

Summary of GMU 48 Law Enforcement effort in 2006 – 07
Northeast Area Operations Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
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The following is a summary of NMGF law enforcement effort in GMU 48 during the 2006 – 07 hunting season. During this time period nine different officers worked GMU 48. In addition to regular patrols we conducted an aerial night patrol and a plain clothes camp where we concentrated on the UU Bar boundary. Several reports of violation were also responded to. A break down of this effort and its' results are listed below.

- 78 different visits
- 425.5 total hours spent in GMU 48
- 224 contacts made
 - 7 of these visits were with landowners in the area and we spent 25 hours meeting with them.
- 19 citations which includes 13 court summons and 6 warnings as follows:
 - Warnings
 - 1 OHV warning
 - 1 parts found in field warning
 - 1 killing sow with cubs warning for a guy that turned himself in
 - 1 proof of sex warning
 - 2 criminal trespass warnings these were written on UU Bar Ranch and the area was not fenced or legally posted.
 - Citations
 - 1 exceeding bag limit of elk
 - 1 hunting elk in wrong unit
 - 1 failure to legally tag game
 - 2 hunting without a license one of these was in response to a call from UU Bar Security
 - 2 driving ATV off established road
 - 6 criminal trespasses all of these were in response to UU Bar Security

Summary of Stanley Ranch Reports of Violation and Ranch contacts:

1. August 31 – Officers Neary and Sanchez met with David Stanley and explained the trespass law and requirements for posting. That very same night he called Officer Coburn and told him to respond to people camping on his unfenced - unposted property. Coburn did not respond since the property was not fenced or posted there was no violation until the landowner or his agent advised them to leave. Stanley insisted that Coburn act as “his agent” and Coburn refused at the direction of his supervisor, Officer Sanchez.
2. September muzzleloader hunt – Stanley called Officer Sanchez and requested again for DGF Officers to respond to campers on his unfenced, unposted property again asking DGF to act as “his agent”. Sanchez told Stanley that it was his job to notify them.
3. December - Coburn met with Anthony Rivera and another person who guide on the Stanley Ranch. Neither one of these guides reported any problems during the hunting season. No other ROVs or calls from Stanley Ranch.

Summary of UU Bar Ranch Reports of Violation and ranch contacts.

1. July 11, 2006 – Larceny of wrenches, chains, ratchet tie-downs and fence wire from two separate contractors who had trailers and equipment parked on ranch. Investigated by NMSP. Possible entry via south end of ranch but no evidence of such in police report. Report states that there were 2 locked gates prohibiting north entry but no gates prohibiting southern entry. No dollar amount of loss on police report.
2. Sept 18, 2006 – Fence vandalism at intersection of NM 21 and 199. Report to Colfax County SO. Estimated damage was <\$500, with 5 fence posts bent, possibly from contact with a motor vehicle. Location was intersection of NM 199 and NM 21 where it appeared that a gate was being constructed across the roadway that was recently opened by court order.
3. Sept 25, 2006 - Ed Sanchez report of bull elk killed illegally on northern portion of ranch. DGF Officer Coburn investigated. Insufficient evidence was found to identify any suspects. No fence or trespass signs were present between UU Bar and state land as the fence was being re-constructed. If suspects could have been identified, prosecution would not have been possible as the posting requirement had not been met.
4. Oct. 7, 2006 - Trespass detected by DGF. Three suspects detected, apprehended and charged by DGF Officer Ty Jackson for trespass and unlawful hunting, near Horseshoe Lake at north portion of ranch.
5. Oct. 7, 2006 – Trespass complaint from UU Bar west of Charette lakes. Investigated by DGF Officer Clint Henson. No violation occurred, hunters had legal access, killed elk on public (BLM) land accessed through state trust land. UU Bar gate was locked between two parcels of state land and improperly posted prohibiting hunting on state land w/o written permission from UU Bar.
6. Oct 7, 2006. Report of illegal hunting reported by Mike Hobbs. Cow elk was legal, on state land and retrieved by hunters. Ed Sanchez info was same as investigating DGF Officers Henson and Jackson, ref that it was a legal kill.
7. Oct 10, 2006 Hobbs reported to DGF Officer Ahlm that there were horse and mule tracks in Aguaje canyon and that trespass was occurring then and there. Further questioning revealed that the tracks and a sawed off skull cap were found ~ 1 week before and had not been reported to DGF. Hobbs then admitted that he did not know if trespass was still occurring.
8. Oct. 14, 2006 – DGF Officer Henson investigated trespass complaint on UU Bar w/ Ed Sanchez. Contacted 2 suspects with clothing matching description of those seen trespassing. Officer Henson felt that the evidence was insufficient to file trespass charges based on witness description of clothing. Occurred on north end of ranch between in Unit 54.
9. Oct 14, 2006 – DGF Officers Henson & Jackson w/ assist of Ed Sanchez contacted 3 persons suspected of trespass on UU Bar on north end of ranch. Statements f/ suspects and evidence lead to 3 criminal trespass charges and 1 hunting w/o license charge filed.

10. Oct 21, 2006 – DGF Officers Colburn and Catanach responded to ROV on Rivera Mesa. Initial report was “several” individuals transporting an elk off of the UU Bar on ATVs . Only evidence was of fence cut in 2 places and descriptions of ATVs and suspects by UU Bar employee “Mr. Rice”. Officers combed area all weekend looking for suspects but never found anyone matching descriptions.
11. Nov 4, 2006 _ DGF Area Chief Ahlm contacted by UU Bar Security employee Rice in field near Reyado. Rice told Ahlm about “new fence” being cut in two places on Ortega Mesa. At direction of Ahlm, Officer Coburn investigated and found that a newly constructed fence had been built across two two-track roads on Ortega mesa on State Trust Land. No gates to pass through the fence had been provided in the new construction and the fence crossing the roads had been cut. No other evidence was found. In the absence of gates the fence may violate the SLO – DGF hunting access agreement in that it blocks access via existing roads on state trust land.
12. Dec 4, 2006 – DGF Officer Coburn contacted by Mora Ranch / UU Bar employee Tommy Polley ref a lock on a gate on the Mora Ranch had been shot and damaged. No additional evidence found. The gate is located NW of the Mora Ranch HQ. The person(s) who shot the lock had to trespass to get to the gate and it is suspected that a neighboring landowner or his family may have been involved.
13. Dec 6, 2006 – Call from Mike Hobbs ref trespassing near Charette Mesa on UU Bar. DGF Officer Ty Jackson investigated and found that a hunter and his associate with a dead elk on UU Bar property. The hunter had an elk license valid for Unit 48. The elk was a small bull. The location was in T23NR20E Sect 30, just north of state trust lands in Sect 31 and a ¼ section strip of private land owned by Nikki Hooser. There are no fences or signs present between the state trust land and the private property owned by Hooser or UU Bar to delineate a boundary or to notify persons entering as required by the posting statute. Officer Jackson issued warning citations for criminal trespass to both individuals as he felt that they may have known they were entering private land but there was no way of proving that they knew.

Additional contacts with UU Bar Ranch included the following:

- Call from Mike Hobbs to Coburn ref trespassers in Aguaje Canyon. Trespassers turned out to be DGF Officers Jackson and Kline in a marked vehicle on hunt patrol.
- Mike Hobbs also called Officer Kline to reported a person trespassing while hunting, the person turned out to be a birdwatcher.
- Mike Hobbs reported a trespasser that had killed elk near Saladon Lake. It turned out to be one of his own hunters.
- In December Hobbs reported someone had driven into the Mora Ranch, shot the lock off the gate and “killed several elk”. Further investigation and a conversation with a ranch hand (“Tommy”), revealed that the hand called Hobbs because he saw the shot off lock and fresh tracks in the snow but he did not know if any elk were killed. Further investigation revealed no evidence of an animal being killed.

Table 1. Summary of New Mexico Game and Fish law enforcement effort in GMU 48 during 2006-07 hunting season.

Activity	Type	# VISITS	TOTAL HOURS	TOTAL CONTACTS	TOTAL CITATIONS
District Patrol	Uniform	5	16	0	0
Night Patrol	Uniform				
Hunt Patrol	Uniform	40	276	182	15
Roadblock	Uniform				
Decoy	Uniform				
Aerial Nite Op	Uniform	2	10	0	0
ROV	Uniform	8	18.5	10	4
OGT	Uniform				
LO Contact	Uniform	7	25	7	0
Hunt Patrol	Plain Clothes	14	74	25	
Aerial Night Op	Plain Clothes	2	6	0	0