

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *June 2016*



Central Enforcement District

Warden Terry Mullen was forced to evacuate his home during the **Erskine Fire** in Lake Isabella, Kern County. This did not stop Mullen from serving his community. During the fire and the period where residents were evacuated Mullen was given the unique opportunity to directly serve those in the community. Mullen made many trips into the evacuation zone, checking on residents, animals, and homes. Mullen was able to retrieve medication that a 90 year old man left behind when he evacuated. Warden Mullen noticed a small fire near an occupied horse corral, he was able to put the fire out and move the horse to safety, then jumped on a tractor to cut a quick fire break for good measure. While checking to make sure homes were secure Mullen noticed some individuals that did not appear to belong in the community, and were possibly looking for an easy looting opportunity. They were respectfully sent on their way.



Lt. Barnhart was monitoring the sheriff radio channel when he heard a call regarding an interrupted home burglary that occurred in Woodlake. The home owner was able to get the license plate of the suspect vehicle, but responding units initially did not locate the suspect vehicle. A couple of hours later, the Police Chief of Woodlake PD located the suspect vehicle as he was leaving out of county for vacation. The chief was in his personal vehicle and followed the vehicle down Highway 198 and began coordinating an effort to make a stop on the suspect vehicle. Lt. Barnhart was in the area and successfully intercepted the suspect vehicle. The chief requested that Lt. Barnhart attempt a stop on the vehicle. Lt. Barnhart conducted a high risk stop and held the suspects at gunpoint until additional units arrived. Two suspects were taken into custody without incident and stolen property was found in the vehicle.



Wildlife Officers Lenz, Blagg, and Watkins represented the California Department of Fish and Wildlife during the execution of "Operation Goldstar." The operation was orchestrated and conducted on behalf of the Fresno County Sheriff's Office. The operation consisted of 142 officers from across 18 different local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The operation was meant to serve as a proactive approach to combat crime within Fresno County. Teams of officers spread across the county in search of wanted fugitives, probation/parole violators, and known

gang members. In total, 60 arrests were made at the conclusion of the operation.

Lt. Barnhart, Lt. Tognazinni, Lt. Laughlin, and Wildlife Officers Sheeley, Alisio, Golden, Conely, Gibson, Henderson, Derose, and Simmons competed in the 9th Annual Battle of the Badges softball tournament in Visalia. The tournament is hosted by the Tulare County Deputy Sheriff Association, and this year proceeds benefited fallen officers Deputy Scott Ballantyne and Sheriff's Pilot James Chavez.



Warden McNulty was asked to participate in the 2016 Cub Scouts Day Camp at Mooney's Grove Park with the theme being "CSI". McNulty designed and orchestrated a scenario in which Cub Scouts got to conduct an investigation beginning with a generic mock hunting contact then responded to call of a hunter trespass in which the Scouts got to collect (fake) blood samples and hair samples as well as shell casings. Their investigation resulted in a mock search warrant in which the Scouts located a dead deer (compliments of an old broken decoy). Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with almost 100% participation from almost 200 Cub Scouts.

While returning home from a night time river patrol **Warden Cahill** issued three citations related to driving offenses which included two drivers cited for driving with suspended licenses, a passenger for riding on top of a car, failure to stop at a stop sign, and one subject turned over to CHP for DUI. All the activity seemed to be coming from a party that had been shut down. Warden Cahill passed information onto CHP and Galt PD of the approximately 600 cars leaving the area.

Warden Lomeli assisted a CHP officer who was taking a homeless subject into custody who had a samurai sword and was walking down the center of Interstate 5. CHP successfully took the subject into custody without incident.

North Coast Enforcement District

Lt. Hendricks organized another successful abalone saturation detail for the Mendocino Coast low tide series. Sixteen wildlife officers from the North Coast Enforcement District and the Northern Enforcement District flooded the coast making over a thousand contacts, issuing sixty-three citations, twenty-four warnings and three arrests for various abalone and fishing violations. Hendricks worked several low tide mornings issuing five citations for gross over-limits of abalone, altering report cards and tags.

Wildlife Officers Kinnard and **Laird** received a report of a commercial fisherman fishing for Dungeness crab in the Pt. Arena State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA). Officers used the patrol vessel Chinook to observe thirty-four commercial Dungeness crab traps inside the SMCA. The buoys were photographed, GPS locations were taken, and traps were pulled to verify that the traps were fishing. The commercial Dungeness crab vessel was then monitored. After three days, the captain pulled his pots, retained the Dungeness crabs, and headed back to shore, where he and his crew were met by officers. The load of 6,621 pounds of Dungeness crabs was seized and sold as per Fish and Game Code and a check was issued to the Fish and Game Preservation Fund in the amount of \$21,518. Later, officers Kinnard, Laird, Boele, and Freeling went to Pt. Arena SMCA and seized all the traps inside of the SMCA. A formal complaint was filed with the DA's office for the above violations.

Warden Powers worked the Mendocino Coast issuing forty-eight citations for various abalone and fishing violations. Powers also arrested four individuals for the commercial take of abalone. One of the individuals arrested for commercial take of abalone also received the following charges of: failure to show, resisting arrest, and destroying evidence. Powers seized one hundred and seventy-four abalones during the month.

Warden Boele assisted Warden Wells and Warden Embry in a case involving the illegal sale of sport caught fish. Boele worked undercover and purchased sport caught crab and lingcod. Based on the illegal sale of sport caught fish, Warden Wells was able to obtain two search warrants, one for the suspect's residence, and one for his business.

Warden Smith handled eleven injured wildlife calls in June. Smith received one call of a deer stuck in a swimming pool, which contained a small amount of water. The deer could not stand up in the water and appeared to have been there struggling for hours due to its exhaustion. Smith roped the deer, pulled it from the water and carried it to the edge of the pool. Upon reaching the edge of the pool, the doe jumped up and reunited with its fawn. Smith assisted Lake County Sheriff's Department on numerous calls including a drowning in the Clearlake State Park.

Wildlife Officers Willson and **Smith** discovered marijuana plants growing near a creek. The garden appeared to be in the process of expanding. Smith also questioned a driver during a traffic stop, where the driver admitted to having firearms in the vehicle. One of the firearms was an illegal AR-15. The rifle had the odor of marijuana. The driver said he was repairing the AR because it was misfiring and he had intended on returning it back to the owner. The driver took the officers to the property, where it had all the signs of illegal marijuana grow. The information was forwarded to the Sheriff's Office Task Force.

Warden Morton and **Warden Esquivel** responded to a number of animal conflict calls, including bear, deer and on one occasion, a report of a mountain lion in Santa Rosa. The lion was found sleeping under a resident's deck. Morton confirmed the report and with the help of Santa Rosa PD was able to scare the lion back up into more suitable habitat.

Warden M. White contacted a hunter in the Knoxville Wildlife Area. The hunter had been driving down Berryessa-Knoxville Road with a .30-06 and a 12 gauge shotgun, which was found lying in the bed of the truck amongst a bunch of clutter. Both long guns were found to have unexpended rounds in the chamber. The hunter, who had been given a warning during turkey season by Warden White for leaning his loaded shotgun up against his vehicle, was cited accordingly this time.

Captain Christensen, Lt. Garrett, Warden Kozicki, Warden Jacobsen, Warden Rehse, Warden Grinton, and Warden Thiem eradicated and reclaimed an illegal marijuana grow on Rhode Island Wildlife Area in the Contra Costa delta. The team cleared the site by pulling over 1300 plants, all the water lines (1600 feet), and all associated garbage, pumps and fertilizers. Utilizing two patrol boats they hauled all the garbage to a prearranged dump site.

Warden Tessler responded to a call for assistance from the San Mateo County Sheriff's office. He found that one individual had harvested 66 pounds of Sea Palms and had cut them all below the stipe so that the path of rock he had harvested the Sea Palms from would not survive. Tessler also received photographs of the person taking the Sea Palms through Cal-Tip after he responded.

Wildlife Officers Jones and Schad investigated an illegal encampment on Coyote Creek and found two juvenile Canada Geese in a pen. The geese were turned over to a rehab center. During the incident, a suspect was found in the area with two no bail violent felony warrants.

Wildlife Officers Henderson and Walker began walking the trail at Pfeiffer Beach during a low tide. The officers encountered a slightly wet subject, who claimed to be just walking the beach. The subject stated to the officers that he was not in possession of any bags, fishing equipment, fish, abalone, etc. The man returned to his vehicle and quickly left the area. The contact raised the officers' suspicions enough to continue a check of the area. A second male was observed emerging from an area Henderson knew to contain a large number of black abalone. The officers made contact with the man, who was found to be in possession of a backpack which contained twenty-five black abalone. The man revealed he had been talked into coming to the area by his cousin (the man who left the area earlier). His cousin allegedly made the plans and acted as the lookout while the other subject took the abalone. The suspect was booked into Monterey County Jail for multiple Fish and Game charges. He recently pled guilty and received a \$15,000 fine and a lifetime fishing ban.



Warden Hampton led a team of a dozen wildlife officers who served a search warrant related to elk poaching in rural San Benito County. The case resulted in seizure of a large amount of elk meat from a spike bull elk the subject ultimately admitted to killing two weeks earlier. Numerous other violations were also discovered during the warrant service including unlawful possession of a red-tailed hawk, multiple untagged bobcats, and other game meat that may result in additional charges once laboratory testing is complete. The subject had marked his elk meat with the letters R.S. and admitted that this was supposed to mean "rabbit steak" so when he gave meat to friends it would not be suspicious.



Warden Gil responded to a report of an active shooter at Fort Hunter Liggett. He worked with allied agencies to clear one of the 170 room buildings the shooter was reportedly in. After the installation was shut down for over four hours, it was determined that there was no active shooter.

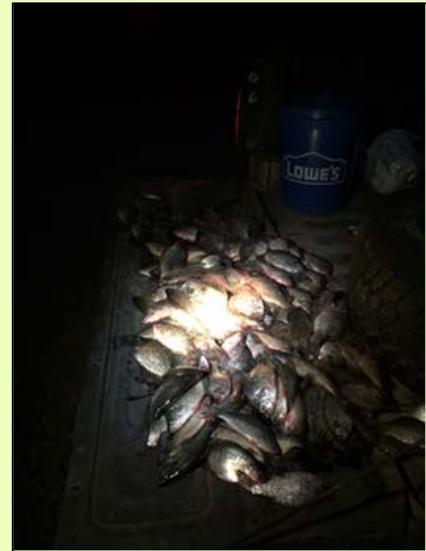
Warden Chance worked with SLO County to investigate the denuding of an entire property in the Adelaida including the massive removal of oak trees. The case generated tremendous media coverage which resulted in the owners donating the land for open space. There was no immediate wildlife violation found.

Warden Cisneros investigated a Cal-Tip report of a 7-8ft great white shark caught and landed on the Pismo Beach Pier. Warden Cisneros received several pictures of the shark, which was gaffed, tail looped, and landed with a large hoop net. The suspect ultimately turned himself in.

Wildlife Officers Dericco, Huntsman, and Hickey and K9 Keara worked a Mendocino abalone detail. They issued citations for possession of undersize abalone and for the take of an over limit of abalone. Warden Hickey concluded her month investigating the take of an endangered species of plant called, *Indian Knob Mountain Balm*, which is endemic to San Luis Obispo. A formal complaint will be filed.

Northern Enforcement District

Warden Burger was on patrol at Lake Britton in Shasta County. He watched one male adult and one child actively angling and kept a running tally of every fish caught. The adult angler consistently caught fish, adding to his total. Each licensed angler is allowed to keep twenty five sunfish as their daily bag limit. Warden Burger watched the adult subject transfer fish back and forth to a parked white car up the hill from his fishing location. Based on Burger's tally sheet the adult subject had possession of twenty eight sunfish. The child had kept four sunfish during the time he observed him. The two anglers began heading towards their white car. Warden Burger left his observation position and got back to his patrol truck to make contact. He concealed his patrol truck along the dirt road so the anglers would have to pass him. Once the car passed him, he initiated a vehicle stop on the driver of the white car. He contacted the driver of the vehicle and identified himself as a Game Warden. Warden Burger asked the driver if he had been fishing which he said "yes". When asked if he kept any fish he said "yes". Warden Burger told the driver that he would like to see his fish. The adult first showed Burger a blue bucket that had 17 sunfish (bluegill and crappie). Burger asked the adult if he had any other fish and he replied "no". Burger explained to the driver Fish and Game Code 2012, failure to show on demand. The subject continued to express "no". Burger continued to explain to the subject that if he makes a formal demand to see his fish and he does not comply that he could be charged with a misdemeanor charge for Fish and Game Code 2012. He specifically asked the driver if he had any fish in the trunk of the car, which he replied "no". Based on his observations and not getting driver's consent to the trunk he demanded the driver to open the trunk to inspect the fish. Burger found a plastic bag under the floor mat which contained 122 sunfish. Between the bucket and the bag, Burger counted 139 sunfish (crappie and bluegill). Burger issued a citation for FG 2012 and over limit of sunfish.



Wildlife Officers stayed extremely busy dealing with human-wildlife issues throughout the month. Bears cruising the neighborhoods at all hours of the day were the norm for June. As always, unattended garbage was most always found to be the ultimate culprit.

One of the other noteworthy bear issues for the squad was a large bear described by homeowners as "terrorizing" a neighborhood in the Plumas County town of Keddie. The bear broke into one occupied home by pushing in a screen window. Luckily, it did not harm the two elderly people inside the home, and only fed on a box of dog biscuits. The elderly woman called again several days later when the bear would not leave her yard during the middle of the afternoon in 90+ degree heat, and was peeking through her windows (see security cam pic from RP's front door). The woman was afraid to leave her home for her safety, and said that no garbage or any other attractants were present at the location. **Lt. Kroll** and **Warden Doerring** quickly responded to the location, and found the bear in the front yard area of the home. They hazed the bear with several less-lethal 12 gauge rubber slugs, and were able to pursue and harass the bear until it swam across the river and out of the area. Luckily the bear appears to have left and no other calls have been received.



A 911 call was received by Plumas SO from a kayaker on Lake Davis who had witnessed a pack of coyotes attack a woman and her three Labrador retrievers on the bank of the lake. The kayaker relayed that the woman began firing at the coyotes with a handgun thwarting the attack and scaring the coyotes back into the timber. **Warden Ulrich, Lt. Kroll** and **Warden Doerring** investigated. The victim left the scene prior to being contacted by the kayaker or the officers, and she has yet to be identified. It is unknown if the victim or her dogs suffered any injuries. Ulrich followed up with local medical and veterinary facilities, but they had not received any reports either. The officers did locate 2-3 coyotes at the reported attack location near the edge of the timber, but they did not exhibit unusual or aggressive behavior toward the officers, and maintained a 100+ yard distance from officers when approached.



Lt. Kroll and **Warden Awbrey** assisted Plumas SO, USFS, and BLM officers with a large outdoor marijuana eradication operation in the Plumas National Forest. A final total plant count of 20,329 plants were eradicated from the grow site located on a tributary to the North fork of the Feather River. Large water diversions / impoundments were used to water the massive grow site, and numerous chemicals and fertilizers were present. A BLM K-9 was able to apprehend and arrest one of the multiple suspects who fled from officers during the raid.

At the request of Senator Nielson's staff for a talk about horse patrol and to exhibit "Modoc," **Warden Karnow** gave a keynote speaking presentation to an audience of residents of the exclusive Winchester Country Club in Meadow Vista, Placer County. "Modoc" remained very personable while he stood patiently in front of the crowd on the deck of the clubhouses' fancy restaurant. Versatility of using BLM adopted wild horses for patrol and the role of California Wildlife Officers was discussed. Many questions were answered. Members of the club and staff offered support for CDFW officers and horse patrol efforts. **Warden Karnow** and **Warden Densford** gave two more public presentations representing the CDFW at the Carson City State Prison and also at the Reno Event Center Rodeo, Reno Nevada. Thousands of people were contacted and very interested and receptive to California Wildlife Officers and what they do. Densford and Karnow educated about the usefulness of horses on patrol and our work with the BLM and Nevada Prison system in adopting out inmate-trained wild horses that are a good fit for wildlife and conservation officers.



Warden Moskat discovered a large well-established unlawful camp in a rural area of the El Dorado National Forest near the Silver Fork of the American River. Moskat approached the camp and contacted a suspect who was sitting in the camp, fully naked. The camp consisted of a large tent, multiple tables, chairs, tarps, three vehicles with expired registration, large propane BBQ and various household items. Moskat located a large amount of trash in and around the camp. The suspect advised Moskat he had been living in the camp on and off for over a year. Moskat later contacted the El Dorado Forest Service LEO's who responded and issued the suspect a citation for violating multiple federal statutes relating to the unlawful camp. Moskat towed one of



the vehicles due to false registration tags and expired registration. The suspect asked Moskat to call the owner of another vehicle so the person could remove it from the area. When Moskat opened the suspect's cell phone to retrieve the number, he noticed the homepage of the phone was an image of an extremely young female posing in lingerie and in a sexual position. Moskat later questioned the suspect and completed a consensual search of the suspect's laptop computer. Moskat discovered hundreds of images of nude underage females. Moskat seized the computer, several flash-drives and the cell phone. Moskat arrested the suspect for outstanding warrants and later wrote a search warrant that authorized a forensic search of the suspect's computer and cell phone. Moskat worked with an El Dorado County Sheriff's Detective who specializes in child pornography cases. The warrant was signed by a judge and the computer and cell phone are currently being examined by the detective for evidence relating to child pornography.

Warden Michilizzi submitted a formal complaint for the unlawful possession of restricted species after receiving a CalTIP that an individual possessed an unknown number of unpermitted animals at his residence in Georgetown. Initial findings on the suspect's Facebook page; indicated a number of raccoons and potentially other wildlife were being trapped and relocated to the Georgetown residence. **Warden Stevenson** and **Lt. LaFave** assisted Michilizzi with an onsite inspection, where the officers located nine raccoons and two skunks in small enclosures. During the inspection, it was discovered that one enclosure found to hold six raccoons did not meet the space requirements for one raccoon. The animals were later seized and transferred to an individual properly permitted to care for them.



Office of Spill Prevention & Response

Warden Ryan Thiem shifted to a coastal patrol and worked negative tides with **Wildlife Officers Swaney, Stone, and Kempf**. Numerous citations were issued for high-grading clams during the week. Using high powered optics, the officers were able to zero in on some unsuspecting violators. The officers ended the weeklong low tide series with a plain clothes skiff patrol on Tomales Bay. The skiff provided the necessary means to make the contact at the water's edge when "clammers" are making their final counts before heading to shore where the officers are always waiting. The focused patrol netted a total of 15 citations on the day. Thiem also issued a citation for an overlimit of abalone on a solo run up the Sonoma coastline.

Warden Michael Kirchner taught the Hazmat First Responder Operations (FRO) course to the cadets and some members of the OSPR at the CDFW Wildlife Officer Academy at Butte College. The cadets and department personnel were introduced to hazmat concepts such as "SINning" (Safety, Isolation, Notifications), Protective Actions, Protective Equipment, and Countermeasures.

Warden Matt Plaza responded to a sunken vessel call at the Richmond Marina near the end of June. The dangers of diving were made evident when the 39' vessel finally broke off the cleat that was holding it up. The vessel did a small roll to its starboard side and nearly pinned the diver in the water. Luckily a topside safety observer in charge of running the hookah lines was able to snatch the diver from the water just in time.



Lt. Josh Nicholas attended a multi-agency fire coordination meeting in Quincy hosted by the Plumas Co Office of Emergency Services and the U.S. Forest Service. He participated in a natural disaster exercise focused on a hazardous materials release to the environment with CalEPA in Sacramento and attended a regional TLO- Coordinators meeting in Fortuna. The meeting was well attended with TLO- Coordinators from throughout Northern California.



Warden Ryan Hanson continued to work on an asphalt pollution incident at Kirkwood, where old road grindings were plowed / pushed into a pristine creek during winter snow removal operations. The clean-up is underway and making great progress. CDFW is working closely with the Regional Water Quality Board.

In addition, **Warden Hanson** gained information about a possible illegal fishing charter company during a spill response in the Tahoe Keys Marina at Lake Tahoe. Utilizing help from SOU and local wildlife officers, Hanson gathered intel and planned a take down. Two boats and two skippers were contacted and found to be operating fishing boats for compensation without the required CDFW licensing. One boat was too long to be considered a guide boat, thus was required to be a Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel. The other was not commercially registered and the operator was not licensed as a guide. Formal complaints will be filed.

Warden John Amis participated in a search warrant detail with the CDFW WET. The search warrant resulted in six arrests and the destruction of approximately 4,000 marijuana plants. Several FGC 1602 violations were discovered and will be filed by WET. **Warden Amis** did a comprehensive search for pollutants in nearby waterways.



Warden Jacob Juarez assisted **Wildlife Officers Henderson and Walker** with the investigation of commercial take of abalone off the Big Sur Coast in Monterey County. The officers booked one suspect for felony take of abalone with a second suspect facing felony take charges pending a formal complaint. Later in the month Warden Juarez assisted the MET team with an eradication OP east of Soquel in Santa Cruz County. Over 10,000 plants were eradicated and five suspects were booked into Santa Cruz County Jail for felony cultivation, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, streambed alteration, pollution of state waters, and trespassing.

In early June **Warden Conely** responded to a Union Pacific train derailment in Kern County. Ten rail cars went off the track near Caliente. Although the initial OES report indicated there may be HAZMAT involved it turned out five of the derailed cars were empty and the other five were transporting beer.



Warden Conely, fellow OSPR Central Field Response Team members, and representatives from the US Coast Guard participated in an equipment deployment drill in Ventura Harbor. A local spill response company practiced boom deployment operations at the entrance to Ventura Harbor. Later in the month Warden Conely completed final inspection and sign off for the Chevron 26C spill.

Captain George Struble and Lt. Joe Mello, along with Wildlife Officers Sau Garcia, Don Nelson, Paul Zurawski, and Josh Crocker responded to the Grove incident spill in Ventura. They participated with the unified command and communicated with OSPR response. The Wardens controlled the spill area and took photos, oil samples and GPS waypoints. A criminal investigation was begun, in coordination with the State Fire Marshal and the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and will continue into the near future.



Lt. Michael Horn responded to the Grove incident oil spill in the city of Ventura for seven days in June. While there, he served as the Cultural Historical Group Leader. In this role, he coordinated the Cultural Monitors and Archeologists to ensure that planning and operations included protection strategies for cultural and historical resources.

Southern Enforcement District

A camper was attacked by a bear, at Millard Campground in the Angeles National Forest. **Warden Collins** responded to the hospital to confirm it was a bear attack while **Wildlife Officers Fleet and Pell** responded to the campground to investigate and gather evidence. The victim reported lying in his tent when the bear swiped through the door of the tent, striking the victim on his head. The resulting injury was a large laceration on the top of the victim's head that required 18 staples to close. The victim's tent, clothing, and a scat pile, found near the attack site, were collected and sent to the Wildlife Investigations Lab (WIL) for testing. CDFW officers, along with personnel from the USDA, set up 12 hour shifts to monitor the campsite in an attempt to locate the offending bear.

The following day, dispatch received a call in regarding a bear in a neighborhood less than a mile from where the attack occurred. **Wildlife Officers Coombs and Pell** responded to the location to find a bear in a tree. The bear matched the description of the bear that was involved in the campground attack and was chemically immobilized. DNA samples were taken and sent to the WIL. The bear was transported to a licensed facility where it was housed pending the DNA results. The campground remained closed for the next four days while CDFW officers and Wildlife Services monitored the site around the clock.

Five days after the attack occurred, the DNA tests confirmed the captured bear was the same bear in the attack. DNA samples from the captured bear, the tent's door and the scat found near the attack all matched. The bear was euthanized for public safety reasons.

Wildlife Officers Collins, Pell and Fleet also responded to a bear in Arcadia that was close to the 210 Freeway and several miles from its natural habitat. The 300 pound bear was seen swimming in residential swimming pools and then later climbed into a tree. The bear was immobilized and immediately transported back to suitable habitat.

Warden A. Smith immobilized a 200 pound female bear in Monrovia that was across the street from a local YMCA and far from the nearest open space. The bear was safely released inside the Angeles National Forest.

Wildlife Officers Nguyen, Budish, Ton, and Lt. Hoffman conducted a focused patrol of Santa Monica Pier for lobster poaching activity. There were multiple subjects using snagging gear and fishing with a snagging motion. These anglers appeared to be targeting lobsters out of season. Further surveillance showed two adult subjects and two juveniles snagging and taking a total of five lobsters. The subjects were later contacted at their vehicles. Further investigation showed the four subjects had a "lookout," creating a sophisticated poaching operation. Three citations were issued for various lobster violations. Six lobsters were returned to the wild, one of which was a gravid (pregnant) female.



Warden Budish teamed up with **Warden Nguyen** to show him the "tricks of the trade" regarding lobster poaching in King Harbor. During the first patrol stop for the evening, Budish spotted several subjects who appeared to be snagging lobster. Budish and Nguyen focused their surveillance efforts on three subjects in particular. Over the course of several hours, the officers observed the three subjects fishing, one of which acted as a "runner" – carting lobsters to the trunk of a Toyota Camry. At approximately 0100 hours, the three subjects were contacted and swore they did not have any lobsters in their possession. The three subjects were standing at a white Honda Accord, and stated they all came together in the Honda, not the Camry. After numerous formal demands to

display any fish or lobster taken that evening, the officers finally advised the subjects of all their observations, including the lobster taken to the Camry. The subjects, who had been speaking in English, switched to Vietnamese and were no longer compliant. The subjects failed to keep their hands out of their pockets and denied any affiliation with the Camry. Budish requested backup from Redondo Police Department. During a search for weapons, the subjects were yelling to each other in Vietnamese, luckily this is a language Warden Nguyen speaks fluently. During Nguyen's search for weapons, and during the officers attempt to separate the subjects, one subject threw a set of car keys to another subject, who then threw them into the ocean. All three subjects were ultimately arrested, access to the trunk was achieved, and seven lobsters were identified in the trunk of the Camry (one of which was gravid). The night ended at 0530 hours the following day, and the fight continues to save "one lobster at a time."

Wildlife Officers Richards and **Vicknair** followed up on a CalTIP regarding a lobster poacher working San Diego and Mission Bays. When the subject was finally contacted by the two wardens, they found him in possession of 43 lobsters with 41 of them being undersized. The subject was issued a citation for out of season and undersized lobster as well as transported to jail for an outstanding warrant.

Warden McCorkle received a call of a big horn sheep in a neighborhood in Needles. When McCorkle arrived the sheep ran off into the desert. A few hours later, the sheep returned to an apartment complex. Upon McCorkle's arrival, there were many onlookers, including children around the sheep. Because of the possible public safety risk and the unusual location of the sheep, the sheep was successfully tased and relocated to the Colorado River area.

Headquarters

Watershed Enforcement Team (WET)

WET conducted a two day detail in the Sharber Creek Watershed of Trinity County. Sharber Creek is a priority watershed where critical habitat for Coho salmon is at risk. WET, assisted by Trinity County Sheriff's Office and the Water Boards, executed a search warrant on a private parcel in the upper Sharber Creek watershed. 2599 marijuana plants eradicated and two were arrested for felony cultivation. In addition, 12 FGC 1602 (substantial diversion and or alteration of a stream) violations were documented.



At left: Nine of twelve green houses, and illegal diversion uphill from grow site. Note how every effort is made divert every drop of water.

On the second day, WET served a warrant on a private parcel in the lower reaches of Sharber Creek. Four suspects were arrested for felony cultivation, and 1588 marijuana plants were eradicated. In addition, one FGC 1602 violation was documented. Upstream from the diversion, WET Environmental Scientists located several dead salmonid fry. It is not known, at this time, if the fry were killed by something originating on the parcel or from something upstream.



WET Law Enforcement (LE) assisted Trinity County Tehama County Sheriff's Office with the service of a search warrant along Hayfork Creek, critical habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. Three subjects were arrested for felony cultivation and 1647 marijuana plants were eradicated. One trespass FGC 1602 (substantial diversion of a stream) was located, and a criminal complaint is pending. The diversion originated from a spring on US Forest Service land and was directed almost 800 yards to the grow via one inch black poly pipe. It was estimated that approximated that nearly thirty gallons per minute was being diverted.

After the aforementioned search warrant, WET LE accompanied Trinity County Code Enforcement to private land marijuana grow, on Summit Creek. The 350 plant grow had the same signatures as the search warrant site and it is suspected that a Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) is operating numerous sites in the area under the guise of Proposition 215. One illegal diversion was located and it was decided that officers would return with a search warrant to eradicate the grow, document the illegal diversion and attempt to arrest those responsible. While at the site, WET LE check a neighboring parcel where they had served a search warrant last fall. A large artificial 20 deep pond had been illegally constructed and lined with a synthetic material which had been trapping

Western Pond Turtles (WPT), a species that is potentially being listed as a “species of special concern”. The pond was mostly empty and now about three feet deep. WET LE document at least 20 WPT’s and rescued three. WET LE will continue to revisit the site in hopes to rescue as many turtles as possible.



At left: On the left, illegal pond with trapped WPT in lower center of photo. At right: Three rescued WPT’s which included a hatchling which is rare to find.



WET LE assisted Tehama County Sheriff’s Office with a public lands DTO marijuana grow in the South Fork of Battle Creek. Battle Creek is an anadromous waterway that is approximately 10 miles upstream of Coleman National Fish Hatchery. Fertilizers and pesticides were located at the edge of the waterway. They were removed from the sensitive area until a complete reclamation could be conducted. One suspect was apprehended and approximately 3100 plants were eradicated.

WET LE assisted the Trinity County Sheriff’s Office in the raids of two DTO marijuana grows, on private timberland, along County Line Road in Trinity and Shasta counties. One arrest was made and at least three escaped apprehension. 8000 plants were eradicated in the Trinity grow and 12000 in the Shasta grow. The same group is suspected of being responsible for similar grows in the area on private timberland. Investigations are ongoing.

WET LE assisted Shasta County Code Enforcement with the service of a search warrant in the Shingletown area of Shasta County. The primarily indoor grow operation yielded three arrests, 200 marijuana plants which were eradicated, a large quantity of Butane Honey Oil, and 19 firearms. Numerous County ordinance violations were documented and no significant Fish and Game Code violations were detected.

WET LE responded to a complaint from a Roseburg Timber Company patrolman of a trespass marijuana grow in the Montgomery Creek area of central Shasta County. Upon making a tactical entry, WET LE came upon two Hispanic male adults in a camp adjacent to a large marijuana grow. Due to the heavy understory, the suspects were able to evade apprehension. Nearly 11,000 marijuana plants were documented and eradicated. 2,000 pounds of trash and over a mile of black poly-pipe were also documented. In addition, two diversions were located, documented and dismantled. Roseburg had requested the Shasta County Sheriff’s Department’s assistance with the grow a month earlier, but reportedly received no response. Time permitting; a CDFW will attempt a restoration effort this fall.



WET LE assisted with the entry and eradication of two trespass marijuana grows in Trinity County. The first was on Tuesday near Friend Mountain. Approximately 9500 marijuana plants were eradicated. One subject was arrested for felony cultivation and one illegal diversion was documented and dismantled. The second detail was in the New River watershed upstream from Denny. 9984 marijuana plants were eradicated and one illegal diversion was documented and dismantled. No suspects were on scene.

WET LE conducted two details in the Ono area of Shasta County. The first was a joint effort with CDFW MET where a suspected DTO suspect had established a trespass grow concealed in the manzanita on a vacant private parcel. The pre daylight entry of the grow yielded one arrest for felony cultivation and approximately 4500 marijuana plants. The suspect was found sleeping in a tent with a loaded .357 caliber revolver under his pillow. The suspect was safely extracted and arrested for felony cultivation. During the second detail, CDFW WET LE executed a search warrant on a private parcel just up the road. No one was found on the property during the detail and 766 marijuana plants were documented and eradicated. Countless Fish and Game violations were documented, along with one substantial diversion of a spring.



-Significant erosion damage found as a result of illegally constructed roads on the second of the two aforementioned parcels. Grow pots with irrigation system were scattered along the eroded roadways.



Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET)

MET operators conducted scout, eradication, arrest, and reclamation missions in Shasta, Tehama, Fresno, Merced, Stanislaus, Santa Cruz, Colusa, Glenn, Butte, Monterey, Madera, San Benito, Santa Clara and San Diego counties this month. The MET participated in operations that yielded the removal of approximately 80,000 illegal marijuana plants and thousands of pounds of grow waste, poisons and fertilizers, black poly pipe, etc. Approximately 20 illegal firearms were seized in these operations with 15 felony arrests on public and private land cultivation operations.

MET assisted on a large DTO marijuana grow on USFS land in Madera County. Several large encampments were found with over 45,000 marijuana plants growing, many of which were in full bloom ready for harvest.

MET was the case lead on a large marijuana eradication operation in Santa Cruz County. The operation netted five arrests, approximately 7000 marijuana plants eradicated and one stolen firearm recovered.

MET worked numerous search warrant details throughout Shasta County that resulted in 28,300 plants being seized, multiple water diversions restored, 16 firearms seized, a honey oil lab being dismantled, 60 pounds of processed marijuana seized and six suspects arrested, one giving up to K9 Champ, fresh out of the K9 academy.

MET assisted Fresno County narcotics team on a residential search warrant and outdoor grow near Fresno. Officers arrested two subjects at the property for felony sales and cultivation. Approximately 84 plants were seized as well as a small quantity of methamphetamine. MET and Fresno County detectives then conducted three additional marijuana ordinance compliance checks in the county, seizing an additional 188 plants, all of which were destroyed.

Delta Bay Enhanced Enforcement Project (DBEEP)

Warden Holley was patrolling the Feather River in downtown Oroville when he observed a White Honda Civic travelling the wrong way on the Highway 70 on ramp. Warden Holley attempted to stop the vehicle and it fled the area. After travelling in excess of 100 mph on North bound Hwy 70, the vehicle took the Grand Ave exit. After taking the exit the vehicle turned east onto Grand

Ave. Warden Holley continued to pursue the vehicle until the suspect stopped a short time later. After holding both subjects at gunpoint until Oroville Police arrived as cover, it was discovered that the vehicle was stolen and the license plate was unreported stolen from another city. The driver was arrested on multiple charges.

DBEEP wildlife officers participated in the 2016 Sacramento Delta Blitz. Officers reported making numerous contacts and issuing citations for boating safety violations, litter, and fishing violations. One suspect was arrested for an outstanding warrant.