

# **State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Public Safety Alaska Wildlife Troopers Component Budget Summary**

## Component: Alaska Wildlife Troopers

### Contribution to Department's Mission

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

### Core Services

The purpose of the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is to protect state fish and game resources by a combination of uniformed trooper patrols, covert investigations, and educational and public awareness programs. In addition, AWT has primary responsibility to provide statewide boating safety education and enforcement. The division is committed to the following core services:

- Statewide Patrol of Commercial Big Game Services (identification of illegal guiding and transporter activities).
- Statewide Commercial Fisheries Enforcement (reduction of unlawful harvest and sales of wild-stocks).
- Statewide Sport Fish and Sport Fish Guiding Enforcement (reduction of illegal harvest and sale of sport fish).
- Statewide Game and Trapping Enforcement (prevention of waste and illegal harvest).
- Boating Safety (reduction of boating related deaths and injuries).
- Safeguarding Habitat (reduction of watershed damage and non-compliance of environmental permits).

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

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

AWT performs wildlife enforcement patrols and investigations throughout Alaska.

- Performs primary police service in many remote communities.
- Performs wildlife law enforcement patrols and investigations throughout Alaska's 586,000 square miles of landmass, 36,000 miles of coastline, and 336,000 square miles of expanded federal jurisdiction in the Bering Sea, including in urban areas not normally associated with state troopers such as Ship Creek in Anchorage.
- Provides boating safety education and enforcement.
- Participates in search and rescue missions statewide.
- Investigates and apprehends criminal offenders.
- Participates in and conducts educational and public awareness classes.
- Maintains thirty-seven AWT posts strategically located throughout Alaska to assure optimum trooper presence and coverage. Division headquarters is in Anchorage and there are five distinct geographical detachments. "A" Detachment covers Southeast Alaska with the headquarters located in Juneau and posts in Petersburg, Klawock, Haines, Hoonah, Sitka, Ketchikan, Wrangell, and Yakutat (temporary duty post). "B" Detachment covers Southcentral Alaska with the headquarters located in Palmer and posts in Anchorage, Glennallen, Mat-Su West (sub-station of Palmer), and Talkeetna. "C" Detachment covers Southwestern Alaska with its headquarters located in Kodiak with posts in King Salmon, Iliamna, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor, and Cold Bay (TDY post). "D" Detachment covers northern and western Alaska. Headquarters is located in Fairbanks with posts in Galena, Coldfoot, Kotzebue, Delta Junction, Tok, Cantwell, Nome, Bethel, Aniak, McGrath, and St. Mary's. "E" Detachment covers the Kenai Peninsula and Prince William Sound. Headquarters is located in Soldotna with posts in Girdwood, Anchor Point, Seward, Valdez, and Cordova.

### FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

<b>FY2009 Component Budget: \$16,997,500</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	119
	Part time	16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>

## Key Component Challenges

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

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

Resource user license purchases in Alaska had a slight drop in sales from 2005 as indicated in the Department of Fish and Game's statistics. In calendar year 2005, 816,546 licenses were sold with a total generated net sale of \$22.7 million and in calendar year 2006, 786,404 licenses were sold with a net sale value of \$29 million.

The challenge to AWT is to provide at least adequate enforcement of fish and wildlife laws with existing resources. Because of Alaska's vast land mass, the challenge of having a full staff of 96 AWT troopers monitor 786,404 licensed resource users is a staggering 8,192 to 1 ratio. Furthermore, the division has been averaging 15 commissioned trooper vacancies.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009

The Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is targeting an increase in educational and public awareness training. This includes targeting a 20 percent increase in the number of boating safety educational appearances, as well as a ten percent increase in hunting safety and other educational appearances as a whole.

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

AWT troopers will be participating in at least three large-scale enforcement programs throughout the state during FY2009. The division's enforcement efforts benefit by pooling resources from around the state into specific regions to enhance patrol efforts and gain better compliance. This not only allows the division to contact more resource users in the targeted area, leading to the detection of most violations; it also provides the ability to pair junior troopers with those with more field experience.

## Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

The Department of Public Safety established the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers during FY2007. The division conducted wildlife enforcement training for new troopers that had transferred into the division from the Division of Alaska State Troopers. The training focused on the complex nature of fish and game laws and their enforcement techniques.

During FY2007, AWT troopers conducted several targeted boating safety patrols. These state troopers recognize the importance of this enforcement and are continually increasing their efforts. AWT troopers spent 2,511 hours on boating safety enforcement. They contacted nearly 13,000 boaters, issued 751 warnings, and gave 339 citations.

The Bristol Bay Commercial Salmon Fishery, the largest commercial salmon fishery in the world, had at its peak 1,573 registered commercial fishing boats and over 900 registered commercial set net sites operating in various districts within Bristol Bay. Twenty-three troopers and 18 civilian personnel participated during enforcement activities from June 19 through July 20, 2007. The *P/V Stimson*, *P/V Woldstad*, and *P/V Kvichak* participated and supported six patrol skiffs, as well as served as bases of operation for enforcement and search and rescue operations throughout Bristol Bay. Four fixed wing aircraft were used to provide air support. Additionally, for ten days in June, AWT conducted joint fishing vessel boating safety enforcement operations with the U.S. Coast Guard with AWT providing at sea logistics support to Coast Guard boarding teams, and the Coast Guard providing extensive air logistics support to AWT throughout the program.

The following summary enforcement actions occurred during the program:

- Commercial Fish: 2,474 contacts, 148 criminal citations, 179 warnings.
- Sport Fish: 1,201 contacts, 43 citations, 87 warnings.
- Boating Safety: 775 contacts, 9 citations, 144 warnings.

AWT troopers investigated a big game guide regarding the taking of a female brown bear with cubs. While conducting a guided bear hunt with a client, they shot and killed the bear and claimed the taking to have been in defense of life and property. Evidence collected from the scene and statements of the violators led to charges being filled. A jury trial in Haines ended with a guilty verdict; sentencing is still pending.

AWT troopers investigated complaints of assault, reckless endangerment, and hindering lawful hunting against a big game guide. The complaints stemmed from the guide using his airplane to dive at hunters and camps, chasing another plane in the air, as well as chasing away game with the plane. Following the investigation and subsequent trial, the guide was convicted of these charges.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers in Ketchikan received a tip from a state of Washington Game and Fish officer that a Tacoma, Washington resident had possibly committed hunting violations while hunting black bear near Ketchikan in May 2006. The investigation revealed that seven individuals did hunt on Prince of Wales Island in May 2006. During the hunt, they videotaped the hunting activities of the group with the intention of having the video made available for commercial sale. Troopers obtained a copy of the edited video and reviewed it. Several serious hunting violations were observed on the video including the use of radio communication to take black bear, shooting from a boat and taking black bear over an illegal bait site. Based on this information, troopers and U.S. Forest Service agents were able to obtain search warrants for five separate locations in Washington. The U.S. Forest Service requires a permit in order to produce and sell video tapes filmed on Forest Service lands. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers Investigative Unit from Anchorage, U.S. Forest Service agents, Washington Game and Fish officers, and Washington State Police served the search warrants in three different locations simultaneously. Evidence was recovered including two illegal black bears and several thousand DVD's packaged for sale. In addition, a stolen vehicle was recovered from the garage of the main defendant. Also recovered during the search were unedited video tapes of the hunt. Troopers reviewed these tapes and discovered additional wildlife crimes. Five defendants have been summonsed to appear in the Craig District court.

A concentrated enforcement program for Mat-Su Sport fish was conducted June 15 to July 10, 2007. Fifteen AWT personnel from around the state participated in the program. AWT troopers documented over 4,634 contacts with resource users resulting in 416 citations and over 300 warnings.

AWT troopers conducted patrols in the Knik River Public Use Area. The primarily weekend and late night patrols resulted in several arrests, responses to citizens in need of emergency help, and an overall reduction in lawless activities previously so common in the area. Public reaction and comments to the patrols have been positive.

AWT troopers conducted an extensive investigation into illegal guide activities on the Alaska Peninsula. This led to multiple convictions on a local area guide and two of his hunters. The guide was convicted of illegal possession and failure to report resulting in over \$2,000 in fines and restitution and seven days suspended jail time. Two of the clients also pled guilty to hunting violations.

AWT troopers in Seward and Soldotna investigated an illegal big game guiding operation that took several months and resulted in dozens of charges including scheme to defraud and guiding without a license. Ultimately the defendant pled to 11½ years in jail with 9½ suspended, probation for ten years, loss of hunting privileges for ten years, loss of fishing privileges for five years, and was ordered to repay thousands of dollars in restitution.

AWT conducted patrols in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area for the salmon season. A total of five AWT Troopers participated in the program. In all, the troopers made 1,654 contacts and issued 118 citations including 30 boating related citations. Two boating DUI arrests were made. AWT troopers also investigated a double fatality motor vehicle accident in St. Mary's.

In Nome, AWT conducted a crab patrol during the closed season between fisheries using a commercially leased vessel. Troopers seized 40 king crab pots as well as the *F/V Tonia* when they found all of the gear to be actively fishing during the closed period.

AWT troopers conducted numerous residency investigations. One case resulted in a conviction with the defendant being fined \$15,000 with \$10,000 suspended. The defendant participated in sport fish and commercial fish in both Alaska and Washington while claiming resident status in both states. In another residency case, a resident of Yelm, Washington pled guilty in Juneau District Court to two counts of unsworn falsification. The charges were the result of an investigation that showed he was claiming to be a resident when purchasing Commercial Fishing Entry Commission (CFEC) permits during 2004 and 2005 for the halibut long-line and king/tanner crab fisheries. Juneau District Court imposed a \$20,000 fine with \$10,500 suspended and 240 days of suspended jail. In addition, his privilege to obtain licenses for commercial fishing, sport fishing, and hunting were revoked for three years and he was placed on probation for five years.

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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

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### Alaska Wildlife Troopers Component Financial Summary

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	11,051.1	12,766.4	13,237.9
72000 Travel	185.0	507.0	540.8
73000 Services	1,985.1	2,221.8	2,688.1
74000 Commodities	283.8	349.3	367.6
75000 Capital Outlay	3.2	238.9	163.1
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>13,508.2</b>	<b>16,083.4</b>	<b>16,997.5</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	12,377.8	14,420.6	15,272.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	228.6	228.6
1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts	1,130.4	1,434.2	1,496.9
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>13,508.2</b>	<b>16,083.4</b>	<b>16,997.5</b>

### Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Interagency Receipts	51015	0.0	228.6	228.6
Capital Improvement Project Receipts	51200	1,130.4	1,434.2	1,496.9
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>1,130.4</b>	<b>1,662.8</b>	<b>1,725.5</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,130.4</b>	<b>1,662.8</b>	<b>1,725.5</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2008 Management Plan</b>	<b>14,420.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,662.8</b>	<b>16,083.4</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-ETS Chargeback Redistribution	11.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
-Transfer Public Safety Tech I (PCN12-3856) from Marine Enforcement	56.2	0.0	0.0	56.2
-Transfer State Trooper PCN 12-1962 to Investigation Unit	-106.7	0.0	0.0	-106.7
-Delete one-time-authorization for First FY2008 Fuel/Utility Cost Increase Funding Distribution	-6.9	0.0	0.0	-6.9
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	70.7	0.0	62.7	133.4
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Increased Fuel / Utility Costs	38.6	0.0	0.0	38.6
-Increased Vehicle Costs	145.3	0.0	0.0	145.3
-Annualize AWT Troopers added in FY2008	130.0	0.0	0.0	130.0
-Continued Enhancement of Wildlife Troopers	513.2	0.0	0.0	513.2
<b>FY2009 Governor</b>	<b>15,272.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,725.5</b>	<b>16,997.5</b>



**Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
<u>FY2008</u>				
<u>Management</u>	<u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>Governor</u>	
Full-time	117	119	Annual Salaries	7,689,537
Part-time	16	16	COLA	125,575
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	1,106,623
			Annual Benefits	4,577,949
			<i>Less 3.90% Vacancy Factor</i>	(525,984)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	264,200
<b>Totals</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>13,237,900</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	1	0	6	7
Captain, AK State Troopers	1	0	0	0	1
Lieutenant, AK State Troopers	1	1	1	3	6
Major, AK State Troopers	1	0	0	0	1
Public Safety Technician I	1	1	1	13	16
Public Safety Technician II	1	1	1	17	20
Sergeant PS	0	1	1	10	12
State Trooper	3	5	3	59	70
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>135</b>