



**WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee
October 4, 2008
1000-1500
Ellensburg, WA**

Members in Attendance	
Dave Akehurst	Rex Anderson
Ray Boone	Dave Croonquist
Jim Kujala	Holly Ledgerwood
Chris Marlahan	Ed Owens
Gary Terrell	Ray Hansen
WDFW Staff:	
Bruce Bjork, Chief	Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief
Rich Mann, Captain Region 3	Sean Carrell, Problem Wildlife Coord.
Members Absent:	
George Brady	Pat Hatchel
Bob Holtfreter	Josh Pearson

Chair Ray Hansen Convened Meeting at 1000

Reviewed minutes/requests from the June meeting. Ed Owens suggested that the notes on the budget shortfall reflect \$3.5 billion and not \$3 billion as discussed. It was decided that there was no need to change the minutes to reflect that discrepancy.

[June Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)

Chair Ray Hansen asked if there any new items that should be placed on the agenda. No new additions were added. Ray asked that the committee observe a moment of silence for Forest Service Officer Kris Fairbanks. Ray mailed a card on behalf of the Enforcement Advisory Group to the family. Ed Owens and Jim Kujala reported that there has been discussion with others reference a new crime reporting system. Dave Akehurst spoke about the Washingtonian's for Wildlife reward account. Dave advised that it is a one-time donation. Jim suggested that this group needs to decide on a format, such as listing rewards from different groups, etc. to help lay out a format to develop. Chief Bruce Bjork suggested that the group needs to be cognizant of how the reporting system is going to be work: anonymity, point/monetary payments, and handling of data. Ed suggested that we have an implementation plan and have the body review. Ray suggested that there's a need to develop a work group, with assistant from WDFW staff, to

craft a proposal to look at a future meeting. It was agreed that a work group would be developed. The participants are: Dave Akehurst, Jim Kujala, Dave Croonquist, Ed Owens Gary Terrell, and Rich Mann. The new group will need to decide on how to keep track of work. Captain Rich Man agreed to help facilitate that communication.

New Business

Legislative - Chief Bjork passed out a bill on the pseudoephedrine law and limitations regarding possession. Chief Bjork explained that it is not uncommon to find methamphetamine manufacturing sites on DNR and WDFW lands and this has become a serious safety/health problem for staff and law enforcement. The second bill that Chief Bjork passed out was the authorization for civil penalties. Representative Mike Armstrong attempted to decriminalize fish and wildlife codes that would have allowed loopholes regarding taking of fish & wildlife. Chief Bjork testified during 2007-2008 legislative session that fish and wildlife officers have full discretion on whether or not to issue a citation. WDFW developed a draft identifying the inadvertent action. This bill will be revisited again in the 2008-2009 legislative session. WDFW will have the ability to issue a civil penalty and funds would go into the fish and wildlife account. This is the only in title 77 code and nothing else. Ed asked if this had been discussed with Representative Armstrong? Chief Bjork advised that he spoke with Representative Armstrong. Deputy Chief Mike Cenci advised that this route of drafting language is the best route. Ed asked if this can be worked with his legislative committees. Chief Bjork advised that Ed could go forward with those conversations. Ed also asked if this could be received electronically. Chief Bjork advised that it may. This sets up a state precedence for something that doesn't exist. Money will go directly to WDFW rather than the county. Prosecutors or the courts will not approve. Dave advised that it limits the amount of tickets that go into the courts, thus reducing the workload. Dave also suggested that "inadvertent" is too broad. The bill only addressed violations of 410 and 430; would not cover fish. Gary asked about the appeal process. Chief Bjork advised that there is already an appeal. **Action item: Cleanest version of this bill was requested.** Chief Bjork advised that very few legislators hunt/fish, so there is movement to decriminalize fish and wildlife laws. Ed said that last year there was a bill regarding carrying a firearm during seasons, which is currently illegal. Chief Bjork advised that this would not be pursued through the legislative process, but instead, through the Washington State administrative code and the Commission. Captain Mann asked why there is interest in carrying a firearm during archery seasons. Ed suggested that there is judge in the Tri-Cities that is interested, since he is an archery hunter. Captain Mann states that commonly he gets calls with the explanation that it is safety issue when hunting and approached by a cougar. Hunter wants to react quickly. Chief Bjork advised that there are other state statutes, federal regulations, and state constitution and agency regulations regarding "to carry" in regards to firearms. Chief Bjork advised that master hunter education bill has been purified regarding hunter education instruction and other issues. Ed explained that there

is no statutory authority for master hunters applicants which constructs and authorizes WDFW to ability to do a background check. Ed asked Ray if the master hunters were for this bill. Ray advised that this has been good for all. The next packet is in the 2009 agency legislation proposal. The first section of the bill is the technical changes in title 77. The second section is an equipment revolving account which would redistribute funds back into WDFW's coffers and not the general fund. Chief Bjork advised that Enforcement has a line item in the budget for vehicle lease/purchase. One other section is a new emerging fishery from the past for the Pacific sardine. The third piece is amending existing statutes for deer/elk damage and other nuisance wildlife interactions. Chief Bjork advised that the Governor's Office is not approving this bill as agency request legislation. WDFW is attempting to work with the Governor's Office to try and get this through. One piece deals with deer/elk damage and the second relates to trapping. Neither is being considered. Chief Bjork walked through the summaries for changes in the agency proposed legislation and technical fixes. The final package is the modernization package and WDFW is still not done with this. The first section of this bill deals with the disposition of evidence. Chief Bjork advised that it may follow the General Administration public sales process, like vehicles, crab pots, and other items, excluding wildlife parts that WDFW seizes.

Director's Work Plan: Chief Bjork talked about the records management system and spoke about four to six critical areas within the Director's Work plan. Chief Bjork advised that Enforcement has chosen a records management system by Cody Systems. Cost of the system is \$350K to purchase and the first year of service is included. After that, it will be \$48K per year for software updates. Ray Boone asked if that includes software customization, depending on the program's needs. Chief Bjork advised that Enforcement will have customization, with assistance from in-house information technology staff. Chief Bjork advised that the dispatch center has been finished, with two communications officers. With the inclusion of InfoCop, communications will have better connectivity with the officers. Chief Bjork advised that Enforcement is also looking at radio over the internet which transmits radio signals over the internet using existing agency computer networks. Dispatcher sends message via data package, transmitter receives and sends that information back as a radio frequency and voice package. Existing radios would still be able to be used. Chief Bjork advised that the WSP contract will still exist for emergency dispatching. However, Enforcement has reduced 50% of WSP costs already. Each vehicle has access currently and will be available for newer technologies thus reducing costs. Ed asked if WEB1 or WEB2 technology is being used. Chief Bjork advised he not aware of the mode, but is believed that it is WEB2. Holly Ledgerwood asked if they are working 24hours, or shifts. Chief Bjork advised that is not going to be the case, but eventually some level of extended coverage will be needed once all the technology pieces are in place. Chief Bjork advised that WDFW was paying over a million dollars for WSP services. **Action item: Ed asked for a talking paper on those costs savings.**

Budget: Chief Bjork talked about the 2009 budget and reductions. Enforcement has been asked to save \$344K of wildlife fund money to carry over to the 2009 fiscal year. Chief Bjork advised that he must keep five current vacancies open in order to make up that savings. As Enforcement goes into the 09-11 biennium, it is anticipated that we'll be looking at a \$10-12 million deficit. Chief Bjork advised that when the Governor sends out her budget, she may be asking for general fund reductions. For WDFW, that equates to another \$9-10 million shortfall. For Enforcement, from the wildlife fund, that would be \$2 million and another million from the general fund. On an annual budget of \$30 million, that's a 10% hit. Eighty-five are commissioned staff. Chief Bjork advised that he may have to take a headquarters hit. Ray asked that if all license sales goes to the wildlife account. Chief Bjork advised that when the two departments merged, the Dept. of Fisheries was funded entirely by the general fund. For the Dept. of Wildlife, funds were wildlife fund. Unfortunately, the budget was not fixed when the merged occurred. For the 09-11 biennium, if you take four to five positions, the Chief advised that's where he will have to save money. However, as vacancies occur, those slots will have to be saved too. Chief Bjork advised that WDFW and the Commission are looking at the core functions of the agency, based upon species taken/produced, management, and enforcement. Ray asked how many officers are eligible to retire. Chief Bjork advised that there fifteen folks, but those may not retire. Ray asked if there some possibilities of re-deployment. Chief Bjork advised that he would have to evaluate. Chief Bjork also advised that WDFW's advisory groups are being evaluated as a cost savings too. Chief Bjork also advised that all terms are up in December. If participants are interested in continuing to serve on the enforcement advisory group, then a letter/e-mail will need to be submitted to the program requesting re-appointment by the Director. Chief Bjork advised that travel will no longer be covered after January. Chief Bjork advised that the group needs to look at other ways to meet, such as conference calls, etc. Ed suggested limiting meetings and carpooling to save money. Ray advised that his term as chair and Dave's term as vice-chair are going to end in December and those re-appointments will need to be taken into consideration at the next meeting. Chief Bjork advised that everyone needs to submit something by the end of the year.

Old Business

Boating safety – Chief Bjork advised that Enforcement has been working with counties in regards to boating safety. The Parks Department is the entity where an agency must go through to get certification. Funding must be approved via Parks in order to help with training. Four boating safety studies indicate that there needs to be more water enforcement. There's been no increase in help, however to offset the costs. Chief Bjork advised that there must be a commissioned officer administering boat safety. Ray explained that fully trained, not volunteers, should be giving this training and administering the 40hour

course. Enforcement is currently engaged with boating safety and checks, so Enforcement is working with associated counties to work on legislation.

Guide-outfitters: Chief Bjork advised as discussed in the modernization packages, that there have been areas changed regarding fishing guides, but nothing on hunting guides. The Commission is still interested in a more consistent package regarding hunting guides. Dave advised that Washingtonian's for Wildlife agrees that nothing should be done. Ed advised that his group feels the same, but that there is some opposition. The concern is that industry may try and ask for economic benefits. Deputy Chief Cenci explained that regulation is needed on the wildlife side and the fish side is not perfect, but illegal wildlife activities are increasing. Holly explained that this is just like a business license, but that the argument may be that there needs to be a clear direction for an association to make recommendations, not WDFW. Deputy Chief Cenci explained that WDFW needs to head to the stakeholders regarding this issue.

Point system and license suspension: Chief Bjork advised that the request was taken to the legislature and there was no interest. Current system is fine.

Training activities: Chief Bjork explained that the staffing and allocation study recommends that we do additional training. Ed states that WDFW is the best in the west. For 2009, Chief Bjork explained that in-service training has been suspended, which is a \$45K savings. Mandatory training or 24hour in-service training must be done through the firearm and self defense training, including the 28-day planning meetings. Chief Bjork advised that there's been discussion with WSP and county law enforcement in regards to self defense and firearms training. Agencies could partner up and more consolidated training could be done. Dave asked if our firearms and self defense training is the same statewide. Chief Bjork advised that they are and must be in order to be consistent and maintain continuity. The goal is to save \$55K for training in 2009. Dave asked if we do FEMA and homeland security. Chief Bjork advised that homeland security was done two years ago. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that training must be administered better.

Subcommittee Reports

There are no subcommittee reports.

Conclusion

Scheduling of the next meeting –The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2009, location to be determined. Jim asked if we could place the Enforcement Questionnaire.

Requested Action Items:

- *Revised decriminalized fish & wildlife bill*
- *WSP cost savings paper*

Topics for Future Discussion:

- *Enforcement questionnaire*
- *Budget*
- *Legislative*

Next meeting: *Saturday, January 24, 2009, from 1000-1500, at the Ellensburg Quality Inn. The agenda will be sent out before the meeting with information on topics for discussion.*