

# Division of Law Enforcement



# LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Chief=1

Captains=3

Lieutenants=4

New this year is a reduction from 4 captains to 3 captains and an increase from 3 lieutenants to 4 lieutenants. Extra lieutenant is for the investigator program.

Field Wardens/Full-time=31 (28) (9 WR, 7 ER, 12 SR)

Western Region FINALLY fully staffed after many years

Seasonal Wardens/Part time=4 (2)

Reserve Wardens/Part time=2

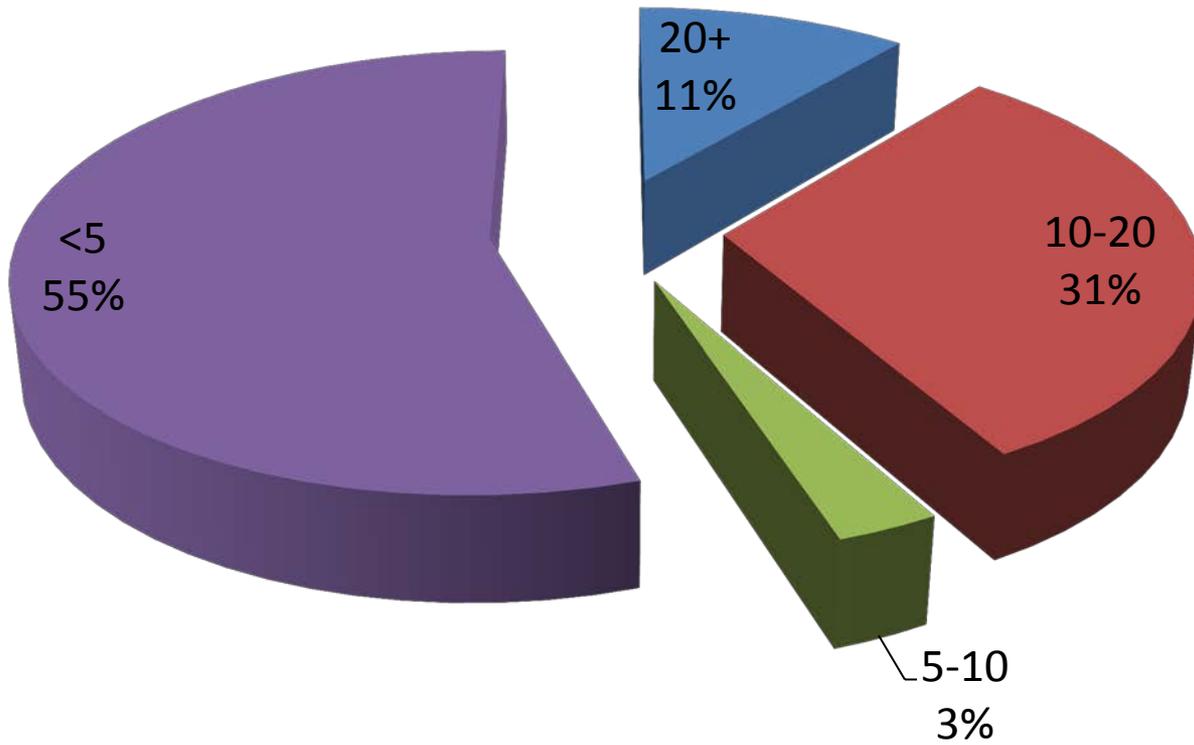
Investigator=2 (0) New this year, instead of having 1 investigator under a captain, there will be 2 investigators under one lieutenant

Total commissioned officers=47 (40) (including 2 currently in the FTP)

# Service Time

- Wardens with 20+ years of service= 5 (14%)
- Wardens with 10-19 years= 10 (28%)
- Wardens with 5-9 years=4 (11%)
- Wardens with less than 5 years=17 (47%)
  
- Average warden experience= 9.9 years

## Service Time

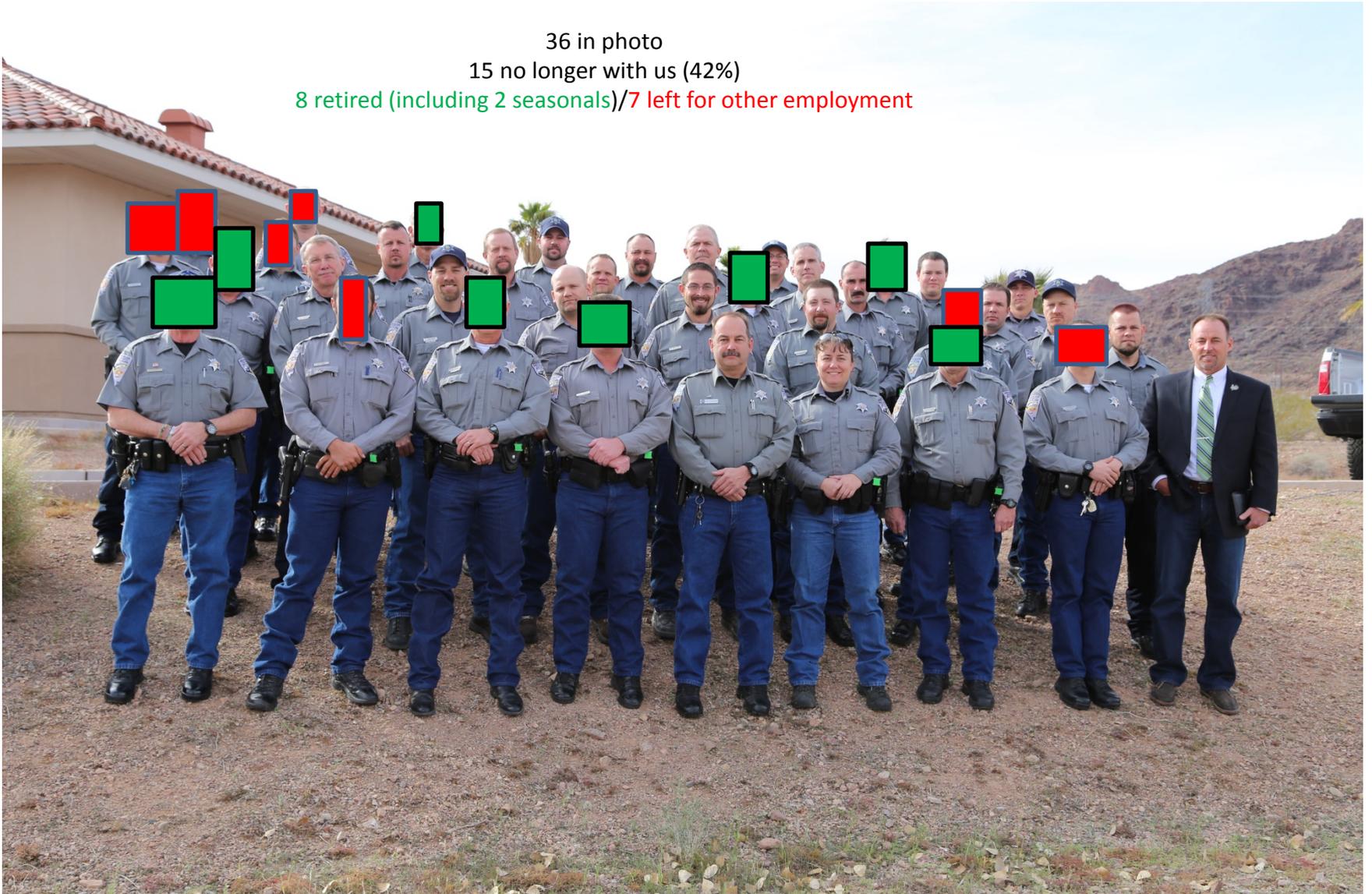


# Retention

- In the last six years, we have:
  - hired 36 new wardens
  - had 11 wardens leave for other agencies while having less than 5 years of service.
  - let 4 go during probationary period.
- Takes approximately one year of training time to get a warden up to speed and on own at their duty station.
- Takes thousands and thousands of dollars to hire and train each new officer as well as countless man hours dedicated to this.

# 2014

36 in photo  
15 no longer with us (42%)  
8 retired (including 2 seasonals)/7 left for other employment



# March 2017

36 in picture  
17 in yellow are new since 2014 photo, not  
including 2 that were in the police academy  
1 (in red) resigned just after 1 year of service



# WHAT DO WE DO?

TARGET

REALITY?

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT - FY14 - GENERAL PROGRAM PRIORITIES		
<p><b>FIELD PATROL/INVESTIGATIONS/SPECIAL OPERATIONS/L.E. REPORTS</b>                      Respond to Serious Boat Accidents / Respond To Priority 1 Operation Game Thief Calls</p> <p>Target Big Game - Closed Season - No Valid Tag Cases Through Increased Field Patrols                      Target OUI, Reckless Operation, &amp; PFD Cases                      Continue Proactive Approach On Bighorn Sheep Enforcement - Gather Intel                      Maintain Emphasis On License and Tag Fraud                      Target Illegal Guiding Through Increased Field Patrols                      Enhance Reptile Enforcement and Patrol Efforts                      Invite Judges, District Attorneys, &amp; County Advisory Board Members On L.E. Patrols                      Increase Focus on Prohibited and Exotic Wildlife Enforcement</p>	<p>TIME 65%</p>	<p>45%</p>
<p><b>HUMAN WILDLIFE CONFLICTS</b>                      Physical Response When Public Safety Is of Immediate Concern                      Maximize Phone Resolutions - Utilize Technology - Keep Wardens In Field                      Compile Personnel Time &amp; Miles for Future Budget Enhancements</p>	<p>2%</p>	<p>15%</p>
<p><b>TRAINING (INCLUDES TRAVEL TIME)</b>                      Complete All Mandatory Training By December 1                      Prepare Employees for Leadership Roles                      Utilize Lexipol as a Viable Training Tool</p>	<p>5%</p>	<p>15%</p>
<p><b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS</b>                      Initiate &amp; Act On Opportunities To Explain L.E. Programs                      Invite Judges, District Attorneys, &amp; County Advisory Board Members on L.E. Patrols</p> <p>L.E. Presence at 50% of Each County's Advisory Board Meetings &amp; 20% Sportsmans' Meetings                      Send Timeley Information on Significant Cases to Headquarters for P.R. Purposes</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>10%</p>
<p><b>MAJOR WILDLIFE CRIMES</b>                      Focus on Chronic Poachers</p> <p>Develop Working Relationship Between Headquarters and Regions                      Provide Updates to Field Officers and Headquarters Staff</p>	<p>8%</p>	<p>5%</p>
<p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b>                      Complete Federally Required SOP's                      Every Division Employee Self Evaluate Their Own Efficiency &amp; Effectiveness                      Maintain General Communications Between Field &amp; Headquarters                      Hold Quarterly Strategic Planning Meetings with Staff &amp; Supervisors                      Generate a Monthly Report for Critical Statistics                      Capture All Non-Boating Public Safety Time &amp; Track # of Search &amp; Rescues                      Explore Law Enforcement Grants &amp; Federal Programs                      Game Wardens Will Submit ALL Required Paperwork in a Timely Fashion</p>	<p>10%</p>	<p>10%</p>

Most “police forces” have different divisions:

patrol, detectives, homicide, traffic, administration,  
training, internal affairs, task force, SWAT, clerical, CSI, hiring

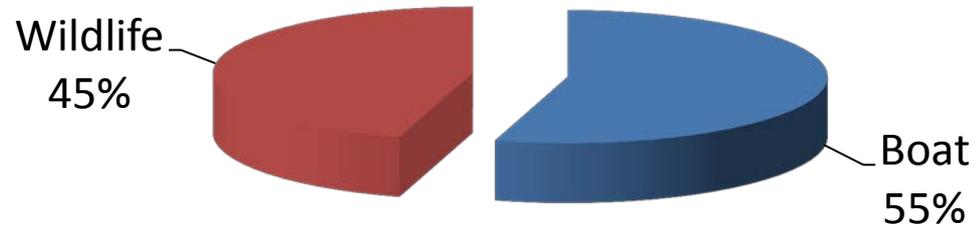
Due to the size of our Division and the geographical separation of individuals, each one of us has to do all of these jobs.

- “Face” of NDOW
- Patrol
- Investigations
- H/W conflict
- Public safety
- Teacher
- Trainer
- Background Investigator
- Recruiter
- Search and Rescue

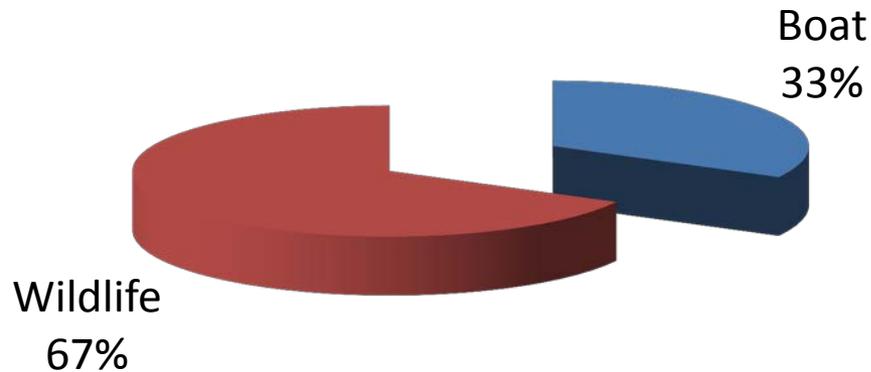


# Contact Type and Breakdowns “Average Year”

## Contact Type



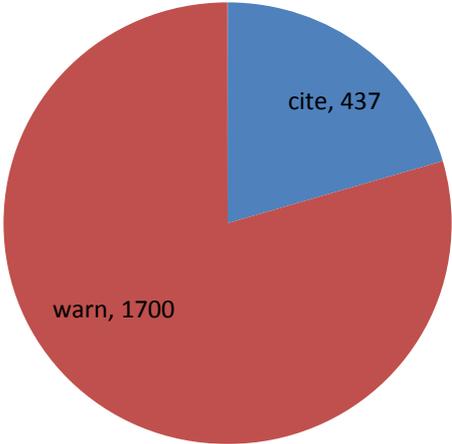
## Time Breakdown



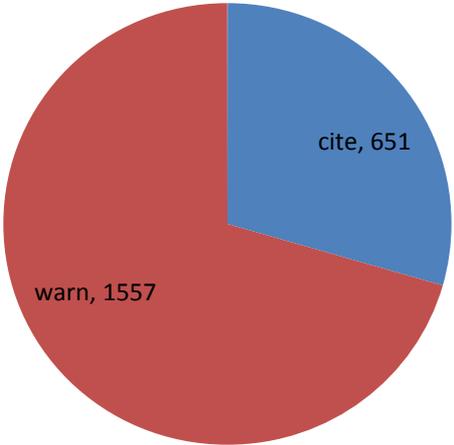
# Violations Detected-2016

Number of wildlife contacts: 17,138  
Total number of violations: 2137  
Cite: 437  
Warn: 1700

Wildlife Violations



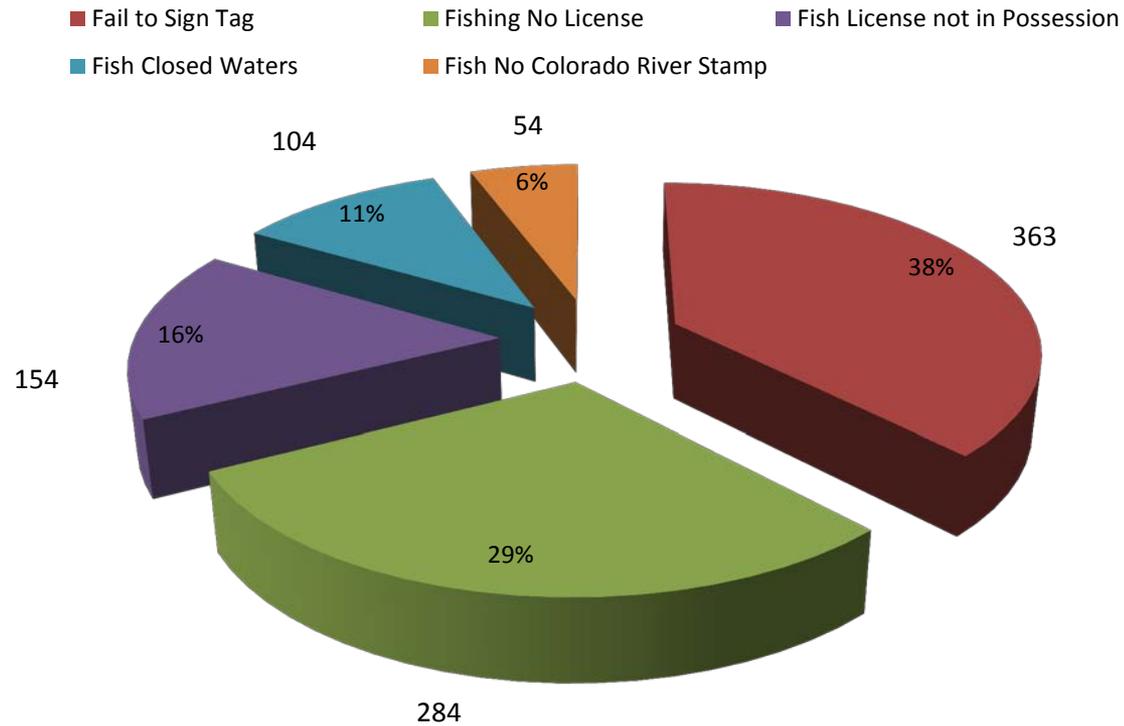
Boating Violations



Number of boating contacts: 4,491  
Total number of violations: 2208  
Cite: 651  
Warn: 1557

# Top 5 Wildlife Violations-2016

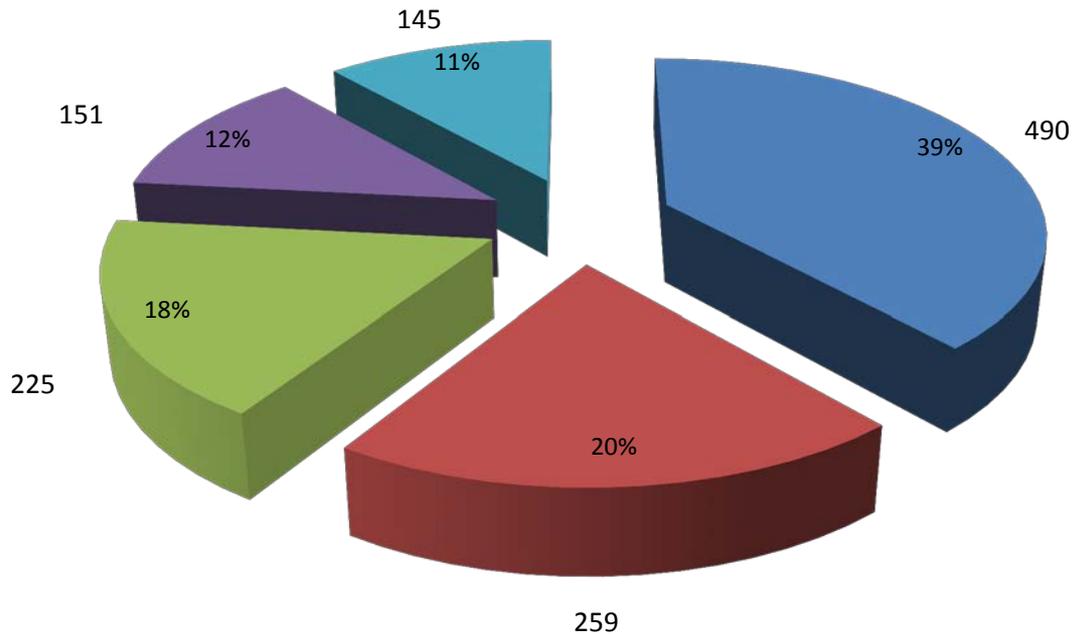
## Top 5 Wildlife Violations



# Top Five Boating Violations – 2016

## Top 5 Boating Violations

- Fail to Carry PFD's
- Fail to Display Registration Decal
- Speed Exceeds Flat Wake
- Fail to Carry Operational Fire Ext.
- Fail to Carry Type 4 PFD



# AIS Violations

- AIS had a great number of violations, but it fits into wildlife and boating so will just mention here
  - 318 violations for fail to purchase resident AIS decal
  - 209 violations for fail to purchase non resident AIS decal

- Nevada area=110,567 square miles (87% Federal)
- At full staffing (31 field wardens) average patrol area= 3,567 square miles per warden (2<sup>nd</sup> only to Alaska)
  - Largest patrol area over 10,000 square miles
- Surface acres of water=385,000 (when not in drought conditions of course)
  - 11,000 acres per warden

# 2016-2017 license year

- Number of hunting license sales in Nevada
  - 41,849 plus 31,311 combos
- Number of fishing license sales in Nevada
  - 82,714 plus 31,311 combos
- Number of licensed trappers in Nevada
  - 890
- Total license sales in Nevada
  - 156,764 (includes combo)
- Nevada population (2016) 2,700,551

# 2017 Boat total numbers

- Registered boats in Nevada
  - 43,599
- Number of non-motorized AIS decals sold
  - 7585 resident; 981 non resident



# What does this mean?

- Average of 5,057 license holders per field warden spread out over an average of 3,567 square mile patrol area when fully staffed.
- 1,683 vessels on 12,419 surface acres per field warden
- Right place at the right time and the public's help.

# More than just patrol

- OGT
- Major Wildlife Crimes/Investigations
- Guides and Outfitters
- Laws and Regulations
- Boating Program
- OHV
- AIS/Quagga Inspection/Information
- Reserve Program
- Seasonal Program

# More than just patrol

- Boating accident investigation
- Hunting accident investigation
  - 1 death in 2016 out of Eastern Region
- OUI/DUI enforcement
- Respond to human-wildlife conflicts
- Enforce outstanding warrants

# Operation Game Thief (OGT)

- Most of our case load is generated by the general public who report illegal activity.
- Remain anonymous
- Earn monetary rewards
- Toll free number
- 1-800-992-3030
- Save Nevada's wildlife from unscrupulous individuals



# What do we do out there?

- “Police force” for the vast open spaces of Nevada
- Face of NDOW
- Category 1 certified State Peace Officers
  - Full peace officer authority throughout the State
  - Can enforce any laws in Nevada while performing our duties
  - Sportsmen and women pay us to focus on enforcement of Title 45 and Chapter 488 of NRS

# Challenges

- Manpower
- Porous regulations
- This isn't CSI/TV
- Witnesses that can't speak
- Nonexistent or unreliable back-up (we are essentially on our own)
- Best radio system in State with some coverage issues
- Unreliable cell phone coverage in remote areas
- Weather
- 95% of the people we contact are armed
  - 99% of the people we contact are law-abiding recreational enthusiasts
- Reactive versus Proactive approach



# Western Region Completed Cases Oct 2016-present

- Numerous residency cases
  - Gross Misdemeanor and misdemeanor convictions on California residents.
  - Not enough evidence to prove residency violations.
- Numerous Non-injury boat accidents on Lake Tahoe and Lahontan

# Western Region Completed Cases

## Oct 2016-present

- Wildlife attack (bear in Incline): unfounded
- Bear shot by home owner:
  - Self defense. Bear injured and never found.
- Multiple taking of more than one tagged animal.
  - Most turned themselves in.
- Multiple antelope killing in unit 014 with witnesses.

# Western Region PENDING Cases

## Oct. 2016-present

- Bear unlawfully killed in the spring
- Felon in possession of firearm while scouting for archery deer hunt.
- Lacy Act Violation
  - CA residents shot antelope buck in WY, stopped by NHP
- Hunting/Killing in wrong unit
  - Antelope killed in 015 with 014 tag
  - Antelope killed in 184 with 172-173 tag

# Western Region PENDING Cases

## Oct 2016-present

- Assisting other regions or states with cases
  - Elk poaching's in eastern region
    - Interviews, evidence gathering (because suspect(s) live in this area)
  - CA resident shooting deer out of season and having it taxidermied in Reno.
  - CA resident's killing antelope in WY
- Guiding
  - Guiding in area with no special use permit from governing body.
  - Failure to show log book (warned)

# Guiding Cases throughout State

- Out of eastern region
  - 2 UT men guiding without a license
    - pending
  - Guide taking motorized vehicle in wilderness area
    - Master Guide license suspended
- Guiding without a special use permit
  - 2 different cases
    - 1 pending
    - 1 Master Guide license suspended
- Guiding with contract/payment violations
  - pending

# What Game Warden's are Noticing

- Lack of Contacts
  - Opening Dates
    - Not always on Saturday now
      - Wardens having to figure out the best time to get contacts (midweek or opening weekend)-40 hours a week goes fast.
  - Time
    - Many Hunters aren't taking time off work like they use to or stay the whole hunting season in the field.
  - More Responsibilities
    - New Hire Training
    - Urban Wildlife
    - Increase in Administrative Responsibilities
  - Case Load

# What Game Warden's are Noticing

- Hearing frustrations from hunters that they are not seeing quality or quantity of animals
  - Primarily road hunting
- Increase in self reporting of wildlife violation
  - Realizing they are treated fairly and everything isn't seized/forfeited
- Increase in non-consumptive users
  - Greater number of contacts with non consumptive users over consumptive users

# What Game Warden's are Noticing

- Designated operators for boat driver
- Substantial increase in non motorized boat contacts (kayaks/paddleboards)
  - Accidents
    - Usually drowning because they do not wear PFD
  - PFD violations
  - Search and Rescue
    - Winds capsize them or they are unable to return

- Any Questions??