

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

MONTHLY REPORT *April 2016*



Southern Enforcement District



Warden Budish, along with the help of **Warden Nguyen**, and several officers from the 5100 squad, made an excellent commercial fishing case in District 19A. Budish received reports a trawling vessel had been observed regularly in District 19A for several months. Trawling, let alone mere possession of trawl gear is strictly prohibited in District 19A (commonly known as the Santa Monica Bay). Budish began monitoring the trawler's activities on a daily basis. On the morning of April 2nd

(approximately one week later), around 0800 hours, Budish saw the trawler inside District 19A. Budish asked Nguyen to meet her at their skiff in Redondo Harbor ASAP. Nguyen stated he would meet Budish with officers **Garber** and **Dilts**.

Budish called officers **Kraus and Van Epps** and **Lt. Boyle** for assistance, and formulated a plan. Budish, Nguyen, Garber, and Dilts took the 5210 skiff out onto the ocean. They sat out on the ocean for most of the day, monitoring the trawler's trawling activity.

After a long day at sea, and when they were certain the trawler was well inside District 19A, they contacted the vessel. The trawler was underway and mid-trawl when the officers boarded them. Four subjects were contacted, with multiple violations discovered on board. Violations included illegal take and possession of California scorpionfish during closed season (federal regulations), illegal take and possession of rockfish during closed season (federal regulations), and illegally trawling in District 19A.



Budish along with several of the officers stayed on board the trawler, terminated their voyage, and had them return to port, in LA Harbor. **Warden Collins** and **Lt. Buckler** met the officers in port, where the trawl gear was removed and seized with the help of the P/V Coho. A case of this magnitude has not been made in over 10 years. Thanks to the teamwork of nine officers everything went smoothly. The case was filed with the Los Angeles District Attorney's office at the end of the month.

While patrolling the Laguna Beach Marine Reserve, **Warden Matias** spotted two divers illegally spear fishing off Seal Rock. Two people on shore approached Matias and stated they had told the divers that the area was a marine reserve. It appeared the divers were hoping no one would notice them due to the less than favorable ocean conditions and the incoming fog. Matias continued observations, and determined where the divers would most likely try to exit the water. After scaling the steep cliff side, Matias was able to make contact with the divers and cite them accordingly. One of the divers responded, "How the hell did you get down here?"

Wildlife Officers Pell and **Smith** assisted Lt. Healy as he darted a mountain lion near a high school campus in Granada Hills. Multiple compliments were received regarding how the Department handled this incident. Within a two day period, officers **Pell, Smith and Banks** darted a young bear in Duarte and another bear in Sylmar, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, to be returned to the mountains. The officers worked closely with LAPD Officers and LASO Deputies in these incidents.

Warden Shanley contacted a man with a 60 pound flathead catfish, tied up in a canal, three days before the Flathead Catfish Tournament. The man, who just so happened to be registered for the tournament, decided not to show up at the tournament's weigh in, and reportedly returned the fish to the water where he caught it.

Warden Esconde received a report of two subjects kicking live trout out of the water in Lytle Creek, during CDFW trout stocking days. Warden Esconde contacted the couple and found them to be in possession of 15 trout with no fishing licenses or poles, for which a citation was issued. She then met with the reporting party. Upon viewing photographs and video of the couple taking trout using their feet and sticks, Warden Esconde will be requesting the Riverside DA to file additional charges.

In addition to nine days at sea for boat patrol in April, the **Patrol Boat Thresher 5240 squad**, along with **5310** and **5320** squads participated in the Preventative Radiological Nuclear Detection (PRND) training in San Diego, last week. The PB Thresher was utilized for a choke point operation where National Guard radiation detectors were used to scan suspect vessels entering



Mission Bay, during a drill. The choke point drill included collaboration with

San Diego Lifeguards, San Diego Fire Department, San Diego County Hazmat, National Guard, and San Diego Harbor Patrol. On the day following PRND training, the PB Thresher was utilized in a vessel interdiction drill in San Diego Bay. The Thresher and CDFW officers cooperated with several agencies including FBI, San Diego Harbor PD, San Diego Lifeguards, and San Diego PD SWAT teams. The PB Thresher was specifically used during the drill as a platform for FBI snipers on the flybridge.



Warden Molsberry responded to a request by the Dana Point biologist for increased enforcement of off-trail use at the Dana Point Headlands Conservation Area. Molsberry was educated that the protected area contains two federally listed animal species (Pacific Pocket Mouse and Coastal California Gnatcatcher), several sensitive species, and at least 15 California native rare plants. Molsberry began enforcement at the beginning of the month which has resulted in a total of 15 citations to date. Molsberry has coordinated future night patrols with CNLM Rangers to crack down on H&S codes as well as the off trail use violations.

The **SED Natural Resource Volunteer Program** donated 1,175 hours of service to the Department during the month of April. Calls from the public included: coyote (7), mountain lion (5), miscellaneous (22). Wildlife Watch/coyote awareness meetings were held in Newport Beach, Woodbridge, and Irvine. NRVP manned outreach booths at: Day at the Docks, Casper's Wilderness Park, Imagination Program for Orange County Schools at the OC Fairgrounds, and a Bass Pro event. They also found time to assist with Prado Wetlands wood duck nesting box monitoring program; Trout in the Classroom; burrowing owl site survey program; monitoring of Craigslist for illegal sales of restricted species; and outreach at local state and county lands, piers, beaches, inland lakes, parks, and canyon trails.

Headquarters

WATERSHED ENFORCEMENT TEAM (WET)



Watershed Enforcement Team (WET) staff conducted consent inspections on three properties in Trinity County (Mad and Van Duzen rivers) with North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) to assess environmental damage associated with marijuana cultivation. In addition, ES staff did a pre-consultation on a cultivation site (consultant wanted to know if CDFW and Water Board would permit a site), and inspected a small grow that has applied for a permit. Four of five grow sites visited had violations. In total seven streambed alteration violations (FGC 1602) and four pollution (FGC 5650) violations were

documented. Notice of violations will be generated for each parcel for the associated violations. Above: *Tank and pump in unnamed tributary to the Mad River.*

While at one site, they observed a bulldozer actively working in a wetland to clear a landing for a greenhouse. WET contacted the equipment operator and landowner and demanded all work immediately stop. The investigation is ongoing. At right: *Freshly terraced hillside with potential of sediment discharge into nearby stream.*



CDFW WET and the Central Valley Water Board joined forces to serve an administrative search warrant in west Tehama County. The inspection spanned hundreds of acres and yielded extensive graded and erosion issues, along with



countless diversions. No active marijuana cultivation was found. The county was involved in the initial planning. Information was later gathered that a county employee may have warned the landowner, a prominent community member, of the pending inspection allowing him time remove items of concern. Above: *Illegal road grading with associated erosion and illegal dam in drainage. At right: Illegal dam used to divert water for irrigation and power generation.*

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CDFW WET also served search warrants on two grow compounds in the Igo area of western Shasta County. Both sites were encroaching on tributaries of the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek, critical habitat for steelhead and Chinook salmon. One grow yielded 10,500 marijuana plants and two arrests for felony cultivation. Carbofuran was suspected at the grow and samples were collected. (Carbofuran is one of the most toxic carbamate

pesticides and is most often marketed under the trade names Furadan and Curater. It is extremely toxic to birds, fish, and bees.) In the other grow, 615 marijuana plants were eradicated and there were five arrests for felony cultivation. Neither site had any significant stream alterations. Both appeared to have been irrigated by water supplied by water trucks which was suspect to have been illegally drawn from the Middle Fork of Cottonwood Creek by a subject who is currently under investigation.

WET law enforcement assisted Integral Ecology Research Center (IERC) staff with “ground-truthing” efforts on tribal land in Humboldt County. WET law enforcement also assisted IERC staff hike into a trespass grow site on public land to recover water monitoring equipment. A week earlier, staff attempted to recover the equipment without law enforcement present and encountered an individual near the grow site who ran when he saw them. No individuals or recent activity was encountered during the effort; however both water monitors were gone.

WET law enforcement worked night patrols in western Shasta County. WET law enforcement performed a criminal interdiction patrol that resulted in a total of six arrests, and 500 marijuana plants seized and destroyed. Cases for transportation for sales are pending.



MARIJUANA ENFORCEMENT TEAM (MET)

MET operators conducted scout, eradication, arrest, and reclamation missions in Shasta, Fresno, Stanislaus, Kern, Monterey, Glenn, Mendocino, Lake, Santa Clara, and San Diego counties this month. The team also conducted MET outreach presentations to conservation, regulatory, national law enforcement teams, and user groups in Sacramento, Lake, San Luis Obispo and Mendocino counties this month.



The MET hosted three days of trauma medicine, firearms and tactical training for US Fish and Wildlife Service at their annual in-service in Rancho Cordova. The two weeks following that, the MET assisted BLM Rangers and Special Agents with tactical MJ grow entry and tactical firearms drills at their annual in service training at Camp San Luis Obispo. MET also presented a tactical shooting debrief and marijuana tactical operations topics at National Park Service’s annual MJ team training in Sacramento.

Warden Boyd and K9 Phebe assisted the Shasta MIT on a private lands DTO arrest and eradication operation which yielded the destruction of 8000 illegal plants and three arrests. Environmental crime charges for streambed alteration, pollution, littering, and illegal animal trapping will be charged in this case.

Warden Quintal patrolled Santa Cruz and Monterey counties and received information of possible deer poaching activity in Santa Cruz County. Quintal teamed up with **Warden Gibson** to conduct a night



patrol in the area which yielded the arrest of one man for spotlighting, take of deer out of season, possessing a loaded gun in a vehicle and hunting without license violations. Quintal followed up on multiple DTO MJ grows site tips and is coordinating scout missions in Monterey County currently.

DELTA BAY ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT PROJECT (DBEEP)

DBEEP served three search warrants this month. First, they traveled to San Francisco to serve a search warrant on a suspect who was commercializing fish taken from Clearlake. Numerous items were seized from the residence. The suspect was arrested in Clearlake. The second search warrant was a high risk search warrant for Lt. Lafave's squad. The suspect had poached a pregnant doe and has a history of being violent toward law enforcement officers. The warrant was served, the suspect was arrested and numerous items of evidence were seized. The third warrant was for Warden Owens' case regarding a convicted felon with a firearm who was poaching deer (see below).

Warden Owen focused most of his time throughout the month of April to a case of hunter trespass and felon in possession of a firearm. During the case, Warden Owen used game cameras to photograph the suspected poacher in the field while hunting from an ATV. After several months of investigation and case work Warden Owen, along with several other DBEEP officers, served a search and arrest warrant in San Joaquin County. At approximately 0615 hours on the morning of the search warrant service, CDFW officers observed the suspect, a second adult male and a female in the front yard of the residence target practicing with a firearm. When the officers served the search warrant they found and seized two firearms, ammunition, a stolen ATV, packages of labeled deer meat, multiple deer antlers and a cellular telephone with photographs of taken deer. The main suspect was booked into the San Joaquin County Jail and several days later pled guilty to the charge of felon in possession of firearms. Within the plea agreement, the poacher was sentenced to six months in jail and five years formal searchable probation, given a five year stay away order from the property he trespassed on, and all firearms seized were ordered to be destroyed.

Warden Trunnell was patrolling the Sacramento River one evening and drove into the Verona Marina. An angler who had just returned from fishing asked him if he was here about the oversize sturgeon. Trunnell told him he was not. The man relayed his observations of another angler aboard a boat catching what looked like an oversize sturgeon. He also said someone was going to call CalTIP and thought that was why Trunnell arrived. Trunnell got a description of the suspected poacher. Within minutes the suspect returned to the boat ramp. The man on the boat claimed to have caught a white sturgeon. He said it was 60 inches. On the deck of the boat was a very large white sturgeon partially covered with medical absorbent pads. When the boat was trailered the fish was removed and measured. With a crowd of anglers around, Trunnell gave the bad news. The sturgeon was 65 inches. Several of the on lookers expressed their anger. The sturgeon was photographed and with help from several on lookers, the sturgeon was released to the river. A citation was issued for the unlawful possession.



North Coast Enforcement District

Lt. Hendricks and the crew of P/B Chinook assisted the Department with collecting samples for the Dungeness crab domoic acid tests. Hendricks worked with PAL planning the upcoming Kids Fishing Clinic in May, and he attended RAAC meetings for the nomination process of the new Northern California representative. Hendricks responded to a mountain lion call near the city of Fort Bragg where livestock was killed. Lt. Hendricks worked the first low tide series checking hundreds of abalone fishermen and citing four for over limits.

Warden Laird wrote multiple citations for abalone related violations. While on a contact of three subjects, Laird discovered several abalones inside of their vehicle. None of abalones were tagged, so they were cited accordingly.

Warden Powers continued investigation on two different commercial abalone cases and wrote three separate search warrants covering cell phones, computers, and cell provider information. Powers also worked the Mendocino Coast issuing 27 citations.

Warden Smith investigated a 1600 involving a property owner who took a portion of Clearlake and turned the natural vegetation into a private beach during the low water. Once the water rose, his beach became two feet under water. Smith assisted in a search warrant of a local bass and crappie poacher who had over 150 live crappie in his backyard. During Smith's patrol of his district he also recovered a stolen trailer, assisted with a combative drunk arson suspect, and assisted with a 45 foot box van that bottomed out on a local roadway blocking the road for approximately two hours. Smith finished his month attending the funeral and procession for local Sheriff's Deputy Jacob Steely. Smith along with Wildlife Officers Pascoe, Stephenson, Little, and Boyd attended along with hundreds of other officers to pay their respects to the local deputy who passed away on 04/21/2016. The procession was a site to see, including the vast amount of officers attending to pay their respects and support the family.



The **Patrol Boat Marlin** worked offshore and local patrols issuing citations for over limits of Gaper clams during low tide series. The crew seized an illegal load of Dungeness crab from a commercial vessel that possessed under size crab. They also rescued distressed boaters that were stranded on Seal Island in Tomales Bay; rendering assistance to them and returning them to the mainland safely. The crew rescued a total of five persons that would have surely drown or perished from hypothermia.

Warden Morton assisted Oregon Fish and Wildlife with a waste of geese case. Morton was able to interview a few hunters in Napa and eliminate them as suspects.



Warden Mead worked a weekend of low tide activity at Tomales Bay with other squad members. Over 35 citations were issued for gaper clam over limits with over 400 clams seized. Pictured at left is one of the cases where five men took 98 clams.

Warden Henderson and **Warden D. Walker** responded to a CalTIP at Santa Cruz Harbor and found multiple commercial fishing violations. The

investigation is still ongoing. Officers Henderson and Walker continued surveillance on an active baiting site in the Salinas Valley.

Warden Jones wrote a canary rockfish case in Santa Cruz during the opener. Jones and Santa Cruz SO personnel worked a previously discovered encampment on the Pajaro River and found additional property identified as stolen in a Watsonville commercial burglary. They arrested the suspect for resisting arrest, possession of stolen property, possessing a switch blade knife, violating probation, possessing methamphetamine, and polluting the Pajaro River. Jones responded to a CalTIP pollution complaint on Carbonera Creek in Scotts Valley. During the investigation he and ES personnel determined the \$80 million construction project was damaging the creek and violating 1602 FGC. Jones assisted Santa Cruz S.O. who discovered bird of prey parts while serving a warrant. Jones took custody of two pairs of wings and talons from recently killed barn owls being processed for preservation in a bathtub inside the residence. Charges have been requested against both residents for violating 3503.5 FGC.

Warden Strauss coordinated a JEA detail for the opening of recreational rockfish and salmon season during which about 700 anglers were contacted over the three day detail. No salmon were landed at Port San Luis and only two were reported in Morro Bay. The detail resulted in 24 citations for no license, illegal fish, and unlawful methods as well as nine warnings. Strauss was assisted by **Lt. Tognazzini**, **Warden Anderson**, and **Warden Hodel** in an investigation regarding the use of illegal lobster traps in Port San Luis. In spite of a warning to service traps in late December, the commercial fisherman did not check his traps and failed to remove them as they actively fished after the close of season on March 16th. This resulted in the unlawful take of a southern sea otter. Multiple additional violations were uncovered during the investigation and a complaint is pending in San Luis Obispo Superior Court. Strauss completed an investigation regarding a 23' sailboat left in the Morro Bay Wildlife Area for many months. The owner of the boat was directed to remove the vessel and did not. The boat was removed and turned over to impound with Morro Bay Harbor Patrol. A formal complaint is pending.



Warden Gil and **Warden Thomas** rescued a kayaker on opening day of rockfish season offshore of Montana de Oro State Park. The exhausted kayaker had flipped his kayak and it had filled internally with water. During the rescue the officers took a sleeper wave which filled the rear of the patrol skiff with water but quick actions resulted in safe harbor of the

victim, officers, patrol skiff, and kayak. Gil and Hodel had a number of closed season fishing cases in the Upper Nacimiento River with several anglers who started trout season a week early.

Warden Chance was flagged down by a concerned motorist who reported possible police officer impersonation activity by a driver on Highway 101 near Atascadero. Chance saw a sport utility vehicle traveling north on Hwy. 101 with red and blue forward flashing lights activated. He followed the car and noted no government plates or decals indicating a law enforcement vehicle. Chance stopped the car and dispatch confirmed the vehicle was not associated with any law enforcement agency. Chance contacted the driver and issued a citation to the driver for the illegal use of red and blue lights and seized the lighting system as evidence. Chance wrote a number of fishing related citations at Nacimiento Lake.

Lt. Tognazzini responded to assist Central District officers **Golden** and **Sheeley** on a shots fired call late at night. He located a live wild pig being raised on the property and obtained information regarding its capture six months earlier as a piglet and the person responsible. Officers Hodel and Gil followed up on the case and seized the animal. A criminal complaint is pending.

Lt. Ames piloted the P/B Bluefin to Santa Cruz for rockfish and salmon openers. Citations were issued for barbed hooks, undersized fish, prohibited species, and no fishing licenses. Sixty eight commercial Dungeness crab traps were seized belonging to two different fishermen who had their traps in the Soquel Canyon SMCA and Greyhound Rock SMCA, and 40 hagfish bucket traps were seized for being abandoned and having no destruct devices.

Office of Spill Prevention & Response



Warden Michael Kirchner responded to a gasoline spill in El Zanjon Creek at Junipero Serra County Park, San Bruno. The gasoline was allowed to dissipate and the source was never identified. Warden Kirchner also responded to a sunken vessel in Bodega Bay. Boom was applied to the water surface and the vessel was raised by Parker Diving & Salvage.

Warden Ryan Thiem responded to a spill call that resulted in a discharge of diesel fuel into the South Yuba River. It appeared the driver of the tractor truck failed to make any significant calls for emergency assistance when he ruptured his saddle tank.



Fortunately, a CalTrans employee happened on scene and woke the sleeping driver to advise him this was a big problem.

Warden Ryan Hanson responded to a spill in Lake Tahoe of an unknown material from an unknown source. Hanson and **Warden Mitchell Goode** investigated the Tahoe Keys area and found multiple issues, but no smoking gun or source of pollution. Hanson learned that someone was seen dropping an oil filter into the water from their boat. After several days of changing stories, the individual admitted to accidentally dropping a used engine oil filter off of his boat. Hanson had State divers Bellmer and Healey respond and recover the oil filter underneath the suspect boat in 10 feet of water. A rainbow sheen was observed in the area where the filter was recovered and Clean Harbors was on scene to handle clean up.



Warden John Amis spent several days working with Chico Park Rangers and Butte County SO on issues regarding the transient encampments near state waterways. The encampments are problematic due to the litter and pollution violations that are ongoing with this population. Warden Amis gave several warnings and citations to contacts that were made during the details.

Warden AJ Russo responded to report of a ruptured saddle tank along I-80 in Vacaville. It was reported approximately 70 gallons of diesel had escaped from the saddle tank of a semi and entered a storm drain leading to Ulatis Creek. It was determined by CHP that the semi had struck a piece of leaf spring which was ejected by the tire into the saddle tank causing a baseball size hole.



While patrolling the delta by boat Warden Russo and Warden Jacobsen were flagged down by a citizen who reported that just a couple yards down the slough was a Swainsons Hawk trapped in tules and was struggling to stay out of the water. With the tide quickly rising Warden Russo and Warden Jacobsen began searching for the hawk. Within just a few minutes the officers observed what appeared to be the hawk struggling in a patch of tules barely above the water a few yards from the bank. Using a boat hook, Russo was able to break down the tules and get the hawk to perch onto the pole. With the hawk still perched on the pole the hawk was able to get its bearing and was able to rest briefly. After a brief stare down the hawk finally flew off, crossing the slough and landing on a tree branch on the opposite bank.



Warden Mike Conely responded during heavy thunderstorm in early April to a PGE transformer that caught fire and fell to the ground releasing approximately 80 gallons of non PCB transformer oil into the Kern River. **Warden Conely, Warden Matt Plaza, Lt. Joe Mello, ES Connell and ES Roberts** assisted with the incident.



Warden Don Nelson responded to several oil spill reports which included a discharge from a paddle wheel boat in



Newport Harbor, an overturned semi-truck along the 10 freeway east of Indio and a generator diesel fuel discharge. The paddle wheel boat was observed discharging oil out of the bilge pump and into Newport Harbor and a formal complaint is pending. Warden Nelson later responded to a semi-truck that had overturned and landed in a dry wash east of the City of Indio. The saddle tanks had been compromised and the truck's load of almond milk had been released into the wash. Warden Nelson got some patrol time in and booked two subjects that had outstanding warrants out of Los Angeles County.

Warden Santos Cabral answered a request for help from a local USCG Lieutenant at Ventura Harbor regarding a missing fisherman who was trawled up inside the cod end of one of the local commercial ridgeback shrimp trawlers. Warden Cabral physically responded with the USCG to a pollution event in Ventura Harbor which involved a 50 foot commercial fishing trawler grounding on the Ventura breakwater. Approximately 600 gallons of oily water and diesel along with 400 pounds of diesel coated ridgeback prawns were removed from the vessel by NRC and disposed of properly.

Warden Sau Garcia was on call five days and received numerous calls, from orphan sheens and traffic accidents to a release of oil in Porter Ranch. A full FRT response was deployed to Porter Ranch and it was determined to be minor incident with no State waters affected. While on marine zone patrol with **Warden Paul Zurawski**, the duo issued a cite on behalf of an Idaho game warden, issued one cite for fishing without a license and then arrested the subject on an outstanding \$50K warrant.

Central District

Warden Golden contacted a group of fisherman along the Aqueduct and discovered seven undersized striped bass hidden underneath bags of ice in a large ice chest. One of the subjects stated that his kids caught the fish. Warden Golden explained to the subject that he was in possession of the fish and responsible for them. When Warden Golden asked for his name, the subject paused and then gave the name of "Lee Vang". Warden Golden ran the subject and was not able to find a match. While Warden Golden was on the phone with dispatch attempting to confirm the subject's identity, an anonymous fisherman called in saying he spoke the same language (Hmong) as the group Warden Golden was on contact with. The caller stated that the subject gave Warden Golden a fake name, and was joking with his friend's about giving Golden false information. After not being able to positively identify the subject and with another fisherman calling in that the subject was lying about his true identity, Warden Golden arrested the subject. The subject was identified at the jail as a completely different name than he gave to Warden Golden. The subject was arrested and booked into Fresno County Jail for giving a false name, over limit of striped bass, undersized striped bass, and no fishing license.

Warden Golden was patrolling Hume Lake and the Ten Mile Creek area on the trout opener when he was flagged down by a fisherman. The fisherman stated there was a subject walking around going through people's belongings next to them as they fished. He said the subject was yelling a name and appeared to be intoxicated. The fisherman pointed out the subject as he was walking the shoreline. Warden Golden watched the subject walk towards a parking lot near the shoreline and slam a tailgate on a pickup truck. The subject also left several beer cans on the hood of the truck. Warden Golden, not wanting to contact the subject alone, called for assistance from Fresno SO and USFS. While waiting for assistance, Warden Golden watched the subject hike down into a canyon behind the dam of the lake. Two Park Rangers from Sequoia National Park arrived on scene to assist Warden Golden. Warden Golden and the Rangers made contact with the subject. The subject (60 year old man) did not appear to be intoxicated but did appear to be confused. The subject stated he was fishing with his brother and his son. After a few minutes, the subject's story changed and he said that he was fishing with his son and his grandson. The subject was able to give Warden Golden his correct contact information one minute and then the next minute he was unable to know simple information like his wife's name. The subject kept saying he was with his brother or son named Joey. The two Rangers stayed with the subject as Warden Golden drove around the lake and contacted every fisherman to see if they were missing anyone or were with the subject. While Warden Golden was contacting people around the lake, the subject's son whose name is Joel (not Joey) and his daughter found the Rangers out with his father. The son stated that he was looking for his dad and was not sure where he wandered off to. The son said his dad has been having dementia issues as of late and he was very thankful to all three officers for looking out for his father.

Lt. Barnhart was at his HQ when he was contacted by two concerned neighbors. The neighbors reported that a subject that appeared to be under the influence was walking up to houses and checking for open gates and doors. Lt. Barnhart threw on a uniform and began checking the area. Within two minutes, Lt. Barnhart located the subject walking through a new housing construction area. Tulare PD also responded, and Lt. Barnhart and the first responding Tulare PD officer contacted the subject. The subject acted like he was

going to run, but he was quickly detained. The subject stated his name was "Sitting Bull Coyote" and he was "going to buy the house on the mountain". The subject appeared to be under the influence of stimulants and was not from the area. The subject made numerous incoherent statements and refused to give his correct name. Tulare PD was able to determine his identity and the subject had an active warrant and a parole hold. The subject was arrested for multiple charges.

A wildlife checkpoint was conducted on Sunday, May 1 on northbound Hwy 395 north of Bridgeport. 171 vehicles were inspected. Almost every angler was happy to see the checkpoint being conducted. Sadly, most anglers checked at the checkpoint had not caught any trout. There were only a couple of vehicles where the occupants were close to having limits of trout. A few fish and wildlife violations were found and warnings were given. No limits or over limits of trout were found during the checkpoint. A couple of people were found driving with open containers of beer. During the checkpoint officers faced 40-45 degree temperatures with wind and sleet.

Warden Mello accompanied the San Joaquin County Sheriff's and District Attorney's Offices on an inspection of several homeless encampment areas along the Calaveras River in Stockton. Tons and tons of garbage were observed and a number of county ordinance/penal code violations and environmental impacts were noted. The County is now looking into additional methods to prevent human habitation on the river and cleanup will begin shortly.

While conducting a river patrol, **Warden Densford** came across a subject lying in the roadway. When Warden Densford asked the man if he was okay, the guy got up and attempted to crawl through the patrol vehicle's passenger window. When Warden Densford attempted to confront the man, he became combative. The man was ultimately taken to the ground. The man later admitted he was on LSD. He was taken to the hospital for further evaluation. Charges are pending for assault on a peace officer.

Northern Enforcement District



Members of the **2210 Squad** coordinated with the City of Red Bluff, County of Tehama, Bureau of Reclamation, the Tehama County F&G Commission, CalFire's 'Ishi Conservation Camp', and local waste companies to clean up abandoned transient camps and increase access to the Sacramento River. The multi-agency effort removed 280 cubic yards of refuse from the riparian zone of Dog Island Park in Red Bluff.

The springtime weather brought lots of folks out and about this month in the high country looking to catch trout. A total of 11 trout angling and closed creek citations and numerous warnings were issued by **Wildlife Officers Doerring, Awbrey, Ulrich, Hernandez, Buckler, Brennan, and Lt. Kroll**. Kroll cited one subject for taking a large rainbow trout from the North Fork of the Feather River prior to the season opening.



Warden Buckler patrolled in Butte County with **Warden Beals**. They arrested a convicted felon with nine grams of methamphetamine and a concealed .22 caliber pistol. They made another case on two anglers with marijuana, methamphetamine, and a beautiful poached wild steelhead trout hidden in the bushes. Another case involved the arrest of a convicted felon with multiple firearms shooting unlawful targets (a full vehicle radiator) well after hours on the Oroville Wildlife Area.

Warden Buckler was on his day off when he received a CalTIP reporting two subjects were dragging a dead buck deer onto their property. Warden Buckler arrived to find three suspects butchering a small buck that was just starting to grow velvet antlers. The suspects stated a CHP Officer had dispatched the buck, then told them "please take this deer." Warden Buckler contacted the CHP Officer and confirmed the obvious, that he actually advised the suspects not to take the dead animal. Buckler learned two of the now four suspects had outstanding arrest warrants. Buckler then discovered the suspects had butchered two cows the week prior, and dumped both those carcasses, as well as the unlawfully possessed deer carcass, in a creek behind their property. Buckler arrested one warrant suspect and cited the other. He collected evidence, statements, and admissions to continue investigating the unlawful possession of the buck deer, as well as the dumping / pollution violations for which he will be filing a formal complaint in Lassen County.

Warden Olsen responded to a CalTIP report of a deer shot at night in a field in a highly populated residential area near Lake Oroville. Olsen contacted the RP who observed a vehicle stop near his home, and who had watched as the passenger shot a deer then sped off into the night. Olsen checked the field and located a dead doe with a bullet hole in her. Suspecting the poachers would return to scoop up their illegally taken kill; Olsen hid his truck at the RPs house and then found a spot to watch from to see if anything developed.



Approximately an hour later a different truck than the one described in the initial drive by slowly approached down the road, turned around, and parked nearby. Using his night vision scope, Olsen observed a subject run into the field where the doe lay, quickly grab its hind legs and run back to the truck dragging the critter behind him. When Olsen saw the activity, he ran straight towards the truck and intercepted the trucks occupants, with the driver about to get into the driver's seat and drive away. The passenger was in the bed of the truck and both looked very surprised with Olsen's arrival! Olsen observed the suspects already had the doe in the back of the truck and were trying to leave in a hurry. Because of the multiple suspects involved in the contact, beside the two shooters a third party had come along for the ride, and the various moving parts involved in the investigation, Olsen

requested a deputy respond to his location.

When deputies arrived the subjects were interviewed and admitted to the crime. The shooter showed Olsen the location and angle from which he shot the deer including the backdrop of an occupied house. The shooter took Olsen back to his house where he located the truck described by the RP in the initial shooting. Inside the truck was the rifle used to kill the doe. Two subjects are facing multiple violations including probation violations. **Officers Olsen, Holley** and **Weckman** had received multiple reports of this activity around six months ago and had worked many hours surveilling the area, so it was rewarding for Olsen to finally catch up with a couple of perpetrators.

Warden Kraft and Warden Rose worked the Feather River in Sutter County at night after hearing that the striper bite was red hot and the population of juvenile salmon was high. The officers snuck into position behind three subjects and watched them for several hours. After a while, one subject began trying to catch juvenile salmon with his hands - this proved to be near impossible. The suspect graduated to using an old soup can and was actually able to catch several of the salmon. The suspect and another subject in the group used the juvenile salmon as bait and almost instantly caught striped bass with the illegal bait. The officers watched the suspects repeat this process several times until the suspects packed up to leave. Upon contact, the suspects were caught red handed with the juvenile salmon and cited accordingly. After citing the suspects it was discovered that the main suspect had been cited by Lt. Stebbins and Warden Gamble several years earlier for spotlighting.

Lieutenant LaFave responded to a call of two subjects hunting turkeys in the Kanaka Valley Wildlife Area, which is closed to spring turkey hunting unless you are lucky enough to get a limited draw permit. Lt. LaFave located the subjects and the two were cited for hunting without a valid permit in possession.