



Nevada Department of Wildlife

*Game Wardens
Protecting Nevada*



www.ndow.org

Game Wardens Protect a Growing Nevada

The numbers in this pamphlet are staggering. Game wardens help protect \$800 million worth of local and state revenue (back flap). And the population of the state has grown 58% at the same time the game warden corps has grown by only 3% (back flap).

Game wardens work hard every day, from boat patrol, to wildlife law enforcement to removing mountain lions from residential neighborhoods, no day is ever the same in the life of a game warden, and our duties and responsibilities are growing.



Yet with all we do, the fact remains that few sportsmen, let alone general taxpaying public, have any idea of the protection and service game wardens provide.



Aside from these facts of life, we face real challenges in the Bureau of Law Enforcement. Recruitment and retention of wardens is more difficult than ever due to low salaries and the highest expectations. Patrol areas for our wardens are the largest in the lower 48 states, and even dedicated game wardens find it a challenge to patrol the waters and wilderness of the state effectively. With such massive areas, hundreds of miles from backup, a lone game warden also faces serious safety concerns. A look at the numbers is shocking.

- Average patrol area size is **3,567** square miles
- Some areas exceed **10,000** square miles
- Total area is **110,567** square miles, covered by only 31 field game wardens

Despite our challenge, we will overcome any difficulty to do the important work of protecting Nevada's wildlife, outdoor and sporting heritage. We ask only for acknowledgment of the work we do, and the tools to do it better to serve a growing, important and vast State of Nevada.

A day in the life ...

Below is a sample of some of the jobs our wardens do on a daily basis. This list is not inclusive, but just a sample of many services we perform happily for the citizens of Nevada.

Wildlife Protection

- Fish & Wildlife patrol and investigations
- Apprehend poachers
- Operation Game Thief program
- Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact
- Investigate and prosecute tag fraud
- Investigate and prosecute residency fraud
- Over-limits, illegal take, many more

Public Safety

- Boat patrol and accident investigations
- Hunting accident investigations
- Enforce outstanding warrants
- Only law enforcement in remote areas
- Provide backup to other law enforcement
- Search and rescue
- OUI/DUI enforcement
- Respond to human-wildlife conflicts
- Motorist assists/enforcement
- Homeland security
- Navigational aids
- Importation illegal/dangerous wildlife

Community Stewardship

- Serve as a source of information to the public regarding outdoor activities
- Attend activities such as bighorn sheep indoctrination, County Advisory Board meetings, hunter safety and many more
- Assist with disease issues, trapping/relocation, fish stocking, habitat restoration, surveys and much more

Revenue Protected by Nevada Game Wardens

1. Boating related expenditures = \$160,000,000
resident
2. Fishing related expenditures = \$216,721,000
resident
3. Hunting related expenditures = \$134,102,000
resident
4. Wildlife watching expenditures = \$250,145,000
resident
5. Wildlife watching expenditures = \$61,011,000
non resident

Total = More than \$821 million protected

All the figures above represent monies that go into the Nevada economy, and although Nevada spends less than \$6,000,000 a year on Game Wardens and all other Bureau of Law Enforcement missions, the money invested in law enforcement represents less than 1% of the dollars protected each year by wardens (the total is .07%). Many people come to Nevada to enjoy boating during the day and gambling at night. If even a minute percentage of visitors felt Nevada was not a safe place for recreation, the loss in tourism dollars would be measured in the millions.

None of these numbers accurately capture lives saved and people helped. In fact, protecting the lives of residents and visitors on Nevada waterways and wilderness cannot be measured in dollars.

Sources for Statistics

- (1) *Boating related expenditures Hagler Bailly Watercraft Survey - NV registered owner spends an average of \$2711 a year (1997) x 57,612 registered boaters 2004.*
- (2-5) *Federal, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service summery study 2001.*

State Growth Squeezes Law Enforcement

As stated on the inside, Nevada wardens patrol the largest areas in the lower 48 states. Yet at the same time patrol areas are enormous, they are fast filling with new Nevadan's making our task more challenging as it grows in importance.

1994 1,525,863 Nevada residents
2004 2,410,768 Nevada residents
884,905 new residents = 58% increase

1994: 30 Field game wardens
Today : 31 Field game wardens
This represents a 3% increase

Though many new Nevadans may not hunt, fish or boat, most travel throughout Nevada on highways, back roads and many hike or camp. Even the non-sporting public are protected by game wardens, whether they are aware of it or not.

This pamphlet is a product of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement. For questions, comments or additional copies, contact Edwin Lyngar, bureau public affairs at elyngar@ndow.org or call 775.688.1548.

