

California Deer Association

California Farm Bureau Federation

California League of Conservation Voters

California Outdoor Heritage Alliance

California Rifle and Pistol Association

California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

California Sportsman's Lobby

CalTrout

Defenders of Wildlife

National Sports Shooting Foundation

Natural Resources Defense Council

Outdoor Sportsman's Coalition of California

The Ocean Conservancy

Oceans Program

Planning and Conservation League

Safari Club International

Sierra Club California

Surfrider Foundation

CALL TO ACTION

Environmentalists, Sportsmen and Conservationists Unite To Protect Wildlife, Forests, Open Lands, Waterways, and the California Coast

Request \$10 million in additional funding for Dept. of Fish and Game!

This will provide funding for more wardens and increase the compensation of the existing force to match their growing responsibilities.

As California continues to lead the way in preserving and conserving its natural beauty and resources, the responsibility of protecting the state's environment becomes both more urgent and more difficult. But there is a severe shortage of California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) wardens and the impending retirement of nearly one third of the force.

Fewer than 200 wardens currently patrol the entire state of California – that's 159,000 square miles of land, 29,000 miles of streams and rivers, and 3,300 square miles of ocean! Wardens also help enforce federal laws by assisting the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Homeland Security and patrolling an additional 200 miles out to sea.

What is at risk if more funding for DFG wardens is not included in the 2007-2008 state budget?

- Increased poaching of California wildlife
- Illegal dumping of hazardous materials
- Criminal activities such as marijuana farms and drugs labs

What You Can Do to Help:

- **Write a letter:** Make the most impact by sending a letter! Use the attached template provided or draft your own letter to the Governor. Send it to Alison Stauffer in the KP Public Relations department at astauffer@ka-pow.com and we will distribute it to the key legislators and individuals in the Governor's office.
- **Call:** As a secondary option, call members of the Budget Conference Committee and urge them to protect our natural resources and public safety by providing more funding in this year's state budget for fish and game wardens.

Senator Denise Ducheny
(916) 445-6767

Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
(916) 445-9781

Senator Michael Machado
(916) 445-2407

Assemblyman Roger Niello
(916) 319-2005

Assemblyman John Laird
(916) 319-2027

Assemblyman Mark Leno
(916) 319-2013

Help spread the word that California's commitment to environmental protection and state resources may be jeopardized. Legislators and the Governor must act urgently to achieve:

Wage Parity with Other Peace Officers: Warden salary levels continue to lag far behind other peace officers. To recruit and retain qualified applicants to serve as wardens, wages need to be competitive with other state and local law enforcements agencies.

Better Protection of the State's Investment in Natural Resources: Wardens provide the first line of defense for the state's wildlife, public lands, rivers and coastal waters.