



“Endangered Species; California Fish & Game Wardens”

**An introductory letter for the complimentary DVD provided
by the California Fish and Game Wardens Association**

February 25, 2009

This documentary is an introduction to the world of California’s Game Wardens- and just how vital they are to the environment, wildlife, fisheries and public safety for citizens of the state. Wardens are the states true environmental cop, and are widely misunderstood. Narrated by Jameson Parker (Simon & Simon), the documentary will show how varied this occupation is and how the number of officers are drastically declining. Indeed, as the number of officers decline, so does the natural resources of the state. California’s wildlife and fisheries populations are crashing at a astronomical rate as a result of poaching & environmental pollution. California is second only to Hawaii in the number of endangered species.

Wardens are charged with pollution investigations, anti-drug enforcement, homeland security, and search & rescue. Wardens patrol the California coastline out to 200 miles into the Pacific and are federally deputized to enforce federal law. Being a Game Warden is among the most dangerous of all law enforcement jobs.

California’s problem is that there are so few Wardens, currently numbering around 200 in the field. California has the worst Game Warden per capita ratio of any state or Canadian province. As a result, there is a dramatic increase in the organized crime involved in poaching and contributes to an escalating \$100 million plus a year black market trade. The number of Wardens has suffered a dramatic decline the past few years. There is only one officer for every 198,000 California citizens. Worse, and inexplicably so, is that all California Wardens (sworn peace officers) are furloughed two days a month, and ninety-eight (98) Wardens and cadets have just received layoff notices. Most alarmingly is that one third of the Wardens are expected to retire within the next three years. If the expected layoffs and retirements all take place, it would cause unprecedented poaching and environmental pollution.

“Endangered Species; California Fish and Game Wardens” covers Wardens on patrol by land, sea, and air throughout the state including aerial spotlight patrols, assaults on marijuana groves, and one Warden’s discovery of a terrorist cell training in the California desert. Sturgeon, abalone, and salmon numbers continue to plummet. The salmon runs are the worst in documented history. This can be directly attributable to the impacts of rampant poaching and environmental degradation, both of which are the responsibility of the Game Warden.

In order to fix this Warden crises, the Wardens must belong in a peace officer only bargaining unit. We ask your support for **Peace Officers of California**, a grassroots union created by state peace officers. Severance hearings are currently in progress before PERB to approve the new bargaining unit.

Please visit: www.jamesswan.com/snowgoose/wardendoc.html &
www.californiafishandgamewardens.com & www.peaceofficers.org