

Field Operations Overview

November 15, 2021

Agenda Item 9



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Area Department Offices

- Four area offices managed by a Captain
 - Raton
 - Albuquerque
 - Las Cruces
 - Roswell
- Point of contact for regions of the state



Conservation Officer Requirements

- Bachelors degree in appropriate field
- 18-22 week DPS state law enforcement academy (700-750 hours)
- Graduate from Department Recruit School
- 12 weeks of Field Training Program (~1 year of training before district)
- 40 hrs of DPS accredited training bi-annually
- Pass daylight and night qualifications annually for all weapon types
- Safe pursuit procedures
- Domestic violence
- Investigating hate crimes
- Child abuse incident training
- Missing persons and Amber alerts
- Ensuring child safety upon arrest
- Interactions with persons with mental impairments
- Standardized field sobriety testing
- Tourniquet and trauma kit training



Law Enforcement

Average ~ 2,500 citations

Average ~ 65,000 contacts
(licensed individuals)

Average ~ 52,000 hours of patrol

Average ~ 40-50 search warrants

Average ~ 4,000 hours of patrol
on State Trust Land

Average ~ 2,500 contacts on
State Trust Land

Average ~ 130 special operations
annually



Law Enforcement (other)

- Motorist assists
- DWI
- Stolen Vehicles
- Vehicle accidents on highway
- OHV accidents
- Medical assists
- Murder suspects
- Kidnapping
- Domestic Violence
- Fleeing felons



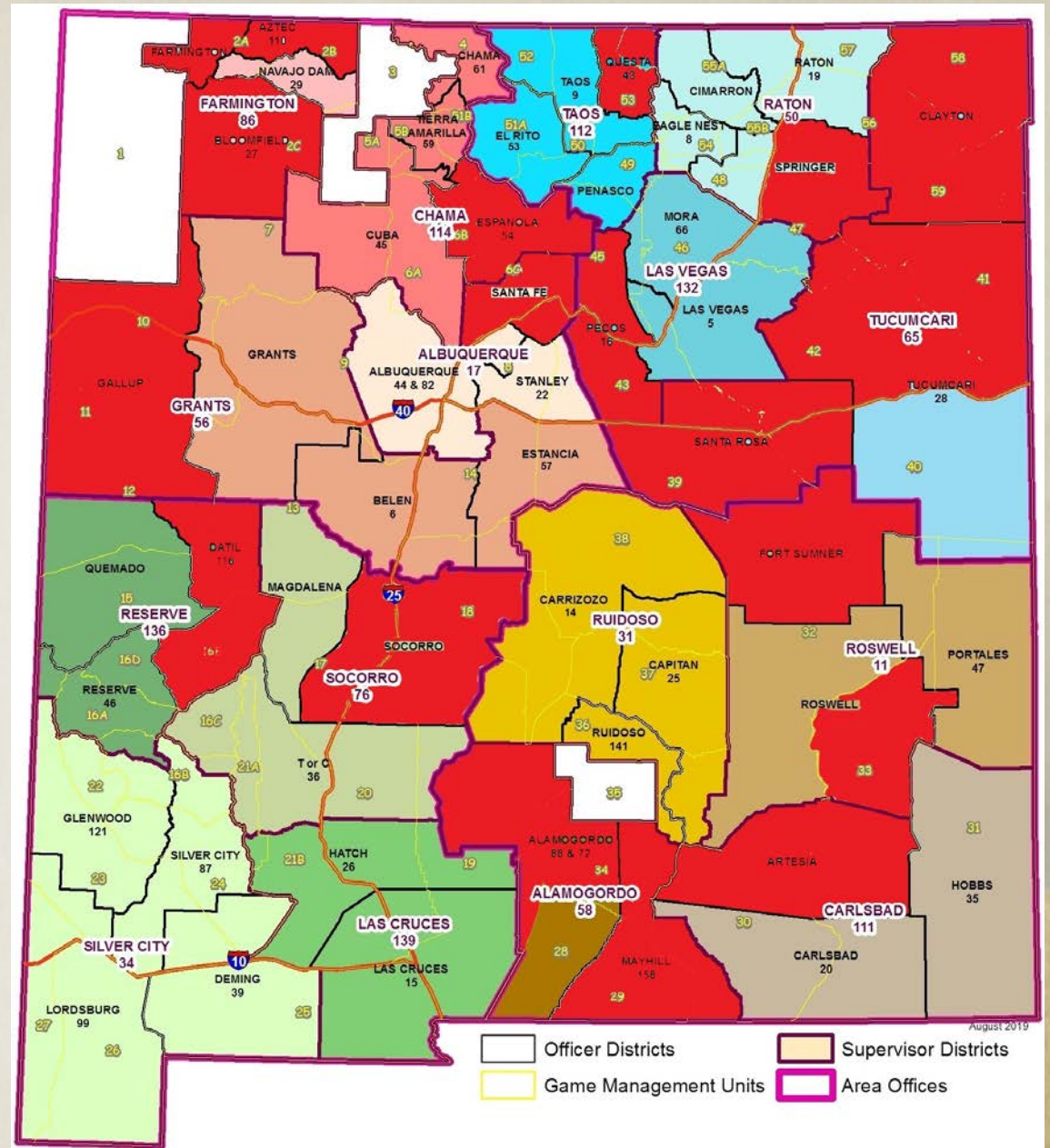
Authority

- Enforce Chpt. 17, GC rules, OHV Act
- Criminal trespass
- Neg use of a deadly weapon
- Criminal damage to property
- Resisting, evading or obstruction
- Under emergency circumstances enforce the Criminal and Motor Vehicle Code:
 - Gravity of the threatened harm, likelihood of the harm occurring, lack of time to avert the harm or to contact regular LE
 - Summoned by LE agency, call to duty



Coverage

- 102 total FTE's (3 removed 2020)
- 25 vacancies (22 in the field)
- 80 Officers in the field (Sgt's and Dist. Officers)



Investigative Team

- Specialized in Covert and Technology based investigations
 - Wildlife Investigators Covert Academy
 - Criminal investigations using cellular technology
 - Florida Wildlife Commission Basic Covert Ops
 - St. Petersburg College Undercover Operations
 - NMDPS Dark Web
- Average ~ 20 technical warrant cases annually
- Covert investigations
- Buy bust investigations
- Long term investigations
- Training Dept. Officers
- Assisting other agencies with technical warrants



Operation Game Thief

- Since 2019 we have received ~500 OGT reports
- Over 100 crimes were discovered because of those OGT reports
- When a crime is discovered the conviction rate is over 80%
- The courts have fined violators ~ \$10,000 and we have paid ~ \$9000 in rewards



Outfitters and Guides

- 261 registered outfitters
- 1813 registered guides
- 11 Wildlife Rehabilitators
- 182 Scientific permits



Revocation Program

- Suspend ~ 300 individual on average annually for failure to pay Penalty Assessments
- Reciprocally revoke ~ 60 IWVC annually
- Revoke ~ 100 individuals annually for wildlife crimes in New Mexico
- Suspend ~ 1000 individuals annually for PRA
 - (PRA cost Dept. ~ \$35,000 per year in postage)



Wildlife Complaints

- Officers responded to over 1000 wildlife complaints in past three years



Preventing Disease To Native Wildlife



- Ibex on San Andreas
- 17 goats on Caballo Mountains
- Ram darted and removed from cattle pasture near Dry Cimarron



Search & Rescue

- Each year our officers are involved in ~ 50 SAR'S throughout the summer and fall
- Suicidal persons
- Recovery of injured individuals in remote areas
- Body recovery in remote areas



Public Safety

- Conservation Officers assist the New Mexico State Police and other LE agencies during severe weather events.
- Conservation Officers rescue numerous motorists each winter that have been stranded in the snow and ice in below freezing temperatures.



Public Safety

- Conservation Officers provide security, road blocks and evacuations for the safety of many citizens in New Mexico during summer wildfires.



Conservation Education

- A great way for our officers to interact with the youth
- FO has performed approx. 40 events since the pandemic started
- Typically 170 events annually



Youth Outreach



- Conservation Officers have provided several youth hunt events over the past several years.
- Typically Officers try to provide opportunities to kids that have never hunted before or that have limited opportunities.



Youth Hunting Opportunities



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Youth Events



Community Relations



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Officer of the Year

- Corporal Corey Smith was the recipient of the 2020 Shikar Safari Wildlife Officer of the year.
- NM most prestigious award
- Must be a highly dedicated individual that shines in all aspects as a Conservation Officer
- It takes the support of family!



Wildlife Attack Response Team

- NMDGF started a Wildlife Attack Response Team in 2015
- Officers have responded and investigated several attacks since inception



Honor Guard



