

State of Alaska FY2010 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety Alaska Wildlife Troopers Component Budget Summary

Component: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

Contribution to Department's Mission

Enforce fish and game laws; preserve public peace; protect life, property, and resources.

Core Services

- Protect state fish and game resources with a combination of uniformed trooper patrols, covert investigations, and educational and public awareness programs.
- Provide statewide boating safety education and enforcement.
- Provide statewide patrol of commercial big game services, commercial fisheries enforcement, sport fish and sport fish guiding enforcement, game and trapping enforcement, and safeguarding habitat.
- Perform primary police service in many remote communities.
- Participate in search and rescue missions statewide.
- Investigate and apprehend criminal offenders.

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Component Budget: \$17,772,800	Personnel:	
	Full time	117
	Part time	16
	Total	133

Key Component Challenges

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) provides a trooper presence in remote areas of Alaska where little or no other law enforcement exists. While patrolling a complex array of sport, commercial, personal use, or subsistence fisheries, and commercial, sport, or subsistence hunting seasons, AWT troopers are fully commissioned Alaska State Troopers who independently recognize and act upon many other public safety emergencies, enforcement matters, and concerns.

Alaska's coastline of 36,000 miles represents 40 percent of the nation's coastline and almost 89 percent of the Pacific states' coastline. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers' patrol area is unrivaled by the remaining states, and is the equivalent in distance from the Carolinas to California and from Texas to the Great Lakes. Each AWT field trooper has to cover, on average, over 11,151 square miles of land mass, coastline, and waterway.

AWT continues to operate at a minimally acceptable enforcement level. Many areas of the state are not patrolled or are only occasionally patrolled. Only with the support of the division's marine enforcement section with its fleet of 16 vessels ranging from 25' to 156', and the division's aircraft section with its compliment of patrol aircraft, can the AWT core services be effectively administered. Having the skilled personnel and providing the proper training to conduct these unique patrols is increasingly more challenging.

Resource user license purchases in Alaska had a slight drop in sales from 2005 as indicated in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) statistics. In calendar year 2005, 944,218 licenses were sold with a total generated net sale of \$23.5 million. In calendar year 2006, 914,431 licenses were sold with a net sale value of \$29.5 million. License sales for 2007 indicated a slight increase with 921,980 licenses sold generating \$30 million in net sales. In addition, ADF&G issues an average of 5,000 permanent licenses each year that do not expire and there are tens of thousands of these resource users that are generally unaccounted for.

The challenge to AWT is to provide at least adequate enforcement of fish and wildlife laws with existing resources. Because of Alaska's vast land mass, the challenge of having a full staff of 96 AWT troopers monitor licensed resource users is a staggering ratio. Furthermore, the division has been averaging ten commissioned trooper vacancies.

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers accomplishes its mission in conjunction with its sister division, the Alaska State Troopers; other state agencies including ADF&G, Natural Resources (DNR), Environmental Conservation (DEC), Law, and Commerce, Community and Economic Development (CCED); as well as federal agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), U.S. Forest Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). AWT is also involved with programs such as Alaska Wildlife Safeguard, various search and rescue groups, Board of Game, Board of Fish, and Commercial Services Board.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is targeting an increase in educational and public awareness training. This includes targeting a ten percent increase in the number of boating safety educational appearances, as well as a ten percent increase in hunting safety and other educational appearances as a whole.

The division has several troopers with little or no experience in wildlife enforcement. AWT intends to conduct additional training of its state troopers. AWT will continue to train its young workforce through specialized training in many of the nuances of the work and through field training by experienced troopers.

AWT troopers will be participating in at least two large-scale enforcement programs throughout the state during FY2010. The division's enforcement efforts benefit by pooling resources from around the state into specific regions to enhance patrol efforts and gain better compliance. This not only allows the division to contact more resource users in the targeted area, leading to the detection of most violations; it also provides the ability to pair junior troopers with those with more field experience.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2008

The Division of Wildlife Troopers conducted wildlife enforcement training for nine new troopers that had transferred into the division from the Division of Alaska State Troopers and the five new trooper recruits hired by the division. The training focused on the complex nature of fish and game laws and their enforcement techniques.

During FY2008, AWT troopers conducted several targeted boating safety patrols. AWT troopers spent 1,450 hours on boating safety enforcement. They contacted nearly 8,700 boaters, issued 453 warnings, and gave 176 citations.

The Bristol Bay Commercial Salmon Fishery, the largest commercial salmon fishery in the world, had at its peak, 1,380 registered commercial fishing boats, 1,628 drift gillnet permits, and over 900 registered commercial set net sites operating in various districts within Bristol Bay. Sixteen troopers and 17 civilian personnel participated during enforcement activities from June 19 through July 10, 2008 in various areas surrounding Bristol Bay. The *P/V Stimson* and *P/V Woldstad* participated supporting four patrol skiffs, as well as serving as a base of operations for enforcement and search and rescue operations throughout Bristol Bay. Four fixed wing aircraft and one helicopter were used to provide air support for enforcement and search and rescue operations. Additionally, from June 19 to June 21, AWT conducted joint operations with the USCG in support of fishing vessel boating safety enforcement with AWT providing at sea logistics support to United States Coast Guard (USCG) boarding teams.

The following summary enforcement actions occurred during the program:

- Commercial Fish: 2,730 contacts, 210 criminal citations, and 172 warnings.
- Sport Fish: 1,597 contacts, 33 citations, and 65 warnings.
- Boating Safety: 1,194 contacts, 28 citations, and 66 warnings.

In August and September of 2007, Alaska Wildlife Troopers from Fairbanks, Coldfoot, Kotzebue, King Salmon, and Nome conducted an investigation into the activities of a big game hunting guide who, it is alleged, had committed guiding violations in several parts of the state. The primary offender is a resident of the State of Washington and he

has associates from Idaho, Georgia, Michigan, Iowa, and Florida. The Office of Special Prosecutions and Appeals is preparing charging documents at the time of this writing. The alleged violations include guiding outside of his guide area, transporting hunters without a license, aiding in the commission of violations, hunt record violations, and more. During the investigation, a Super Cub aircraft was seized and is in storage waiting adjudication of the case. One defendant has already pled to transporting without a license and has cooperated with the investigation.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers investigated a case of driving, herding, and harassing big game. Two villagers near Dillingham used a snow machine to herd a moose across a frozen lake. The moose broke through the ice and drowned. One of the individuals was fined \$3,000 with \$2,000 suspended, sentenced to 60 days in jail with 60 suspended, forfeited the snow machine valued at \$5,000, and paid half the restitution of the moose (\$500). The other individual was fined \$6,000 with \$3,000 suspended, sentenced to 75 days in jail with 60 suspended (15 to serve), and paid the other half of the restitution \$500.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers aboard the *P/V Camai* responded to a double stabbing aboard a fishing vessel near Afognak Island. AWT troopers subsequently arrested one individual and transported the person back to Kodiak aboard the *P/V Camai*. A USCG helicopter transported the victims to the Kodiak hospital. Both survived their wounds.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers investigated a case of over limit of groundfish pot gear. Using department aircraft and the *P/V Camai*, they investigated a Kodiak fisher who was fishing an extra 36 groundfish pots during the season. The fisher pled out to 10 days in jail with eight suspended, fined \$15,000 dollars with \$7,500 suspended, and forfeited \$24,000 worth of fish.

The division investigated a case of taking an illegal brown bear. A local guide was charged with allowing a client to take a brown bear in a closed area. The client was Chris Dorsey who produces big game hunting shows for the Outdoor Channel. In addition to fines and forfeitures Mr. Dorsey is in the process of producing a gun safety video for ADF&G valued in the tens of thousands of dollars.

While on a trapping patrol, AWT discovered a significant number of caribou caught in wolf snares. Evidence and local information indicated that the trapper had been knowingly catching caribou in wolf snares for many years and then continuing to trap wolves in those areas. The troopers charged the defendant with ten misdemeanors including trapping closed season, trapping within a quarter mile of incidental take, unlawful use of game as bait, and unlawful methods and means of taking big game. In a plea deal, he pled guilty to four counts with the other six counts (which were mostly redundant) dismissed. He was fined \$5,000 with \$3,000 suspended, received five days in jail with five suspended and probation for two years, was ordered to pay restitution for one caribou, and forfeited several traps and snares.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers received a report of two individuals "thrill killing" caribou on the Denali cutoff during the closed season. Investigation revealed a North Pole man and his non-resident friend shot and wasted two caribou and a fox, leaving the animals in the field. One of the individuals has pled to the charges and the second defendant is still pending.

In October of 2007, AWT began an investigation into the fish ticket records of chum salmon roe landings from District 15 in Lynn Canal when they located several tickets that reported roe deliveries without having any landings for the salmon carcasses. AWT suspected these salmon carcasses were wasted. The troopers found six fishers who reported landings of salmon roe without having reporting any salmon carcass landings. The majority of these fishers claimed they retained the salmon carcasses for their personal use, but were not able to show any documentation of that. Criminal charges were filed in all of these cases resulting in a total of \$10,500 in fines, with \$7,500 suspended.

On September 29, 2007, an ADF&G port sampler reported that she located some undersize Dungeness crabs in totes that delivered to Sea Level Seafoods in Wrangell by a fishing vessel. Wildlife troopers in Ketchikan responded to this call using the *P/V Compliance*. Upon arrival in Wrangell, the troopers found that 29.9 percent of the 23,218 pounds of crab delivered were undersize. Based on the investigation following that discovery, other unlawful deliveries were found and the skipper was charged for taking undersize crab and unlawful possession, which resulted in a total of \$150,000 in fines and forfeitures of crab.

Based on information gathered from ADF&G and other sources, AWT conducted a multi-day stakeout in Traitors Cove north of Ketchikan to watch for black bear hunting activity. On June 1, 2008, troopers observed and filmed three non-resident hunters using a big game transporter engage in hunting in Traitors Cove. The transporter took the

hunters up the river in a 17' Svenson riverboat and remained in the field with his clients while the bear was taken. Based on this stakeout and the investigation into the taking of other bears by these clients, the transporter was charged with multiple counts of unlawful acts, and the 17' Svenson riverboat was seized. The case is still pending court outcome.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

DPS - Powers and duties of department (AS 44.41.020)
 State Troopers (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.110)
 Police Protection (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.790)
 Law enforcement duties (AS 18.65.010 - AS 18.65.086)
 Controlled Substances (AS 11.71.010 - AS 11.71.900)
 Judicial Services (AS 22.20.100 - AS 22.20.140)
 Prisoner Transportation (AS 33.30.071 and AS 33.30.081)
 Search & Rescue (AS 18.60.120 - AS 18.60.175)
 Village Public Safety Officer Definition (AS 01.10.060(c)(7)(C))
 VPSO Program (AS 18.65.670)
 VPSO Regulations (13 AAC 96.010-900)
 Concealed Handgun Permits (AS 18.65.700)
 Security Guard Licensing (AS 18.65.400 - AS 18.65.410)
 Sex Offender Registration (AS 12.63.010 - AS 12.63.100)
 Central Registry of Sex Offenders (AS 18.65.087)
 Department to assist other agencies (AS 18.65.090)
 Document and disseminate information regarding homicides (AS 44.41.040)
 Document and investigate missing persons (AS 18.65.610)
 Investigate fires resulting from crimes (AS 18.70.030)
 Investigate sexual assault and child exploitation (AS 18.65.086)
 DUI Forfeiture Requirements (AS 28.35.036-.037)
 DPS DNA collection and registration requirements (AS 44.41.035)
 Duty of Law Enforcement to Provide VCCB information (AS 18.67.175)
 Rights of Crime Victims to be notified orally and in writing by Law Enforcement (AS 12.61.010)
 Aeronautics (AS 02)
 Criminal (AS 11)
 Environment (AS 46)
 Fish & Game (AS 16)
 Fish & Game (5 AAC)
 Guide/Outfitting (12 AAC)
 Guide/Outfitting (AS 08)
 Health & Safety (AS 18)
 Limited Entry (20 AAC)
 State Government (AS 44)
 Training (13 AAC 85)
 Training (AS 44.41.020(a))

Contact Information

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**Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	11,534.5	14,075.0	14,219.2
72000 Travel	472.7	525.2	500.2
73000 Services	3,029.7	2,727.4	2,681.4
74000 Commodities	437.9	356.2	362.1
75000 Capital Outlay	139.0	9.9	9.9
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	15,613.8	17,693.7	17,772.8
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	14,562.2	15,957.9	16,155.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	228.6	78.6
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	1,051.6	1,507.2	1,538.5
Funding Totals	15,613.8	17,693.7	17,772.8

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2008 Actuals	FY2009 Management Plan	FY2010 Governor
Unrestricted Revenues				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues				
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	228.6	78.6
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	1,051.6	1,507.2	1,538.5
Restricted Total		1,051.6	1,735.8	1,617.1
Total Estimated Revenues		1,051.6	1,735.8	1,617.1

**Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor**

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2009 Management Plan	15,957.9	0.0	1,735.8	17,693.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Corrected FY09 Wage Increase for Public Safety Employees Association Employees	9.6	0.0	0.0	9.6
-Delete One-time FY2009 Fuel/Utility Cost Increase Funding Distribution from the Office of the Governor	-209.1	0.0	0.0	-209.1
-Transfer interagency receipts for Title 47 prisoner transports from AWT to Prisoner Transportation	0.0	0.0	-25.0	-25.0
-Transfer interagency receipts to the Commissioner's Office for RSA with Dept. of Law	0.0	0.0	-125.0	-125.0
-FY2010 Wage and Health Insurance Increases for Bargaining Units with Existing Agreements	303.3	0.0	31.3	334.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-Increased office leases and law enforcement supplies	94.0	0.0	0.0	94.0
FY2010 Governor	16,155.7	0.0	1,617.1	17,772.8

**Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2009 Management Plan</u>	<u>FY2010 Governor</u>		
Full-time	117	117	Annual Salaries	8,161,540
Part-time	16	16	COLA	381,540
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	1,261,996
			Annual Benefits	4,770,036
			<i>Less 5.57% Vacancy Factor</i>	(812,512)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	456,600
Totals	133	133	Total Personal Services	14,219,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant I	0	1	1	3	5
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	3	3
Captain, AK State Troopers	1	0	0	0	1
Lieutenant, AK State Troopers	1	1	1	3	6
Major, AK State Troopers	1	0	0	0	1
Public Safety Technician I	1	1	1	13	16
Public Safety Technician II	0	2	1	17	20
Sergeant PS	0	1	1	10	12
State Trooper	3	4	3	58	68
Totals	7	10	8	108	133