job of providing a comprehensive program which intermeshes the training received at the State's law enforcement training center with the duties of game wardens.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

After several years of work and discussion the Law Enforcement Division has been approved to deviate from the standard hiring procedure used by the State. The process formerly used required individual announcements and hiring processes for each vacancy that occurs. This resulted in several testing and interview sessions which were duplicative and wasted a large amount of staff time. The new process allows the Division to hold annual testing and assessment events where a ranked pool of successful applicants will be established who may receive job offers as positions open up during the year. It is anticipated that the new process will speed up the hiring process resulting in a shorter time period a vacancy is open. The new process will also provide a better opportunity for scheduling new officers into the State's training academy. This will also provide better planning and scheduling for the division's new officer training programs mentioned earlier in this summary.

Funding and staffing has remained stable and it appears will remain stable in the foreseeable future. The greatest impact to the operations and maintenance portion of the budget remains with maintaining the truck fleet. We are still under the requirement to drive trucks to a minimum of 140,000 miles before the truck is eligible for replacement. There is a provision allowing replacement if the expense of repair exceeds the value of the truck. An FY 2014 budget provision would require that all trucks to be driven to 175,000 miles before replacement or, replacement may occur if the repair cost is in excess of 30% of the value of the vehicle. There are no budget provisions for any salary or benefit increases.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

The laws controlling domestic deer breeders have been amended to include the Department as an agency to assist the Livestock Commissioner in the inspection of facilities and enforcement of the laws. Up to this time the Department was specifically excluded from any involvement with domestic deer breeders. The new legislation now provides a means for the Livestock Commissioner, who still has primary authority but has a very small staff, to enlist the help of Department officers in inspecting and enforcing these laws. There were penalty changes made as well which change a violation of the law from a civil action to a criminal charge.

Inter-agency investigations continue to be an important segment of the Division's mission. In order to better address our investigations needs a field level game warden position was reallocated to an investigator position. This action has increased the investigations staff from a total of three to four. The section will be comprised of three field investigators and one Captain. At the time of this writing, an investigator position is open for applications. This vacancy is as a result of Investigator Doug Whiteaker retiring after 31 years of service.

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

After several years of work, the agency's automated license system is now able to check for Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact suspensions against a reference table generated directly from the Compact's database. Previously revocations were checked through a data entry process that the agency had to complete. The new system will drastically reduce manual data entries.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

The Law Enforcement Division is still working towards integrating the software which will merge the agencies records into a statewide records management system. Initially based on the RMS for the Kansas Highway Patrol, the system being implemented by the Department will be basically unique to our agency, but will be integrated with the criminal justice information records of the entire state. Global Software is the company doing the programming work for the state's entire system. Division personnel are to be receiving the required system training later this year.

As part of the records management system, the division is researching electronic ticketing options. While electronic ticketing is still in the development and testing phases in the state, it is thought that this technology will become the standard system for issuing citations in the very near future.

The department's law enforcement officers are being issued tactical light systems for their issued firearms. Training will commence shortly after July 1.

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

The 2012 Legislature passed a bill that established a restitution value for big game animals. In October 2012 the required regulations were passed by the Commission which provide for the measurement process that will be used to establish the value of the animal. The system is based on the gross score assessed to the animal's antlers or horns and is similar to the system used by the state of Ohio.

The appeal process of the sentence handed down against James and Marlin Butler as part of the Operation Cimarron case will be decided by the Federal District Judge later this year. The Butlers entered pleas of guilty to charges stemming from the federal investigation of Lacey Act violations involving the poaching of over 100 whitetail and mule deer. They appealed the sentence, particularly the part of the sentence addressing the restitution value of the animals poached. Judge Brown had originally ordered the restitution be based on the amount paid for the guided hunt by the hunters to the defendants. The sentence was appealed to the Tenth Circuit Court which ruled that in issuing the sentence Judge Brown did not adequately explain why other factors were not considered in establishing the value of the animals. The sentence was sent back to the District Court for re-sentencing. Arguments and rebuttals have been made by the prosecution and defense. The court is expected to make a ruling in the next few months.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** - None
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - None
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Kentucky
Submitted by: Hank Patton, Director of Law Enforcement
Date: 4/10/13

- **Training Issues**

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) Law Enforcement Division has contracted the "River School" to assist us in developing a curriculum and evaluation tool that is a measurable standard for enforcing inland navigational rules for the water bodies of Kentucky. Inconsistency in our regulations and recent passage of a bill that considers the inland navigational rules as the standard "Rules of the Road" for Kentucky are the premise for the updated training.

The KDFWR Law Enforcement Training Academy/Hiring Process experienced a complete overhaul in 2012/2013. A comprehensive review of tasks, conditions, and standards was conducted, as well as an evaluation of the input process for qualifying recruits. An extensive background investigation scrub led to incorporating new "Applicant Disqualifying Criteria", interview procedures/training, screening criteria, and entrance testing. This process is now streamlined with a better review of each candidate and consistent standards for evaluating recruit qualifications.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

Much like every Agency, KDFWR is short on operating funds and continues to research new ways to fund mandatory tasks. The Division experienced an 8% reduction in total funds, yet we are still mandated to reach authorized strength. Additional personnel costs have reduced the operating funds available, with increased responsibilities and missions.

Headquarters staff was reduced by 1 additional position, in an attempt to meet staffing mandates in the field. KDFWR currently has 7 headquarters staff to manage the Division, with only 4 sworn personnel. Our centralized dispatch is 4 positions under strength, and we are looking closely at reducing that branch by contracting with the Kentucky State Police to dispatch our officers. This is an anticipated initial expense of over \$1.3 million for digital communications equipment and training, but will reduce our outlay by over \$1.1 million, annually. This will upgrade all of our communications equipment and provide better radio coverage and officer safety.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

KDFWR is experiencing a greater incidence of illegal sale of inedible wildlife parts. KDFWR was involved in a large scale antique mall incident, where over 45 mounts were being openly sold and bartered contrary to state statute. In the 2013 Legislative Session, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a statute change, allowing any person or entity to sell or buy mounted wildlife specimens except as prohibited by federal law. The new law would create a new section of KRS Chapter 150 to define "gross score" and require the gross score for white-tailed deer and elk to be calculated using the Boone and Crockett Club's scoring manual by an official scorer; allow measurements to be taken at any time, with no drying time being required; establish enhanced restitution values for illegally taken white-tailed deer, elk, bears, turkeys, and bobcats; allow the Commissioner or designee to bring a civil action to recover the restitution values owed; revoke hunting licenses and

privileges for persons owing restitution; specify that the restitution required under this section is in addition to all other penalties and restitution established by KRS Chapter 150 and the administrative regulations established thereunder.

Feral hogs have become a major priority for enforcement in Kentucky. Overt and covert operations have netted several cases of illegal importation and release into the wild. Operations with surrounding states have been ongoing, and cooperation with our border states has been instrumental in slowing the importation into Kentucky.

Illegal harvest of paddlefish in Kentucky waters is an ongoing trend with the increase in roe prices and markets created for the flesh. UC operations are ongoing, and we are seeing more remote waterways being explored and exploited for paddlefish. Several area municipal lakes have stocked reared paddlefish as a form of reservoir ranching, and we are seeing an increase in complaints by the reservoir ranchers to enforce theft and poaching statutes due to the take of their fish. This is not a Fish and Wildlife enforcement issue, but the local sheriffs and chiefs are not equipped to handle the issue.

Officers were very busy during the peak boating season last. With approximately 174,000 registered boats and thousands more visiting from other states, Kentucky remains a popular destination for recreational boating. With this many users, the need for a highly visible police force on the water is apparent. Kentucky provided this police presence by logging over 5,000 hours focused on recreational boating safety. Officers sought compliance through both education and enforcement actions. Participation in Operation Dry Water was also beneficial again this year. Officers spent time on the water focused on boating safety by incorporating saturation patrols of known problem areas and conducting on the water checkpoints targeting impaired boaters. Just that weekend, Officers contacted 3893 boaters on 1663 vessels and issued 377 warnings and 207 citations. 21 arrests were made for BUI. For the year, over 2,400 citations were issued for boating violations. Of these, 280 were impaired boaters that were removed from our waterways before their actions resulted in injury or death to them or others.

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

KDFWR has worked closely with USFWS agents to protect nesting least terns on the sandbars in the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. The record low water levels afforded excellent nesting habitat for the least terns, but also afforded unique ATV/OHV riding opportunities for the local riders. Such activity is prohibited in Kentucky, and several details were conducted to eliminate disturbing the terns until they departed. Several citations were issued and the operations were a great success.

KDFWR continues to identify newer Benelli shotguns that have been modified to “float” the 4th shell in the gun. Four cases were made with the modifications being homemade. In 2011, a federal case was made in western Kentucky where a local gunsmith was making the modifications for profit.

KDFWR is working closely with the USFWS on paddlefish, native plants, and Lacey Act violations. KDFWR is working closely with the US Forest Service (USFS) on boundary disputes, poaching (tree and wildlife), and baiting on USFS property.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District representatives recently presented Officers from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resource with the Great Lakes and Ohio Division

2012 Water Safety Award. Throughout 2012, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife resource officers assigned to Lake Cumberland played a vital role in public and recreational water safety. Officers made 98 boating under the influence arrests, logged over 3,500 boating enforcement hours and inspected 5,666 vessels.

In addition to Lake Cumberland being a vacation destination for more than 300,000 people during each of the three summer holidays, it hosted several major public boating events that included:

- The Lake Cumberland Annual Raft-up event that collaborates with the Lake Cumberland Association and has established the world record for the most boats rafted together (over 1800 vessels in 2010).
- The lake hosts two to three Poker runs each summer that Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Officers are closely involved with. These events attract large numbers of both participants and spectators.
- The officers also actively participated in a national effort called “Operation Dry Water” which is devoted to reducing boating under the influence and general alcohol use while boating on the water.

Lake Cumberland, the largest man-made impoundment east of the Mississippi, hosts approximately four million visitors each year, with much of these visits taking place during the summer boating season. Army Corps Park Rangers and KDFWR Officers spent countless hours promoting and enforcing water and boating safety on a 50,000 acre lake encompassed by 1200 miles of shoreline impoundment.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

KDFWR is working closely with Kentucky State police to transition from mobile data terminals to wireless tablets for digital communications on-line. Several models have been researched, and all are at a significantly reduced cost to the Agency. Research is being done, now, to ensure that the tablet can store the necessary encryption software and still have adequate memory and speed to utilize the Link/NCIC systems, E-Citations, and KYOPS software.

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

In 2102, the Kentucky General Assembly passed a law change that incorporated the Inland Navigational Rules as the official “Rules of the Road” for the waters of the Commonwealth. We provided language that would have “fixed “ the issue of sounding devices for every vessel as the passed, approached, or overtook another vessel. That language was not used, therefore all officers will attend mandatory training by the “River School” to clarify the inland navigation rules (33 CFR 83) and prepare them for the education process we provide to the boating public throughout the 2013 boating season. Enforcement will be limited to education and information, initially, until we can address the issue in the 2014 General Session.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Michigan
Submitted by: Chief Gary Hagler
Date: May 7, 2013

Training Issues

Firearms Tactics – There are new qualification courses this year for rifles and shotguns. This is modeled after the state standard pistol course which is a close quarter, point shoot training platform incorporating barricades. Additionally it reduces the number of rounds fired for the rifle from 60 to 40 rounds.

We have received state grant funding for training this summer that will culminate in a final scenario that incorporates firearm tactics, survival tactics and first aid. Officers will work in small teams toward the objective of retrieving an officer down. Simunition use is a component of this training as well as in one of our three annual firearm shoots.

Survival Tactics - With all officers now issued TASERs it will be necessary to plan for replacement of the issued X26 which has a five-year life cycle. TASER will not be making these in the future and the division is working on the recommendation for the next generation of this equipment.

Instructors received training in ground fighting through Spontaneous Protection Enabling Accelerated Response Training (SPEAR). Portions of this “startle-flinch response” training will be further incorporated into annual training that officers receive.

First Aid Training - Standardized soft first aid bags are being incorporated into patrol units across the state. This year’s training will include the issuance and training on the use of field tourniquets. This complements chest seals and Quick Clot that have been issued over the past several years.

NIMS - The department has incorporated the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training as required by the US Department of Homeland Security. All sworn personnel are required to complete the level of NIMS training appropriate for their response level.

The division responds to numerous emergency management incidents requiring an incident command system approach between federal, tribal, state, and local agencies. Examples have been large oil pipeline ruptures, large civil protests, wildfires, and nuclear plant drills.

Funding and Staffing Issues

Governor Rick Snyder has recommended in his budget proposal an increase of \$3.5 million for conservation officers of general fund/ general purpose funds. This would be ongoing funding as the Governor sees the importance of natural resource protection and the division’s rural policing effort as vital to Michigan’s economic recovery and long term stability.

Funding would allow the hiring of 25 conservation officers and the re-establishment of a division run state approved basic law enforcement academy.

Additionally, Governor Snyder has recommended a change in the structure of hunting and fishing licenses which will increase funding for officers (16 positions in FY 2014) and simplify the types of and number of licenses from 227 to 33 licenses.

Without this support, the number of field conservation officers continues to decline. Currently we have 172 officers in total, down from 243 in 2001. Current levels of funding leave little room for any variable from the intended budget. Attrition fills our funding gaps but has resulted in large holes in our field program.

Of the current number of officers, 14 are assigned to specialized investigation (Commercial Fish Enforcement Unit and Detective Unit) or training duties providing direct support to conservation officers, constituent groups and programs (such as hunter education instructors, snowmobile, marine and ORV safety programs). Only 6 of those 172 sworn officers are directly assigned to headquarters (Lansing) administrative duties.

Some of the specialized investigation or training units have vacancies that have been placed on hold until field positions can be filled.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

Russian Boars - Last year Michigan declared certain types of swine (commonly referred to as Russian boars) as an invasive species and therefore prohibited. Audits were initially conducted of most of the facilities with several put on hold due to civil lawsuits.

The department is working with the Michigan Attorney General to evaluate whether criminal or civil action is appropriate in each case. This continues to be a contentious issue.

Commercial Fish Enforcement Unit (CFEU) - A case from 2012 involving the seizure of 112 grass carp from a truck transporting the fish illegally into Michigan from Arkansas by investigators from the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) and the CFEU resulted in the issuance of multiple felony counts by the Michigan Attorney General.

The driver of the truck was charged with 12 felonies and sentenced to 5 months in jail and \$3,696.00 in fines. The company from Arkansas was fined \$20,000 and was required to implement a compliance program to prevent shipment of illegal species and must notify the Michigan DNR when shipping fish to Michigan.

This unit has received two significant grants that have been utilized to support specific enforcement efforts. The first is related to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) issues. Funds from this grant are used to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species through efforts such as the inspection of bait industry businesses, investigations into the illegal importation of Asian carp species, and training other agencies to assist with the division's efforts.

The second grant is for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). This grant, administered by USFWS, is intended to focus on enforcement efforts related to specific threats to the Great Lakes and its fisheries resources.

CFEU personnel have completed a statewide bait industry inspection initiative. Approximately 200 minnow wholesalers, retailers, and catchers were inspected throughout the state. Efforts were

made to look for invasive/prohibited species and to determine the level of compliance with state minnow regulations.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

Commercial Fish Enforcement Unit (CFEU) personnel have provided training to the United States Coast Guard and United States Border Patrol personnel regarding Great Lakes commercial fishing and tribal issues as well as issues concerning aquatic invasive species. The focus was on netting equipment and vessels those agencies are likely to encounter while conducting operations on the Great Lakes. The training has resulted in increased contact between these agencies and the CFEU concerning situations that they have encountered as well as increased joint patrols on the Great Lakes between the USCG and the CFEU to counter illegal fishing activity.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

Forensic Investigation Training - The division is launching a pilot program for training conservation officers on forensic investigation techniques. This will be an ongoing series of online training modules covering various topics such as collection of various types of evidence and DNA. The officers will complete the modules from their laptop computers at a time that is convenient for them. After successful completion of a module, it will be documented in their training records.

Employee and Media Communications - With so much going on that is important to the future of the division and ultimately the Department of Natural Resources overall, it is important to regularly communicate to field and staff members the key events, messages and tributes that go on within the division.

A new publication called “LED Roll Call” has been developed which highlights the positives items, critical incidents, and “Job Well Done” stories within the division on a timely basis. The division is working with the DNR’s Marketing and Outreach Division to look at ways to get our story out to today’s changing news market. Michigan has very few dedicated outdoor writers. Local newspapers have downsized and are not able to reach out like they did in the past.

Our vision is to use a basic format press release document that can be e-mailed to a local news contact. This would contain the details we provided in the “old days” when reporters called the office or officer direct. The office or officer would now initiate the contact through an e-mailed document, most cases will not need administrative approval prior to contacting the media.

Dispatch Systems - The division has recently purchased Motorola Solutions Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system for our 24/7 communications and dispatch center.

We are in the process of upgrading conservation officer laptop computers with Motorola Solutions Premiere One software to enable faster complaint receipt and response as well as updated speed for queries. Federal grant funding paid for a portion of this project.

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

Tribal - Since 2007 the Department has been under a federal consent decree with five Native American tribes regarding inland hunting and fishing by tribal members.

A key component of the decree was to identify a mechanism that allowed tribal officers limited enforcement authority to enable them to check state licensed users. One mechanism was identified but is not applicable to all of the tribal entities.

Sound Suppressors - We have had inquiries regarding the department and division's stance regarding the use of sound suppressors for hunting purposes. At this time suppressors are not a legal hunting method.

License Violations: Officers are seeing an increase, mainly in deer hunting, where hunters are buying a license after they have harvested the animal.

Wolf Hunt Proposal - The gray wolf was legislatively made a game animal that authorizes the department and Natural Resources Commission to authorize a hunt including the method and manner of take. A group undertook a signature campaign to place an initiative on a state wide ballot on the question of allowing the hunt to continue.

This hunt is designed to reduce the conflicts between wolves and humans, livestock, pets, etc. Further legislation nullified the ballot initiative but discussions are ongoing between the various groups. Division officers have been tasked with additional security details at meetings on this subject.

Cost Savings Initiatives

The division is under severe budget constraints. We are seeing reduced funding in our game and fish, ORV and marine safety programs resulting in historic lows in staffing. We are hopeful that the funding increases proposed by the Governor's Office will be passed intact out of the legislature.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues

Hydrocarbon Hydraulic Fracturing - The DNR, as a large landowner, leases state owned lands for mineral extractions including oil and gas drilling and removal by hydraulic fracturing (fracking). High citizen interest (and protests) in lease auctions and public meetings have resulted in numerous and many people being removed from the public auction. Officers are now assigned to security details for these events.

Operation Runoff - Environmental conservation officers, assisted by uniformed conservation officers and water resource specialists through a grant from the USCG, worked along the shore of Lake Michigan looking for runoff contamination sites. At one location a city sewer system was back flowing into Lake Michigan.

Strategic Planning - The division has embarked upon a strategic planning process - the first since the late 1990s. This is being facilitated by university staff and will include district and regional meetings. It includes some sideboards from the department and the administration and will engage our partners and stakeholders in the process.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Minnesota
Submitted by: Jim Konrad
Date:

- **Training Issues**

- MN Conservation officers along with the Division of Ecological Resources instituted mandatory Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) training for Lake Service Providers and commercial bait dealers.
- Taxidermy Training: We have developed a new taxidermy class that has increased our efficiency and effectiveness in our compliance monitoring. The class is taught by a master taxidermist and officers with expertise in taxidermy law.
- AIS/ Commercial Aquaculture: We utilized industry specialist along with our academy instructors to train our field staff on laws related to the aquaculture industry.
- Leadership Training: To prepare staff for the large number of leadership positions In the next few years we have developed a leadership course. We worked with staff from Century College to develop a Supervisor Certificate Program.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

- Recruitment: Conservation Officer Pre-employment Education Program (CO-PREP) is a developing program in the division whose aim is to accelerate the diversity within the ranks of Conservation Officers to more accurately reflect the diverse community it serves. The Goal of the program is to recruit and hire qualified candidates who have an interest in becoming a Conservation Officer but hold an existing four-year degree from an accredited educational institution in another field of study other than law enforcement. Once hired by the division, the candidate would be sent to a community college where they will receive the law enforcement training required by law to become a licensed peace officer. Open successful completion of the educational requirements the candidate will join a traditional Conservation Officer academy.
- Did not have an academy this year, currently have 28 vacancies.
- A new chief should be named by the June 1, replacing retiring Chief Jim Konrad. The selection should be from within the organization, which will result in additional trickle up promotions.
- We currently are two pilots short, working on hiring replacements.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

- Ground water appropriation: Enforcement has been asked to assist other Department of Natural Resources Divisions to assist with compliance checks and monitoring of ground water appropriation. All Conservation Officers have been trained and will now become part of the process.

- Inaugural wolf season: Minnesota has held its first wolf season based on the successful recovery of its wolf population. The season consisted of a lottery that included both a hunting and trapping season. The season was a success with very few enforcement issues.
 - **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts**
 - In March 2010, the DNR initiated a three-year special enforcement investigation into the illegal selling and buying and dumping of protected game fish in north-central and northwestern Minnesota. The investigation has now resulted in state charges against at least 21 individuals and federal indictments against 10 others. The fish involved were mainly walleye from some of Minnesota most popular fishing lakes: Red Lake, Lake Winnibigoshish, Leech Lake and Cass Lake.
 - Asian Carp: USFWS, Great Lakes Task Force, joined forces to collectively work on this problem. Topics include fish barriers, illegal fish trade and aquaculture.
 - **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement.**
 - Zebra Mussel K-9's. 3 DNR mussel detecting K-9s will be trained by DNR Enforcement K-9 trainer. The mussel dogs will be utilized by the division in efforts to enforce AIS laws and help prevent the spread of invasive mussels. Enforcement of AIS laws is a primary motivator to changing the behavior of a segment of users who may move invasive species.
 - Records Management System: We are in the process of developing a law enforcement records management system (RMS) is a system that provides for the storage, retrieval, retention, manipulation, archiving and viewing of information, records or documents pertaining to law enforcement operations.
 - **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** - None to report
 - **Cost Savings Initiatives**
 - We are currently planning a Kaizan event to look into how we can more efficiently conduct our hiring procedures.
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - None to report
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Missouri
Submitted by: Larry Yamnitz, Protection Division Chief
Date: April 30, 2013

- **Training Issues** – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) conducted a training academy in 2012. The academy began March 1 and was six months in duration. The academy is Missouri P.O.S.T. certified and consists of conservation law, boating operations, waterfowl school, firearms training, land management practices, trapping, fish kills, defensive tactics, etc. Twelve conservation agent trainees graduated on August 29, 2012.

In 2013, MDC is sending all P.O.S.T. certified employees through a two-day Constitutional Law update. The training is a refresher on a variety of subjects including; search and seizure, vehicle stops and “compliance checks.” Also included in the training are pre-incident indicators of violent attacks and racial profiling.

MDC continues to send conservation agents to swiftwater rescue training. Swiftwater emergency calls are increasing in Missouri and we felt it essential for agents to be equipped and prepared to respond safely, quickly and effectively to swift water emergencies. The training consists of using specialized gear in realistic water exercises, practicing with rescue craft, and reacting to swiftwater emergency situations.

Protection Division supervisors attended Risk Management training in December 2012. This training, conducted by Lexipol founder Gordon Graham, focused on a variety of high-risk, low frequency topics that can create problems for law enforcement agencies. As a result of this training, Protection Division now issues bi-monthly training bulletins through our Department intranet. These are mandatory reading for all division personnel, and comments from the field have been positive.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues** – Revenues have stabilized from several years of steady decline, and our budget increased slightly in FY '14. Department employees were issued a 2% general pay increase on July 1, 2012, and an additional 2% increase on each employee's anniversary hire date for those who are eligible. A similar increase has been submitted to the Conservation Commission for approval in the coming fiscal year.

While Protection Division is currently at full strength, we are preparing for additional vacancies due to retirements, promotions, and departures in the coming year. Protection is budgeting for a class of ten conservation agent trainees starting in March of 2014.

The Department approved a \$727,070 emergency purchase of 68 digital mobile and 68 digital portable radios for conservation agents who have either lost, or will soon lose, radio communication with partnering law enforcement agencies. This is a significant investment that will maintain critical communication with agencies who are implementing digital radios in order to join the Missouri Statewide Interoperable Network (MOSWIN). Budgeting for an

additional \$1.8 million in digital radios is being phased in over the next two fiscal years to complete the upgrade for all Missouri conservation agents by 2015.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – In 2012, Missouri’s Operation Game Thief (OGT) program received 1112 violation reports (an increase of 205 from last year) which resulted in 346 arrests (an increase of 75 from last year). As part of the OGT program, we have a cargo trailer full of OGT material which converts to an exhibit. The trailer is utilized at special events such as fairs to promote the program and has been in operation since 2005. This past year the trailer was used at 14 events. We are in the process of upgrading our OGT trailer with new exhibits and a professionally wrapped exterior. Conservation agents continue to promote the OGT program through newspaper articles, radio programs, and public meetings.

During the 2012 deer season, 6191 hunters donated 318,115 pounds of venison to Missouri’s Share the Harvest Program. This program, which provides a quality source of protein to less fortunate families, continues to grow in popularity every year. 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.

- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – Missouri is currently wrapping up a major special investigation involving paddlefish poaching centered around the Warsaw, MO area. Over the course of March 13 and 14, 2013, approximately 85 Missouri conservation agents, 40 special agents with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and wildlife officers from Colorado, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina contacted more than 100 subjects in Missouri and eight other states to issue citations, execute arrest warrants, conduct interviews and gather additional information regarding paddlefish poaching in Missouri.

The effort included eight individuals indicted for federal crimes involving the illegal trafficking of paddlefish and their eggs used as caviar. The undercover operation ran during the spring 2011 and spring 2012 paddlefish seasons, March 15 through April 30. Federal crimes involved the illegal purchase, resale and transportation of paddlefish and their eggs in violation of the Lacey Act. MDC and the USFWS worked with the Benton County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office, the Benton County Sheriff’s Department and the U.S. Department of Justice on the investigation.

As of April 30, 2013, 174 out of 253 state charges have been adjudicated with approximately \$44,715 in fines and court costs collected. The story has gained world-wide attention from a variety of news organizations including National Geographic, Guardian U.K. and Smithsonian Magazine.

Missouri also wrapped up another major special investigation that began over five years ago. In the fall of 2008, investigators with the Special Investigation Unit set up an operation in the Mark Twain National Forest in Ripley County, Missouri. Working in cooperation with the

USFWS and the U.S. Attorney's office, Operation "Pulling Wool" targeted hunting activity involving the illegal use of dogs to aid in the pursuit and harvest of white-tailed deer.

Commonly referred to as "deer dogging," this illegal activity is traditionally found in some Ozark counties in the south central part of the state. The practice involves using dogs to run deer to hunters strategically set up at known deer crossings. Hunters use marine band and CB radios to communicate with each other concerning the whereabouts of the dogs and any deer they are chasing. Coupled with the use of automobiles and all-terrain vehicles, deer dogging is an effective and extremely dangerous activity conducted both within and outside of Missouri deer hunting seasons.

On April 25, 2013, the last defendant charged in Operation Pulling Wool was found guilty by a United States Magistrate in Cape Girardeau, MO. In total, 46 defendants were found guilty by plea or trial in federal court for hunting deer with the aid of dogs on U.S. Forest Service property. These defendants paid \$67,425 in total fines for their actions. An additional six defendants were charged in state court in Ripley County, MO. These defendants paid \$1909 in fines and court costs. The combined total of fines and court costs resulting from Operation Pulling Wool was \$69,334. Additionally, each subject had their hunting privileges revoked for periods of one to three years.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – We have issued laptop computers and iPhones to conservation agents in the field. The combination of these tools has improved communication capabilities, and resulted in more efficient and effective work while in the field. Smartphone GPS capabilities have also been utilized on enforcement projects and hunting incident investigations. Protection Division is also budgeting for vehicle-mounted GPS units as these units are not dependent on phone signal for effectiveness.

Conservation agents tested a variety of body cameras last year and preliminary results were positive. However, due to budget constraints with the digital radio purchases, the body camera program was placed on hold. Smartphone video applications remain an option for recording enforcement contacts.

Our Special Investigation Unit used a pole camera for several projects last year, and this was an invaluable tool during our paddlefish enforcement efforts. The pole camera has potential applications for additional enforcement projects as well.

Protection Division ordered dual long-gun mounts for installation in agent vehicles in the coming year. These electronically activated mounts will better secure Department issued shotguns and AR-15 rifles, yet provide instant access in times of emergency. Protection Division continues to budget for additional AR-15 rifles to replace personal rifles currently in use by agents. Both dual long-gun mounts and rifle purchases will be phased in over several budget years.

- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – We are continuing the restoration of elk in Missouri and may be bringing more elk in from Kentucky. An area around Peck Ranch Conservation Area in Southern Missouri has been chosen as the restoration zone. This

restoration project has garnered tremendous support from the local public but has been criticized from organizations within the farming community who feel elk will be a threat to agricultural interests.

While criticism over the elk restoration has waned over the past year; other issues involving crayfish and captive cervid regulations have emerged. Actual and perceived economic impacts of regulatory decisions continue to be a challenge for MDC.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – In an effort to improve the work effectiveness of conservation agents, a Protection Division volunteer program was implemented several years ago. Currently there are 120 volunteers who help conservation agents and other staff with a variety of work including; enforcement patrols, outreach and education efforts, training, and fish and wildlife management. We have found these volunteers do the work equal to 1.1 full-time employees per region. In addition to the cost-saving efforts, the program has also proven to be a valuable recruitment and retention tool, as several of our current field agents started as Protection Division volunteers.

We are continuing to purchase Eco-Boost pickup trucks and preliminary results show improved gas mileage. We are also looking at the “Law Enforcement Package” Eco-Boost trucks for future purchases to provide a vehicle better suited for today’s law enforcement needs and provide standardization (and hopefully cost savings) from year-to-year.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – With the continued implementation of the Department’s ePermits system, regulations regarding proper tagging of deer and turkey continue to be a challenge. Now that hunters can purchase and print deer and turkey permits from a home computer, issues regarding invalidation and attachment of permits have risen. While the issue of invalidating the permit by notching has proven effective, tagging solutions have been more difficult. Therefore, Missouri regulations for the upcoming 2013 fall deer and turkey seasons will no longer require a deer or turkey to be immediately tagged as long as the animal is in the taker’s “immediate presence”. This represents a significant change in Missouri big game regulations, but addresses several concerns regarding traditional tagging requirements within a modern day permit system.
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: North Dakota
Submitted by: Robert Timian
Date: April 26, 2013

- **Training Issues** – We in process of evaluating our training of officers throughout their career. The goal is to develop a standard career development training plan that maps out what is the minimum training that officers should receive throughout the career and the timeline for receiving that training. This plan would also allow for and encourage additional and officer specific training above the minimum.
 - **Funding and Staffing Issues** – At the time this report is being submitted our legislative session is coming to a close. In regard to funding the legislature has put in place increases in most of our licenses fees (in North Dakota fees are set by legislature not the department). These increases will take effect in April of 2014. One new game warden position was added this will go to the western part of the state. We currently have no problem recurring qualified new hires. The challenges continue to be placing them in the areas where they are needed. While the work load is still rising in the oil impact areas, finding housing for wardens is still a major issue. The department has implemented a housing subsidy program; however, finding rental property is still the issue. Additionally married officers with young children cannot find day care so in some cases families are living apart until they can find day care or a transfer becomes available. There are also quality of life issues in the areas of major impact, which are also the areas of increased work load and needed additional officers. These issues will not be going away any time soon.
 - **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** – None to report
 - **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** - We are working toward the goal of MOU's with regard to Game & Fish law enforcement with all the tribes in North Dakota. Currently we have one in place.
 - **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – We are continually evaluating the impact of growth the oil development in western North Dakota and our response to it related to staffing, training, and equipment. Two recent results of this is to provide trasers to officers, and major upgrade in emergency lighting on our enforcement vehicles.
 - **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** - Courts and States Attorneys in the western part of the state are being overwhelmed with cases. Additionally all the jails are full in the west half of the state. Last summer for the first time ever two Game Wardens took a subject they had arrested to the county jail and were told they would have to book and release him as they have no space available.
 - **Cost Savings Initiatives** – While we are continuing looking to save where we can the cost of doing business keeping rising, especially with the impact of a dramatically increasing population in western North Dakota.
 - **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** - None to report
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Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources
Submitted by: David Williams
Date: APRIL 5, 2013

The mandate of the Minister and the Department is to promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance the NWT environment for the social and economic benefits for all NWT residents. Field Support Unit consists of Public Education, Training, Aboriginal Relations, Traditional Knowledge and Compliance specialists reporting to a head who reports directly to an Assistant Deputy Minister Operations. Currently unit staffed except for the aboriginal relations specialist.

- **Training Issues** The department has completed a training strategy, which the overall goal is to develop a training strategy and implementation plan that includes identification of delivery along with a training assessment mechanism. We have in the past year concentrated on the mandatory training required under legislation and officer safety requirements. Training sessions delivered on law enforcement, basic law, officer safety, evidence and court procedures defensive tactics along with the mandatory re-certifications in: firearm (long guns), defensive tactics and fitness. Officers were trained in the Incident Command system.
- **Funding and Staffing Issues** Currently have 57 officers deployed to five administrative regions in the Northwest Territories, along with specialists in Headquarters. Regional centers report direct to an Assistant Deputy Minister with the specialists providing advice and support to the regions. We are challenged in meeting regional capacity, due to the increased development exploration projects.
- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends** The largest issue in the Northwest Territories is the rewriting of the departmental legislation such as the Wildlife Act, Forest Management Regulations and Forest Protection regulations, most of these legislations are well over 20 years old. Wildlife is in a process of public review and plan for the act to be passed in the fall 2013 and in effect 2014/15 with the new regulations.
- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement** Officers in the Northwest Territories on borders and adjoining jurisdictions are cross-appointed to enforce wildlife legislation. NWT officers are appointed to enforce federal wildlife legislation such as fisheries and migratory birds. The department also has a MOU with NWT Parks and Tourism for the enforcement of legislation and regulations.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** - None to report
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** Officers continue to be involved in a diverse spectrum of resource law enforcement activities beyond those traditionally associated with wildlife law enforcement. The public support for enforcement that protects resources is at a high level. Courts are continuing to support greater penalties for infractions as reflected in the sentencing.
- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – The department is deploying a new compliance management information system that will track, manage and report on compliance activities as they relate to the management of the environment, forest and wildlife. Training partner implemented. This

system that helps achieves strategic objectives by harnessing and directing the performance of staff by tracking and managing core competencies and training.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** A formal process is now underway to negotiate the devolution of Northwest Territories' public lands and resources and rights in respect of water from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT). This will change who makes decisions about how natural resources, such as land, water, oil and gas, and minerals are used and developed in the NWT. Devolution will transfer the decision-making powers over public lands and resources from Canada's Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and its bureaucracy to the GNWT. Devolution is planned to be in effect April 2015.
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**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report**

State/Province: OHIO

Submitted by: Tom Rowan, Assistant Chief, Programs

Date: March 26, 2013

- **Training Issues**

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has several law enforcement divisions. While cooperation has always been key, in 2012 a new cross-division training program was developed. All wildlife officers were trained by watercraft officers on water safety and survival, this year the Division of Wildlife is training officers from Watercraft and Parks Divisions on contact and cover techniques. In addition, a class of 11 cadets graduated from the academy in July and was assigned to counties, where a 6 month field training program was completed.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**

Funding and staffing levels continue to be an issue for all levels of state government. Even with the recent academy graduates, law enforcement staffing levels are at the lowest in a decade due to pending and recent changes in the retirement system causing some officers to leave.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**

Wildlife Officers and Investigators continued to respond to calls for assistance from other agencies in a number of cases, including drug enforcement, arson, responding to home break-ins, murder investigations and bank robberies.

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

The ODNR Division of Wildlife assisted the USFWS with several cases including a cooperative investigation with Kentucky involving paddlefish caviar from the Ohio River. Other investigations continue in to the interstate sale and movement of captive white-tailed deer. We also participate in a task force to help stop the movement of Asian Carp into the Great Lakes. The Division of Wildlife worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and the US Coast Guard to investigate two Canadian commercial fishing tugs that crossed the border to set illegal gillnets in Ohio waters of Lake Erie.

- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement**

A new web-based license and customer management system has provided officers with a tremendous wealth of knowledge regarding our constituents. Innovative thinking by officers has resulted in successful enforcement action in several situations. In one complaint, carcasses of deer, geese and raccoons were dumped along the road. The officer checked the database for persons holding a hunting license, wetlands stamp, deer permit and fur taker permit in the county. After narrowing it down to eleven people, he contacted the person living closest to the illegal dump site, who confessed to the dumping.

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

Legislation was enacted which moved the majority of permitting and licensing authority of captive white-tailed deer to the Ohio Department of Agriculture. After the initial issuance of a permit (which does not expire) and inspection of fencing by the ODNR Division of Wildlife, all authority over that captive herd will transfer to the ODA. Legislation was enacted providing for a fee to be charged for nuisance wild animal control operators but also requiring further training and certification.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

Positions were left vacant as the academy had been delayed by one year to save on costs. Cost-saving measures were undertaken when possible, including obtaining estimates prior to purchases, car-pooling to training, etc.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – None to report

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2012 Agency Report
State: OKLAHOMA
Col. Robert Fleenor, Chief
Submitted by: Capt. David Deckard
Date: May 8, 2013

The following report covers the period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 (FY2013) 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 45 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 five weeks of in-house training and ten weeks in the Field Training and Evaluation Program with a Field Training Officer. 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 now required by state mandate to complete twenty-five hours of law enforcement training and two hours of mental health training each 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.

They are also required to train and qualify annually with their pistols, shotguns and rifles. In addition, game wardens must also attend an annual 8 hour defensive tactics refresher course.

Twenty-five game wardens completed Advanced Carbine and Pistol training. The training was conducted at the Badlands Training facility taught by some top-notch instructors.

Four wardens also attended the Hunting Accident Investigators course this year.

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.

Five new game wardens were hired during this period. We are expecting several more openings this year due to retirement and we lost one officer to another agency citing low pay this year as well.

We were able to purchase 20 Chevrolet C-1500 four-wheel drive extended cabs. The Chevrolets were chosen, in part because of their 100,000 mile warranty. The state now has a mandatory Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) requirement for most state vehicles. The CNG requirement cost the Division \$10,000 per vehicle for each aftermarket conversion for total \$200,000 additional cost for vehicles. The aftermarket CNG conversions are warranted for 80,000 miles. The cost savings per vehicle for the CNG are projected to break even at 70,000 miles or about three years. The equipment for this year's trucks has been upgraded with LED light bars, bed lining, and grill guards.

The division is currently in the process of purchasing 135 Glock Model 22 Generation 4 pistols to replace our current weapons. Most of our current Glock pistols are 12 years old and in need of refurbishing or replacement.

Our current budget proposal for FY2014 was approved for the purchase of 48 800mhz radios that were badly needed for wardens to communicate in certain counties. In addition, we are procuring used Panasonic laptop computers from the Department of Public Safety to be used for the MobileCop platform.

The Division purchased and installed 600 lumen tactical lights for our new carbines. We were also able to purchase 17 decoy deer this year for the Division as well.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS:

Alligator sightings and nuisance complaints continue to expand across the southern half of the state. Black bear complaints continue as well.

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 are presently working with Missouri and the US Fish and Wildlife Service on two simultaneous investigations in enforcing the illegal harvest and sale of paddlefish eggs.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT:

We implement an Investigation Unit this year to help combat the commercialization of wildlife. Initial training and equipment procurement was started this year for three investigators who work

on a part-time as needed basis. A full-time investigator/ supervisor may be added at a later date. We have had some initial success already and expect to increase activity when fully implemented.

The Department recently deployed an on-line hunter education course that has decreased the demand for traditional classroom courses taught by game wardens.

2013 was the last year for deer and turkey check stations. On-line check stations will be the main method of checking deer and turkeys in 2014.

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

New legislation introduced this year:

There were a lot of license exemption bills filed this year that would have made an adverse impact on our funding. We were able to get the bills quashed.

A Hunter-Ed bill was signed into law this year setting the minimum age 10 years old for attending a Hunter-Ed class.

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 after market CNG conversions which will greatly impact our fuel bill.

OTHER SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES:

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 and an annual Archery in the Schools statewide tournament. 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 anglers and hunters and the sale of licenses to them is vital to our agency.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Ontario
Submitted by: Lois Deacon, Director
Date: May 14, 2013

Training Issues

- Training during the 2012-2013 operating season for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) was consistent with the previous year's delivery with some notable exceptions.
- Two new conservation officers attended the Ontario Police College in Aylmer, Ontario. The officers completed the Basic Constable Course which is the recruit training course for all police officers in Ontario.
- The OMNR conducted a provincial rollout of a new duty holster. The Blackhawk Serpa Level 3 duty holster was issued to all officers during their annual firearms training and recertification.

Funding and Staffing Issues

Funding

- OMNR Enforcement Branch uses a Business Logic Model to allocate funds to work units across the province. This allows financial allocation decisions to consider cost variations associated with factors such as the higher cost of operating a vehicle in the north as compared to southern Ontario.
 - This model also allows for allocation decisions to take into account various factors influencing each work unit's operating costs including: number of staff, the total number of vehicles and vessels the unit is operating and maintaining, mandatory and enhanced training requirements, uniforms and personal protective equipment, communications (radios and communication services), travel requirements, planned field activity requirements, etc.
 - The nature of this model ensures that work units will have equitable funding allocation sufficient to carry out planned activities.
- Base funding to OMNR's Enforcement Branch has been roughly flat-lined since 2010. However, like other jurisdictions across the mid-west, Ontario is facing a difficult economic situation and OMNR must live within its means. The implications of this are that many parts of OMNR, including Enforcement Branch, may have smaller funding allocations next year and for several years to come.

Staffing

- OMNR Enforcement Branch continues to manage staff vacancies to live within the budget and focus continues to be on maintaining front line enforcement service delivery.
- OMNR Enforcement Branch continues work to establish and implement formalized standards for new Conservation Officers including physical abilities and psychological testing standards, criteria for background checks and driver's abstract reviews.

- OMNR Enforcement Branch front line enforcement activities are delivered by approximately 180 Conservation Officers, reporting to Area Enforcement Managers (AEMs) in districts across the province, who in turn report to Regional Enforcement Operations Managers.
- OMNR Enforcement Branch developed and launched an internal Branch Mentoring program in 2012. This initiative supports branch staff at all levels with career planning by working with other staff/leaders in the branch.

Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends

- In addition to planned enforcement efforts, OMNR officers engage in education and outreach activities as part of their regular contact with natural resource users. Outreach includes providing information about rules and regulations, OMNR policy, natural resource management and program initiatives. Other OMNR staff e.g. biologists also take part in a variety of outreach and education activities as part of their job. Education and outreach is one of the core duties of a Conservation Officer.
- OMNR cooperative efforts with various law enforcement and police agencies continue. Some examples of non-traditional fish and wildlife joint enforcement efforts include:
 - Joint patrols include: marine, road checks, ice fishing, etc. with local police services including aboriginal police.
 - Intelligence and investigation staff deal with partners such as the Criminal Intelligence Service of Ontario, the Ontario Provincial Police and federal and municipal law enforcement agencies on a regular basis regarding illegal activity, intelligence collection plans, persons of interest that are involved in crime outside of the natural resource mandate.
 - Providing natural resources law enforcement communications materials to local Crime Stoppers boards for use by local media to raise awareness of natural resources violations.

Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts

- Participated in a joint forces operation with New York State Department of Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service related to international traffic in snakehead fish.
 - Operation Frankenfish, the Ontario portion of an international investigation into the illegal importation, sale and exportation of live snakehead fish, concluded on October 12, 2012. The resulting court penalty included a \$50,000 fine for a company, a 60 day jail sentence for an employee, and a requirement to pay \$2,500 to publish notices in Ontario and New York State about the environmental dangers posed by invasive fish species and the consequences for persons who deal in them.
- OMNR is part of a joint forces operation with the Canadian Border Services Agency and together have stopped more than 29,000 lbs. of live Asian carp from entering Ontario at the Windsor border.
 - Since March 2011, workings with Canada Border Services Agency, OMNR Conservation Officers have intercepted almost 39,000 lbs. of live Asian carp at the border destined for Ontario markets. So far, these cooperative enforcement efforts have

resulted in five successful court rulings with fines totaling \$160K related to the possession of live invasive fish.

- OMNR is signatory to several intelligence sharing agreements with law enforcement agencies in Canada and the United States.

New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement

- Modernization of information management and information technology continues:
 - A new law enforcement Records Management system called Niche RMS has been procured and is in the process of being implemented. Niche RMS will significantly improve the management and utilization of natural resource law enforcement information.
 - Mobile Office technology has been installed in all High Visibility Enforcement Vehicles giving Conservation Officers the ability to remotely access the internet, documents and e-mail.
- Officers at OMNR rely on our internet crime unit (CONet) as an valuable tool to detect natural resource violations and gather intelligence:
 - Offences detected relate to a variety of provincial priorities such as the sale of species at risk and invasive species. Recent success includes a conviction for illegal possession of snakeheads;
 - Over the last decade, officers have had excellent success using CONet to identify emerging trends in the illicit trade in wildlife and other violations;

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

- Fiscal realities continue to impose challenges on program delivery.
- Court rulings related to searches of computers continues to evolve as technology results in more evidence being held in electronic formats than on paper.

Cost Savings Initiatives

- Modernization of information management and information technology continues.
- A new law enforcement Records Management system called Niche RMS has been procured and is in the process of being implemented. Niche RMS will significantly improve the management and utilization of natural resource law enforcement information.
- Mobile Office technology has been installed in all High Visibility Enforcement Vehicles giving Conservation Officers the ability to remotely access the internet, documents and e-mail.

Other Special Law Enforcement Issues – None to report

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, 2012 through March 31, 2013 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**

Number of Officers: **60 field conservation officers / 78 total officers in WL Division**

TRAINING ISSUES

Within the past year, we implemented the initial phases of our statewide boating enforcement training program. Four regionally based instructors, along with the Boating Law Administrator, conducted training across the state to ready fellow Conservation Officers for the upcoming boating season. Topics ranging from basic boating law review to boating under the influence were covered during this period. The training was well received and future efforts are planned for the sake of better preparing Conservation Officers for the variety of situations they encounter on the water.

FUNDING AND STAFFING ISSUES

The Wildlife Division completed an officer recruitment/retention study to better evaluate key issues and implement strategies to address the problem of officer turnover.

Summary of efforts:

- Preliminary data gathered by Bureau of Human Resources on officer losses and vacancy rate.
- Over the past 5 years, Conservation Officer vacancies have been higher than any other job classification within the agency.
- Surveys were completed with 29 Conservation Officers from across the four administrative regions, along with representation from Law Enforcement Administration.
- Information gathered was compiled and sent to the Bureau of Human Resources occupational psychologists for further evaluation.

- Information was also gathered from ND, MN, IA, NE, CO, WY and MT on Conservation Officer salaries.

Implementation of the suggested ideas included:

- Retroactive to January 1, 2012, officers will receive a salary increase (5%) for staying in a duty station for two years. An additional salary increase (5%) will be given upon four years retention in the same duty station. These increases are in addition to any other raise or cost of living increase. However, officers are still not allowed to surpass job worth (midpoint of pay range).
- Clarification of criteria and increased financial incentives for officers serving as agency training instructors (WTO, DT, Firearms, etc.).
- Made adjustments to agency organizational structure to improve operational effectiveness and create additional opportunities for upward mobility by:
 - Developing a Regional Conservation Officer Program Manager position in each region who will supervise CO Supervisors.
 - Increasing number of CO Supervisors in each Region from two to three.
 - Developing a Conservation Officer Training Supervisor (upgraded existing position) within LE Administration.

Work continues on:

- Announcement and placement of new positions.
- Evaluation of CO duty station workloads.
- Review of CO position description to ensure accuracy and potential modification where necessary.
- Salary review.
- Ways to improve law enforcement organization, communication and morale.

MAJOR CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT TRENDS

An early spring and excellent walleye fishing resulted in an increase in 2012 fishing license sales. Resident Annual Fishing License sales were 15% higher than those in 2011. Additionally, Nonresident Annual Fishing License sales were 27% higher. These increases greatly impacted total hunting/fishing license sales, resulting in a 5% increase from the previous year.

South Dakota experienced a substantial die-off of white-tailed deer during August-October 2012 due to Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD). A total of 3,714 dead or sick deer were recorded, with almost all of these being white-tailed deer. The department refunded \$178,475 to hunters upon return of over 2,400 licenses. Those hunters also received reinstatement of their preference points.

Additional aquatic nuisance species (ANS) regulations were implemented by the GFP Commission for the protection of the state's natural resources. Silver and bighead carp already inhabit three river drainages in eastern South Dakota. To prevent the further spread of Asian carp in South Dakota, all flowing waters in a large portion of the eastern part of the state were closed to commercial and non-commercial bait harvest. This regulation was aimed at preventing hard-to-distinguish juvenile carp from being inadvertently transported away from these waters.

NEW INNOVATIONS IN CONSERVATION LAW ENFORCEMENT

We began implementing our Department's case management system during the latter part of 2012. An initial training session was held within each administrative region, with a follow up session held approximately one month later. The system was built in concert with State IT staff and we have worked together to troubleshoot initial issues/problems with the system. Many "nice to have" issues have surfaced and Part Deux is already being planned.

All officers were issued a new Remington 870 police model shotgun in 2012. These replaced older models that were purchased many years ago. The newer models included pistol grips, adjustable stocks, extended magazines and improved sights.

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

A South Dakota Supreme Court opinion was rendered in April of 2012, regarding stops of vehicles that appear to bypass an established roadblock/checkpoint. While this case involved a DUI checkpoint and was ultimately won by the State, it has implications for game & fish checkpoints. State vs. Rademaker further supported US v. Carpenter (8th Circuit), which held that that "exiting a highway immediately after observing a sign for a checkpoint does not, alone, give rise to reasonable suspicion for a vehicle stop." We have instructed our officers that they need avoidance of the check + "something else" to stop a vehicle that avoids the established check. Existing state statutes only prevent against an individual who travels through a roadblock without stopping, but do not address the issue of bypassing one (turnarounds, exiting on an intersecting road, etc.).

**Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Texas**



**Submitted by: Major Larry E. Young – Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
– Law Enforcement Division
Date: April 30, 2013**

- **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:
 - Tactical Trauma Care training was provided for 19 field game wardens that will now facilitate training for game wardens throughout the state. As we face additional challenges, such as border operations and patrol of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the Gulf of Mexico, this type of training is critical for officer safety.
 - M240B (.308 caliber machine guns) training was provided for 20 field game wardens that primarily serve in border duty stations along the Texas/Mexico border. The M240B's will be mounted on six (6) SafeBoats that will patrol border waters in an effort to provide game wardens with the proper equipment to operate in an extremely volatile environment. In addition to the turret mounted weapons the SafeBoats will be equipped with ballistic panels to provide proper cover for game wardens in the event of an active shooting situation.
 - TPWD-LE is currently going through the accreditation process with NASBLA's BOAT program to be the fourth state in the nation to be formally recognized as meeting the federal training standard for maritime law enforcement. The Law Enforcement Division is also finishing its training for all game wardens in the state on the NASBLA seated standard field sobriety test battery

- TPWD-LE continues to stay aligned with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) training requirements and game wardens are encouraged to attend training in the course of their respective careers to obtain proficiency certificates including intermediate, advanced, and master peace officer ratings. The Law Enforcement Division has authorized officers to attend training on work time and at the TPWD-LE expense.
 - TPWD-LE continues with a strong tradition of representation at the prestigious FBI – National Academy with a TPWD-LE game warden in each of the four sessions annually. The 10 week course of study is instrumental in providing the training to prepare ranking game wardens for future roles in senior management.
- **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:
 - A current game warden class of 30 cadets that will graduate this summer. Included in the 30 cadets is one cadet from Mexico.
 - TPWD-LE now has two full time recruiters (one Game Warden V and one Lieutenant Game Warden) to assist with recruiting efforts.
 - In addition to the new recruiters game warden statewide will have a recruiting component added as part of their annual performance evaluation in an effort to increase diversity in the work force.
 - The 83rd Session of the Texas Legislature is entering the last month of their 140 day session and there are numerous bills and legislative funding issues that could impact TPWD-LE. One of the most noticeable is a pay raise for state peace officers to bring their pay into parity with that of other municipal police departments throughout the state.
- **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:
 - TPWD-LE is in the process of developing a Texas Maritime Operations Task Force (TMOT) which will bring local, state, and federal partners together for operations planning and intelligence/information sharing.
 - TPWD-LE has conducted numerous fisheries outreach events for other government and non-government agencies as well industry personnel to ensure commercial and sport fishing regulations are understood and concerns are addressed.

- The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission took action earlier this year and granted game wardens the authority to enforce violations of federal regulations encountered in state waters. This will enhance law enforcement efforts by allowing these violations to be filed in state Justice of the Peace Courts.
- TPWD-LE is recognized as being the lead agency enforcing the Texas Water Safety Act on all public waters in the state. Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) is an integral part of that enforcement effort and game wardens have incorporated “no refusal weekends” and “mandatory blood draws” as tools to be utilized when handling BWI suspects.
- 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. 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.
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- **Unique Cross Boundary or Cooperative, Enforcement Efforts** – TPWD-LE continues its involvement with several cooperative enforcement efforts with federal and state partners which include:
 - The U.S. Coast Guard continues to be a partner on the maritime forefront whether working together on border operations or fisheries issues. In addition, Recreational Boating Safety funds enable game wardens to maintain and enhance their officer presence on all waters of the state as they continue to serve as the lead agency ensuring public safety on public water.
 - 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.
 - TPWD-LE has joined with 38 other states as a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact which aides in prosecution of violators who commit game and fish violations in member states.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** – As part of a reorganization under the direction of the newly selected Colonel (Craig Hunter), Lt. Colonel (Danny Shaw) and Chief of Special Operations (Grahame Jones), TPWD-LE has begun implementation of several new team concepts including the following:
 - Search and Rescue team – The Search and Rescue team will be comprised of 50-55 game wardens that will be trained in the latest search and rescue techniques and they will be available to respond to natural disasters and other catastrophic events. The specialized unit will enhance TPWD-LE presence in Texas as well as other states as the need arises.

- Scout Tactical Response Team – The Scout Tactical Response team will include 20 game wardens that will receive specialized training to enable them to respond to high risk situations, such as execution of high risk felony warrants.
- State Marine Accident Reconstruction Team (SMART) – SMART will include 12 game wardens that will be available to respond and investigate/reconstruct serious boat accidents that occur on public waters throughout the state.
- K-9 Team – The process has begun to fund a K-9 Team comprised of 10 game wardens. The K-9 Team will receive specialized training allowing them to incorporate police canines into various job functions to include, but not limited to, conservation law enforcement and search and rescue efforts.

With the assistance of existing staff and a newly hired Technology Lieutenant TPWD-LE is moving forward with numerous projects utilizing the latest information technology available as well as social media applications to promote the Agency and Law Enforcement Division missions. Some projects include:

- iPhones have been provided to game wardens throughout the state providing standardization and improvements in information sharing and communication.
 - Mobile fingerprint readers (M12) are in the process of being provided to 50 locations throughout the state which will enhance identity verification.
 - An iDevice interactive recruiting presentation utilizing SlideShark has been created and released.
 - The Texas Game Warden Facebook page is active and a Twitter rollout is planned for the near future.
- **State, Regional and National Issues, Legislation, Legal Challenges and Court Decisions Impacting Natural Resources Law Enforcement** – TPWD-LE is fully engaged with the 83rd Session of the Texas Legislature and there are numerous bills that are under consideration at the time of this report. Some of the more prominent bills include:
 - A bill which would allow game wardens (and other authorized department employees) to inspect vessels for water in live wells or other storage containers when that vessel is leaving water that is infested with a harmful exotic species. The purpose of this bill is primarily aimed at stopping the spread of zebra mussels in freshwater.
 - Numerous bills have been filed and are still under consideration that pertain to the deer breeder industry. The bills range from deer identification bills seeking different methods of identifying deer in breeder pens to how soon deer held in captivity would be allowed to be hunted.
 - There are several bills dealing with boating safety that cover topics ranging from requiring a visual distress signal on boats to allowing municipalities with Marine Safety Officers to file cases in municipal courts. These bills are still navigating through the legislative process.
 - One bill dealing with confiscated revenue, revenue generated by the sale of confiscated illegally taken aquatic product and wildlife, would allow TPWD-LE to utilize funds from numerous cases that are now held in a suspense account for an indefinite period of time.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives** – TPWD-LE has successfully made the transition from ten (10) geographic regions – with a field Major in charge of each region – to five (5) geographic regions statewide. The cost savings associated with this transition is still in the process of being calculated but members of senior staff are supportive of this change and feel that it is fiscally responsible.

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 fact-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** – TPWD-LE remains on the forefront of providing the most advanced equipment, technology and training available for all personnel to ensure officer safety and productivity are maintained at the highest level. This is accomplished at a time when the Law Enforcement Division continues to expand its conversation law enforcement efforts into non-traditional fields such as border operations and numerous team concepts. Additionally, TPWD-LE continues with efforts within the conservation realm by more intense participation in areas ranging from fisheries enforcement in federal waters to education and enforcement efforts of harmful exotic species regulations within the state.

Association of Midwest Fish and Game Law Enforcement Officers
2013 Agency Report
State/Province: Wisconsin
Submitted by: Randall Stark
Date:

- **Training Issues**
 - Use of Mediasite – Training through the use of online video resources has increased in the last year. Wardens have been trained on the Castle Doctrine, open records and Critical Incident Response. This has been an effective tool in providing tactical instructors with greater detail in scenario based and technical skills training to increase consistency when statewide training is delivered at the local level.
 - Internet based supervisory training – In 2012, seven Conservation Wardens attended a Department of Justice grant funded online supervisory training. This program is offered at the cost of textbooks (about \$100) to Wardens. The course has received positive reviews from Wardens, and two of the programs graduates have accepted promotional positions since taking the course.
 - Policy reviews – An internet based website has been used to deliver and train policy updates and legal decisions to Wardens. Survey questions are developed and sent out to Wardens along with the policy or decision. Wardens then log into the survey and answer a few questions. The surveys are tracked for completion. This approach has been used for annual training updates to Wardens as well.
 - Recruiting Chat – Two internet “chat” sessions were developed and conducted during the past Conservation Warden hiring process. This allowed the recruiting team to reach out well beyond Wisconsin to potential candidates nationwide.

- Tracking training – Wardens are participating in joint agency tracking training with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission to enhance our ability to locate individuals in a woodland environment.
 - Tactical training “hooded” drills – This approach has been used more in tactical training. Last year, wardens were given three scenarios in quick succession. A hood was placed over the wardens head and they were walked in to the scenario. They were then presented with a situation in front of them. Wardens were to react as they normally would. They had the hood placed over their head immediately following the scenario. Another scenario was set up and the Warden completed three scenarios in quick succession. All three scenarios were debriefed all at once at the end. This allowed for several repetitions in a shorter period of time. It also gave the instructors an opportunity to focus on specific training needs.

- **Funding and Staffing Issues**
 - Functional Analysis – Over the last year, WI has continued to increase its scrutiny on the Department’s expenditures. It originally focused on Fish & Wildlife funding, but has now grown to all funding sources including boating, ATV, Environmental, and Snowmobile funds among others. This has prompted a number of behind the scenes accounting changes in order to provide the data to the level of detail desired by the public oversight.
 - Increased Reliance on Federal Grants – As the downward trend continues on the sale of hunting licenses, WI has continued to try to look to maximize our legitimate usage of the federal grants (PR and USCG). Of interest, we have discovered that our wardens really do many of the same tasks as wildlife biologists such as participating in wildlife surveys, developing new hunting and trapping rules and regulations, and registering deer, turkeys, and certain furbearers to name a few. We discovered that our Wildlife Management staff has been legitimately coding these activities to the federal PR grant for years. We have inquired and found that we can tap the PR grant for these activities as well, as long as we follow the same criteria as the Wildlife Management staff. We are progressing with the necessary accounting changes and application process to make this a reality.
 - Staffing Issues – WI has begun our process to try to work out a hole of high vacancy rates, caused primarily by our workforce demographics. At the beginning of 2013, we had 30 vacant warden positions (out of 205). However, we had an excellent pool of candidates in our most recent hiring process, and we were able to bring on 18 new recruit wardens in March. We currently now sit at 12 vacancies, although we anticipate about 7 retirements by the time these 18 will be trained and ready to station. Despite additional efforts this year, diversity still remains an issue in hiring our permanent staff.

- **Major Conservation Law Enforcement Trends**
 - Marijuana Grows & Meth Labs – Large scale organized marijuana grows in addition to some Meth Labs continue to show up on primarily public lands across the state. Conservation wardens have played a pivotal role in working together with other local, state, and federal agencies to detect, apprehend those responsible and to eradicate these operations.
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – The warden service is stepping up its AIS enforcement in an effort to slow the spread of these plant and animal species in the

state. This has included close coordination with other Department staff, local AIS coordinators and other law enforcement agencies.

- *Internet Investigations* – The growing use of computers to facilitate and share information about fish and wildlife violations is prompting our agency to train and equip additional wardens across the state to assist with these types of cases and investigations.
- *Snowmobile Fatalities* – With improved snow conditions this past winter, the number of snowmobile related deaths increased significantly from recent past years. This season 20 people were killed primarily as a result of excessive speed, over use of alcohol, and poor ice conditions.
- *Radio Communications* – Despite the fact that Wisconsin is moving towards radio interoperability, challenges continue to arise as many local agencies acquire unique radio systems that may not be compatible with warden radio systems. Having dependable radio communications across agencies is a high priority for our staff who work closely with these agencies on a regular basis.
- *Assistance to Other Law Enforcement Agencies* – While wardens have always provided some assistance to local law enforcement agencies when appropriate, there have been increasing requests for assistance at the regional and statewide level. In the recent past, wardens have provided security at the state capitol during large protests, have assisted the state patrol during snowstorm events, have worked with the Secret Service providing dignitary protection, etc.
- *Port Security* – Wardens along the Great Lakes are taking an increasingly active role working together with other County, State and Federal agencies to ensure security at the major ports in Wisconsin. This includes the identification and protection of critical resources, ensuring the integrity of on water security zones when necessary, serving as on water platform for the FBI's Swat Team, etc.
- *Active Shooter Training* – In response to the increasing number of “Active Shooter” events occurring across the country, the warden service has continued providing training to assist in these responses. In addition, many wardens are also training with local agencies in their respective areas to enhance any active shooter responses.
- *Use of Social Media* – As a way to further connect with those who live and recreate in Wisconsin, the law enforcement program launched a couple of new social media initiatives this past year. During some of the major fish and game seasons, the law enforcement program's public affairs manager did some “ride-alongs” with wardens on patrol during which time “tweets” about what was happening were pushed out via Twitter. In addition, as significant enforcement, educational, or community involvement activities are occurring around the state, this information is being sent out to “Warden Wire” subscribers. These social media forums have proved very successful based on the feedback received.
- *Deer Farm Inspections* – With several hundred deer farms in Wisconsin, wardens respond to any reports of escapes and then work with the owner and wildlife program to effectively address these situations on a case by case basis. In addition, “fence certificates” for these farms need to be renewed every 10 years requiring the local wardens to re-inspect to ensure compliance with the fencing standards before a new certificate can be issued. In Wisconsin the Department of Agriculture regulates the farm and the Department of Natural Resources regulates the fences.

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

- *Tribal Relations* – Wisconsin Conservation Wardens continue to build a strong partnership with our Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Wardens (GLIFWC)- GLIFWC has jurisdiction over tribal members off the reservation but within the ceded territory. During this past year GLIFWC and WI Wardens have partnered during firearms certification, team and regional trainings and work together to solve major wildlife violations.
- *Tribal Youth Initiative*-The Department of Natural Resources has worked with the Lake Superior Chippewa Indian youth to provide them hands-on training on natural resource related issues. The youth are hired to complete habitat related projects on trout streams, boat landing improvements, trail maintenance and conduct various tree plantings to name a few. This initiative started several years ago with the Lac Courte Oreille tribe and has become so popular additional tribes are working toward their own youth outdoor projects. The goal is to provide a mentoring and educational experience to High School aged youth interested in a natural resources career.
- *Unique Investigations* –
 - A 3 year (2009-11) covert investigation between the Wisconsin DNR, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife and USFWS focusing on a habitual violator in northeast WI was recently adjudicated in Federal Court. The main subject has been revoked 3 times for a period of almost 9 years in a 12 year time frame. These convictions have been predicated on the many complaints from the hound hunting community. Four people were charged in Federal Court in the eastern District on criminal counts relating to the Lacey Act. The main suspect received a felony, \$10k fine, 6 months in Federal prison, a 15 year license revocation valid in North America, loss of firearms, pickup truck, a full life size bear mount, 5 hunting hounds and associated hound hunting dog accessories. Three other hunters received misdemeanor criminal convictions in Federal court totaling \$9K in fines 11 years of revocation collectively. Four other associates are charged with civil forfeiture charges of loaning tags in State court.
 - WI and MI wardens investigated a complaint of a revoked hunter who hunts both sides of the border of the UP of MI and WI. The information was obtained by the MI wardens. While investigating the complaint on opening day of the 2012 gun deer season the WI and MI wardens encountered an unlicensed deer hunter in WI hunting the nearby property. The hunter was subsequently found guilty of hunting deer without a license, fined \$2,268.00 and lost his DNR privileges for 3 years. This cooperative relationship was aided by a signed MOU from both states allowing wardens to work in adjacent counties of the bordering state.
 - Wardens assisted Montana wardens with an individual from Wisconsin who shot an elk with a rifle during the archery season while hunting with a Montana resident. As the WI hunter walked over to the elk and grabbed the antlers, he had a heart attack and died. The Montana resident hid the rifle, lied to investigators and eventually returned the gun to family in Wisconsin. WI Wardens tracked down the firearm and interviewed family members and returned the gun to Montana for analysis that led to the prosecution of the Montana resident.

- Wisconsin Wardens worked cooperatively with Colorado Wardens in response to a complaint that a WI business owner harvested 3 bull elk during one afternoon of elk hunting. The hunter walked back to camp and borrowed elk tags from two hunting companions to tag the illegal animals. WI and Federal wardens conducted interviews of the suspects gaining confessions and corroborating evidence. Based on these confession and additional evidence the main suspect pled guilty to numerous elk hunting violations. The hunter was fined close to \$5,000 and revoked until 2016. Due to Colorado being a Violator Compact State the revocation extends to all other compact states.
 - Wardens worked with USFWS agents on a case that involved two individuals from the Waukesha area that had illegally harvested two bighorn sheep in Mexico. Wardens seized the sheep and other evidence and were able to help determine that the sheep were harvested from an area that was not the area they had a kill tag for. The area that the sheep were harvested from is an extremely limited population and kill tags are rare.
- Asian Carp Task Force – WDNR is one of several Great Lakes States and Canada that belongs to the USFWS Asian Carp (AC) Task force. This task force is designed to share information on AC movement. Thus far, the task force has met in Chicago, IL and will be meeting in Arkansas in late June for another meeting. The AC initiative is a two pronged approach that deals both with education and enforcement. On the educational end we've had meetings with all State Patrol Troops to educate them on the movement of AC. (identify vehicles, species of fish, what to do if they find live AC) We have also met with some sheriff departments to discuss this issue as well. In addition we met with Department of Ag, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) – Food Safety Division to distribute informational brochures to retail and wholesale fish dealers on the sale/possession of live AC. WI has reached out to the Chinese communities in WI and will have an article written in the Chinese newspaper about the laws pertaining to AC in WI. We will also be participated in a meeting (in New York) with the Great Lakes LE fisheries committee focusing on AC movement. The enforcement prong has seen WI wardens contact some retail outlet. WI has followed through on two Asian retail grocery stores that are selling dead AC. The owner was educated on the sale of live AC. Both store owners have said they tried to obtain live AC, but were unable to do so.
 - Port Security – Wardens along Lake Superior will be participating in a full-scale port security exercise in the Duluth/Superior Twin Ports on August 28 and 29. The exercise will include multiple local, county, state and federal agencies.
 - CITIES – Wisconsin and the USFWS have been working cooperatively with the multiple tribal governments to assure they can obtain CITIES authority to sell ginseng from reservation lands. In early 2012 tribal, federal and state staff met to ensure the sale of ginseng is completed legally. One tribe already received CITES export authority in late 2012, making it the first in the nation to do so. There is a second tribal entity that has an application drafted.
 - ICS – Wardens continue to attend specific Incident Command System to receive specialized training in Operations Section Chief & Division/Group Supervisor Training allowing our warden staff to seamlessly integrate into large scale events-marijuana grows, domestic terrorism or port security concerns to minimize environmental damage and provide public safety.
 - Environmental Crimes – Investigators are team members on the Eastern and Western District United States Attorney's office Environmental Crimes Investigation Work

Groups. As team members on those teams we have been involved in wastewater, hazardous waste, and asbestos violation investigations in several areas of Wisconsin. We recently executed a search warrant at a Door County business to search for additional evidence of the dumping of hazardous materials into a water of the nation.

- USCG and Port Security Partnerships – Wardens along continue to work with the US Coast Guard in the Port of Milwaukee on focused enforcement efforts such as Operation Drywater and security details for major events. In addition to several local events, wardens worked with several deployed Coast Guard units to provide security for US Navy vessels involved with the War of 1812 Commemoration.
- **New Innovations in Conservation Law Enforcement** (*Aircraft FLIR, Use of ROV & Side Scan, GIS, Lighted Handgun with Security Holster - B. Goetsch*)
 - TraCS – The Bureau of Law Enforcement is currently working with BadgerTraCS on the rollout of an updated (TraCS 10) statewide electronic Natural Resource citation system. TraCS 10 includes several improvements with one being a mapping system and also a court date entry element. Electronic citation is a time saver for LE staff and also helpful as a records management system. The bureau completed all work that was required to allow citations to be keypunched by wardens in the field, printed for the defendant, transmitted electronically to the agency Dbase, then electronically transmitted to the court. After adjudication, the court records are then electronically returned to the department and the defendant records are updated. The switch from issuing hand-written citations to electronic citation management will save the agency \$20,000-\$25,000 annually. However, there will still be instances where hand-written citations will be necessary because computer access is not realistic, i.e. during patrols involving boating, ATVing and snowmobiling. Upcoming innovations in tablet technology should give Law Enforcement additional locations in which electronic citations can be used. Electronic citations also reduce the time necessary for adjudicated citations to be uploaded to Law Enforcement's citation database by up to a month.
 - MACH – MACH (Mobile Architecture for Communications Handling) will be Law Enforcement's next iteration of an Auto Vehicle Location application. The location of LE squads and assets will be available virtually real-time (20 second delay). This will allow our hotline center to dispatch the nearest warden to the scene of an incident. It will also allow warden to know where their nearest assisting officer is. MACH is incredibly important to officer safety, response time, and incident command coordination efforts. The current plan is to have 180 LE agencies statewide on the MACH system. Various agencies can be added to the MACH mapping system depending on geography, type of incident, etc. MACH will also be able to manage asset location for this agency's (boat, snowmobiles, ATVs, public works/construction assets, etc). MACH has a server element and a client element. The client is not only compatible with Microsoft Windows operating systems, but also with Android devices. This ability to utilize smartphones will allow Law Enforcement to located on the map and locate others not only in their vehicles, but also on foot.
 - Next Panasonic Toughbook – We are current exploring a variety of options for the next Toughbook procurement (~3 years from now). Ideally, we would like the next model to be a convertible tablet that would take advantage of both the laptop platform when

necessary, but when needs become more mobile, the ability to convert to a tablet would be available.

- Smartphones – Law Enforcement has roughly 30% implementation of smartphones within the program. We have currently put a mobile data management system in place that will allow central administration of our smartphones. When these devices are enrolled in MDM, we have the ability to centrally administer the device's security, the applications that are mandatory and optional based on need, the synchronization of email and contacts, and device inventory. It also will allow access to file shares and have possible VPN use in the near future. See the following article for a specific LE use of smartphones. <http://www.theverge.com/2013/4/12/4216086/nypd-trials-android-smartphone-apps-in-the-field> Law enforcement is currently creating its own smartphone applications based on need. Some of these have been made available to the public as well.
- Cloud Exploration – Law Enforcement is looking to set up its own file server for evidence purposes as well as online backup. Online backup will be important because offline backup to an external hard drive, while useful, is too subjective and does not have the standardization that you can implement with an online backup client template. Online backup can also be made mandatory if needed. Keeping evidence on a file server that is only specific to law enforcement is important for case needs, but also maintains chain of custody, legal discovery, evidence security, etc. This will also allow for application use on Smartphones similar to dropbox where evidence files can immediately be uploaded to the server, without involving a third-party.
- GIS within IT – Law Enforcement will continue to explore the need for and use of GIS data. This data will be used within a variety of our mapping applications (MACH, Topo USA, ArcGIS Explorer, etc). GIS information will also us to better keep track of patrol routes, asset locations, environmental concerns, etc.
- Aircraft – The WI DNR has 11 fixed wing light aircraft. 2 of these aircraft have been equipped with thermal imaging equipment obtained through port security grants. This specialized equipment vastly improves our effectiveness in search/rescue missions, fire prevention, wildlife surveys, and port security efforts. The DNR hosted some training in December of 2012 that trained 24 tactical flight officers, to include wardens, pilots, Capitol Police, State Patrol, and UW Madison Police.
- Mission Ready Teams –The WI DNR Bureau of Law Enforcement is launching an initiative to take some specialized skills, equipment, and training and mold this all into statewide “mission ready response teams.” These include ROV, Tactical Flight Officers, and Tactical Boat Operators. These teams will train and respond from a statewide perspective versus a regional level, which will increase proficiency and effectiveness.

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

Legislation introduced during 2013-14 Session as of 4-11-13

AB6	<p>Relating To: a catch-and-release only season for bass fishing. Resources (DNR), most fishing seasons open on the first Saturday of May. This bill requires DNR to establish a catch-and-release only season for bass fishing in the areas of the state where there is not a continuous open season for bass fishing. The bill requires the catch-and-release only season to begin on the first Saturday in March and to end on the day before the regular bass season opens (first Saturday in May).</p>
AB8	<p>Relating To: restrictions on hunting within a specified distance of hospitals, sanatoriums, or school grounds with a bow and arrow or crossbow. Currently hunting within 1700 feet of these facilities is prohibited if posted closed. This bill would allow hunting with archery gear within this zone.</p>
SB17	<p>Relating To: hunting, fishing, and trapping on land in state parks. This bill is intended to basically repeal 2011 Act 168 which required the state to allow hunting and trapping in all state parks, unless specifically closed for public safety issues.</p>
AB30	<p>Relating To: the transportation in this state of game taken in another state or on Indian land. Current law requires any game harvested on Indian reservation lands outside the state season for that species to be inspected and tagged by a state warden or if authorized by an MOU, by a tribal warden, before the game may be transported off the reservation. This bill would treat game harvested on a reservation more similar to game transported into Wisconsin from other states, simply requiring the game to have been taken lawfully, and if the species is one the state requires a tag for, such as deer, bear, elk, turkeys, wolf, etc., that the game have a tribal tag attached similar to the state tag required.</p>
SB32	<p>Relating To: age and speed restrictions on, and safety certification requirements for, the operation of all-terrain vehicles and utility terrain vehicles.</p>
AB40	<p>Relating To: state finances and appropriations, constituting the executive budget act of the 2013 legislature. Contains a provision the would repeal the authority to hunt wolves at night and reduce the cost of a wolf hunting license.</p>
SB 77 & AB 84	<p>Relating To: exceptions to requirements for fishing licenses and aquatic plant management permits. This bill would allow a person to fish without the need for a fishing license if fishing on a pond that is totally surrounded by lands owned by that person, or anyone else with the permission of that person. Would not exempt the person from other fishing rules, such as seasons, methods, bag, size or possession restrictions.</p>
SB 93 & AB 94	<p>Relating To: use of dogs in hunting wolves. This bill would repeal the authority to hunt or pursue wolves with the use of dogs.</p>
AB137	<p>Relating To: requiring an open season for woodchucks. Woodchucks are currently considered a protected species with no open season, unless you are the owner or occupant of the lands, in which case you can hunt or trap them year round without a license.</p>

SB133 &
AB 149

Relating To: Allowing a hunter to leave waterfowl decoys placed in open water unattended and not have to remove them daily at the end of hunting hours IF the decoys are on a water body that is landlocked, and if the water is entirely confined on the private property of only one property owner.

- *Tribal Night Hunting for Deer* – On Monday, Dec 17, 2012, Federal Judge Barbara Crabb ruled in favor of the State of Wisconsin on a night hunting of deer case before the court dealing with the various Chippewa tribes. The tribes had declared their intent to hunt deer at night beginning in Nov. 2012, contrary to state law and the previous court action that began in 1974 on tribal treaty rights. Consequently, there was no authorized tribal night hunting of deer during the winter of 2012-13. Further court action has been filed by the various members of the Chippewa tribes seeking to secure the right to hunt deer at night within the ceded territory in Wisconsin. Trial date is set for July 2013.
- *Federal Delisting of Wolves & 1st Wolf Season in recent history in Wisconsin* – Wolves were delisted as an Endangered Species effective on January 27, 2012, following years of de-listings and re-listings resulting from a number of court cases, even though the Midwest wolf population exceeded recovery goals for many years. Wis. Act 169 was approved by the Governor in April 2012. This statute authorized/required a wolf hunting and trapping season. Numerous season and application details were described in the statute. Act 169 required that the department draft an emergency rule for implementation of the statute with a 2012 season. The emergency rule was adopted by the Natural Resources Board on July 17, 2012, establishing rules for hunting and trapping wolves and the wolf season opened on October 15, 2012. Court action was filed in Dane County Court by USHS and other groups and individuals objecting to the allowing of dogs to be used for hunting of wolves. A court injunction was put in place prohibiting the DNR from allowing the use of dogs for hunting or training dogs to pursue wolves. In Dec. 2012, the injunction as it related to the use of dogs for hunting wolves was lifted (though the 2012 season had already ended), but the injunction retained the prohibition on training dogs to pursue wolves until rules were put in place to further regulate that activity. Additional rules regarding training of dogs to pursue wolves are included in the permanent wolf hunting rule order which will receive public hearings in 2013. The Ojibwe Tribe did not authorize tribal members to hunt for wolves. The reported tribal wolf harvest on off-reservation lands was zero. The non-tribal harvest was 117 wolves by licensed hunters/trappers, with the wolf season being closed effective Dec. 23, 2013 when the non-tribal quota was reached. Legislation has been introduced in 2013 that if passed would remove the authority to use dogs to hunt or pursue wolves, and separate legislation as part of the state budget bill, if passed, will reduce the cost of a wolf license for \$100 to \$50 for residents, and from \$500 to \$250 for nonresidents and prohibit the hunting of wolves at night. Hunting wolves at night was authorized after the traditional 9-day state gun deer season closes. Only one wolf was killed outside normal daytime hunting hours during the 2012 season.

- **Cost Savings Initiatives**

- Phone Consolidation – Over the last year, WI has worked to consolidate are phone expenditures where possible. In the past, many wardens had 3 Department provided phone lines: office, home, and cell. We have made strides to have many of our field staff shifted to a single phone (cell). Although we still require many of our supervisory or administrative staff to have an office phone, many of those has reduced out their home phone costs as well. Forty-five of 137 wardens eligible to opt out have now stopped using their home for work and have switched to using the DNR business line and or cellular phone only.
- Later Vehicle Assignment to Recruits – In the past, WI used to assign a squad truck to a recruit shortly after they were hired, and they would use this vehicle for driving back and forth from home to the Academy for about 15 weeks, and then to go to their assigned FTO’s. We have changed our policy and procedures, and now assign a vehicle to the recruits shortly before going into their final FTO assignment. They are responsible for getting themselves to the Academy and their assigned FTO stations prior to the vehicle assignment. Based on last year’s result, this saved us about \$4000 per recruit in mileage costs alone.
- Fleet Fuel Economy – WI is currently working on improving our fuel economy by switching many of older vehicles out for new Ford F150 Ecoboost pickups. Early results are showing these new trucks getting 16-19 MPG (even in winter), compared to older trucks which got at the best times about 13 MPG.
- Fleet Accident Costs – WI is also trying to keep our per mile rate down by agreeing to pay for our “at-fault” crashes direct from our operational budget instead of having that cost factored into our mileage rate. This past year, we set aside \$60,000 to pay for these repairs from our operational budget, and having actively working with our Fleet Managers to scrutinize which repairs are necessary. Additional steps are being taken to reduce the number of crashes including increased training, testing backup sensors, and increased fiscal responsibility at the team level.

- **Other Special Law Enforcement Issues** – None to report
