

**Colorado Division of Wildlife
Annual Law Enforcement
And
Violation Report
May 1, 2002**



**Russell George
Director**

Dedication

On September 11, 2001 the entire world stopped and watched in horror at the scenes we saw at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and at an open field in Pennsylvania. As we watched the events unfold, I'm certain that we all experienced a wide range of emotions. However as time passed, the one emotion that I believe we all held on to was the pride in those that risked and gave their lives so that others could survive. From the firefighters and other law enforcement officers who rushed into the burning buildings to help thousands escape the fiery death that they endured, to the airline passengers that gave their lives while overtaking the hijackers so that those on the ground would be safe, ALL were heroes.

And so while we all mourn those who lost their lives, relatives, friends, and loved ones, we can be re-assured that America and pride in the USA is alive and well. We can also be assured that should we ever have to endure such events again, all of us can look to the heroes of 9-11 to give us strength to do the right thing.

This document, while not related to the events of 9-11, depicts the efforts of some of our local game wardens and the general public who assists them in their efforts. I can say from personal experience that being a game warden, post 9-11 is not the same as before that date. However being able to see how our fellow Americans responded to the adversity of that tragic day has given all law enforcement officers an added pride in their job as well as an added confidence in those that we serve.

This document is dedicated to all of the heroes of September 11, 2001.

Eric Schaller, Wildlife Criminal Investigator, May 2002.

Index-Annual Report

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Preface

This report's purpose is to provide a basis of understanding and to answer frequently asked questions about the Colorado Division of Wildlife's law enforcement programs. It is a compilation of a variety of stand-alone articles and information pieces that can be used individually or together. If I have missed something of interest once you have read this report, don't hesitate to let me know, and I'll try to provide information on the subject in next year's report.

There is a long list people who have contributed to this report. Many have written entire sections and they are noted on the cover sheet for this report. Others have read portions of this report and offered suggestions as to content and format. To all of those, thanks; I think your participation has vastly improved the quality of this report.

This document is not designed for mass distribution. What is attached is a work in progress, a framework for continued discussion. It is meant to answer questions posed by special interests, wildlife commissioners, legislators, DNR and CDOW staff. It is also meant as a communication tool, a shared basis, and a foundation for Colorado Wildlife Officers to use when asked about Colorado wildlife law enforcement.

Your comments concerning this report or our law enforcement efforts are always welcome. Don't hesitate to call or write.

Sincerely,

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Wildlife Officer of the Year Awards

North American Wildlife Enforcement Officer Association (NAWEOA) North American Wildlife Officer of the Year -Bob Holder

It was a distinct honor for Colorado to have one its own recognized as the Officer of the Year by NAWEOA. Wildlife Officer Bob Holder of Trinidad was recognized internationally for his outstanding contributions to the vocation of “Wildlife Officer”. For over thirty years, Officer Holder has dedicated his life to protecting wildlife through management, education, and law enforcement.

Colorado Division of Wildlife John D. Hart Officer of the Year - Willie Travnicsek

Each year, Colorado’s wildlife officers choose one person to receive the John D. Hart Officer of the Year Award. For 2001 the award goes to Willie Travnicsek. Chosen by his peers for his outstanding contributions as a Wildlife Manager, Willie has been a role model of those values wildlife officers hold in high esteem for over 30 years as an officer in the Salida area. . Also recognized for outstanding service during the nomination process were Bob Thompson of Kremmling, Mike Trujillo of Yuma, Cary Carron of Bayfield, and Jim Aragon of Trinidad.

Previous Wildlife Officer of the Year Award Winners

1970	Eddie Kochman	1986	Richard Weldon
1971	Perry Olson	1987	Jeff Madison
1972	Joe Gerrans	1988	Dave Lovell
1974	Robert Schmidt	1989	Cliff Coghill
1975	Arthur Gresh	1990	Steve Porter
1976	Sig Palm	1991	Thomas J. Spezze
1977	Mike Zgainer	1992	Randall L. Hancock
1978	John Stevenson	1993	Juan Duran
1979	Dave Kenvin	1994	Larry Rogstad
1980	Alex Chappell	1995	Perry L. Will
1981	Lyle Bennett	1996	Robert Holder
1982	Roger Lowry	1997	Jerry Claassen
1983	James Jones	1998	Dave Croonquist
1984	Mike McLain	1999	Mike Bauman
1985	Wm. W. Andree	2000	Courtney Crawford

Additional Awards for Outstanding Contributions of Wildlife Officers:

- *National Wild Turkey Federation Wildlife Officer of the Year*-Jim Aragon, Trinidad
- *Safari Club International Officer of the Year*- Dave Hoart, Westcliffe, and Lonnie Brown, La Veta
- *NAWEOA's Torch Award (Outstanding officer with less than 5 years experience)* -Doug Purcell, Pagosa Springs
- *Colorado Livestock Officer of the Year* – Drayton Harrison, Durango

Wildlife Law Enforcement is an Essential Public Service

The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) is charged by statute to protect, preserve, enhance, and manage wildlife for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors. Wildlife management objectives such as determining the numbers and types of wildlife taken, and providing opportunities to hunt, fish, or engage in other wildlife-related recreation are realized through the creation of regulations by the Wildlife Commission and enforcement of season dates, bag limits, and license requirements. If everyone would follow the rules, enforcement efforts would be unnecessary, however laws for some people are only effective to the extent they are enforced. Without law enforcement effective wildlife management would not be possible. Without wildlife management Colorado's abundant and diverse wildlife populations would not exist.

A 1990 Stadage-Accureach survey clearly indicated that the public expects the CDOW to enforce wildlife laws and to protect wildlife. In a 1999 survey, Ciruli Associates found that 78% of Colorado residents believe that enforcing existing wildlife laws is the top priority for the agency. It is clear that Colorado citizens want state government to manage its wildlife resources enforce the laws concerning that resource.

There are several reasons why the CDOW is the best agency to provide this essential public service. Wildlife management is mainly accomplished through regulations. An appointed Wildlife Commission approves regulations and provides oversight of the CDOW. The Wildlife Commission encourages public involvement in its rule making process. This orientation of citizen participation is further enhanced by having the enforcement of these regulations provided by employees of the same agency that the Wildlife Commission oversees. Officers who work for other agencies would have enforcement demands for their time other than wildlife law enforcement. The CDOW is very responsive to its customers in relation to regulation and enforcement as we control and direct our own enforcement efforts.

The CDOW has the best employees to provide wildlife law enforcement services. The public consistently rates CDOW officers high in regards to their job performance. Surveys conducted during check station activities in 1994 and 1996 found that respondents felt that the wildlife officers who contacted them were courteous, fair, and professional. A survey completed in 1999 by Responsive Management found that more than 90% of Colorado hunters, anglers, and other residents rated CDOW officers who they had come into contact with as professional, courteous, knowledgeable and fair. According to the report, "Wildlife Officers were given spectacular ratings among the individuals who they have had contact with, truly amazing considering the nature of the contact – law enforcement." These ratings are higher than other states surveyed by Responsive Management in the past.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Planning

The structure of the Colorado Division of Wildlife's (CDOW) planning efforts is driven by statute, mission, management principles, strategic planning, and performance measures and indicators. The format for wildlife law enforcement planning efforts should follow that same framework. The following incorporates this structure, and includes the priorities as determined through an understanding of the mission of the agency and its strategic plan.

Statute: The legislative basis for the existence of the CDOW is found in Colorado Revised Statute 33-1-101 (1). It states, *"It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors."*

Mission: Understanding this statute and through internal and external planning efforts the CDOW developed an agency mission statement. The mission of the CDOW is, *"To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state and provide people the opportunity to enjoy them"*

Management Principles: The core beliefs that guide the CDOW in fulfilling its mission, creating its goals and management strategies, and in the decision making process at all levels of the organization.

Strategic Plan: The statute and mission statement drives planning efforts of the CDOW. The current strategic plan was in January 2002 and provides direction for the agency. Within that plan are the "Management Principles" which provide the core beliefs that guide the agency in developing and implementing goals, strategies, and decision making process. This plan is further divided into hunting, fishing, wildlife stewardship, and awareness, and wildlife habitat and species management. 42 desired achievements were identified in this plan, and although all are important, the Wildlife Commission chose 10 as the highest priority. Each work unit within the CDOW will focus resources toward achieving those top 10 priorities, as well as make efforts toward the accomplishment of the other 32. Additionally, the plan itself was not designed to be all encompassing for everything the CDOW must do, and therefore mission critical tasks must be accounted for in planning at the unit level as well.

Work Packages: Work Packages identify the specific activities needed to accomplish the goals. The Goal of providing wildlife law enforcement has five- (5) specific work packages related to it, as well as work packages associated with customer service, training, and education.

Performance Measures/Indicators: Each year the CDOW goes through a planning and budgeting process. During this process performance indicators are developed for overall program objectives and work packages. Each unit and each employee is responsible for the accomplishment of individual performance objectives in support of the CDOW's performance indicators.

Work Package 5410 – Law Enforcement Administration

Manage Information Systems Professionally: As a law enforcement agency, the Division has information systems that relate to the detection, deterrence, and prosecution of wildlife violators. There are four systems in differing stages of development that require specialized training, security, and handling. The Wildlife Violator Compact is an interstate compact between 12 states in which a wildlife violator can be held accountable across state lines for violations of state wildlife laws. The Violation Management System is the database in which violations are recorded and court processes in relation to violations are managed. The Criminal Intelligence File System allows for the legitimate collection and management of information in relation to wildlife law violators. The Criminal Evidence System provides a consistent and accountable method to process evidence seized as a result of the prosecution of criminal violations.

Provide Systems to Report Violations: Citizens have a variety of ways in which to report wildlife violations. In many communities the CDOW provides a service center that can be visited or called. In many localities the citizen may know the officer personally or can find their listing in the phone book. The CDOW also operates the Operation Game Thief program, which provides an avenue for people to report crimes to a toll free number (1-800-332-4155).

Provide Responsive Law Enforcement: The citizens of Colorado expect their wildlife agency to be responsive to their needs in relation to law enforcement. The agency has a variety of avenues for citizens to request assistance. Local phone calls directly to the agency during normal business hours and on-call systems that can be accessed through local sheriff or state patrol dispatches are normal operations for the CDOW throughout the state. Law enforcement calls normally take high precedence for immediate response depending on the nature of the call and if an officer is available.

Enhance Relationships with Other Enforcement Agencies: Law enforcement requires agencies to cooperate with each other. Wildlife law violators may also be involved in other criminal activities. Communication between law enforcement agencies both formally, in planned meetings and official associations, as well as informally, in the form of day-to-day contacts is critical. Utilization of various enforcement databases including but not limited to National Crime Information Center, Colorado Crime Information Center, Violation Management System, Operation Game Thief, Wildlife Violator Compact allow agencies to share information in a secure manner that protects the citizen as well as the agencies and resources they protect. Since no POST academy offers any classes on wildlife law, the CDOW will continue to provide wildlife enforcement training to agencies as requested. Partnership in the law enforcement community is critical in this time of limited resources and increased demand. We will work with other agencies encouraging cooperation in the enforcement of wildlife laws, as well as assisting other agencies upon request

Work Package 5420 – Field Law Enforcement

Provide Law Enforcement Presence: Wildlife officers provide a law enforcement presence in local communities. One of the roles of the wildlife officer is to detect wildlife violations. Their

presence can also deter would-be violators. Officers also contact persons who are actively engaged in hunting or fishing or other wildlife related recreation to provide service, to check for licenses, and to provide opportunities for interactions between the agency and its customers. Contacts provide opportunities to talk to lawful participants in wildlife recreation, and also allow for the detection of wildlife violations.

Contact Hunters and Anglers: Field patrol by wildlife officers provides an opportunity for direct contact with our licensed customers. These contacts provide the direct connection between officers and citizens that is so critical in the field of wildlife management and law enforcement. Field contacts are one of the best opportunities for exchange of information between the user and a public service provider.

Ensure Funding of Wildlife Programs: Wildlife protection and management requires public funding. The CDOW receives the vast majority of its funding from hunters and anglers in the form of license purchases or through federal excise tax programs that base state disbursements on the number of licensed hunters or anglers. We will continue to enforce licensing laws to provide penalties for violators who do not support the protection and management of the wildlife through license purchases.

Work Package 5430 – Special Law Enforcement Investigations

Conduct Special Investigations: In some circumstances special investigations are required for some types of violations. Illegal trophy and commercial poaching activities may require special efforts to detect, deter, and prosecute. Decoy and aerial special operations are used to apprehend the poacher who may be out of sight of the law-abiding citizen. Wildlife forensics services such as DNA analysis and bullet examination are state of the art. These services are provided by agencies such as the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and through contract with universities that can meet the strict legal parameters required by our court systems.

Investigate Fraudulent License Purchase Violations: The Colorado Outdoor Recreation Information System (CORIS), the database that contains customer license information, has improved the agency's service to our customers. The database can also be used to detect fraudulent purchases of licenses. Nonresidents who purchase resident licenses can cost the agency and thus the citizens of Colorado, millions of dollars annually. Residents and nonresidents that purchase more than the allowed number of licenses may be taking extra animals that will not be available for a lawful hunter. The detection and prosecution of fraudulent license purchases will be a high priority for the CDOW.

Work Package 5440 – Law Enforcement Evaluation and Research

Research, Plan, and Evaluate Law Enforcement Programs: Law enforcement efforts need to have a basis of measurement, which should result from an understanding of agency priorities. Application of research and planning provides for effective and efficient efforts in enforcement activities. Performance indicators and measurement are developed and used as guidance in allocation of resources to deter, detect, and prosecute wildlife violators.

Work Package 5450 – Wildlife Forensic Services

Provide Forensics Services: Develop understandings, relationships and contracts to provide forensic services such as DNA and fingerprint matching, firearms and bullet identification and matches, and other related laboratory services needed for successful prosecution of wildlife violators.

Work Package 7630/40 – Officer Training and Education

Protect Public Safety: Wildlife recreation or poaching activities that endanger the public will be of the highest concern to our officers. As State of Colorado certified peace officers, our officers will respond to requests for assistance or take the initiative in circumstances where the safety of individuals may be at risk.

Meet Public Expectations for Peace Officers: When a citizen needs help, they expect wildlife officers to be able to function in any circumstance that involves enforcement or emergency action. Although there is no requirement for the Peace Officers Standard Training (POST) certification for wildlife officers by statute, all officers have attained that certification. It is CDOW policy that all employees who wish to be commissioned by the agency will be POST certified.

Train and Guide Employees: CDOW officers are certified as Colorado peace officers. All new hires are required to complete and pass the Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) course. Intensive training continues after hiring, with approximately 40 hours of annual in-service training that includes handgun, shotgun, rifle, arrest control, baton, and legal updates. Additionally, law enforcement bulletins are sent to each officer quarterly to enhance an officer's knowledge of current law enforcement issues and subjects.

Work Package 7210/20/30 – Customer Service

Provide Excellent Customer Service: In relation to law enforcement services customer service is critical to the CDOW. The CDOW will continue to strive to be the best at customer orientation in relation to providing wildlife law enforcement service. Professional management of resources and systems designed to meet high public demand are critical in an environment of increasing demand with limited resources.

Meet High Professional Standards: The CDOW is committed to meeting and exceeding the community standards for professional law enforcement, (training, equipment, response, investigations, community/customer relations, etc.). Our law enforcement will be focused, consistent, fair and professional. The public we contact is diverse in ethnicity, age, gender, race, and culture. Every person contacted by a CDOW officer can expect fair and professional treatment. We will professionally administer criminal records, investigative efforts, law enforcement planning, and policies. Supervisors will be accountable for employees meeting these high standards.

Enhance Public Confidence in Law Enforcement Programs: We train our officers to think of every contact as being the most important contact they will ever make. Formal complaints are relatively rare in relation to other agencies performing law enforcement activities (only 21 complaints out of the thousands of contacts made by wildlife law enforcement officers in 2000 and only 7 of those sustained). According to a recent survey by Responsive Management (2000), among Colorado hunters, anglers, and residents, more than 90% of those who had contact with a wildlife officer in the past five years felt the officer they came in contact with was professional, courteous, knowledgeable and fair.

Investigate Complaints: The CDOW has a formal complaint policy that is available to the public on request. The CDOW will take complaints that it does receive seriously and use this complaint policy that ensures fairness for both the citizen and the employee. The CDOW will learn through its mistakes and apply lessons learned to training, policies, and procedures. The CDOW fully understands that its existence and the ability to manage wildlife depend on the public confidence in what it does, including law enforcement.

Work Package 6150/6250 – Provide Information/Education on Law Enforcement

Inform/Educate the Public: Inform and educate the public about the importance of wildlife law enforcement to wildlife management. Explain the importance of law enforcement as a tool to gain compliance and change the behavior of wildlife law violators. Show how each statute or regulation relates to safety, management of wildlife, or ethics.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Budget

Each year, the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) performs a budgeting process that results in determining priorities, and each year the budget is built from zero. This process results in a budget that will and does change from year-to-year. Currently the law enforcement budget is about 4.5 million dollars. This represents about 5% of the total agency budget and is an increase of a little over 1 million dollars in the last 5 years.

There are seven programs directly related to law enforcement. These include law enforcement administration (5410)-field law enforcement (5420); special investigations (5430); planning, research and evaluation (5440); forensic services (5450); annual training of officers (7630); and basic training of new officers (7640).

The CDOW commissions 226 employees who work in a variety of types of jobs. There are currently 133 commissioned District Wildlife Managers (DWM), 41 Wildlife Technicians who work for 17 Area Wildlife Manager (AWM) supervisors. The Law Enforcement Unit has 8 Criminal Investigators (including the Chief and Assistant Chief) that focus on law enforcement administration and special investigations. There are 16 Biologists and 8 other Administrators that maintain law enforcement commissions and provide assistance to the agency's law enforcement effort. The majority of these "multipurpose" employees do a wide variety of jobs, including law enforcement.

The following table represents the actual expenditures FY 1998/99, 99/00, 00/01 and current budgeted dollars FY 2001/02, 02/03 for FTE and budgeted dollars allocated to law enforcement programs.

CDOW Law Enforcement Labor and Operating Budget

FTE*

Program	5410	5420	5430	5440	5450	7630	7640	Total
FY 98-99 Actual	5.52	31.03	3.63	.26	.14	2.79	3.69	47.06
FY 99-00 Actual	4.88	32.90	1.68	.10	.05	7.87	4.57	52.05
FY 00-01 Actual	4.21	41.53	3.36	.30	.18	9.89	4.78	64.25
FY 01-02 Budget	3.09	43.40	2.24	.53	.38	1.72	3.98	55.34
FY 02-03 Budget	3.09	43.55	2.24	.53	.38	1.72	3.98	55.49
5 Year Average	4.16	38.48	2.63	.34	.23	4.80	4.20	54.84

Budgeted Dollars

Program	5410	5420	5430	5440	5450	7630	7640	Total
FY 98-99 Actual	407042	\$2056874	299940	20245	22478	339424	232384	3378387
FY 99-00 Actual	408042	2323613	282467	19774	28574	387712	323026	3773208
FY 00-01 Actual	342405	2845417	310235	25028	32931	515914	319282	4391212
FY 01-02 Budget	262345	2941226	243332	47448	48432	558965	301951	4403699
FY 02-03 Budget	262132	2986625	245348	47784	48756	635130	304697	4530472
5 Year Average	336393	2630751	276264	32056	36234	487429	296268	4095396

Note: Re-allocations and adjustments may occur after the printing of this paper and are meant to show budget at the time this was written. State budgets are developed on a fiscal year basis and run from July 1 to June 30th. The budgeting cycle for the next FY does not end until the end of June in most years. *FTE – Full Time Employee = 2080 hours. These figures represent FTE equivalents of time spent by 240 multipurpose employees on law enforcement. *Budget figures provided by Larry Strohl, Senior Budget Analyst.*

Wildlife Law Enforcement Survey Summary

In 1999, the Colorado Division of Wildlife conducted a survey of hunters, anglers, and the general population. Mark Duda, (Responsive Management) conducted the survey. The following is a synopsis of some of the results of that survey. For more detail about demographics, confidence intervals, visit the Colorado Division of Wildlife's web page at www.wildlife.state.co.us, or contact the Human Dimensions at 303 291 7279 or Law Enforcement Unit section at 303 291 7223. Or, write either section at Colorado Division of Wildlife, 6060 Broadway, Denver CO 80216.

I. Responses concerning Colorado wildlife enforcement in general.

What do you know about the Colorado Division of Wildlife's law enforcement efforts?

A great deal: Hunters-8%; Anglers-14%; General Population-8%.

A moderate amount: Hunters-37%; Anglers-36%; General Population-27%.

A little: Hunters-38%; Anglers-41%; General Population-44%.

Nothing: Hunters-7%; Anglers-9%; General Population-20%.

Don't know: Hunters-1%; Anglers-1%; General Population-1%.

How would you rate the Division of Wildlife's overall law enforcement effort?

Excellent: Hunters-16%; Anglers-14%; General Population-9%.

Good: Hunters-60%; Anglers-54%; General Population-51%.

Fair: Hunters-15%; Anglers-18%; General Population-13%.

Poor: Hunters-5%; Anglers-3%; General Population-3%.

Don't know: Hunters-5%; Anglers-11%; General Population-24%.

Should Colorado Division of Wildlife efforts be increased, stay the same or decreased?

Increased: Hunters-40%; Anglers-50%; General Population-52%.

Stay the same: Hunters-54%; Anglers-42%; General Population-34%.

Decreased: Hunters-2%; Anglers-2%; General Population-2%.

Don't know: Hunters-4%; Anglers-3%; General Population-12%.

II. Responses concerning Colorado wildlife law enforcement officers.

Do Colorado Division of Wildlife officers perform their jobs in a professional manner?

Strongly agree: Hunters-61%; Anglers-62%; General Population-51%.

Somewhat agree: Hunters-30%; Anglers-24%; General Population-26%.

Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-6%; Anglers-8%; General Population-22%.

Somewhat disagree: Hunters-3%; Anglers-2%; General Population-1%.

Strongly disagree: Hunters-1%; Anglers-3%; General Population-1%.

Are Colorado Division of Wildlife professional?

Strongly agree: Hunters-76%; Anglers-74%; General Population-83%.

Somewhat agree: Hunters-19%; Anglers-20%; General Population-13%.

Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-3%; Anglers-2%; General Population-3%.

Somewhat disagree: Hunters-1%; Anglers-1%; General Population-0%.

Strongly disagree: Hunters-1%; Anglers-3%; General Population-2%.

Are Colorado Division of Wildlife officers are courteous?

Strongly agree: Hunters-79%; Anglers-77%; General Population-86%.
Somewhat agree: Hunters-16%; Anglers-18%; General Population-10%.
Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-3%; Anglers-1%; General Population-2%.
Somewhat disagree: Hunters-1%; Anglers-1%; General Populations-1%.
Strongly disagree: Hunters-1%; Anglers-4%; General Population-1%.

Are Colorado Division of Wildlife officers are knowledgeable?

Strongly agree: Hunters-74%; Anglers-74%; General Population-83%.
Somewhat agree: Hunters-21%; Anglers-20%; General Population-12%.
Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-2%; Anglers-4%; General Population-4%.
Somewhat disagree: Hunters-0%; Anglers-2%; General Populations-1%.
Strongly disagree: Hunters-3%; Anglers-1%; General Population-1%.

How safe is the job of a Colorado Division of Wildlife officer?

Very safe: Hunters-9%; Anglers-7%; General Population-6%.
Moderately safe: Hunters-38%; Anglers-36%; General Population-37%.
Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-1%; Anglers-3%; General Population-7%.
Moderately dangerous: Hunters-45%; Anglers-41%; General Populations-44%.
Very dangerous: Hunters-7%; Anglers-13%; General Population-6%.

III. Responses about the presence and amount of contact by Colorado Wildlife officers.

What kind of contact have you had with a Colorado Division of Wildlife officer?

Contacted a wildlife officer about a law/regulation: Hunters-30%; Anglers-22%;
General Population-19%.
Contacted a wildlife officer about access to public/private lands: Hunters-29%;
Anglers-26%; General Population-18%.
Contacted a wildlife officer to help you with a problem in the field: Hunters-15%;
Anglers-14%; General Population-7%.
Contacted a wildlife officer for other types of information: Hunters-30%;
Anglers-24%; General Population-18%.
Had your license checked by a wildlife officer: Hunters-63%; Anglers-56%;
General Population-28%.
Contacted by a wildlife officer for information from you: Hunters-28%;
Anglers-18%; General Population-11%.
A wildlife officer issued you a warning/citation: Hunters-6%; Anglers-2%;
General Population-2%.
Any other contact by a wildlife officer not mentioned: Hunters-6%; Anglers-2%;
General Population-3%.
Wanted to file a complaint against a wildlife officer: Hunters-4%; Anglers-6%;
General Population-3%.
None of these: Hunters-18%; Anglers-24%; General Population-49%.

How often has a Colorado Division of Wildlife officer contacted you?

Too much: Hunters-3%; Anglers-1%.
About the right amount: Hunters-64%; Anglers-52%.
Not enough: Hunters-29%; Anglers-41%.
Don't know: Hunters-4%; Anglers-7%..

Does the Colorado Division of Wildlife have enough officers for patrol and service?

Too many: Hunters-3%; Anglers-1%.
About the right amount: Hunters-36%; Anglers-32%.
Too few: Hunters-58%; Anglers-62%.
Don't know: Hunters-4%; Anglers-5%.

IV. Responses concerning violators and violations.

Do you think that a lot of people violate hunting laws?

Strongly agree: Hunters-35%; Anglers-36%; General Population-41%.
Somewhat agree: Hunters-31%; Anglers-28%; General Population-26%.
Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-3%; Anglers-8%; General Population-14%.
Somewhat disagree: Hunters-18%; Anglers-17%; General Populations-12%.
Strongly disagree: Hunters-13%; Anglers-11%; General Population-7%.

Do you think a person violates a hunting law intentionally?

Person does not know law: Hunters-21%; Anglers-15%; General Population-12%.
Violates intentionally: Hunters-73%; Anglers-77%; General Population-78%.
Don't Know: Hunters-3%; Anglers-6%; General Population-7%.
Other: Hunters-3%; Anglers-2%; General Populations-3%.

Do you think that hunting violators are caught?

Almost always: Hunters-5%; Anglers-2%; General Population-2%.
Sometimes: Hunters-44%; Anglers-32%; General Population-35%.
Hardly ever: Hunters-50%; Anglers-61%; General Population-58%.
Don't know: Hunters-1%; Anglers-5%; General Populations-5%.

Do you think that a lot of people violate fishing laws?

Strongly agree: Hunters-30%; Anglers-41%; General Population-38%.
Somewhat agree: Hunters-28%; Anglers-29%; General Population-34%.
Neutral/Don't Know: Hunters-21%; Anglers-7%; General Population-13%.
Somewhat disagree: Hunters-15%; Anglers-18%; General Populations-11%.
Strongly disagree: Hunters-7%; Anglers-6%; General Population-5%.

Do you think a person violates a fishing law intentionally?

Person does not know law: Hunters-21%; Anglers-19%; General Population-17%.
Violates intentionally: Hunters-68%; Anglers-74%; General Population-75%.
Don't Know: Hunters-8%; Anglers-5%; General Population-6%.
Other: Hunters-2%; Anglers-2%; General Populations-2%.

Do you think that fishing violators are caught?

Almost always: Hunters-..%; Anglers-..%; General Population-..%.
Sometimes: Hunters-..%; Anglers-..%; General Population-..%.
Hardly ever: Hunters-..%; Anglers-..%; General Population-..%.
Don't know: Hunters-..%; Anglers-..%; General Populations-..%.

Which hunting law do you think are violated most often?

Harvest related: Hunters-56%; Anglers-54%.
Behavior related: Hunters-24%; Anglers-10%.
License related: Hunters-21%; Anglers-37%.
Methods issues: Hunters-5%; Anglers-10%.
Don't know: Hunters-5%; Anglers-10%.

What is your opinion about the penalties for violating hunting laws?

Too high: Hunters-6%; Anglers-4%; General Population-4%.
Appropriate: Hunters-57%; Anglers-53%; General Population-42%.
Too low: Hunters-31%; Anglers-32%; General Population-28%.
Don't know/no opinion: Hunters-7%; Anglers-11%, General Population-26%.

What is your opinion about the penalties for violating fishing laws?

Too high: Hunters-4%; Anglers-6%; General Population-6%.
Appropriate: Hunters-51%; Anglers-62%; General Population-50%.
Too low: Hunters-17%; Anglers-20%; General Population-16%.
Don't know/no opinion: Hunters-27%; Anglers-12%, General Population-28%

What is your opinion about the penalties for violating threatened/endangered species laws?

Too high: Hunters-6%; Anglers-6%; General Population-4%.
Appropriate: Hunters-46%; Anglers-47%; General Population-35%.
Too low: Hunters-32%; Anglers-31%; General Population-39%.
Don't know/no opinion: Hunters-15%; Anglers-16%, General Population-22%.

V. Responses concerning reporting violations.

In the past 2 years have you witnessed a violation of a wildlife law?

No: Hunters-51%; Anglers-53%; General Population-73%.
Yes, hunting violation: Hunters-42%; Anglers-30%; General Population-14%.
Yes, fishing violation: Hunters-13%; Anglers-27%; General Population-16%.
Yes, other violations: Hunters-1%; Anglers-2%; General Population-2%.
Don't know: Hunters-1%; Anglers-0%; General Population-2%.

Have you ever heard of Operation Game Thief (OGT)?

Yes: Hunters-73%; Anglers-52%; General Population-29%.
No: Hunters-26%; Anglers-48%; General Population-70%.
Don't know: Hunters-1%; Anglers-0%; General Population-1%.

Have you tried to report a violation to Operation Game Thief (OGT)?

Yes: Hunters-3%; Anglers-5%; General Population-1%
Tried, but could not get through: Hunters-1%; Anglers-1%;
General Population-0%
No: Hunters-97%; Anglers-93%; General Population-98%.
Don't know: Hunters-0%; Anglers-2%; General Population-1%.

Would you likely report a violation to Operation Game Thief (OGT) if you saw one?

Very likely: Hunters-49%; Anglers-55%; General Population-53%
Somewhat likely: Hunters-30%; Anglers-25%; General Population-28%
Neutral/Don't know: Hunters-8%; Anglers-7%; General Population-7%.
Somewhat unlikely: Hunters-8%; Anglers-7%; General Population-6%.
Very unlikely: Hunters-5%; Anglers-6%; General Population-7%.

VI. Responses concerning wildlife law enforcement priorities.

What should be the top law enforcement priorities for the Colorado Division of Wildlife?

Ensure license compliance: Hunter-93%; Anglers-92%; General Population-91%.
Illegal take of wildlife: Hunters-91%; Anglers-88%; General Population-90%.
Protect threatened and endangered species: Hunters-84%; Anglers-84%;
General Population-90%.
Illegal equipment to take wildlife: Hunters-81%; Anglers-79%;
General Population-82%.
Illegal sale of wildlife or wildlife parts: Hunters-80%; Anglers-83%;
General Population-90%.
Loaded firearms in vehicles: Hunters-78%; Anglers-81%;
General Population-76%.
Illegally blocking public access: Hunters-74%; Anglers-69%;
General Population-65%.
Illegal guide and outfitting: Hunters-74%; Anglers-75%;
General Population-70%.
Trespass on private property: Hunters-68%; Anglers-66%;
General Population-65%.
Protecting non-game wildlife: Hunters-61%; Anglers-59%;
General Population-68%.
Illegal private ownership of wildlife: Hunters-57%; Anglers-54%;
General Population-60%.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Challenges

Our first challenge is to target illegal activities targeted against Colorado wildlife. These are crimes that usually have few witnesses. As a consequence, many wildlife violations go undetected, unreported, and are not prosecuted. Detecting and deterring wildlife poaching requires public participation and support in relation to the efforts of wildlife officers in the field. Our wildlife resources are rich and diverse and it is through the vigilance of an interested and involved public in cooperation with wildlife officers that it remains so.

Another challenge is ensuring that wildlife law enforcement efforts reflect the priorities and needs of the agency and the public it serves. Liaison with individuals, special interests, community leaders, and legislators will continue to be a priority for those serving in a law enforcement capacity for this agency. Close working relationships with other local, state, and federal government agencies that have an interest in or impact wildlife enforcement needs will be developed, maintained and enhanced.

Education about why wildlife law enforcement is an essential public service and why the CDOW is the best agency to provide that service is important from a wildlife law enforcement perspective. The public should understand the important nexus between enforcement of wildlife laws and wildlife management. Education about why wildlife law is critical for sound wildlife management is important for informed and voluntary compliance with the law. The use of enforcement of wildlife laws improves compliance with law for those who would willfully violate. The objective of enforcement is changing wildlife violator behavior.

Changing demographics creates conflicts between hunters and anglers recreating in places that have become urbanized and the residents now living in those areas. There is a high demand on law enforcement officers to resolve these conflicts when they do occur. The public needs to be informed about lawful hunting and angling activities, as well as educate hunters and anglers concerning the sensitivity of some people toward these activities.

The demand for services is greater than the employee time available to meet that demand. Our wildlife agency has taken on a large number of tasks that include law enforcement, but law enforcement is just one of the important things that employees do for wildlife. Competition for resources and funding decisions is difficult when there is simply not enough resources to fund all the good things the CDOW could do. Law enforcement efforts must be oriented around planning, determining priorities, and once priorities are determined, there must be an agency commitment to meet those priorities through resource allocation.

Wildlife officers are some of the best-trained peace officers in this state. They often work in remote locations, contacting violators without immediate backup. Most of these contacts involve armed suspects who do not wish to be apprehended. The agency also serves in an assisting role whenever local law enforcement agencies call for backup. CDOW needs to maintain public support for our officers in the often-hazardous endeavor of protecting this state's wildlife resources.

The CDOW continues to face the realities of change, and needs to have the ability to recognize changing trends in the public's expectations for wildlife law enforcement. The public supports our efforts in law enforcement and views it as one of the most important things the agency does. This support comes from a public perception that we are out there protecting their wildlife, even as they go about their daily lives. It is critical that we always maintain this public trust and support.

Wildlife Law Enforcement Unit

Vision and Mission

The Legislative Declaration that provides direction for the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) as an agency states, *“It is the policy of the state of Colorado that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors.”* From this state statute, the CDOW developed the mission statement, *“To perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state and provide people the opportunity to enjoy them.”*

The Law Enforcement Unit (LEU) as an organizational unit within the CDOW has developed a vision and mission statement in support of the Legislative Declaration and the CDOW’s mission statement. The LEU vision is, *“The Colorado Division of Wildlife is the best wildlife enforcement agency in the nation”*. The mission of the LEU is, *“The Law Enforcement Unit will provide proactive leadership to ensure that the Colorado Division of Wildlife enforcement effort serves the public interest by protecting the wildlife resource in a professional and responsible manner”*.

Roles and Responsibilities

As determined by our vision and mission, the LEU’s role within the CDOW is to:

- 1) Act as proponents for outstanding wildlife law enforcement efforts.
- 2) Investigate complex and commercial wildlife violations.
- 3) Support field law enforcement by uniformed officers.
- 4) Plan and evaluate wildlife law enforcement efforts.
- 5) Provide liaison and contact with the Department of Natural Resources; legislators; other CDOW staff; and other federal, state, and local agencies concerning issues relating to wildlife law enforcement.
- 6) Administer law enforcement records, files, etc.
- 7) Provide law enforcement information systems.
- 8) Provide educational programs on wildlife protection to youth, community groups, and other law enforcement agencies.

Description

As the oldest continuing section in the CDOW, the LEU provides the leadership and guidance that directs the agency’s law enforcement efforts. CDOW law enforcement efforts are an essential public service as mandated by statute and public demand.

While small in size, the LEU is often the focal point for calls requesting information on statutes and regulations by not only our license buyers and employees, but also students, concerned citizens and other local, county, state, provincial, and federal governmental agencies. The Denver LEU office handles approximately 15,000 phone calls per year.

Currently staffed with ten employees, the LEU provides assistance on wildlife enforcement issues on a statewide, national and international basis. The Denver office is staffed with the

Chief, Assistant Chief, and two Administrative Assistants. Five Investigators are assigned to service centers in Denver, Ft. Collins, Montrose, Steamboat Springs and Monte Vista. Each of these investigators is responsible for special investigations for about 20% of the state and serves as the primary contact for four or more CDOW Areas in addition to their primary responsibilities for special investigations, officer training support and firearms maintenance. One other investigator has special emphasis on investigative systems and processes and is located in Montrose

The LEU provides staff support for legislative issues relating to law enforcement and development and testimony on new statutory law. The unit makes recommendations to staff and field personnel on law enforcement issues. Unit members also serve on various local, state and international wildlife enforcement boards. The LEU presents educational and informational programs on the agency's enforcement effort.

The LEU is responsible for coordinating all special investigations within Colorado with the emphasis on wildlife violations of a commercial nature, where wildlife is taken for profit or other gain. Recent investigations have concentrated on unregistered outfitters involved with the illegal take of big game, license fraud and other wildlife and criminal violations. The LEU reciprocates by providing officers for investigations in other states and provinces. Over the past few years, CDOW has worked cooperative investigations and provided technical assistance to wildlife enforcement with the states of Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Kansas, Montana, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, and Canadian wildlife agencies in the provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and the Northwest Territories, and the countries of Italy and Australia.

The LEU works with the county sheriffs and local police departments. The unit also works closely with the Colorado Office of Outfitter Registration, Colorado Department of Revenue and other state agencies as needed. The LEU has also worked with the Canadian Wildlife Service and the following federal agencies: Fish & Wildlife Service; Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms; Internal Revenue Service; Post Office; National Park Service; and the National Marine Fisheries.

The LEU is responsible for developing and maintaining data base files on all citations issued during the year and adding the information to the historical database going back to 1986. Over 65,000 records are currently available. The number of citations averages 5,500 per year. The LEU also tracks and disburses various documents needed by field officers such as citations, violation warning notices, and duplicate carcass tags and licenses.

The LEU also serves as the coordination point between the Division and the Operation Game Thief (OGT) program, a not-for-profit corporation that has been in place since September, 1981 and which pays rewards for information leading to the issuance of a citation for wildlife violations. Currently about 20% of calls coming into our offices result in citations being issued. Rewards can range from \$100 to \$1000 depending on the severity of the violation and average about \$250. The reward fund is based on OGT fund raising efforts and sale of OGT related items.

The LEU also serves as a contact and liaison with various private outdoor and commercial wildlife industries including the Colorado Bowhunters Association, Colorado Outfitters Association, Colorado Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited, United Sportsmen Council, Colorado Sportsman Wildlife Fund and other groups on law enforcement related questions.

Critical administrative functions of the unit include the collection of law enforcement data, criminal records accounting, and maintenance of Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) contacts and terminals. Other administrative activities include administration of the Wildlife Violator Compact agreements.

The LEU writes law enforcement plans, establishes goals and desired outcomes in reference to enforcement efforts, and establishes performance indicators to measure enforcement efforts. The LEU provides law enforcement staff input into management of agency programs, and provides support for the administration of the law enforcement effort within the agency. The unit also develops proactive approaches to wildlife law enforcement and evaluates and implements innovative new methods in relation to wildlife law enforcement.

The unit provides law enforcement training to wildlife officers as well as to other agencies such as sheriff's office deputies and district attorney's office in relation to wildlife law enforcement. The LEU also acts as a liaison with these offices as well as other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The unit produces bulletins, guidance and interpretation of law, and reports concerning wildlife law enforcement. The unit also responds to legislative actions and requests, and provides answers and contacts for the public in relation to statewide programs and questions.

Current priorities of the LEU include outreach and liaison with various groups, special interests, legislators, and other decision-makers. As a part of this effort the LEU conducts periodic surveys, one of which was recently completed by Responsive Management (2000) that was designed to assess customer satisfactions, expectations, and needs concerning CDOW law enforcement efforts.

Several processes require that the LEU provide guidance to the agency in relation to law enforcement. For example, evaluation and revision of the agency's law enforcement procedures to reflect organizational change in structure and function from a recent management review process will be accomplished to reflect current structure and function. Also, changing interpretations of law by state and federal courts, as well as review by the Colorado Attorney's General Office, require an on-going review of policies to ensure appropriate law enforcement guidance and direction is provided to our wildlife law enforcement officers.

Coordination, cooperation, and integration of law enforcement perspectives in the development of regulations and other agency functions by various units within the agency is high priority for the LEU. Currently, efforts are underway to develop statewide law enforcement performance indicators and measures so that we can more accurately assess and report our law enforcement efforts to the public we serve. An orientation toward openness to change and continued improvement in performance is a primary goal of the LEU.

Operation Game Thief



Over 15 years ago I wrote an article for Colorado Outdoors based around the premise that, while human victims of crime could call and report crimes against them, wildlife victims of crime could not. Human victims can call 911, Crime Stoppers or any local law enforcement agency to report crimes against them or crimes they observe against others. But when a deer or elk is poached in the dark of night in the middle of nowhere, which will call to report that crime?

At the time I wrote the article, Operation Game Thief (OGT) was still a fledgling program in Colorado and the US and was still trying to get off the ground. Being new, not many people knew about OGT, so calls were not as numerous as they are now. Through aggressive advertising, more states adopting similar programs and the increased use of cell phones, not only are the calls more numerous, but more cases are being made each year. Now, while wildlife still cannot report crimes themselves, they have the help of thousands of concerned people all over North America and the poacher can never be sure WHO may be watching and ready to make that call.

OGT takes its roots from Crime Stoppers, the very successful program used all over the US where we can call and report violations anonymously and receive a reward, if we so choose. The state of New Mexico was the first state to implement an OGT program and Colorado, recognizing a good thing when it saw it, soon followed suit. OGT began in Colorado in 1981 with Assistant Chief of Law Enforcement Dave Croonquist piloting the program, until his recent retirement. Dave's interest in wildlife law enforcement, along with his deep sense of responsibility to wildlife conservation and very capable administrative qualities, soon made Colorado's program one of the best in the US. He and other state administrators who had similar programs soon convinced most of the remaining states to implement OGT. Presently, 49 of the 50 states now have such a program, as well as most of the Canadian Provinces. Additionally, there is now a

national organization dedicated to improving and promoting OGT across North America. That organization is the International Association of Natural Resources Crimestoppers (IANRC). It is composed of almost 40 states and provincial wildlife agencies, with more agencies joining each year. Dave was very instrumental in not only starting IANRC but also serving as Secretary/Treasurer and encouraging other agencies to join.

OGT is a registered not-for-profit corporation in the state of Colorado. All donations to the reward account are tax deductible by the contributor. The reward fund is used to pay rewards and any other OGT-related expenses that will benefit the program. Many individuals and organizations have donated thousands of dollars to the fund, which is administered by the DOW OGT program administrator. With Dave Croonquist retiring in 2000, I assumed his OGT responsibilities for the Division. Little did I know what I was getting into. From the outside looking in, it did not seem like a program that would take too much time. Like the young pup who thinks he can find and retrieve quail or pheasants as well as the seasoned dog, I soon found out different. Luckily for me, Dave was around for almost a year for me to look to when I couldn't "find the birds," and I sure needed the help.

A civilian board comprised of five person's runs OGT. The board meets once a year to review the OGT operations. These five people donate their time to the board and are quite dedicated to its success. I will do a short piece on each of the board members for further issues of the PAW magazine, but for now I would just like to introduce them to you and recognize them for their contributions. They are: Gerhart (Casey) Stengel of Hotchkiss, CO; Jon Staples of Montrose, CO; Richard Hess of Collbran, CO, Bruce McDowell of Longmont, CO and Pat Carlow of Grand Junction, CO. They do a great job and help keep me on the right track. If you ever run into any of them, please take the time to thank them for their service to Colorado's wildlife resources.

There is another group of OGT folks that help me out a lot. They are the OGT volunteers. When OGT was run out of the law enforcement office in Denver, there were a number of people to take the calls and run the program. When I assumed the helm, it was moved to Montrose and it was just I doing everything. I quickly learned that I needed help. I enlisted the help of Colorado's volunteer program and now have five very qualified volunteers who help answer OGT calls, especially during the busy big game season. One of them is Jon Staples, who is also an OGT board member. The others are Ken Wagner, Gus Tranello, Jim Emerson, and Bob Dawirs, all from the Montrose area. They have been helping out for two years now and they do an outstanding job taking calls and making sure that it gets to the right DWM as fast as possible. Thanks guys.

So just how is OGT run? Presently there is just one phone number for persons to call statewide. That number is [1-800-332-4155](tel:1-800-332-4155). A shortcut for Verizon cell phone users for the same number is [#OGT](tel:1-800-332-4155). Up until last month there was a number for the Denver area, but now Denver area people can use the 1-800 number. There is also an email address, which is, game.thief@state.co.us. I receive both the calls and email messages in Montrose. The volunteers and I field the calls and messages year around from Montrose. While the idea behind OGT is for the calls to be related to wildlife violations, many of them turn out to be people wanting general Division information. Those people are referred to the information line in Denver, unless we can answer their question quickly.

Actual violation information is written on an OGT report form based on the caller's details. First of all, we need to make sure there is actually a violation. Sometimes people think they have observed or heard of a violation but in fact, what they saw was not a violation. In that case it becomes a matter of explaining the law to them. Sometimes a caller may have information that is more intelligence in nature rather than a violation that has occurred. In that case, we send that information to the appropriate officer for their future use.

The calls that are actual violations are recorded and we then try to contact the responsible officer as soon as possible. That could be by cell phone, email, home phone, Division office phone, or local Sheriff or CSP dispatch. As I mentioned earlier, the cell phone has greatly enhanced the "long arm of the law" in respect to reducing the time that someone observes and calls in a violation and getting an officer to respond to that caller. People are seeing violations in the field and while driving and they are calling as the crimes are in progress. Many times we are able to get an officer to the caller within 30 minutes to an hour or sooner. With only about 122 DWM's to cover the entire state of Colorado, that is very good response time. Admittedly that does not happen all the time but it is happening more and more.

So what is in it for the caller? The OGT program is set up to make available rewards to people who call a wildlife violation to OGT. The reward amounts are \$250 for information leading to the issuance of citations for illegal possession of big game and endangered species and \$100 for all other wildlife violations. The rewards can be increased up to \$1000 for aggravated violations if the OGT board agrees to do so. The reward is not contingent on whether or not the violator is found guilty or not, just if the officer feels he has enough probable cause to issue the citation. And in most cases where the officer issues a citation, the violator either pays the fine or is found guilty in court.

Do all callers ask for the reward? No, in fact many do not. Many callers are just interested in getting the violator caught, not a reward. Some callers who do ask for the reward donate it to another conservation group. In the future, I hope to be able to offer callers who are not interested in the reward something of lesser value, like an OGT print. The OGT print is a concept that some states use successfully as a fund-raiser and as a reward. I will be looking into that concept in 2001.

Does a caller have to reveal their identity? By all means, NO. The concept of the OGT program, like Crimestoppers, is that the caller can remain anonymous. Assigning the caller a series of identifiers known only to the caller and the person answering the call does that. That way, if someone calls in to try to find out who did report the violation, unless they know the identifiers, we will not divulge any of the information. It has been my experience that about one-half of the callers want to remain anonymous and the other half doesn't. Sometimes trying to successfully prosecute violations where the caller remains anonymous is more difficult than the other way around. But all in all, about 25% of the calls received are successfully prosecuted. In 1999, OGT handled about 400 calls. Out of that 400 calls, about 100 cases were made, constituting over \$16,000 in fines. About 20% of the 100 cases requested rewards which resulted in about \$4650 in rewards being paid. The total donations made to OGT in 1999 were \$28,849. The figures for 2001 are in the process of being computed now and will come out in the 2001 DOW law enforcement annual report, which will be posted on the DOW web site.

The DOW web site, www.wildlife.state.co.us, has a link to an OGT site that has much more information about OGT, in addition to more information about the Division. I encourage anyone who has access to a computer to go to that site for additional information about OGT and the DOW. It is an excellent site. The 1999 law enforcement annual report is listed as well as DOW statutes and regulations.

How can you help stop poaching? If you see someone violating what you believe to be a wildlife law, please call the OGT line- [1-800-332-4155](tel:1-800-332-4155) or [#OGT](https://twitter.com/OGT) as soon as possible. Or, send a message to the OGT email address- game.thief@state.co.us . Poaching is a crime against you, your neighbors, the citizens of Colorado and even the citizens of the United States. Poachers rob you and me of a valuable resource, one that is getting scarcer and scarcer every day. We as responsible hunters or wildlife enthusiasts should take a solid stance against others who make us look bad. OGT is a way to do that.

One of the cases we handled this past year involved a person who observed two men illegally kill two bull elk on a golf course in Colorado. The person called me and the local DWM was able to get to the scene and arrest the persons responsible and salvage the two bulls. The caller did ask for the reward, which I paid. During my discussion with the caller, I learned that hunting and particularly, this incident put off her daughters. I explained that the reason we could pay a reward was due to “responsible” hunters who were likewise repulsed by such illegal activity. That seemed to make some sense to her. In one of the very few thank you letters I have received from folks who have received rewards, she told me that the reward money was used for her daughter’s college fund and that her daughters now had a little less slanted view of responsible hunters. Please take a page from this lady’s book and take a stance. Poaching is a crime and we are all the victims. In the past the odds have been with the poachers. But we are reducing those odds every day.

Make The Call & Make A Difference

Written by Glenn Smith, Criminal Investigator, and Operation Game Thief Coordinator

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC)

Prior to 1989, the only way a non-resident could take care of a DOW penalty assessment was to pay it on the spot or post bond. Posting bond sometimes was a timely process, especially if the DWM was horseback in the high country or miles off the beaten track in their truck. Thanks to the successful passage of legislation in 1989, the IWVC was born in Colorado, Nevada and Oregon, with 14 other states following suit in the past 12 years. The other states are Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Missouri, Maryland, California, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Dakota, and Indiana. Now, an officer in one of the compact states can issue a penalty assessment/citation to a non-resident from one of the other compact states and let them pay it within the same time limit as a resident, instead of taking them to post bond if they did not or could not pay on the spot.

If the non-resident thinks that once they gets back to their home state they are home free, uh-uh good buddy. The compact allows for the home state to suspend that person if they do not pay the fine.

Another great aspect of the IWVC is that when a person has been suspended in one of the compact states through the legal process where the violation(s) occurred, the suspension is recognized by all of the member states. So, if a violator is suspended, say in Missouri, that person is likewise suspended in all of the compact states.

So how does the record-keeping process work? The state of Utah graciously agreed to run the IWVC database. In particular, the investigator out of Cedar City, Utah, Doug Messerly, administers the IWVC database. Each member state is wired directly to the IWVC database and enters their individual suspension information. The states can access that information whenever necessary to check on an individual and Doug sends out quarterly updates on what each state has entered. In Colorado, Pam Pope, out of the Montrose Service Center, does all of the IWVC data entry once she receives updated suspension from Brad Frano and Kelly Knuesel. Pam also does the data entry of the OGT reports into an OGT database.

When Doug Messerly sends in quarterly updates, I then send those files to each of the Colorado investigators so they can access them if they need to. They only have access to those files, not the actual database. So, if you have someone you would like to check on in the IWVC database, you can call your investigator or, Pam or I if you want to check the actual database. We would be glad to check on anyone for you.

The next step will be for the limited license section to integrate the IWVC data base into their system so that any person applying for a limited license would be excluded if their name is on the database (after a validation call to the suspension state to insure that person is still on suspension). There are still some kinks to work out in that process, so it may not be until 2002 before that will actual take place. Eventually, when we get to point of sale license purchase, the IWVC will be integrated with CORIS and over the counter license purchases would be affected too.

Representatives from each compact state try to meet once a year to iron out problems that occur. In the meeting last September, the representatives made the following changes:

- Regarding Juveniles: It was decided that people who are less than 18 years of age on the date of conviction will not be maintained or distributed with the IWVC revocation/suspension list.
- Regarding Revokees on Appeal: It was decided NOT to enter the name of people who have been suspended/revoked until the revocation process is finalized and the procedural appeal period has expired in the suspension state. (In Colorado, that means once the Wildlife Commission agrees with the hearing examiner's recommendation, the suspension is in effect, unless the revokee notifies the Commission that they will appeal their decision.)
- Regarding New Member States: It was decided that new states could only submit the names of people who had been revoked/suspended AFTER the date that the state formally joined the compact.

As of 9/8/2000, the IWVC database had a total of 944 records, 255 of which were from Colorado. Approximately 100 additional records for Colorado have been entered since then and another 30-40 are waiting to be entered now. Arizona had the most with 321 and Idaho had the fewest with 10.

The count by home state of violator showed 39 states and 2 foreign countries (Italy and Mexico). Again the highest state was Arizona with 297, followed by Utah with 192 and then Colorado with 151. Other states of interest were California- 37, Wyoming- 37, Minnesota- 21, Missouri- 25, Montana- 47, Texas- 13 and Pennsylvania- 10.

Hopefully more states will see the benefits of this compact and pass the necessary legislation that would enable them to join the compact. Anyone wanting additional information concerning the process of legislative passage of the IWVC please call Glenn Smith at (970) 252-6014 or contact the IWVC Chairperson, Rob Buonamici, Nevada Division of Wildlife at P.O. Box 106788, Reno, NV 89520.

Report provided by Glenn Smith, Criminal Investigator II.

The Job of a Wildlife Law Enforcement Officer

Perhaps the most frequent and best known activity of a wildlife officer is that of contacting our customers. Hunters, anglers, and other wildlife recreationalists traditionally enjoy being contacted by the local wildlife officer. Who better to talk to about hunting, fishing, and other forms of wildlife recreation than the local expert on wildlife in the area? Law abiding citizens also expect and deserve enforcement of laws concerning licensing, manner of take, and bag limits. After all, it is the law, which allows for the fair and equitable distribution of opportunity and it is the wildlife officer who ensures that these laws are followed.

Wildlife officers respond to violations and other complaints concerning wildlife. Wildlife officers receive calls at all hours of the day and night from citizens who wish to report wildlife violations. People can call the local Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) office during normal working hours. After hours, calls can be dispatched through the Colorado State Patrol dispatch centers, sheriff's offices, or made to Operation Game Thief phone system.

Wildlife officers also perform planned law enforcement activities. They are active day and night protecting wildlife through patrols, aerial operations, decoys, and check stations. Investigations into wildlife violations (known or suspected) are also performed in response to information provided by the public, computer research, and information received from other law enforcement agencies.

Certain violations require specialized investigations. These include investigating complaints against illegal outfitters, commercial violations, environmental violations, and poisoning cases. Wildlife officers are also responsible for inspecting commercial and private parks and lakes, as well as falconry facilities when application is made for these types of specialized licenses.

Wildlife officers meet and exceed the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification requirements for peace officer certification in the state of Colorado. These officers have the authority to write affidavits and serve search and arrest warrants. They are fully trained in protecting the rights of citizens, processing evidence, investigating criminal cases, and testifying in court. Assisting other officers as the need arises and providing backup for local police and sheriff's officers is a critical need in the law enforcement community. Each wildlife officer is also commissioned as a Deputy Game Warden for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and works closely with federal officers on violations concerning joint jurisdictions.

In Colorado our wildlife officers are known as "multipurpose" employees and serve their communities in many ways other than as an enforcement officer. Wildlife officers manage state wildlife areas, provide wildlife education programs to schools, comment as biologists on land use in local county planning arenas, provide guidance on land and water reclamation efforts, respond to calls concerning wildlife-people conflicts, and manage wildlife populations. The list goes on. In Colorado, wildlife officers are involved in almost every aspect of wildlife management and have provided an essential public service to their communities and the wildlife resource for over 100 years.

Selection and Training of Wildlife Law Enforcement Officers

Although there are a number of similarities and activities in common with other types of law enforcement, natural resource law enforcement has significant differences and requirements. In response to these differences and requirements a natural resource officer is selected and trained differently than what is expected of other law enforcement officers.

The goal of most law enforcement agencies is to hire an officer who has an interest in providing public safety through protecting people from people. A police department serves as a force in society to ensure compliance with laws. In contrast, natural resource officers are hired with an interest in serving as a liaison between the public and the resource. The natural resource officer's goal is to protect community, public property, such as wildlife, from abuses by individuals within the community.

In order to apply for a District Wildlife Manager (DWM) position with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), an applicant must have a baccalaureate degree or higher in wildlife biology, fishery biology, natural resource management, or some closely related field. An applicant may also qualify for the examination process by substituting years of experience for the degree. The science based degree requirement eliminates many individuals who are predisposed to becoming single purpose law enforcement officers.

To assist in selecting candidates who possess strong biological, communication, and interpersonal skills, the CDOW uses a multiphase assessment center to screen potential applicants for the DWM position. This testing process assesses an applicant's skills in these areas, rather than testing for an applicant's knowledge in law enforcement. During the first phase of the hiring process, with the exception of a law enforcement job suitability assessment and psychological evaluations, the assessment center does not evaluate an applicant's knowledge of law enforcement techniques. It is the desire of the CDOW to hire applicants with a strong biological background, outstanding communication abilities, excellent interpersonal skills, and a willingness to learn and perform a customer service approach to effecting law enforcement.

Once hired, the DWM attends a basic Colorado Peace Officer Standard Training (POST) certified police-training academy that is required of other Colorado law enforcement officers. The 650-hour curriculum includes courses in administration of justice, basic law, community interaction, patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, investigative procedures, communications, and all subjects mandated by the POST Board for all police officers in Colorado.

Upon successful completion of the basic POST academy and certification as a Colorado Peace Officer, DWMs receive a significant amount of additional training in the CDOW Academy prior to being assigned to a CDOW district. Those courses include an additional 150 hours in customer service, community relations, officer and violator relationships, ethics, conflict management, etc. New wildlife officers also receive a considerable number of hours in law enforcement training specific to resource enforcement. Upon completion of these courses, new DWMs must complete approximately 400 hours of on-the-job training with veteran wildlife managers. DWMs who successfully complete the Field Training Officer (FTO) program then return to the classroom for a myriad of biological course work. During their training in the

CDOW Academy new officers are trained in the manner in which they are to perform the law enforcement part of their job in relation to customer service.

Officers are reminded of the federal statistics that show a natural resource officer has nine times the chance of getting killed or injured in the line of duty than other law enforcement officers. With the inherent risk of being a natural resource officer, DWMs are encouraged to resolve conflicts using their interpersonal skills rather than resorting to using force. This emphasis in conflict resolution has been beneficial to the agency. To date, no CDOW officer has ever been accused of using excessive force or resorting to the use of deadly force to effect an arrest for a wildlife-related crime.

From the time a new DWM starts employment until the date of district assignment, the officer has received ten months of intensive training. However, this intensive training does not come to an end once an officer is assigned to a CDOW district.

Every CDOW commissioned officer is required to attend about 40 hours of in-service training annually. This training includes firearms, arrest control and baton practices and proficiency qualifications, first aid and/or CPR, physical fitness certification as required and legal updates. In addition to the law enforcement courses required for every CDOW commissioned officer, all CDOW employees receive on-going training as required in customer service, supervisory training, policies and procedures, performance management and any other course deemed necessary by the CDOW Leadership Team or section and region managers.

NOTE: Adapted from materials provided by Gary Berlin, Human Resource Manager for the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

History of Wildlife Law Enforcement in Colorado

Colorado citizens have a history of caring about their wildlife. The Colorado Territorial Assembly provided for the protection of the wildlife resource prior to Colorado becoming a state in 1876. The first law concerning wildlife was passed in 1861 and stated, “*it is unlawful to take trout by seine, net, basket or trap*”.

This continued interest and concern resulted in the passage of several laws such as the Preserve Game Act, The Fish Law of 1870, The Game Law of 1870, and The Fish Propagation Act. These laws provided for protection of fish, small game, waterfowl, big game and other wildlife, such as woodpeckers, orioles, swallows and larks. Activities associated with illegal buying, selling, trapping, snaring, killing and possession of wildlife were addressed prior to Colorado becoming a state. Fines ranged from \$5 to \$300, and in some cases, included jail time until the fine was paid. Fines were split in various ways between the citizens who reported violations, schools, and counties.

In 1876 the First State Legislature convened and in its “General Laws” provided for the protection of trout through fines and imprisonment for violations. The state’s first attempt at providing for wildlife protection was in the form of a “Fish Commissioner” who was hired to protect that resource through scientific management and production, as well as protection.

In 1881 the Fish Commissioner was granted the power to appoint deputy commissioners to enforce fish laws, but could not pay them. Although fourteen such deputy commissioners were appointed in 1882, and they did collect \$123 in fines, it was evident that the wildlife resource continued to be at risk from lack of enforcement of the laws. In 1891, the Fish Commissioner became the State Game and Fish Warden and was given the authority to appoint four district game and fish wardens with two deputies each. These were paid positions and wildlife enforcement as a profession in Colorado had begun. By 1894 there were three salaried deputy wardens and the results were evident as reported in the 1893-95 biennial report to the Colorado Governor; “*Investigation of 285 reported violations; arrest of 104 persons, 78 convictions. Fines of from \$250 to \$300 and in some cases imprisonment with one term of 90 days.*” By 1900, there were five district game and fish wardens.

Colorado’s citizens continued their interest in protecting their resource into the 1900s through licensing and fine structures. The following tables compare what license fees and fines were passed by the Colorado Legislature 1903 and what they are today:

Licenses:	1903	2002
Nonresident general hunting	\$25	\$40
Nonresident, 1 day bird hunting	\$2	\$5
Resident hunting	\$1	\$10
Guide license**	\$5	\$1000
Taxidermy	\$25	None
Importer’s license	\$50	\$50

*License types from 1903 legislation matched as closely as possible with wider variety of license types today. **Office of Outfitter Registration is the licensing agency for this type of license.*

Fines*:	1903	2002
Elk	\$200	\$1000
Deer	\$50	\$700
Antelope	\$100	\$700
Mountain sheep	\$200	\$1000
Buffalo	\$1000	Private
Beaver	\$25	\$50
Birds	\$10	\$50
Fish	\$1	\$35

**Fines as established in 1903 as compared to illegal possession fines in 2002, which also does not include 37% charge assessed against all penalty assessments today.*

By 1903, the proud tradition of what it takes to be a wildlife law enforcement officer had begun. The state was large, poachers were tough, and the cadre of officers too small. To be a warden, then as today, took someone that had a strong commitment to the resource, had the courage to pursue poachers through all kinds of weather and terrain, and could work alone through all of it. In a 1913-1914 biennial report to the Governor, a warden was described as someone who, *“must have tact, know trial and court procedure, how to handle men, ride and drive horses, and have a strong physical constitution; men who take no cognizance of the time of day or night or weather conditions.”*

The tenacity, strength of character, and willingness to go beyond what is required describes the men and women of today’s wildlife agency just as accurately. The type of person who pursues a career in wildlife law enforcement probably has not changed, however the challenges certainly have. The game warden at the turn of the century would probably have difficulty recognizing the Colorado we live in today with its four million residents, four-wheel drive trucks, all terrain vehicles, global positioning systems, and all the other advancements and challenges a wildlife officer faces today.

(NOTE: The background source for this introduction to the history of wildlife law enforcement comes from “Colorado’s Wildlife Story”, written by Pete Barrows and Judith Holmes published in 1990. It is available from the Colorado Division of Wildlife and is critical to understanding the development of wildlife management in Colorado.)

Wildlife Violation Statistical Tables and Charts

Table 1.1, 1992-2001 Violations Grouped by Major Category

Violation Category	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
BIG GAME - (Does not include License Violations)	551	524	589	392	493	391	386	317	489	312	4444
CARCASS CARE	92	88	123	76	108	85	77	138	99	119	1005
COMMERCIAL USE	2	1	17	1	6	1	1	2	0	0	31
FAIR CHASE	141	124	116	80	70	77	29	41	32	47	757
FISHING - (Does not include License Violations)	651	480	561	432	441	404	463	354	471	583	4840
LICENSING	3025	2617	2654	2074	2441	1866	2272	2155	2393	2474	23971
PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS	361	397	347	314	331	308	322	288	251	197	3116
SAFETY	782	769	721	581	720	705	665	526	615	515	6599
SMALL GAME - (Does not include License Violations)	583	603	503	528	393	430	454	374	468	408	4744
OTHER WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS	595	676	702	545	590	511	399	508	934	824	6284
TOTAL	6783	6279	6333	5023	5593	4778	5068	4703	5752	5479	55791

Table 1.2, 1992-2001 Percent by Major Category/Calendar Year

Violation Category	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
BIG GAME - (Does not include License Violations)	8.1%	8.3%	9.3%	7.8%	8.8%	8.2%	7.6%	6.7%	8.5%	5.7%	8.0%
CARCASS CARE	1.4%	1.4%	1.9%	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%	1.5%	2.9%	1.7%	2.2%	1.8%
COMMERCIAL USE	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
FAIR CHASE	2.1%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.3%	1.6%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%	1.4%
FISHING - (Does not include License Violations)	9.6%	7.6%	8.9%	8.6%	7.9%	8.5%	9.1%	7.5%	8.2%	10.6%	8.7%
LICENSING	44.6%	41.7%	41.9%	41.3%	43.6%	39.1%	44.8%	45.8%	41.6%	45.2%	43.0%
OTHER WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS	8.8%	10.8%	11.1%	10.9%	10.5%	10.7%	7.9%	10.8%	16.2%	15.0%	11.3%
PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS	5.3%	6.3%	5.5%	6.3%	5.9%	6.4%	6.4%	6.1%	4.4%	3.6%	5.6%
SAFETY	11.5%	12.2%	11.4%	11.6%	12.9%	14.8%	13.1%	11.2%	10.7%	9.4%	11.8%
SMALL GAME - (Does not include License Violations)	8.6%	9.6%	7.9%	10.5%	7.0%	9.0%	9.0%	8.0%	8.1%	7.4%	8.5%

TOTAL 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0% 100.0%

Chart 1.1, Total Violations by Year

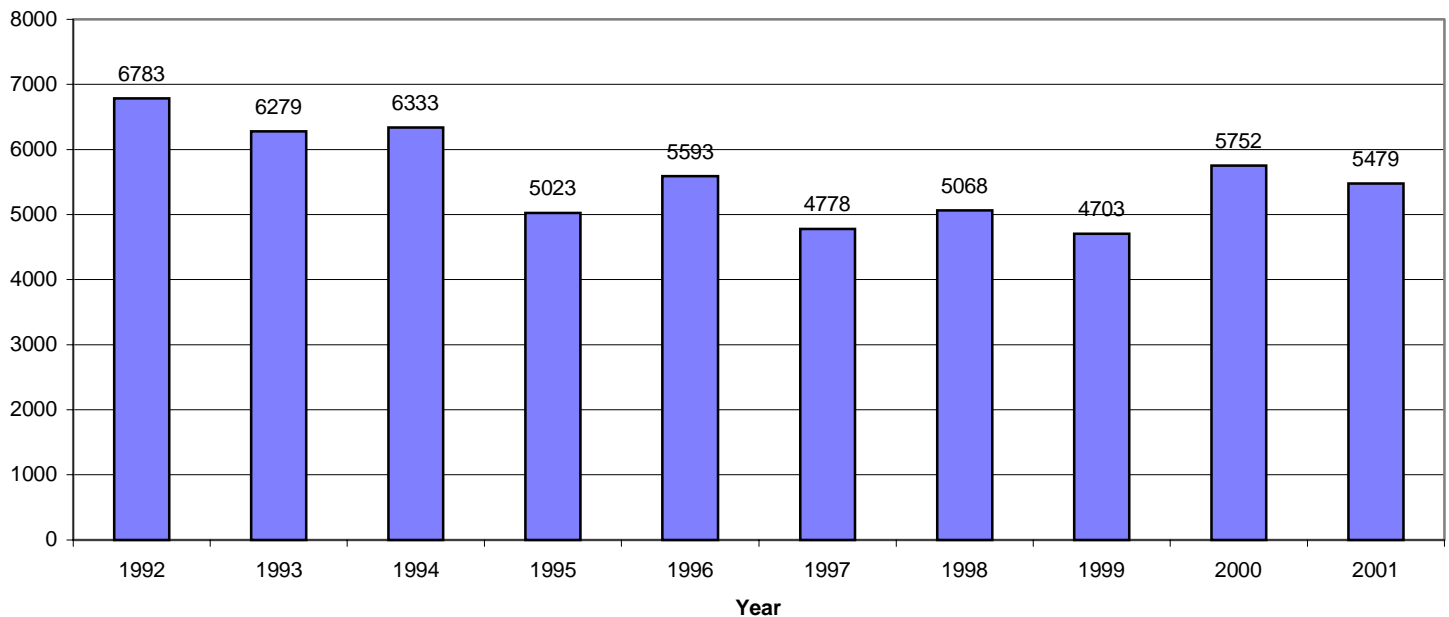
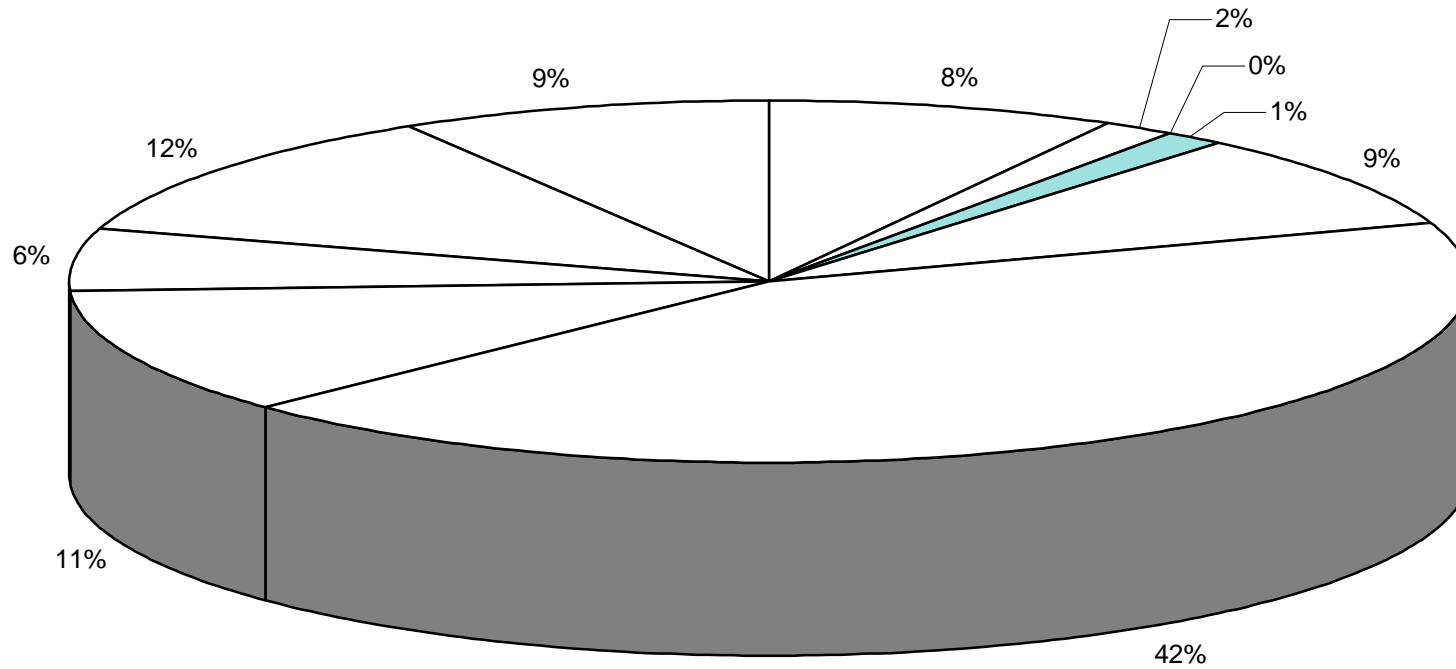
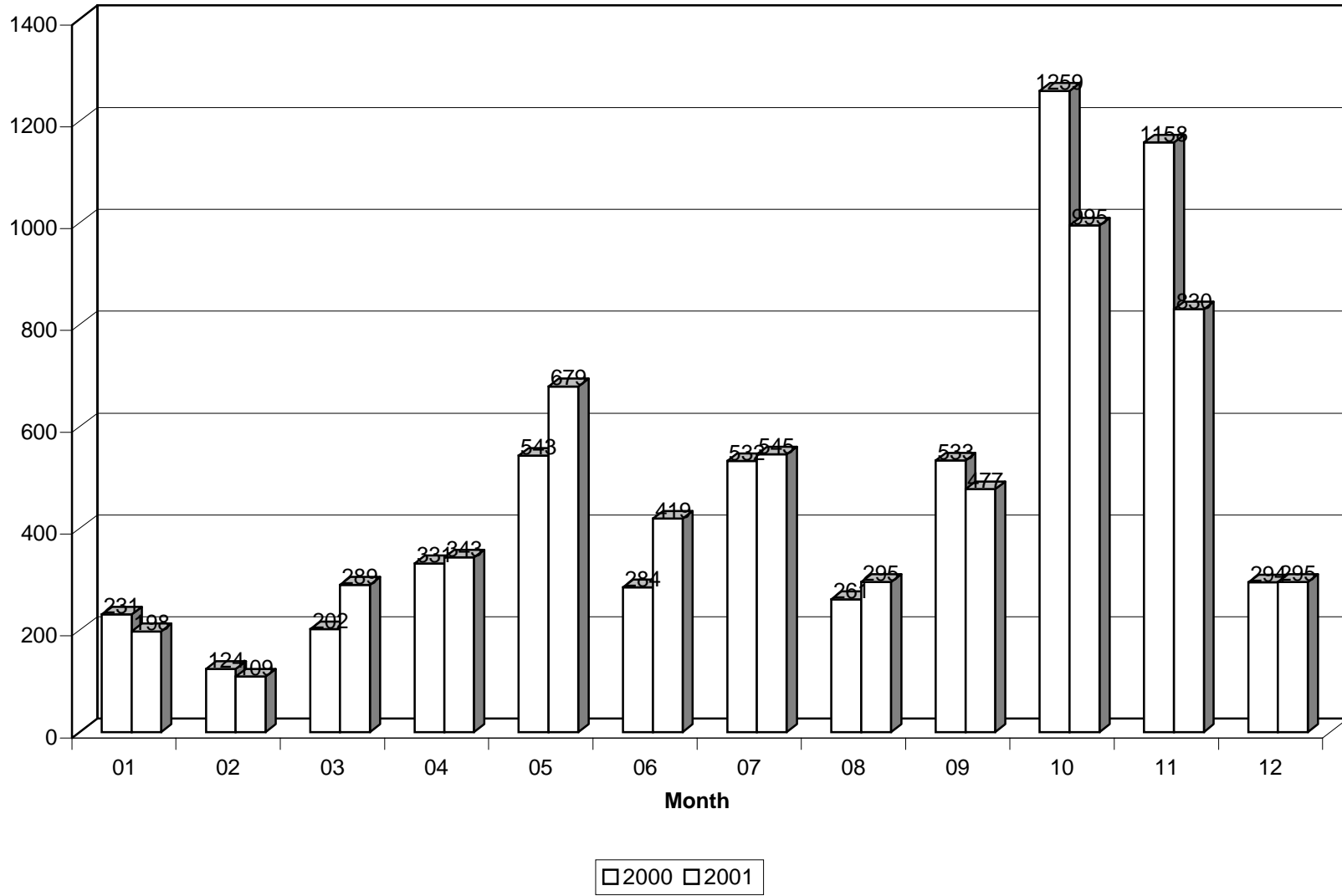


Chart 1.2, 2001 Violations by Category



- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BIG GAME - (Does not include License Violations) | <input type="checkbox"/> CARCASS CARE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL USE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR CHASE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING - (Does not include License Violations) | <input type="checkbox"/> LICENSING |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SAFETY | <input type="checkbox"/> SMALL GAME - (Does not include License Violations) |

Chart 1.3, Citations by Month for 2000/2001



Violations by Category

Table 1.3, 1992-2001 - BIG GAME - (Does not include License Violations)

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
MOUNTAIN LION-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	14	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	8	52
ANTELOPE – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	1	6	0	2	0	2	1	1	13
SHEEP-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	11	2	4	2	3	3	4	2	1	2	34
MOUNTAIN GOAT-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	7
MOOSE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	5	3	4	4	2	3	12	3	4	1	41
ELK-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	227	228	234	132	210	164	175	161	271	116	1918
ELK – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	33	34	4	20	9	5	2	6	113
DEER – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	13	22	0	5	3	0	1	4	48
BEAR-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	13	25	7	7	16	13	15	13	18	16	143
BEAR – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	7
ANTLER POINT VIOLATION - ELK	54	33	52	18	41	43	47	28	38	28	382
ANTELOPE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	34	34	26	24	23	20	18	16	30	17	242
ANTLER POINT VIOLATION - DEER	14	8	11	10	36	9	11	5	1	0	105
DEER-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	191	177	196	127	153	103	87	75	117	113	1339
Total	551	524	589	392	493	391	386	317	489	312	4444

Table 1.4, 1992-2001 - CARCASS CARE

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
WASTE OF GAME MEAT	83	80	111	67	79	76	63	124	93	103	879
WASTE OF FISH	0	4	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	2	15
WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE	9	4	11	7	28	8	10	14	6	14	111
Total	92	88	123	76	108	85	77	138	99	119	1005

Table 1.5, 1992-2001 - COMMERCIAL USE

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
SALE OF WILDLIFE - MISDEMEANOR	2	1	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	12
SALE OF WILDLIFE - FELONY	0	0	10	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	19
Total	2	1	17	1	6	1	1	2	0	0	31

Table 1.6, 1992-2001 - FAIR CHASE

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
UNLAWFUL USE OF AIRCRAFT AS HUNT/FISH AID	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
UNLAWFUL USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT	85	89	66	47	32	42	21	18	16	17	433
UNLAWFUL USE OF MOTOR VEH TO HUNT/HARASS	53	34	47	29	38	35	8	23	16	30	313
Total	141	124	116	80	70	77	29	41	32	47	757

Table 1.7, 1992-2001 - FISHING - (Does not include License Violations)

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
FISH-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	407	310	313	248	271	218	243	208	250	334	2802
UNLAWFUL DEVICE-FISHING	8	5	4	3	2	6	3	0	2	2	35
UNLAWFUL BAIT OF FISH (CHUMMING)	22	6	6	19	7	7	8	10	6	5	96
FISHING WITH BAIT IN FLY/LURE ONLY WATER	137	97	145	78	104	107	107	66	115	166	1122
UNATTENDED POLE/LINES	27	19	36	34	17	20	28	12	32	24	249
FISHING W/MORE THAN LEGAL NUMBER OF HOOKS	2	0	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	11
FISHING IN A CLOSED AREA	11	15	19	14	15	13	28	10	8	8	141
FISHING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	7	2	1	2	2	7	5	3	2	0	31
FISHING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	6	1	2	1	4	0	4	1	1	0	20
FISHING W/MORE THAN LEGAL NUMBER OF LINES	24	25	34	32	14	26	36	44	55	43	333
Total	651	480	561	432	441	404	463	354	471	583	4840

Table 1.8, 1992-2001 - LICENSING

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
PURCHASING MULTIPLE LICENSES	23	21	26	18	13	16	11	11	24	15	178
HUNTING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	4	2	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	4	16
HUNTING WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	408	363	358	280	332	287	319	262	368	262	3239
LICENSE VIOLATION - MISCELLANEOUS	2	0	2	3	145	21	139	165	101	213	791
NO MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP	38	51	58	50	28	32	34	21	42	17	371
FISHING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	0	1	2	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	12
OUTFITTING WITHOUT REQUIRED REGISTRATION	1	1	14	1	1	2	5	5	2	1	33
FAILURE TO TAG	195	201	167	111	128	149	168	140	203	185	1647
SECOND ROD STAMP VIOLATION	129	98	121	83	138	83	82	92	44	69	939
TRAPPING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF A LICENSE/PERMIT	93	99	59	48	48	50	55	65	102	51	670
NO PARKS PASS	3	4	0	2	18	23	18	31	25	44	168
FISH WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	1938	1605	1671	1359	1427	1080	1282	1265	1366	1518	14511
FALSE STATEMENT MADE IN PURCHASE OF LICENSE	171	161	150	96	124	91	84	71	83	57	1088
FAILURE TO OBTAIN ROADKILL PERMIT	1	1	1	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	12
FAILURE TO DISPLAY LICENSE AS REQUIRED	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
FAILURE TO CARRY LICENSE AS REQUIRED	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	1	9
CONSERVATION-LICENSE-STAMP	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE LICENSES	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	1	2	14
APPLYING FOR LICENSE WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	1	2	3	0	5	4	5	4	2	2	28
ALTERATION OF A PERMIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALTERATION OF A LICENSE	5	3	12	9	14	5	10	3	4	4	69
UNREGISTERED/UNNUMBERED SNOWMOBILE/RV/BOAT	11	4	9	4	7	8	46	12	25	29	155
FALSE STATEMENT MADE-ACQUIRING A PERMIT	0	0	1	3	3	1	7	1	0	0	16
Total	3025	2617	2654	2074	2441	1866	2272	2155	2393	2474	23971

Table 1.9, 1992-2001 - PRIVATE PROPERTY TRESPASS

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
HUNTING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	280	330	310	256	276	255	273	224	225	177	2606
TRAPPING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	37	45	18	44	11	26	30	46	18	10	285
FISHING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	44	21	17	14	44	26	19	18	8	10	221
Total	361	397	347	314	331	308	322	288	251	197	3116

Table 1.10, 1992-2001 - SAFETY

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
SHOOTING FROM A PUBLIC ROAD	195	209	164	126	180	176	150	70	119	91	1480
CARELESS OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT	8	2	0	5	29	8	19	13	2	2	88
SWIMMING IN UNDESIGNATED AREA	6	8	2	4	10	3	5	4	7	0	49
SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	0	1	1	3	20	6	25	23	20	13	112
SAFETY-MISCELLANEOUS	8	7	1	5	2	5	0	2	16	2	48
OPERATING A VESSEL W/O PROPER SAFETY EQUIP	20	12	19	17	32	30	37	28	16	21	232
NO HUNTER SAFETY CARD	22	9	7	8	4	11	3	12	21	18	115
HUNTING WITHOUT AN ADULT	10	4	7	6	1	3	6	3	9	6	55
HUNTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DRUGS/ALCOHOL	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	8	4	21
HUNTING IN CARELESS/RECKLESS/NEGLIG MANNER	15	16	15	10	18	9	5	10	11	12	121
FAILURE TO WEAR DAYLIGHT FLUORESCENT ORANGE	119	129	118	98	111	110	90	80	119	81	1055
CARELESS OPERATION OF MOTORVEHICLE	0	1	5	1	4	4	24	4	6	0	49
CARELESS OPERATION OF A SNOWMOBILE	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
LOADED FIREARM	377	371	382	298	306	339	299	273	261	265	3171
Total	782	769	721	581	720	705	665	526	615	515	6599

Table 1.11, 1992-2001 - SMALL GAME - (Does not include License Violations)

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
FURBEARER-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	3	1	2	7	4	5	6	7	8	43
TURKEY-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	7	16	2	9	6	7	3	4	3	8	65
TRAPPING WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	6
TRAPPING IN A CLOSED AREA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAPPING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
TRAPPING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SMALLGAME-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	61	51	39	35	24	33	32	66	66	30	437
LEAD SHOT IN STEEL SHOT ZONE	38	58	75	95	32	50	51	21	19	12	451
HUNTING IN A CLOSED AREA	98	81	87	85	47	76	51	30	43	48	646
FAILURE TO LEAVE EVIDENCE OF SEX	144	195	124	89	86	88	112	103	176	174	1291
HUNTING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	65	56	64	67	57	53	92	51	69	46	620
FAILURE TO LEAVE EVIDENCE OF SPECIES	8	4	7	1	2	0	9	1	0	0	32
WATERFOWL-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	73	46	43	55	49	28	36	12	10	14	366
HUNTING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	88	92	61	89	80	91	63	79	75	68	786
Total	583	603	503	528	393	430	454	374	468	408	4744

Table 1.12, 1992-2001 - OTHER WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
FIRE BUILT IN RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED AREA	0	0	2	4	20	2	10	3	6	3	50
WEAPONS OFFENSE – ALTERED SERIAL NUMBER	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
UNLAWFUL WEAPON	108	64	95	97	40	82	61	96	80	122	845
UNLAWFUL METHODS OR PROCEDURES-MISC	296	403	367	273	313	194	128	186	581	356	3097
UNLAWFUL DEVICE-WILDLIFE	2	0	1	0	0	4	2	5	1	1	16
UNLAWFUL BAITING OF WILDLIFE	10	6	9	9	4	4	6	8	8	4	68
UNATTENDED CAMPFIRE	2	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
RAPTOR-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	13	17	15	7	7	3	7	7	5	3	84
PARKS-MISCELLANEOUS	3	0	1	0	10	24	0	18	11	3	70
NONGAME-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	17	12	11	24	9	5	4	5	12	17	116
MOTOR VEH/VESSEL OUTSIDE DESIGNATED AREA	35	73	85	41	65	52	35	64	91	146	687
CAMPING IN AN UNDESIGNATED AREA	9	5	13	1	7	9	14	2	4	9	73
LITTERING	51	31	41	27	22	17	29	16	20	30	284
FAILURE TO APPEAR	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	8
EXOTIC WILDLIFE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	7
EXCEEDING ESTABLISHED BAG LIMIT	0	0	8	0	1	2	0	0	5	12	28
DRUGS, POSSESSION	0	0	0	1	0	3	8	7	24	44	87
CONSERVATION-FREE TEXT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CONSERVATION-FISH	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
CONSERVATION-ENVIRONMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
CONSERVATION-ANIMALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CONSERVATION-BIRDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
CDOW PROPERTY REGULATION VIOLATION	0	0	0	4	25	44	26	47	41	23	210
ALLOWING DOG TO CHASE/HARASS WILDLIFE	46	59	43	53	58	53	54	36	38	42	482
MISCELLANEOUS-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	0	7	0	8	11	8	3	4	6	47
Total	595	676	702	545	590	511	399	508	934	824	6284

Grand Total	6783	6279	6333	5023	5593	4778	5068	4703	5752	5479	55791
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Table 1.13, "Samson Law" Trophy Poaching Violations

Year	Species	Disposition	Total Violations
1998	Bighorn Sheep	Pending	1
	Deer	Case Dismissed	1
	Elk	Deferred Sentence	2
	Elk	Guilty Plea	2
	Elk	Paid	1
1999	Bighorn Sheep	Guilty Plea	1
	Deer	Case Dismissed	1
	Deer	Guilty Plea	1
	Deer	Warning	1
	Elk	Case Dismissed	3
	Elk	Pending	1
2000	Antelope	Paid	1
	Bighorn Sheep	Guilty Plea	1
	Deer	Case Dismissed	1
	Deer	Guilty Plea	1
	Deer	Void	1
	Elk	Case Dismissed	1
	Elk	Guilty Plea	3
	Elk	Paid	3
	Elk	Pending	2
	Elk	Warning	1
	Moose	Paid	1
	Moose	Pending	2
2001	Deer	Case Dismissed	2
	Deer	Paid	1
	Deer	Pending	1
	Elk	Case Dismissed	1
	Elk	Paid	1
	Elk	Pending	9
	Moose	Pending	1
Grand Total			49

Table 1.14, 1992-2001 Complete Listing of Violations by Frequency

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
FISH WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	1938	1605	1671	1359	1427	1080	1282	1265	1366	1518	14511
HUNTING WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	408	363	358	280	332	287	319	262	368	262	3239
LOADED FIREARM	377	371	382	298	306	339	299	273	261	265	3171
UNLAWFUL METHODS OR PROCEDURES-MISC	296	403	367	273	313	194	128	186	581	356	3097
FISH-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	407	310	313	248	271	218	243	208	250	334	2802
HUNTING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	280	330	310	256	276	255	273	224	225	177	2606
ELK-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	227	228	234	132	210	164	175	161	271	116	1918
FAILURE TO TAG	195	201	167	111	128	149	168	140	203	185	1647
SHOOTING FROM A PUBLIC ROAD	195	209	164	126	180	176	150	70	119	91	1480
DEER-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	191	177	196	127	153	103	87	75	117	113	1339
FAILURE TO LEAVE EVIDENCE OF SEX	144	195	124	89	86	88	112	103	176	174	1291
FISHING WITH BAIT IN FLY/LURE ONLY WATER	137	97	145	78	104	107	107	66	115	166	1122
FALSE STATEMENT MADE IN PURCHASE OF LICENSE	171	161	150	96	124	91	84	71	83	57	1088
FAILURE TO WEAR DAYLIGHT FLUORESCENT ORANGE	119	129	118	98	111	110	90	80	119	81	1055
SECOND ROD STAMP VIOLATION	129	98	121	83	138	83	82	92	44	69	939
WASTE OF GAME MEAT	83	80	111	67	79	76	63	124	93	103	879
UNLAWFUL WEAPON	108	64	95	97	40	82	61	96	80	122	845
LICENSE VIOLATION – MISCELLANEOUS	2	0	2	3	145	21	139	165	101	213	791

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
HUNTING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	88	92	61	89	80	91	63	79	75	68	786
MOTOR VEH/VESSEL OUTSIDE DESIGNATED AREA	35	73	85	41	65	52	35	64	91	146	687
UNLAWFUL TRANSFER OF A LICENSE/PERMIT	93	99	59	48	48	50	55	65	102	51	670
HUNTING IN A CLOSED AREA	98	81	87	85	47	76	51	30	43	48	646
HUNTING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	65	56	64	67	57	53	92	51	69	46	620
ALLOWING DOG TO CHASE/HARASS WILDLIFE	46	59	43	53	58	53	54	36	38	42	482
LEAD SHOT IN STEEL SHOT ZONE	38	58	75	95	32	50	51	21	19	12	451
SMALLGAME-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	61	51	39	35	24	33	32	66	66	30	437
UNLAWFUL USE OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHT	85	89	66	47	32	42	21	18	16	17	433
ANTLER POINT VIOLATION - ELK	54	33	52	18	41	43	47	28	38	28	382
NO MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP	38	51	58	50	28	32	34	21	42	17	371
WATERFOWL-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	73	46	43	55	49	28	36	12	10	14	366
FISHING W/MORE THAN LEGAL NUMBER OF LINES	24	25	34	32	14	26	36	44	55	43	333
UNLAWFUL USE OF MOTOR VEH TO HUNT/HARASS	53	34	47	29	38	35	8	23	16	30	313
CRIMINAL TRESPASS	37	45	18	44	11	26	30	46	18	10	285
LITTERING	51	31	41	27	22	17	29	16	20	30	284
UNATTENDED POLE/LINES	27	19	36	34	17	20	28	12	32	24	249
ANTELOPE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	34	34	26	24	23	20	18	16	30	17	242
OPERATING A VESSEL W/O PROPER SAFETY EQUIP	20	12	19	17	32	30	37	28	16	21	232
FISHING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	44	21	17	14	44	26	19	18	8	10	221
CDOW PROPERTY REGULATION VIOLATION	0	0	0	4	25	44	26	47	41	23	210
PURCHASING MULTIPLE LICENSES	23	21	26	18	13	16	11	11	24	15	178
NO PARKS PASS	3	4	0	2	18	23	18	31	25	44	168
UNREGISTERED/UNNUMBERED SNOWMOBILE/RV/BOAT	11	4	9	4	7	8	46	12	25	29	155
BEAR-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	13	25	7	7	16	13	15	13	18	16	143
FISHING IN A CLOSED AREA	11	15	19	14	15	13	28	10	8	8	141
HUNTING IN CARELESS/RECKLESS/NEGLIG MANNER	15	16	15	10	18	9	5	10	11	12	121
NONGAME-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	17	12	11	24	9	5	4	5	12	17	116
NO HUNTER SAFETY CARD	22	9	7	8	4	11	3	12	21	18	115
ELK – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	33	34	4	20	9	5	2	6	113
SHOOTING FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE	0	1	1	3	20	6	25	23	20	13	112
WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OF WILDLIFE	9	4	11	7	28	8	10	14	6	14	111
ANTLER POINT VIOLATION - DEER	14	8	11	10	36	9	11	5	1	0	105
UNLAWFUL BAIT OF FISH (CHUMMING)	22	6	6	19	7	7	8	10	6	5	96
CARELESS OPERATION OF A MOTORBOAT	8	2	0	5	29	8	19	13	2	2	88
DRUGS, POSSESSION	0	0	0	1	0	3	8	7	24	44	87
RAPTOR-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	13	17	15	7	7	3	7	7	5	3	84
CAMPING IN AN UNDESIGNATED AREA	9	5	13	1	7	9	14	2	4	9	73
PARKS-MISCELLANEOUS	3	0	1	0	10	24	0	18	11	3	70
ALTERATION OF A LICENSE	5	3	12	9	14	5	10	3	4	4	69
UNLAWFUL BAITING OF WILDLIFE	10	6	9	9	4	4	6	8	8	4	68
TURKEY-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	7	16	2	9	6	7	3	4	3	8	65
HUNTING WITHOUT AN ADULT	10	4	7	6	1	3	6	3	9	6	55
MOUNTAIN LION-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	14	6	6	5	4	3	3	2	8	52
FIRE BUILT IN RESTRICTED/PROHIBITED AREA	0	0	2	4	20	2	10	3	6	3	50
SWIMMING IN UNDESIGNATED AREA	6	8	2	4	10	3	5	4	7	0	49
CARELESS OPERATION OF MOTORVEHICLE	0	1	5	1	4	4	24	4	6	0	49
DEER – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	13	22	0	5	3	0	1	4	48
SAFETY-MISCELLANEOUS	8	7	1	5	2	5	0	2	16	2	48
MISCELLANEOUS-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	0	7	0	8	11	8	3	4	6	47
FURBEARER-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	0	3	1	2	7	4	5	6	7	8	43
MOOSE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	5	3	4	4	2	3	12	3	4	1	41
UNLAWFUL DEVICE-FISHING	8	5	4	3	2	6	3	0	2	2	35
SHEEP-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	11	2	4	2	3	3	4	2	1	2	34
OUTFITTING WITHOUT REQUIRED REGISTRATION	1	1	14	1	1	2	5	5	2	1	33

Violation	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
FAILURE TO LEAVE EVIDENCE OF SPECIES	8	4	7	1	2	0	9	1	0	0	32
FISHING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	7	2	1	2	2	7	5	3	2	0	31
APPLYING FOR LICENSE WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	1	2	3	0	5	4	5	4	2	2	28
EXCEEDING ESTABLISHED BAG LIMIT	0	0	8	0	1	2	0	0	5	12	28
HUNTING UNDER THE INFLUENCE DRUGS/ALCOHOL	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	3	8	4	21
FISHING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	6	1	2	1	4	0	4	1	1	0	20
SALE OF WILDLIFE – FELONY	0	0	10	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	19
FALSE STATEMENT MADE-ACQUIRING A PERMIT	0	0	1	3	3	1	7	1	0	0	16
UNLAWFUL DEVICE-WILDLIFE	2	0	1	0	0	4	2	5	1	1	16
HUNTING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	4	2	0	0	2	3	0	1	0	4	16
WASTE OF FISH	0	4	1	2	1	1	4	0	0	2	15
APPLYING FOR MULTIPLE LICENSES	1	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	1	2	14
ANTELOPE – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	1	6	0	2	0	2	1	1	13
UNATTENDED CAMPFIRE	2	5	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
SALE OF WILDLIFE – MISDEMEANOR	2	1	7	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	12
FISHING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	0	1	2	2	0	4	1	1	1	0	12
FAILURE TO OBTAIN ROADKILL PERMIT	1	1	1	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	12
FISHING W/MORE THAN LEGAL NUMBER OF HOOKS	2	0	1	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	11
UNLAWFUL USE OF AIRCRAFT AS HUNT/FISH AID	3	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
FAILURE TO CARRY LICENSE AS REQUIRED	0	0	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	1	9
FAILURE TO APPEAR	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	3	0	8
MOUNTAIN GOAT-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	7
BEAR – ACCIDENTAL KILL	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	1	0	7
EXOTIC WILDLIFE-UNLAWFUL POSSESSION	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	7
TRAPPING WITHOUT A PROPER/VALID LICENSE	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	6
WEAPONS OFFENSE - ALTERED SERIAL NUMBER	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
TRAPPING W/O PERMISSION ON PRIVATE PROPERTY	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
CARELESS OPERATION OF A SNOWMOBILE	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
CONSERVATION-BIRDS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
CONSERVATION-ENVIRONMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
CONSERVATION-LICENSE-STAMP	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
FAILURE TO DISPLAY LICENSE AS REQUIRED	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
CONSERVATION-FISH	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
TRAPPING DURING A CLOSED SEASON	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
CONSERVATION-FREE TEXT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
CONSERVATION-ANIMALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAPPING IN A CLOSED AREA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAPPING BEFORE/AFTER LEGAL HOURS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ALTERATION OF A PERMIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TRAPPING WHILE UNDER SUSPENSION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	6783	6279	6333	5023	5593	4778	5068	4703	5752	5479	55791

Chart 2.1, 1992-2001 Non-Resident and Resident Violation Comparisons

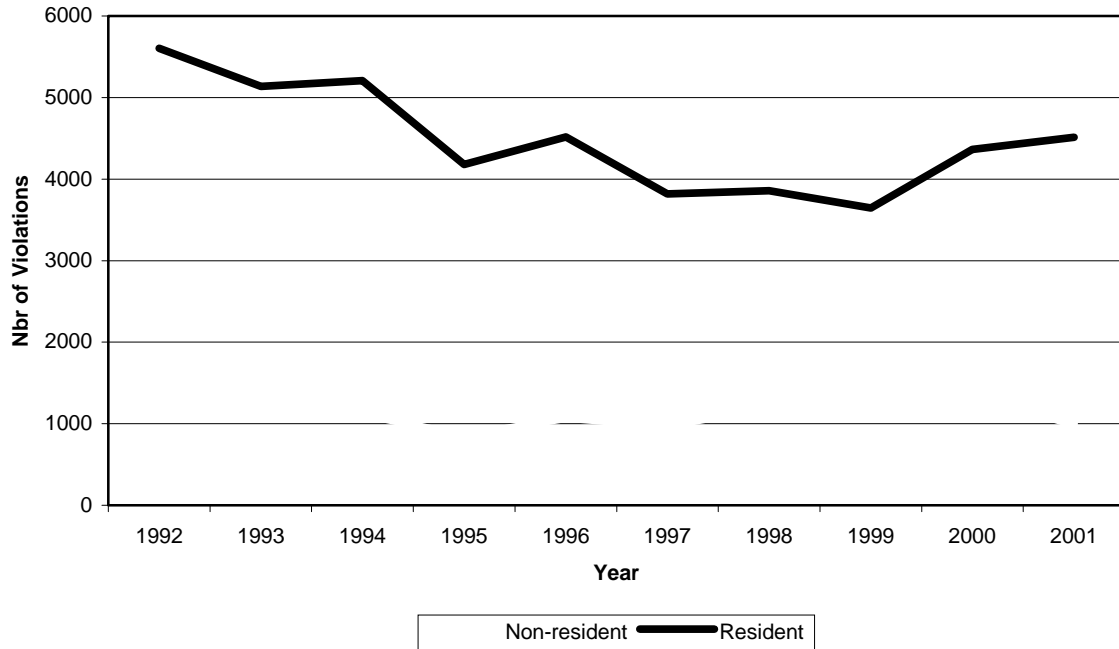


Table 2.1, 1992-2001 Non-Resident and Resident Violation Comparisons

Resident/Non-Resident	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Non-resident	1179	1142	1126	842	1076	961	1209	1056	1389	967	10947
Resident	5604	5137	5207	4181	4517	3817	3859	3647	4363	4512	44844

Table 2.2 1992-2001 Percentage Comparisons Between Non-Resident and Resident Violations

Resident/Non-Resident	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Non-resident	17.38%	18.19%	17.78%	16.76%	19.24%	20.11%	23.86%	22.45%	24.15%	17.65%	19.62%
Resident	82.62%	81.81%	82.22%	83.24%	80.76%	79.89%	76.14%	77.55%	75.85%	82.35%	80.38%

Table 3, 1992-2001 Violations by County

COUNTY	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total	COUNTY	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
ADAMS	162	92	145	114	82	35	78	61	129	123	1021	LA PLATA	96	109	93	66	136	95	92	98	119	95	999
ALAMOSA	6	15	4	12	14	25	17	4	3	1	101	LAKE	68	104	68	122	157	123	161	107	84	116	1110
ARAPAHOE	61	46	75	81	89	11	11	26	26	66	492	LARIMER	938	830	834	723	618	516	418	570	475	557	6479
ARCHULETA	58	43	78	64	67	84	54	53	87	65	653	LAS ANIMAS	106	280	100	61	74	52	67	47	93	76	956
BACA	44	19	23	15	4	1	10	5	10	5	136	LINCOLN	17	13	33	20	7	14	9	11	25	22	171
BENT	44	46	30	36	80	51	53	45	46	33	464	LOGAN	50	41	39	31	25	22	55	73	61	63	460
BOULDER	190	104	152	94	87	61	21	42	23	48	822	MESA	170	165	180	154	170	124	123	226	188	208	1708
CHAFFEE	186	158	132	122	179	140	118	140	97	109	1381	MINERAL	55	37	22	34	24	31	40	22	30	31	326
CHEYENNE	8	5	8	9	18	5	5	2	17	3	80	MOFFAT	146	160	247	168	146	208	141	285	377	431	2309
CLEAR CREEK	38	7	17	23	36	26	15	22	12	50	246	MONTEZUMA	101	76	81	56	63	63	77	76	71	77	741
CONEJOS	53	35	93	58	76	81	82	20	67	26	591	MONTROSE	65	88	104	68	64	86	67	82	41	58	723
COSTILLA	38	66	61	51	26	38	38	35	12	17	382	MORGAN	77	79	79	124	69	61	44	122	102	114	871
CROWLEY	25	15	20	12	28	12	25	34	18	29	218	OTERO	44	11	9	20	51	28	26	21	25	19	254
CUSTER	87	112	80	50	86	66	103	44	28	52	708	OURAY	26	61	51	24	33	35	28	32	24	28	342
DELTA	120	93	129	79	107	72	94	53	99	86	932	PARK	188	150	207	80	128	156	136	99	112	132	1388
DENVER	80	108	67	22	23	26	62	39	45	49	521	PHILLIPS	11	23	13	4	5	11	6	17	17	31	138
DOLORES	89	87	56	32	95	44	58	51	67	40	619	PITKIN	35	24	18	11	26	20	13	27	54	29	257
DOUGLAS	74	79	85	89	107	48	52	39	40	38	651	PROWERS	3	15	15	4	16	20	11	10	15	26	135
EAGLE	125	105	81	66	52	67	87	83	160	109	935	PUEBLO	382	248	286	257	335	256	444	260	244	187	2899
EL PASO	181	145	159	144	179	178	81	59	151	136	1413	RIO BLANCO	160	133	89	162	183	158	123	127	191	167	1493
ELBERT	37	23	28	16	24	16	7	24	15	24	214	RIO GRANDE	87	77	61	72	55	135	200	56	49	28	820
FREMONT	149	159	87	38	88	61	68	65	142	115	972	ROUTT	200	167	195	84	89	85	171	150	157	170	1468
GARFIELD	155	193	151	121	126	113	153	128	260	213	1613	SAGUACHE	103	84	63	70	62	63	60	47	75	38	665
GILPIN	11	15	12	8	15	7	5	8	2	9	92	SAN JUAN	10		5	1	16	3		5	14	6	60
GRAND	224	232	214	112	133	210	221	160	217	115	1838	SAN MIGUEL	27	45	31	28	24	18	58	48	51	34	364
GUNNISON	143	175	139	92	159	118	156	120	215	112	1429	SEDGWICK	18	20	12	9	11	15	11	32	35	24	187
HINSDALE	27	35	20	25	35	23	22	39	36	36	298	SUMMIT	218	165	175	50	93	78	83	52	115	155	1184
HUERFANO	99	55	30	33	22	31	60	77	40	12	459	TELLER	37	61	94	88	111	91	81	63	99	117	842
JACKSON	188	149	208	176	112	117	114	98	145	79	1386	WASHINGTON	37	39	39	30	35	24	38	60	94	73	469
JEFFERSON	232	182	232	159	211	63	94	61	148	243	1625	WELD	317	329	404	404	357	316	300	203	314	233	3177
KIOWA	11	9	13	10	12	10	6	5	6	34	116	YUMA	33	34	44	30	32	27	11	20	35	49	315
KIT CARSON	13	4	13	5	6	4	4	13	3	8	73	TOTAL	6783	6279	6333	5023	5593	4778	5068	4703	5752	5479	55791

Table 4.1, 1992-2001 Case Disposition Summary

Disposition	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Pending	185	245	290	304	428	484	423	417	628	1036	4440
Subtotal	185	245	290	304	428	484	423	417	628	1036	4440
Guilty											
Amended	20	22	29	37	27	9	25	19	25	4	217
Deferred Prosecution	9	12	18	8	11	2	2	3	2	1	68
Deferred Sentence	66	39	59	37	39	30	19	35	28	8	360
Guilty Plea	1194	1123	1003	752	696	502	544	432	434	213	6893
Paid	3306	3028	3149	2407	2925	2670	2795	2544	3038	2870	28732
Warning	821	680	765	746	732	579	665	730	1120	1032	7870
Subtotal	5416	4904	5023	3987	4430	3792	4050	3763	4647	4128	44140
Not Guilty											
Case Dismissed	599	561	530	353	352	262	255	233	201	77	3423
Found Not Guilty	33	32	13	4	16	8	4	8	1	2	121
Void	550	537	477	375	367	232	336	282	275	236	3667
Subtotal	1182	1130	1020	732	735	502	595	523	477	315	7211
Total	13566	12558	12666	10046	11186	9556	10136	9406	11504	10958	111582

Table 4.2, 1992-2001 Case Disposition Summary by Percent

Disposition	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Pending	2.73%	3.90%	4.58%	6.05%	7.65%	10.13%	8.35%	8.87%	10.92%	18.91%	7.96%
Guilty											
Amended	0.29%	0.35%	0.46%	0.74%	0.48%	0.19%	0.49%	0.40%	0.43%	0.07%	0.39%
Deferred Prosecution	0.13%	0.19%	0.28%	0.16%	0.20%	0.04%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.02%	0.12%
Deferred Sentence	0.97%	0.62%	0.93%	0.74%	0.70%	0.63%	0.37%	0.74%	0.49%	0.15%	0.65%
Guilty Plea	17.60%	17.89%	15.84%	14.97%	12.44%	10.51%	10.73%	9.19%	7.55%	3.89%	12.36%
Paid	48.74%	48.22%	49.72%	47.92%	52.30%	55.88%	55.15%	54.09%	52.82%	52.38%	51.50%
Warning	12.10%	10.83%	12.08%	14.85%	13.09%	12.12%	13.12%	15.52%	19.47%	18.84%	14.11%
Not Guilty											
Case Dismissed	8.83%	8.93%	8.37%	7.03%	6.29%	5.48%	5.03%	4.95%	3.49%	1.41%	6.14%
Found Not Guilty	0.49%	0.51%	0.21%	0.08%	0.29%	0.17%	0.08%	0.17%	0.02%	0.04%	0.22%
Void	8.11%	8.55%	7.53%	7.47%	6.56%	4.86%	6.63%	6.00%	4.78%	4.31%	6.57%

Table 4.3, 2001 Case Disposition by County

County	Pending	Amended	Deferred Prosecution	Deferred Sentence	Guilty Plea	Paid	Warning	Case Dismissed	Void	Total
ADAMS	21	1	0	0	6	49	42	7	3	129
ALAMOSA	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	3
ARAPAHOE	6	0	0	0	3	6	9	2	0	26
ARCHULETA	3	0	0	0	3	59	22	0	0	87
BACA	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	1	1	10
BENT	7	0	0	1	9	16	3	1	9	46
BOULDER	3	0	0	0	1	14	1	2	2	23
CHAFFEE	3	0	0	1	16	61	1	7	8	97
CHEYENNE	8	1	0	0	3	1	0	3	1	17
CLEAR CREEK	1	0	0	0	0	8	2	0	1	12
CONEJOS	0	1	0	4	23	19	5	5	10	67
COSTILLA	0	0	0	0	1	9	1	1	0	12
CROWLEY	1	0	0	0	1	12	2	0	2	18
CUSTER	0	0	0	3	4	15	6	0	0	28
DELTA	6	1	0	1	6	65	9	7	4	99
DENVER	15	0	0	0	2	16	8	2	2	45
DOLORES	1	0	0	0	3	52	9	1	1	67
DOUGLAS	9	0	0	0	0	16	10	1	4	40
EAGLE	6	0	0	1	18	108	20	4	2	160
EL PASO	22	0	0	0	10	79	34	2	4	151
ELBERT	0	1	0	0	1	5	5	2	1	15
FREMONT	41	0	0	0	9	65	15	3	9	142
GARFIELD	11	3	0	1	18	171	31	13	12	260
GILPIN	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
GRAND	35	4	1	2	20	114	22	9	10	217
GUNNISON	6	3	0	1	19	109	57	7	13	215
HINSDALE	1	0	0	0	0	33	2	0	0	36
HUERFANO	7	0	0	0	0	24	8	1	0	40
JACKSON	0	0	0	1	6	86	44	4	4	145
JEFFERSON	7	0	0	0	15	64	37	8	17	148
KIOWA	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	6
KIT CARSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
LA PLATA	9	0	1	0	5	71	19	2	12	119
LAKE	7	0	0	0	11	60	0	0	6	84
LARIMER	122	0	0	0	9	188	118	7	31	475
LAS ANIMAS	8	4	0	0	11	43	15	8	4	93
LINCOLN	0	0	0	0	5	12	8	0	0	25
LOGAN	3	0	0	0	5	37	14	0	2	61
MESA	37	0	0	0	8	96	36	5	6	188
MINERAL	0	2	0	1	5	17	4	0	1	30
MOFFAT	8	2	0	0	29	206	109	11	12	377
MONTEZUMA	1	0	0	0	10	54	4	0	2	71
MONTROSE	3	0	0	0	3	25	6	2	2	41
MORGAN	17	0	0	0	3	45	29	2	6	102
OTERO	7	0	0	0	2	12	1	0	3	25
OURAY	0	2	0	0	6	12	3	1	0	24
PARK	31	0	0	0	3	48	23	0	7	112
PHILLIPS	0	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	1	17
PITKIN	1	0	0	0	4	38	7	0	4	54
PROWERS	2	0	0	0	1	9	2	0	1	15

County	Pending	Amended	Deferred Prosecution	Deferred Sentence	Guilty Plea	Paid	Warning	Case Dismissed	Void	Total
PUEBLO	59	0	0	7	28	91	33	10	16	244
RIO BLANCO	3	0	0	1	4	145	31	3	4	191
RIO GRANDE	0	0	0	1	7	21	13	7	0	49
ROUTT	4	0	0	0	11	86	46	5	5	157
SAGUACHE	0	0	0	0	10	44	10	11	0	75
SAN JUAN	0	0	0	0	1	8	5	0	0	14
SAN MIGUEL	3	0	0	0	7	26	13	2	0	51
SEDGWICK	0	0	0	0	3	26	4	1	1	35
SUMMIT	17	0	0	1	8	55	17	8	9	115
TELLER	12	0	0	0	11	56	10	7	3	99
WASHINGTON	4	0	0	0	5	48	31	3	3	94
WELD	48	0	0	1	19	147	75	13	11	314
YUMA	1	0	0	0	2	16	15	0	1	35
TOTAL	628	25	2	28	434	3038	1120	201	275	5752

Table 6, 2000-2001 CHECK STATION, NIGHT FLIGHT AND DECOY EFFORTS

TYPE OF EFFORT	CHECK STATIONS				DECOYS		NIGHT FLIGHTS		TOTALS	
	BIG GAME		FISHING							
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
NUMBER OF EFFORTS	20	17	8	5	27	19	3	3	58	44
TOTAL VEHICLES	5868	6440	121	114	515	262	1	0	6505	6816
VEHICLES STOPPED	2643	1836	121	113	105	18	1	0	2870	1967
INDIVIDUAL CONTACTS	5142	2706	1384	578	147	66	3	373	6676	3723
INDIVIDUAL CHARGES	97	101	34	23	35	17	1	10	167	151
TOTAL FINES (DOLLARS)	15,365	7100	3600	1162	3000	1150	50	1250	20,079	10,662

Table 7, 2002 OPERATION GAME THIEF SUMMARY

CATEGORY	TOTAL
TOTAL OGT CALLS	529
TOTAL CASES FILED	126
CRIMINAL FINES TO DATE	\$32,684
CASES WITHOUT REWARD	111
CASES WITH REWARDS	15
REWARD IN \$'S PAID	\$4225
OGT DONATIONS IN \$'S	\$15,408

Case Summaries from 2001

Introduction...

As Chief of Law Enforcement I am always being asked about law enforcement cases our wildlife officers are working on, or have worked on in the past. People want more than just the statistics; they want the story behind the statistics.

In response we have been adding short summaries to some of the cases that occurred in the past calendar year in our annual report. In reading these reports the reader needs to understand that the vast majority of our hunters and anglers are law abiding citizens who without their help, many of these relatively few poachers would go undetected in their activities and not held accountable for their acts. The hunting and fishing public support our efforts in law enforcement and want to see poachers apprehended and prosecuted as much as wildlife officers want the same thing. Even though I've tried to provide a humorous heading for each of these cases, poaching is serious business. Wildlife officers risk a tremendous amount when they pursue mostly armed individuals who do not want to get caught and it is no laughing matter when you are face to face with one of them.

Some poachers are thrill seekers, looking to kill and destroy wildlife and the perceived thrill of getting away with it. They are some of the most wasteful and wanton poachers we try to catch and perhaps most dangerous in that they can kill numerous animals in one night's drive with a spotlight and rifle or perhaps a herd of elk lined out along a county road as they spray bullets into whatever they can hit. One of the favorite firearms of choice of some of these folks is the .22 rim fire cartridge that will put a bullet inside of the animal and only kill it much later from either a slow bleed or infection, often far away from people and detection.

There is also the highly profitable nature of illegal commercial poaching activity that attracts those who would steal the best of our wildlife resources. Getting caught willfully killing or selling big game includes high fines, felony convictions, and loss of property and privileges. Yet there remain a number of poachers willing to take the risk.

The relatively open spaces in which to operate, and only a thin line of wildlife officers to apprehend them, there does not appear to be any risk of wildlife officers not having an enforcement job in the near future. We still have plenty to do. With the help of a concerned public and the dedicated efforts of committed wildlife officers we will continue to do our best to protect Colorado's natural heritage – its wildlife resources.

Some poachers never learn...

In 1991 Wildlife Officer Kirk Snyder was able to put together a case involving the illegal take of an elk, on private property, during archery season with a rifle. Wildlife Officer Snyder had help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who had arrested an associate of the man and confiscated a video of the illegal hunt. Although many of the charges against this person were dismissed he did plead guilty to unlawfully taking the elk with a firearm and hunting on private property without permission. He also had his license privileges suspended.

This same poacher inadvertently became a suspect during a 1999 undercover operation designed to put a stop to the abuses of another suspected poacher who turned out to be another associate of his. He decided to participate in spotlighting wildlife with the suspect of the undercover operation and some other hunters. It was only later that he learned that the other hunters were undercover wildlife officers. The same poacher who Wildlife Officer Snyder wrote in 1991 this time shot at wildlife from the road and from inside the vehicle. He was cited for the spotlighting by Wildlife Officer Dal Schaefer after the undercover operation and he pled guilty to hunting from a motor vehicle, loaded firearm in a motor vehicle, and shooting from a public road.

During 2000 this same poacher and some other hunters traveled to Nebraska for the spring turkey hunt. Nebraska wildlife officers caught them shooting at a turkey with a rifle from a motor vehicle on private property for which they did not have permission. Citations were issued and payment made right on the spot.

During the fall, 2000 antelope season, Wildlife Officer John Wagner was on patrol with Wildlife Officer Albert Romero when he received a call regarding someone taking an antelope on private property without permission. Three hunters that witnessed the act described two men without blaze orange throwing the antelope into the back of a gray pickup. Wildlife Officer Wagner and Wildlife Officer Romero later found the pickup and the alleged poachers. The witnesses positively identified them both as the two men involved with the unlawful take of the antelope. One of the men identified by the witnesses was the same poacher written by Wildlife Officer Snyder for the illegal elk in 1991 and Wildlife Officer Schaefer in 1999. Wildlife Officer Wagner charged both of the men and our often contacted and written poacher once again pled guilty.

Birds of a feather...get charged together (Part I)...

Two poachers hunting on private property for deer shot two elk and left them to rot. Wildlife Officer Ryan Swygman investigated the crime and presented to the Pueblo County Court. The shooter and the accomplice paid over \$13,500 in fines and had their firearms and an ATV confiscated by the court.

Officer Riggs stated "The Division of Wildlife recognizes that thousands of sportsmen and women take part in hunting activities and never violate any laws, unfortunately there are still some people out there who show and utter disrespect for wildlife laws. Maybe next time they should consider the tens of thousands of dollars it will cost them when they get caught."

How did that arrow get into your road kill...?

On November 11, 2000, a poacher report driving on Fremont County Road #9 when he encountered a herd of bighorn sheep. He stated that sheep were on the roadway and he could not avoid hitting one with his SUV. The suspect then applied for a road-kill permit. The state patrol investigated the "accident" and concluded that the damage to the SUV or the sheep was not consistent with a collision. Wildlife Officer Dean Riggs and Wildlife Officer Jake Rodriguez were called to investigate. Officer Riggs and Rodriguez had the ram X-rayed and inspected by a

local veterinarian. Portions of an arrow were removed from its neck. The poacher was charged with hunting out of season, hunting without a proper and valid license, and illegal possession of a bighorn sheep. In December 2001 he was found guilty and the court ordered that he pay \$15,000 for killing the bighorn sheep out of season.

Birds of a feather...get charged together (Part II)...

Three teenagers and a young adult decided that to take three turkeys and kill two deer illegally on the Radium State Wildlife Area. The poachers only took the heads of the deer and left the rest to rot in the field. Officer Bob Thompson investigated the crime. A total of 3 felony counts and 20 misdemeanor counts were charged in relation to these poaching incidents. Judicial resolution resulted in probation with deferred judgment and sentence for the felony charges and included; probation; jail time; fines and penalties; a total of 750 hours of useful public service; and OGT restitution of \$500. The case involved most of Area 9 personnel as well as the wildlife forensic lab in Laramie, Wyoming.

Caught on video...

On the opening day of the late 2001 cow elk season, four men, three of whom had valid elk licenses for that season, lied to a person living on a ranch to gain access to another neighboring piece of property. Witness watched and video taped three of the men shoot least seven elk as some of the observers shouted in protest of their actions. The four men field dressed one elk on site, and then quickly removed two other elk, not taking time to clean them, but instead, took them to a neighbor's residence, about 10 miles away, and cleaned them there. They made no attempt to clean the other two dead elk, nor did they make any attempt to track and kill the two elk they left that were wounded. One of the wounded elk later found dead from its wounds and the other was not recovered.

Wildlife Officer Ron Zaccagnini had been called and was responding but did not arrive in time to contact the poachers. Although the video showed the action of the day, it did not provide definitive identification of the hunters. Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini did have a good the physical description from one of the witnesses of one hunter about 70 years of age, and a description of two vehicles. Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini immediately used this information to go through the list of successful license holders in that unit, and called the residences of all hunters over the age of 65. The wife of one subject who told Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini that her husband was driving a vehicle, which matched the description of the ones, involved in this incident. Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini obtained the names of the other hunters, and a cell phone number, and then called them. They were in route home to Colorado Springs with three elk. Wildlife Officer Reed DeWalt met them at their residence in Colorado Springs, and asked them to accompany him to the office, where Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini met with them. Wildlife Officer Zaccagnini interviewed the suspects and three of the hunters admitted to having been on the property without permission, having lied to the deputy in order to gain access to the property, but claimed to have not seen the extra dead animals.

Charges that are pending include hunting on private property, willful destruction of wildlife, unlawful possession of seven elk, waste of wildlife, criminal mischief, and failure to pursue wildlife (waste). Trial for this case has been set for April.

Let me help you fill that tag....

During the 2001 fall big game hunting season, Wildlife Officers Sonia Marzec and Craig Wescoatt responded to a call regarding a possible party-hunting situation by a group of 12 hunters from South Dakota. The caller advised that the hunters were harassing animals and had illegally killed a buck mule deer near Sam's Spring in Garfield County.

The officers found a large campsite with several vehicles with South Dakota license plates. There were no persons in the camp that had two elk were hanging in the trees behind the camp. As the officers inspected the elk for tags, they also discovered a well-concealed small buck deer hanging in the adjacent trees to the elk. The deer was not tagged.

The officers continued their patrol and later contacted a large group of hunters from South Dakota. When questioned about their hunting activities it was determined that this group of hunters were from the camp containing the untagged deer. There were only two hunters in the group that had valid deer licenses and all hunters stated they were waiting for "big" deer. When confronted with the officers' knowledge of the deer hanging in their camp, all the hunters claimed that no one in their group had killed a deer yet. The officers followed the hunters back to the camp and inspected everyone's licenses. When advised of the possible violations they could be charged with the guilty hunter finally admitted to killing the deer stating that "he thought it was OK to party hunt using any valid unfilled tags in the group". During the discussions with the hunters the officers also detected another untagged elk. The violators were then cited for failure to tag, hunting big game without a license, and unlawful take of a deer for a total of \$1369.

Birds of a feather...get charged together (Part III)...

Wildlife Officers Doug Homan and Kirk Madriaga received an initial report from a landowner that heard several gunshots during the September archery-only season. The wildlife officers responded to find two buck deer that had apparently been shot from the road. Both deer had been left to rot after having the antlers removed. Investigation of the crime scene and tips to OGT led the officers to interview the two youth. Both were charged with numerous wildlife violations as a consequence of the investigation.

The shooter was charged with the felony willful destruction violations as well as various misdemeanors and eventually pled guilty to one count of willful destruction and one count of unlawful possession of wildlife. He was fined \$425, given 6 months probation, 24 hours of community service, and required to write a letter in the paper, apologizing to the community for his violation. The other youth who assisted with cutting off the racks and storing the antlers at his home and was charged with two counts of unlawful possession. He was fined \$700 plus court costs for his part in the incident.

Nice elk rack...but where did you say the carcass was...?

During October Wildlife Officer Dilley was assisting with the wildlife check station on Highway 40 in Kremmling. Officer Dilley observed a pickup pull into the check station hauling a trailer. In the back of the pickup were several shed elk antlers, one fresh 5x5 set of elk antlers and a fresh elk hide. Officer Dilley asked the individual driving the vehicle where the sheds came from. He said that he had bought them from an elk facility in Colorado, and he produced a receipt for the shed antlers. When asked if he had been hunting, he said he had, that he had harvested an elk, and that was where the 5x5 rack and the fresh elk hide had come from. He said that he had shot the elk and could not find it. He said that by the time he found the carcass it was spoiled.

Further questions revealed that he had taken the 5x5 elk at a ranch near Yampa Colorado. Wildlife Officer Bruce Sigler knew the owners of the ranch and after a short conversation with them found that the elk was not spoiled, and in fact had been field dressed and skinned. Officer Dilley then advised the man of his rights. During the interview, the man admitted to killing the 5x5 bull elk, caring for the carcass, and then taking the carcass back to the area where he shot it and dumping the carcass. The formal charges filed by the Grand County District Attorney's Office were willful destruction of big game, waste of edible portions of big game, illegal possession of elk, and failure to tag. The poacher pled guilty to waste of edible portions of big game and failure to tag. In addition to the above charges, the man was sentenced to make a \$500.00 donation to Operation Game Thief. Wildlife Officers Firth, Thompson, and Claassen also assisted with the case.

I can poach in any state I want...well...maybe not...

A long-term covert investigation started in March 1999 as a joint investigation between Texas Parks and Wildlife and Colorado Division of Wildlife came to successful conclusion during 2001. The case began in 1998 when undercover Texas Wildlife Investigators infiltrated a large east Texas catfish & deer-poaching ring on the Trinity River near Yard, Texas. During one illegal fishing trip the poachers bragged to the undercover Texas officers "If you think this is fun, you should come to Colorado elk hunting with us!" The Texas investigators in turn called Colorado DOW Law Enforcement Unit to inquire if Colorado would be interested in conducting a joint investigation of the poachers whom were also hunting and poaching in Colorado. Texas and Colorado entered into a mutual agreement and the Texas undercover officers traveled to Colorado and hunted with poachers from Texas during the 1999 and 2000 Colorado big game hunting seasons in the Piceance basin area west of Meeker.

During these hunting trips to Colorado the undercover Texas officers discovered and documented many wildlife and criminal misdemeanor and felony violations. During the same period the Texas officers continued the ongoing Texas portion of the investigation of this group's illegal activities in Texas. In March of 2001 the Texas authorities contacted Colorado to advise that the Texas side of the investigation had become so large that they were getting ready to terminate the investigation and present the case to the Texas District Attorneys in several jurisdictions. Colorado Wildlife Investigator Dan Miller presented the case to the Rio Blanco

District Attorney's Office and traveled to Texas to assist with the arrest and search warrants in East Texas.

Searches were conducted at numerous locations, evidence was seized, and over thirty defendants were arrested and jailed in Texas. The associated six Colorado defendants were arrested in Texas, and interviewed by Colorado Wildlife Investigator Miller and Special Agents of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Wyoming Game & Fish Investigators interviewed one Colorado defendant who was stationed at the Air Force base in Cheyenne.

As a result of the interviews, evidence collected, and covert documentation of hunting activities all six of the Colorado defendants charged plead guilty to all charges filed in Colorado. This resulted in a total of \$16,227 in fines and restitution, and 90 days of jail time. The Texas side of the investigation resulted in over 230 charges filed. Judicial proceedings are still continuing in Texas with many of the defendants having pleaded guilty with total fines assessed to date of over \$35,000. When one of the Colorado defendants was contacted at his Texas place of employment and prior to any questioning his statement to Wildlife Investigator Miller and Texas Wildlife Investigator "Bubba" Vincent - "I Know Why You're Here and I Plea Guilty!"

Birds of a feather...get charged together (Part IV)...

Anonymous tips led Wildlife Officer Dave Harper to believe that a lot of spotlighting had been going on in his area of responsibility. The tips led to a search warrant being obtained for a Dolores CO residence where several local youths ranging in age from eighteen to twenty-two lived. Officer Harper served the warrant and conducted interviews along with wildlife officers Wildlife Officers Greg Martin, Chris Kloster, and Bob Watson in January 2001.

Although there was reason to believe numerous illegal wildlife and parts thereof would be found, it was a surprise to find much more than was expected. When the warrant was served the officers found the remains of two buck deer, a bull elk, a cow elk and a turkey in the back yard and shed Live marijuana plants and a sawed off shotgun were also found in the residence.

Despite claims that the animals were killed for the meat, the carcasses had been left hanging for so long in the open that the meat was no longer fit for human consumption. Apparently the poachers knew this as well, since some had been fed to the dogs already. The only meat that could be verified as fit for human consumption was the breast from the turkey and the loins from one of the elk. Also found and seized at the residence were two bobcats, two gray fox, a red fox and a mountain lion.

The youths faced numerous charges ranging from unlawful possession of wildlife to waste of game meat to cultivation of marijuana. In the end, all of the poachers pled guilty to a variety of wildlife violations, were fined, ordered to pay contributions to Operation Game Thief, and placed on 1 to 3 years probation.

I had to shoot that elk illegally...

In August 2001, Wildlife Officers Drayton Harrison and Melody Miller responded to a report that a student had killed a bull and taken only the antlers. The tip came from an anonymous citizen who had come into the Durango office with the information.

They found the elk carcass, minus the antlers as well as .223 brass (not a legal big game cartridge) a fair distance away from the carcass. A more thorough search turned up the elk's antlers hidden in the brush just down the road. A search warrant on the residence of the student turned up even more. The .223, as well as a sawed off shotgun, and two bobcats were also seized.

The young poacher stated that he had been bugling for elk when the bull charged him and he had to shoot it in "self defense". He could give no logical explanation for the long distance that he had shot the elk at, nor the fact that he had cut off the antlers and hidden them in the brush.

The youth eventually pled guilty to the willful destruction charge and was given a deferred sentence in exchange for 2 years probation and a host of fines and other associated charges. The terms of the probation essentially terminated any hunting or firearm related activity on his part, as well as made him eligible for a lifetime suspension of his hunting and fishing privileges.

Outfitter helps bust poacher...

Wildlife officer Reid DeWalt has had numerous bull elk carcasses turn up on the Park Ranch in Elbert County within the last year or two, all illegal. This ranch is part of the Bijou Springs Ranching for Wildlife complex and has not been hunted legally for years. All of these cases have been unsolved, until a poacher got greedy.

On 9/15/01 Reid DeWalt received a phone call from outfitter Bridger Petrini. Petrini stated that he had caught two men who had killed a bull elk on the Park ranch. Petrini said that his hunter, an outdoor writer, and cameraman had caught the whole initial contact on film.

Wildlife Officer Reid and Steve Cooley interviewed the two suspects and their story of a wounded elk running onto the ranch slowly dissolved into a story of sneaking onto the ranch in full camouflage to kill a large bull. It was discovered that only one of the men had a license, for muzzle loading season. Although the men had a muzzleloader with them, it was also discovered that the 6x6 bull elk had been shot with a center-fire rifle and it had been buried on the ranch. The rifle was later found, under a pine tree, covered with pine needles.

Petrini's entire hunting camp of over a dozen people helped search under every tree until the rifle was found by Wildlife Officer Reid. Both men were charged with illegal possession of elk and the Samson trophy poaching surcharge as well as trespassing, hunting without a proper license, any florescent orange, and hunting with an illegal weapon. The illegal weapon charge was for the muzzleloader that was loaded with sabots and pellets.

Some initial DNA testing showed that several large 6x6 elk racks, belonging to one of the suspects and his family, matched at least two of the carcasses on the Park ranch. These elk racks

were at a local taxidermy shop, whose owner turned out to be a friend, and complicitor in the case.

Subsequent interviews and investigations by Wildlife Officer Dewalt and DWM Steve Cooley resulted in multiple search warrants being served in Arizona and Colorado. Over twenty wildlife officers were involved in the Colorado search warrants, along with federal wildlife officers and local law enforcement. Three trophy class elk racks were seized, as well as a trophy antelope mount from a suspect in Arizona.

At this time not all of the charges have been resolved, but through good field investigative techniques and wildlife officer tenacity, the investigation has uncovered six suspects, at least a dozen poached trophy class elk, deer and antelope. Great work by several field wildlife officers and the through contributions and cooperation of the Wyoming Game and Fish Lab, Arizona Game and Fish, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has resulted in the successful apprehension of several poachers who illegally hunted the Park ranch.

Some days it just doesn't pay...

On October 13, 2001, the opening of the first rifle season, Wildlife Officers Bill deVergie and Scott Winkler were camped and doing plainclothes horseback patrol in the Milk Creek drainage east of Meeker. They contacted a Colorado hunter who stated that he was elk hunting with a group of hunters from West Virginia.

Later in the day they contacted several of the West Virginia hunters cleaning an elk. During the conversation with the West Virginia hunters deVergie and Winkler were told that the hunters were actually paying clients of the Colorado hunter the officers had contacted earlier in the day. The West Virginia hunters advised that they had each paid the Colorado individual \$1250 for the outfitted hunt and stated that they had met the outfitter the previous year while they were hunting in the same area of Colorado.

The illegal Colorado outfitter had given them a business card advertising his services. deVergie and Winkler located the outfitted camp and collected enough information to acquire a search warrant for the hunting camp. Two days later, with a search warrant in hand, deVergie and Winkler, with other Wildlife Officers, returned to the camp to execute the search warrant, collect evidence, and conduct interviews. The West Virginia hunters and illegal outfitter cooperated and a vehicle, horse trailer, three horses, two wall tents, and several other pieces of hunting equipment were confiscated.

The West Virginia hunters were not charged with any violations. The illegal Colorado outfitter was charged with several misdemeanor and felony charges for outfitting without required registration. In late February 2002 the illegal outfitter plead guilty to the misdemeanor outfitting charge with a fine of \$1000; the felony charge was dismissed with one year of unsupervised probation. The outfitter also forfeited his truck, wall tents, camping and hunting equipment, and horse tack. The horse trailer and horses were returned to the outfitter.

Birds of a feather...get charged together (Part V)...

Wildlife Officer Kelly Crane originally received a call about a gut pile next to the road from a landowner in October 2001. According to the caller, the gut pile had drag marks leading away

from it and into the garage of a rental house less than 50 yard away. While the poachers made their identity easy to determine, gaining a confession and finding out how the deer was killed was another matter. Officer Crane and wildlife officer David Hale had to spend numerous hours locating the four youths that were involved with the spotlighting violation, interviewing them, and finding the current location of the deer carcass.

Apparently the poachers decided that they could not pass up the opportunity to kill the large buck, despite the fact that they were in subdivision and shooting in any direction posed a significant safety hazard to homes in the area. Ironically, none of the residents of the subdivision reported hearing the shot that killed the big buck. The youths then loaded up the deer and took it to the ditch across the road from the original house before gutting it and dragging it into the garage. The deer carcass was later moved to a different location where officers Crane and Hale recovered it.

If the parts match...

Ron Rivale, DWM Alamosa and Creede DWM Brent Woodward got a tip about some Kansas hunters in the Weminuche Wilderness hunting without the proper unit licenses. The officers saddled up and rode in search of the camp. DWM Rivale and Woodward found the camp and were told hunters had killed their elk over the divide in an open unit, an improbably tale since the divide is a long hard ride away. DWM Rivale and Woodward searched the vast meadows and timber to discover the remains of two bull elk with the antlers cut off. DWM Rivale kept the skull as evidence and to match to any recovered antlers. The pair then returned to the camp to question the hunters. They discovered that the camp was hastily packed and tracks from the horses indicated that the crew was moving out at a fast pace and the race to the trailhead was on. DWM Rivale rode hard and caught up with the men at the trailhead. Later at the hunter's staging area, the home of a former outfitter, DWM Rivale, Woodward and Monte Vista DWM, Brad Weinmeister recovered the meat and antlers from the hunters. The cuts on the antlers matched the skulls Ron and Brent found in the wilderness. The hunters were served tickets and voluntarily paid the fines.

Dangerous pets...hard to cuddle...(Part I)

In August of last year Wildlife Officer Cooley received a report from the Humane Society in Colorado Springs that a gaboon viper had been seized during a police search warrant. The Humane Society told the officer that while they were searching for a home for the snake, a woman came forward and said that she wanted it. The Humane Society went to her home to inspect her facilities, and discovered that she had at least ten other venomous snakes at her house, including cobras, green mambas, other viper and rattlesnakes.

Wildlife Officer Reid DeWalt and Cooley began to investigate the woman and her business partner, and discovered that she was in possession of over twenty exotic and native venomous snakes and her partner at least a dozen more. Wildlife Officers DeWalt and Cooley obtained search warrants for the women's home and her business partner's home. The officers obtained anti-venom for all the snakes that we knew she had as well some they anticipated finding. The officers requested the assistance of two well known snake handlers when they

served the warrant so that they could help handle the snakes as well as identify any that the officer could not.

The search warrants resulted in twenty six venom snakes being seized at her house including, two king cobras, six green mambas, two black mambas, one gaboon viper, one rhino viper, two speckled rattlesnakes, two South American rattlesnakes, two prairie rattlesnakes, one eastern diamondback rattlesnake, and six canebrake rattlesnakes. Snakes seized from her business partner included: two western diamondback rattlesnakes, two timber rattlesnakes, and three prairie rattlesnakes. Both homeowners had numerous other reptiles, and one house included a large self-contained rat factory to feed the snakes. This case is still in the pending in the courts and all the snakes have been shipped to legal snake/venom farms throughout the United States.

It's the middle of the night and your are leaving without your headlights....

On December 8th, patrolling in remote valleys of Saguache Park, DWM Brian Bechaver was wondering if he was the only guy out on a frigid Saturday night. Following a winding two track, DWM Bechaver came upon a set of tire tracks in the fresh snow. DWM Bechaver followed the tracks and scanned the area for signs of the vehicle. Behind him in a clump of timber he caught the fleeting glimpse of a brake light flash as someone tapped his or her brakes. Realizing that he had driven past a hidden truck, DWM Bechaver turned off his lights and began to track down the other vehicle. It soon became apparent to DWM Bechaver that the vehicle was leaving with its lights out, at a high rate of speed. DWM Bechaver described how he could hear the fleeing vehicle bottom out as it flew over water bars. When DWM Bechaver finally got close enough to identify the vehicle he turned on the red and blues and stopped the fleeing Dodge truck. The newly purchased Dodge was dragging its tailgate by one cable. In the back was an ATV and two cow elk. The truck was driven by a Trinidad man and accompanied by his fifteen-year-old son. An inspection of the hunting license show the pair had late season cow licenses, but not for the unit they were in. DWM Bechaver seized the elk and issued the dad a PA for the two elk. DWM Brian Bechaver did not end the case there, the next morning he returned to the area to gather additional evidence. In the daylight DWM Bechaver could see the tire tracks from the Dodge and the ATV leading to two gut piles. He recovered 270 brass and 223 brass in the snow and to his surprise two more cow elk, dead and gutted. A fresh snow had eliminated other possible hunters in the area. The man was later charged for four illegal elk and associated hunting violations

Airborne warden...

September 9th 2001, DWM Mike Reid got a call from employees of a private ranch. The ranch hands had observed four men trespassing on the ranch and killing deer and elk with high power rifles during the muzzleloader season. They told DWM Reid that they had a helicopter standing by to fly him in. DWM Reid boarded his private chopper and headed to the high peaks above timberline. DWM Reid described flying into the valley and circling several times as the pilot tried to find a landing zone and determining if he had the power to land at that altitude. The end result was DWM Reid, a former Airborne Ranger, making another jump in the line of duty. Fortunately the chopper was hovering a few feet off the ground at the time. DWM Reid made the contact with four men dressed in cammo and their string of horses. He soon discovered 30-30 rifles hidden in the stunted underbrush. The men claimed they were lost and thought they were

on public land. Ironically, someone had mailed the DOW and New Mexico Game and Fish a letter the previous week describing how this group poached on the private land and included a map! DWM Reid talked with the ranch hands that witnessed the aerial approach. They told DWM Reid that when the violators heard and saw the chopper coming they began running around like Keystone Cops, mounting their horses riding in circles, bumping into each other, then finally giving up, waiting for the Airborne Rangers arrival. DWM Doug Purcell and DWM Reid made an urgent trip back to the crime scene to recover brass and take evidence pictures of the country before winter snows hit. The four men were charged for the illegal take of one deer and two elk including a Samson Bull.

I heard it on the radio....

In Lake County, DWM Tom Martin and Randy Hancock testified about the activities of some Leadville residence during the 2000 elk season. The case centered on the use of mobile radios and vehicles in the illegal take of elk. The issue to the court by the defendant's were that one of the defendants was in a vehicle but unarmed and the other defendant claimed that he was out on foot and did not use a vehicle to hunt. The judge found both defendants guilty of 33-6-124, use of a motor vehicle. The Judge ruled that the one of the defendants clearly used his vehicle to "Harass"; impede, concentrate, herd wildlife (elk) for friends and family. The other defendant was likewise found guilty of use of motor vehicle. The judge read the article quoting, "It is unlawful for any person to hunt, take, or harass any wildlife from or with any motor vehicle". The judge went on to say, "any motor vehicle" means that the person does not have to be in the vehicle but merely benefit from it.

Dangerous pets...here kitty, kitty...(Part II)

In June 2001 Wildlife Officer Mark Leslie, Commercial Wildlife Parks Coordinator, received a telephone call from Investigator Liz Kelpis from the US Department of Agriculture. Investigator Kelpis had visited a new commercial wildlife facility east of Greeley for a pre-licensing inspection. The facility was built in a pasture and contained twenty-six tigers, African lions, panthers and one mountain lion. Investigator Kelpis thought the facility was not licensed with the Division since the owner of the cats had been recently ordered out of Kansas for not having a county license. Facilities for these kinds of animals have to be approved prior to housing them and when she asked Wildlife Officer Leslie about the facility it was found that the owner did not have the proper permits from the state of Colorado. Because of the type of investigation and the location of the facility, several wildlife officers besides Leslie and Kelpis were eventually involved in the investigation and included; Wildlife Officer Dave Clarkson (supervisor), Wildlife Officer Larry Rogstad, Wildlife Officer Courtney Crawford (now retired), Kathy Konishi, (Special Licensing), Wildlife Officer Dal Schaefer

Wildlife officers inspected the facility and found that the twenty-six big cats were inadequately housed within a perimeter fence propped up by 2x4's. The cages that held the 500 to 600 pound cats were unattached to the floor or ground and the doors were held shut by dime-store snap latches. The owner admitted to not having a license even though Kathy Konishi had sent him two applications at his request.

Wildlife Officer Dal Schaefer cited the owner of the cats for failure to have a proper and valid license, twenty-five counts of illegal possession of exotics and one count of illegal possession of the mountain lion. The owner pled guilty to all counts and although the fines were suspended, he was assessed 155 points (a person can only accumulate 20) and he will enter the license privilege suspension process. Additionally, Weld County (the county in which the owner's facility was located) has been evicted him for failure to apply for a county permit and keeping dangerous animals.