



LOC {CASTL} M6/638999
GV 191.24 W5 NO. 1986: 1
C. 1
FOX, JIM
REPORT FOR PREVENTATIVE

REPORT
FOR
PREVENTATIVE ENFORCEMENT PRACTICUM
BY
✓JIM FOX
&
✓JEFF WILEY

PREPARED FOR
FOR
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT,
CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE

LIBRARY
1986
USE
ONLY

LOCAL
QL
84.26
B7
F69
1986

SELKIRK COLLEGE LIBRARY
CASTLEGAR, B. C.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Appendicies	i
List of Illistrations	ii
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 PURPOSE OF STUDY	1
3.0 DEFINITION OF PROBLEM	2
4.0 LOCATION OF STUDY	3
5.0 PRESENT SITUATION	3
6.0 PUBLIC SURVEY	4
6.1 METHODS	4
6.2 RESULTS	6
7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS	8
8.0 OCCURANCE REPORT ANALYSIS	10
8.1 METHODS	10
8.2 RESULTS	13
9.0 CONCLUSIONS	17
RECOMMENDATIONS	18

LIST OF APPENDICIES

APPENDIX I (questionnaire)	19
APPENDIX II (occurance report)	20
APPENDIX III (poster)	21
APPENDIX IV (map)	22
APPENDIX V (O.R.R. card)	23
APPENDIX VI (S.C.H.E.P. program)	24
APPENDIX VI (community/police program)	25

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

TABLE I. Violation Record (empty)	11
TABLE II. Violation Record (complete)	15
GRAPH I . Violation Record (C.O. vs. Public)	16

1.0 INTRODUCTION

As partial requirement for completion of Wildland Recreation at Selkirk College, students must complete a three week practicum with an organization related to the course. We have completed our practicum with the Castlegar Conservation Officer Service. We conducted a survey of the population of the Castlegar district to ascertain the general public's knowledge and awareness of Conservation Officers and have also analyzed occurrence reports from 1984 and 1985. We hope to provide the Ministry of Environment with needed information and also gain valuable personal experience.

2.0 PURPOSE OF STUDY

The practicum involved two main purposes :

- 1) To gather information from the public, and make assumptions from this information on public knowledge and awareness of conservation officers. In order to collect this data we did a random survey of the population. The survey consisted of 15 questions such as "Have you ever reported any violations to a Conservation Officer", and "Have you ever wanted to report something but didn't know how." In the questionnaire we also categorized people as to their age and sex. (see appendix I)

2) To determine if the anti-poaching campaigns in B.C. are working effectively. An effective program is one that results in charges being laid from an investigation of public complaints and public information. This study will also give an idea on where improvement, if any is needed in the program. For example, if only a few of the complaints were investigated then it can be said that more emphasis is needed in the investigations. (see appendix II).

3.0 DEFINITION OF PROBLEM

The problem the Castlegar Conservation Officers have is similar all over British Columbia. This problem is the lack of manpower caused by government cutbacks. The Ministry of Environment is understaffed and therefore cannot provide sufficient enforcement patrols. This lack of patrols has given rise to increased poaching. The poachers have all too easy a time in poaching wildlife. The one way to limit poaching is by having the public report any violations they witness while driving along highways or forest roads. If these reports could lead to prosecution of poachers it would greatly deter poachers.

4.0 LOCATION OF STUDY

In doing the survey we personally distributed the questionnaire and interviewed the public. In distributing the questionnaire we concentrated on the communities of Castlegar and Trail. This was because they are the two major communities within the district, and contain the greatest population density. The survey was done in populated areas of these communities such as: downtown areas, Selkirk College campus, and Waneta Mall in Trail. These areas were chosen as there is always a large number of people about, and also provides a good cross-section of age and sex. The survey involved some bias as more males than females were surveyed.

page change

In our study of the occurrence reports we were confined to the Ministry of Environment District Office in Castlegar. This was because the occurrence reports are in the Conservation Officer Service files and are confidential information. For this reason they are not allowed to leave the office.

5.0 PRESENT SITUATION

The present situation in the Ministry of Environment is that the only anti-poaching program being implemented is the Observe, Record, Report program. This program

encourages outdoor recreationalists to observe, record, and report any violations such as poaching to their local Conservation Officer. The program has advertised toll free numbers for the reports, but the advertising is inadequate and reaches only those who avidly hunt or fish.

6.0 PUBLIC SURVEY

6.1 METHODS

In doing the survey of the public we employed a simple questionnaire in which we asked the public very ^{simple} straight forward questions which would be easy to answer with a yes-no response and at the same time be easy to explain, (see appendix I). We made the questionnaire up on the Selkirk College computer facilities and gave it to Jim Corbett, a Conservation Officer in Castlegar, for approval. After approval we distributed the questionnaire by approaching individuals on the street and interviewing them. While administering the survey we also answered any questions that the public may have had concerning the Conservation Officer Service, and the Observe, Record, Report program. In this way we felt that we reached some of the public and made them more aware of Conservation

Officers. The major goal of the practicum was to develop a poster in order to promote the Observe, Record, Report program and try to establish a local advertising campaign with the poster, (see appendix III). In developing the poster we consulted with Jim Corbett and then developed a suitable outline for the poster. The poster had to be similar to other Ministry of Environment posters in its theme and design. We also didn't wish to stir anti-hunting feelings in the public by showing a wounded or dead animal as the main theme. Instead we decided to show a shadowy figure hovering over a smaller dead deer. We felt that this, along with the main heading of "STOP POACHING" would leave little doubt as to whether a hunter or a poacher had shot the animal. As well as this we put the toll free telephone number for the Conservation Officer Service and the Zenith number. We included these numbers because the public are more inclined to report incidents and violations if provided with a toll free number. Once we had the basic design for the poster we enlisted the aid of Cindy Irvine, a graphic arts student at Selkirk College to professionally create the poster.

6.2 RESULTS

In the survey we interviewed 75 persons, 55 of them were male, and 20 of them were female. Of the total population surveyed, about 23% of them hunted and 61% of them fished. Of these figures, the men were slightly higher than average and the females slightly lower. When asked whether they knew what a Conservation Officer was and what he did, about 77% of the public did in fact know. This was fairly consistent between men and women, except that fewer women knew exactly what a Conservation Officer did. When asked if they knew what the Observe, Record, Report program was, a disappointing 29% knew what it was and this figure was considerably higher for men than women. This statistic in itself demonstrates the need for an improved advertising campaign. As for the number of persons who had previously witnessed violations, this was about 18%, with only 12% of these being reported. An interesting statistic is that women seem more hesitant to report witnessed violations than men. This may show that a campaign is needed that is directed more towards women than men. When asked if they would report a violation if they witnessed one, 94% said they would. This may be a result of pressure felt when being interviewed that they

should say this but all persons interviewed were urged to answer honestly. We also noticed that most of the people were quite willing to report violations but in many cases were just not aware of how to go about it. This also is cause for an increased awareness campaign. When asked if they thought the Conservation Officers were doing a good job, 82% said they felt they were. Of these people, many of them were not sure, as they did not know much about the officers. About 80% of the people felt there was not enough publicity on the importance of game management and the Conservation Officer Service, and 84% felt there were not enough Conservation Officers in the province.

Table I

TOT.	WOM.	MEN	
23%	7%	29%	were hunters.
61%	46%	66%	were fishermen.
78%	77%	79%	knew what a Conservation Officer is.
76%	69%	79%	knew what a Conservation Officer does.
29%	7%	37%	knew what the Observe, Record, Report program is.
18%	23%	16%	had witnessed something they wished to report.
12%	7%	13%	had reported something to a Conservation Officer.
94%	92%	95%	would report a violation if they witnessed one.
82%	92%	79%	felt the Conservation Officer Service was doing a good job
80%	92%	76%	thought there was not enough publicity.
84%	92%	82%	thought there were not enough Conservation Officers.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The first recommendation is to locate the poster on heavily used secondary roads where there is a large amount of hunting pressure. If the poster were located in these areas the public would see the phone numbers and be more inclined to report violations that they witness. This was a major problem we noticed when doing the questionnaire that people weren't reporting things because they weren't sure how to do it. We recommend that the posters be painted on plywood sheets so that they will last in the weather. We suggest plywood because metal signs that are shot at are very difficult to read after a number of shots. The plywood signs can absorb many holes before becoming difficult to read.
- 7.2 We also recommend that the signs be distributed in public areas frequented by outdoor recreationalists such as sports shops, hardware stores, post offices, supermarkets, schools, and any other places that have a lot of people utilizing them.
- 7.3 It may be very beneficial to have posters on highway signs as many incidents of poaching occur on the side of the highway. If motorists see the signs often

enough it may stick in their minds to report violations.

7.4 As stated earlier it is apparent that women are less likely to report any witnessed violations than men are. For this reason we recommend that a separate poster be designed to appeal more to the women. If not another poster then the current poster should be displayed in places frequented by women, *such as*

7.5 One way ~~in which~~ to reach people is by personal appearances by the Conservation Officers themselves. This can be done at local parks, public meetings, school presentations, childrens groups such as scouts and cubs, and on the radio.

7.6 As suggested in the previous recommendation, the media is a very effective way in which to reach the public. Whether it is on the radio, in the newspaper, or on television, it would greatly increase the public's awareness.

7.7 If the poster is effective in the Castlegar Region, we recommend that it, or something similar to it, be adopted across the province.

8.0 OCCURANCE REPORT ANALYSIS

8.1 METHODS

The method used in gathering information from the occurrence reports was a 100% sample of the reports. The reports sampled were from the year 1985. A sample of the occurrence report can be found in appendix II. The information gathered was;

1) Problem wildlife

- a. location
- b. species of problem.

2) Violations

- a. location of violation
- b. founder
- c. investigated or not investigated
- d. charges laid
- e. warnings
- f. unsolved
- g. convicted

Each of the 1089 occurrence reports was looked over and the pertinent information was recorded in the following tables.

The information in the tables was then compiled and the percentage of investigations resulting from public complaints versus C.O. founded violations, percentage of charges resulting from public complaints versus C.O. founded violations, and percentage of unsolved cases from public complaints versus C.O. founded violations, public complaints were calculated and recorded. With the use of the Enegraphics program on the computer, a graph was drawn up to show the relationships between the C.O. founded violations and the public founded violations.

A map of the Castlegar Zone of Region 4 was obtained from Wayne Campbell, a Conservation Officer 4. From this map a larger map was drafted up to show the location of the violations and the problem wildlife. The map was done to see if there was an area of concentration of the violations and the problem wildlife. A base map was completed on velum paper and two clear overlays were made. The first overlay was the location of the problem wildlife and the second overlay was the location of the violations. This map was given to the Ministry of Environment office in Castlegar and a blue printed copy can be found in the appendix IV of this report.

8.2 RESULTS

Of the 1089 occurrence reports that were sampled, only 233 of them were dealing with violations. The rest of the reports involved problem wildlife, mandatory wildlife and fish inspections, and public information.

Table I shows that of the 233 violations a surprising 46% were found by the public. The remaining 54% was found by the conservation officers.

Table II shows the percentages of investigations, charges, and unsolved cases. 100% of the violations found by the conservation officers were investigated. This is because the conservation officers investigate the violation on the spot when they discover it. Of the public reported violations 87% were investigated. This figure is not higher because some of the reports do not contain enough information to ⁴⁰warrant an investigation. When the conservation officers discover a violation, there is a greater chance of getting a charge and conviction. This is proven by the statistics showing that 87% of the violations found by a conservation officer resulted in a charge. Only 25% of the complaints reported by the public resulted in a charge which implies the public is not giving

accurate enough reports to result in convictions. The public reports resulted a large number of unsolved cases. 56% of the public reports resulted in unsolved cases compared to only 13% of the conservation officer found violations being unsolved. Tables I and II can be found on the following page. Graphs showing the same information (violations C.O. vs. Public) can be found on page 16.

From the 1983 annual report 40% of the violations were reported by the public. It seems that the public is getting more involved as our study of 1985 showed that 46% of the violations were reported by the public.

As a result of drafting a map and locating areas of problem wildlife and areas of high violation it was found that all problem wildlife complaints came from people within town. There didn't seem to be any trend of areas of concentration of violations. The violations were well distributed throughout the entire zone.

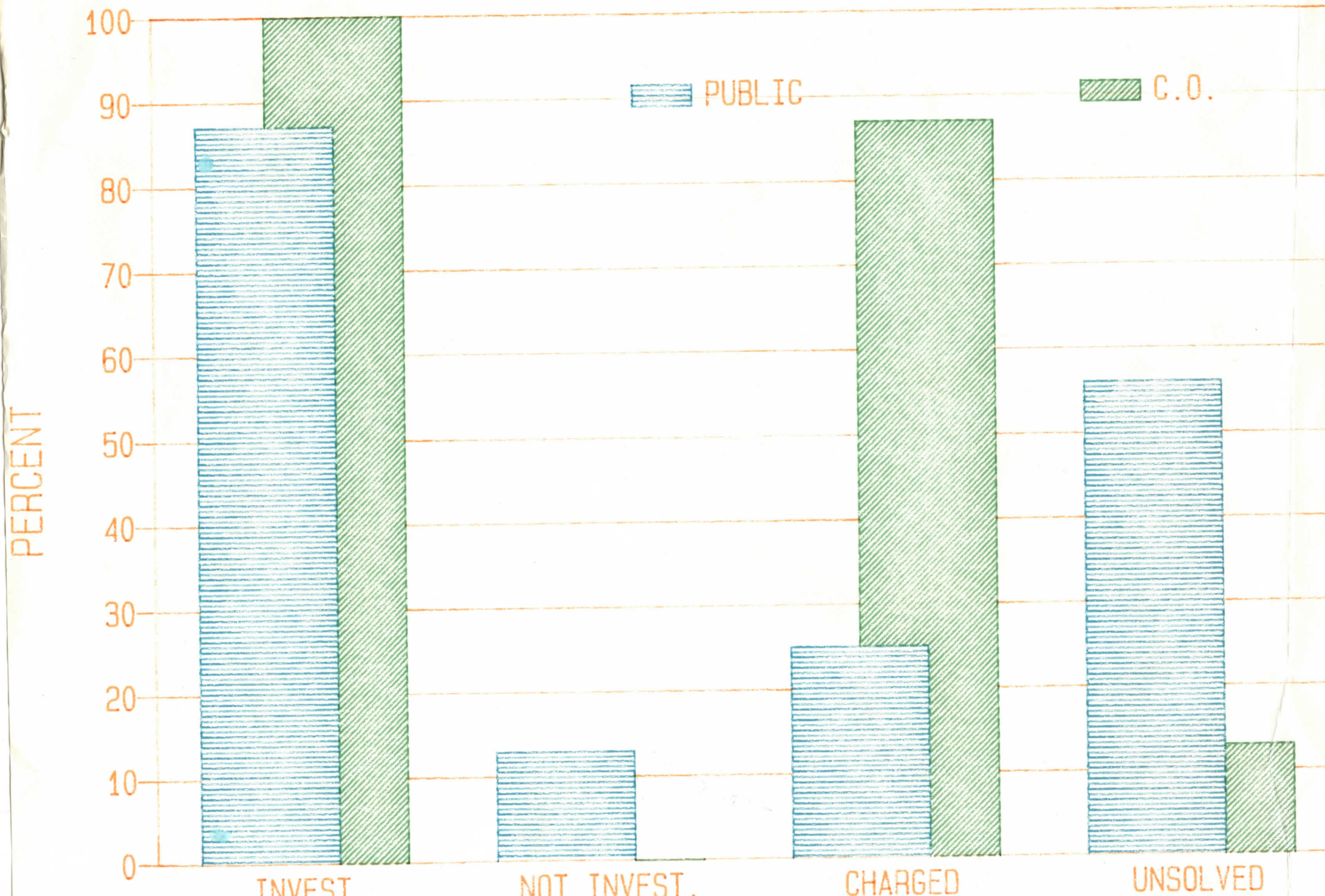
Table I Information Table (violations) for 1985.

Discoverer	Violation Complaints							
	Investigated		Not Investigated		Charges		Unsolved	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
PUBLIC	92	87	14	13	27	25	59	56
C.O.	127	100	0	0	120	87	7	13

Table II. Violation Discoverer.

Total Violations	C.O.		Public	
	#	%	#	%
233	127	54	106	46

OCCURANCE REPORT VIOLATIONS for 1985



9.0 CONCLUSION

After completing this project we have concluded that there is not enough emphasis on the anti-poaching programs and the Observe, Record, Report program needs ^{of} ~~beter~~ advertising to persuade the public to report poachers.

Through drafting the map of problem wildlife it can be said that the major problem species is black bear and deer.

The overlay of location of violations showed that there isn't an area of concentrated violations. This shows that the conservation officers are patrolling the zone evenly.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 In order to get the Observe, Record, Report program better known to the public, an increase in publicity is needed. This can be done by posters, signs, and other sources of the media.

10.2 Some people use the excuse that they didn't have anything to write on. If the Observe, Record, Report cards were more abundant and available wherever the posters were posted as well as sport shops rather than just at Ministry of Environment offices, the public may be more inclined to report something. Most people will take something (pamphlet etc.) just because it is free. With this being the case more people will be reached with information of the program. (see appendix V).

10.3 Many states in the U.S.A. have more than one program being used. B.C. only has one provincial wide program. Other management regions have more than one program because the local fish and game clubs have their own small programs. For example the Kamloops & District Fish & Game Association has a program called S.C.H.E.P. (sportsmen, campers, hunters education program. (see appendix VI). More programs like this one in the Kootenays may help a lot. Another program used is one that is used by the R.C.M.P. This is called Community/Police Participation Program. It is a program in which the community members issue an information notice to suspicious vehicles telling them that their vehicle has been noted in that location. This type of program makes the possible poacher or vandal think

twice before violating the law because he knows that there is always someone on the lookout for suspicious looking vehicles. (see appendix VII).

APPENDIX I
(questionnaire)

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
AWARENESS SURVEY
1986

1. Sex _____ Male _____ Female _____
2. Age _____
3. Do you hunt? _____ fish? _____
4. Do you know what a Conservation Officer is? Yes _____ No _____
what is
5. Do you know what a Conservation Officer does? Yes _____ No _____
what does
6. Have you ever come in contact with a Conservation Officer while in the outdoors? Yes _____ No _____
7. When was the last time you came in contact with a C.O.?
8. Do you know what the Observe, Record, Report Program is? Yes _____ No _____
9. Have you ever witnessed anything that you felt should be reported? Yes _____ No _____
10. Have you reported anything to the Conservation Officer? Yes _____ No _____
11. Have you ever wanted to report anything, but didn't know how? Yes _____ No _____
12. If you saw a violation, would you report it to a Conservation Officer? Yes _____ No _____
13. Do you think the Conservation Officer Service is doing a good job? Yes _____ No _____
14. Do you think there is enough publicity on the importance of Game Management and the Conservation Officer Service? Yes _____ No _____
15. Do you think there is enough Conservation Officers in the Province? Yes _____ No _____

APPENDIX II
(occurrence report)

APPENDIX III
(poster)

APPENDIX IV
(map)

APPENDIX V
(O.R.R. card)

WE REQUEST YOUR HELP TO: _____

- Enforce Fish and Wildlife Laws
- Report Pollution and Littering

Everyone who uses or enjoys the outdoors has a responsibility to protect and maintain it.

Fish and Wildlife law violations, pollution and littering hurt all of us and cost everyone a lot of money. You can help prevent these acts and bring violators to justice by serving as an accurate witness.

Do not confront a suspected violator - you as a citizen cannot make an arrest or collect evidence. Use this card to record important facts - then notify the nearest office of the following:

- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- B.C. Ministry of Environment
- R.C.M.P. Detachment

Or telephone the toll-free number **Zenith 2235** where your complaint will be registered and directed to the right action center.

* * * *

RECORD IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VIOLATION WITNESSED:

DATE _____ TIME _____ pm
am

VEHICLE, VESSEL OR AIRCRAFT DESCRIPTION:

LICENSE NO. _____ PROV. or STATE _____

MAKE _____ MODEL _____

COLOUR _____

UNUSUAL MARKS _____

DETAILS OF VIOLATION:

LOCATION _____

SPECIES TAKEN _____

HOW TAKEN _____

LOCATION OF CARCASS (if applicable) _____

POLLUTION OR LITTERING _____

OTHER _____

DESCRIPTION OF VIOLATOR:

NAME (if known) _____

SEX _____ AGE _____

HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____ EYES _____

HAIR _____ BEARD/MUSTACHE _____

PHYSICAL MARKS OR SCARS _____

CLOTHING (hat, coat, etc.) _____

PECULIARITIES _____

APENDIX VI
(S.C.H.E.P. program)

APPENDIX VII
(community/police program)

COMMUNITY/POLICE PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

OBSERVATION No. - 58780

At(a.m./p.m.) on the day of, 19....,
vehicle, licence number, was
recorded by a member of our local Community/Police
participation program. This program is aimed at reducing
the incidence of theft and vandalism in this area. A
duplicate copy of this information has been given to your
local Police for their information.

This recording is for information only and does not imply
any infraction or wrong doing.

Thank-you for your co-operation.

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE:

☐ Truck

☐ Car

Year: Type:

Color:

Location where vehicle checked:

Any other identification marks (i.e.: dents, decals, names,
etc.):

COMMENTS:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- B.C. Ministry of Environment, 1985, British columbia hunting regulations synopsis 1985-1986. p. 9.
- B.C. Ministry of Environment, 1982, Wildlife act, Queens's printer for British Columbia, Victoria B.C., p. 271-305
- B.C. Ministry of Environment, 1985, Ministry of environment annual report: April 1983 to March 1984. Queen's Printer for British Columbia, Victoria B.C., p. 11-76
- B.C. Sportsman, 1985, Montana poacher gets jail term. B.C. Outdoors, Vancouver B.C., Winter 1985, p.6.
- B.C. sportsman, 1985, The cost of poaching goes up-elsewhere. B.C. Outdoors, Vancouver B.C., Winter 1985. p. 6
- Canadian Wildlife Service, 1977, Forty-first federal-provincial wildlife conference: transactions. July 5-7 1977 Addison and Steele Printers and Publishers, p. 89-198.
- Nelson, Charles and David Verbyla, 1984, Charistics and effectiveness of state anti-poaching campaigns, Wildlife Society Bulletin, 12:1, p. 117-122.
- Norton, Greg, 1985, Poaching, B.C. Sportsman., B.C. Outdoors, Vancouver B.C., Fall 1985. p. 18
- Obee, Bruce, 1984, Poachers: thieves of a public resource, Wildlife Review, Autumn 1984, p. 14-16.
- Stent, Peter and Ben Mitchel-Banks, 1985, A preventative enforcement program : options and ideas., File: 34.34 of the Castlegar office Ministry of Environment.