

Summary of GMU 48 Law Enforcement Efforts in 2007-08
Northeast Area Operations Division
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
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The following is a summary of NMDGF law enforcement effort in GMU 48 during the 2007-08 hunting seasons. During this time 9 different officers worked in GMU 48. In addition to regular patrols we conducted decoys, roadblocks and saturation operations. Several reports of violation were also responded to. A breakdown of the effort and the results are listed below.

- 63 different visits
- 374 total hours law enforcement time spent in GMU 48
- 290 contacts made
- 35 citations or court summons were issued to 23 individuals by 4 Game and Fish Officers. These included 3 warning citations. The citations were:
 - Possession of parts found in field – (3 incl. 2 warning).
 - Hunting elk in wrong unit – (7 incl. 1 warning).
 - Shooting from public roadway - (1)
 - Unlawful killing of antelope (1)
 - Failure to legally tag antelope – (1)
 - Failure to possess Habitat and Access Management Validation (1)
 - Driving off established roads by licensed hunter (7)
 - Unlawful possession of elk (1)
 - Criminal damage to property (2)
 - Exceeding bag limit of elk (1 defendant turned himself in)
 - Hunting elk without a license (1)
 - Negligent use of a deadly weapon (1)
 - Hunting elk while revoked (1)
 - Criminal trespass (3)
 - Operating OHV w/o registration (2)
 - Operating OHV on private property w/o permission (2)

Summary of UU Bar Ranch Reports of Violation and Ranch contacts:

1. May 23, 2007, UU Bar Ranch reported via e-mail: *“Early this morning we discovered the lock into the Sweetwater cow camp, at the southern terminus of the 2.6 mile road had been cut or broken, together with the following evidence of vandalism (attached photographs of a dead jack rabbit hung on Express ranch sign). As of this time, the contractor rebuilding the Sweetwater home has not arrived to inventory his tools and equipment. Also, your large sign at the north end of the 2.6 mile Sweetwater road has numerous new bullet holes, as do most of the posted signs we placed along both sides of the 2.6 miles. The Santa Fe Trail Auto Tour Route sign at the junction of SR 21 and the 2.6 mile stretch of road has likewise been destroyed. Our cattle crew is riding the area this morning to see if any livestock were killed or injured during this senseless exhibition”*. This report of violation was investigated by Officers Kline and Sanchez. Officer Kline subsequently solved the case in which Chaz Pilley 17, and Will Wood, 25, both of Springer, pleaded guilty to shooting a UU Bar lock (criminal damage to property), shooting a UU Bar sign near Miami Lake, running over the highway signs and killing and leaving an elk with the aid of their head lights. They paid \$2000 each. The investigation further revealed that the contractor for UU Bar reported no loss or damage, no cattle were found to be harmed, the bullet holes in the game and fish sign were determined to have been there before this incident and the officers found only a couple of old (rusted) bullet holes in the UU Bar signs along the 2.6 miles of roadway.

2. July 17, 2007, Officer Jackson investigated a report of an unlawfully killed elk on Sweetwater Road after the gate had been locked open by DGF. The elk was determined to have died from natural causes after a complete necropsy was done by Jackson with Steve Boyce of the UU Bar Ranch present.
3. August 4, 2007, At 6:50 AM from Mike Hobbs of UU Bar Ranch left a message on Officer Irwin's (Clayton DWO) voice mail saying he thought the occupants of a red Toyota truck "might trespass". Officer Irwin forwarded the information to Officers Coburn and Jackson who were patrolling the mobility impaired antelope hunt that was in progress. Jackson, while on hunt patrol near Charette Lake WMA, contacted a red Toyota truck with a dead antelope in the back. Further investigation revealed manner and method violations in the killing of the antelope, however no trespass violation was detected.
4. September 4, 2007, Officer Jackson investigated a report from Mike Hobbs about unlawful killing of elk near Ortega Mesa. Officer Jackson called Hobbs to get the name of a second reporting party. Jackson contacted this person who told Officer Jackson the location of the alleged illegal elk carcasses. Officers Jackson and Moyers were unable to find any elk carcasses or evidence of illegal activity based on the information provided.
5. September 4, 2007, Officer Jackson was given information from Mike Hobbs about illegal camp on State Trust Land near Ortega Mesa. Officer Coburn had already been to the camp and had left note telling the occupants they were not allowed to camp without permission from the lessee. The camp was moved to another location in GMU 48.
6. September 13, 2007, Steve Boyce of UU Bar Ranch called Operation Game Thief to report that UU Bar Security employee Ed Sanchez had found a "poached" bull elk with the head and front shoulder removed. Subsequent investigation determined the elk was a legal kill that had been taken by a UU Bar hunter.
7. November 6, 2007, Ed Sanchez of UU Bar called Officer Coburn in reference to a lock being cut off a gate on Mora Ranch (part of UU Bar) and possible trespassing. Sanchez also reported the state land sign at Aguage Canyon gate had been stolen. No suspects were found regarding the Mora Ranch report. Officer Jackson investigated the missing state land sign at Aguage to find the sign intact and no evidence of recent vehicular traffic or violations. The gate, located on a road near the center of a section of state trust land, was locked in violation of the agreement between the SLO and DGF.
8. November 12, 2007 Barry Lucas of the UU Bar called Officer Jackson to report one of his hunters had shot at and killed two cow elk. Officer Jackson met with Lucas and the hunter and seized one of the cow elk.
9. December 9, 2007, Officer Sanchez met with Ed Sanchez of UU Bar near Ojo Cabin while on hunt patrol. Ed Sanchez told Officer Sanchez the problems were considerably down from last year, estimating by "80%". Ed included that he did not think UU Bar had had an elk illegally killed on them this year and acknowledged DGF's constant presence has been a good deterrence.

Summary of David Stanley Ranch Reports of Violation and Ranch contacts:

- Stanley Ranch did not report any violations this year. In the middle of August Officer Coburn delivered new State Trust Land signs to Stanley Ranch. No one was home, so Officer Coburn left signs at door, with business card and note and asked David Stanley to call him. Stanley never called Officer Coburn. Officer Coburn reports he has not seen any of the State Trust Land signs he dropped off posted on the Stanley Ranch.

Summary of other GMU 48 reports and enforcement actions:

- March 2007, Steve Rivera called Officer Sanchez to report possible illegal turkey hunters at Manuelas Canyon. Violations included shooting from the road and possible trespassing. Vehicle information was passed on to Officer Jackson in the field but no suspects were found.
- August 18, 2007, Steve Rivera called Officer Jackson to report trespassers who cut fence and drove ATVs thru private property. Officer Jackson investigated and arrested two suspects for defendants damaging fence (criminal damage to property), driving unregistered ATVs on private property without permission and illegally possessing an elk head picked up in field. One of the suspects had been issued a written warning for criminal trespass on UU Bar the year before.
- December 8, 2007, Carl Gammage of Hunting Services (Outfitter under contract with CS Cattle Co) reported criminal trespass on CS Ranch at Martinez Canyon. Officer Jackson responded and found two defendants trespassing. Charges were filed and are pending in court.
- December 9, 2007, while on hunt patrol Officers Jackson and Moyers contacted a subject hunting elk without a license. Further investigation revealed his hunting privileges had been previously revoked. He was also in possession of marijuana. NM State Police was called and subject was arrested for numerous charges including game and fish violations.

Summary of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish law enforcement effort in GMU 48 during the 2007-08 hunting season.

Activity	Type P or U	# VISITS	TOTAL HOURS	TOTAL CONTACTS	TOTAL CITATIONS
District Patrol	U	3	13	0	0
Hunt Patrol	U	38	266.5	196	23
Roadblock	U	4	13	76	2
Decoy	U	5	15	0	0
ROV	U	5	34.5	17	10
OGT	U	1	5	0	0
LO Contact	U	2	2	1	0
Access Issues	U	5	25	0	0
Totals		63	374	290	35

U = uniformed patrol

P = plain clothes patrol

Visit = one trip by one officer to area