

Staff Summary for August 12-13, 2026

3B. Department Director and Law Enforcement Division Reports**Today's Item****Information** ☒**Action** ☐

The Department will highlight items of note since the last Commission meeting.

Summary of Previous/Future Actions (N/A)**Background**

Two news releases are provided that highlight a Department wildlife officer recognized by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the new regional manager for the Department's northern region (exhibits 1 and 2).

Significant Public Comments (N/A)**Recommendation (N/A)****Exhibits**

1. Department news release: "[Lt. Specialist Logan Garber Named Pogue-Elms Officer of the Year](#)," dated July 2, 2026
2. Department news release: "[Jason Roberts Named Regional Manager for CDFW's Northern Region](#)," dated July 9, 2026

Motion (N/A)



CDFW NEWS

Lieutenant Specialist Logan Garber Named Pogue-Elms Wildlife Officer of the Year

July 2, 2026



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is proud to announce Lieutenant Specialist Logan Garber as the recipient of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) Pogue–Elms Wildlife Officer of the Year Award, one of the highest honors in wildlife law enforcement. Garber was recognized for his leadership in combating

international wildlife trafficking, advancing investigative technology and strengthening officer safety while protecting California's fish and wildlife resources.

This award is presented annually by WAFWA, which represents 23 western states and Canadian provinces. The award honors the legacy of Idaho Fish and Game officers Bill Pogue and Conley Elms, who were killed in 1981 while attempting to arrest a poacher in a remote area of southwestern Idaho. It is one of the highest recognitions in wildlife law enforcement and is awarded to an officer who demonstrates exceptional courage, dedication, leadership, and technical skill.

Garber's work at some of the busiest international ports in North America has uncovered complex trafficking networks operating across California and worldwide. His efforts have strengthened partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Customs and Border Protection, Homeland Security, TSA, Los Angeles World Airports Police, major shipping carriers and others. His inspections have led to numerous significant investigations, including a major ongoing case involving more than 500 violations related to the unlawful importation of live fish. Garber combines rigorous enforcement with proactive outreach to importers and exporters, improving compliance, increasing prosecutorial success, and elevating CDFW's standing within the international trade community.

A highly skilled and innovative investigator, Garber uses advanced digital forensics, intelligence gathering, online monitoring, confidential informants, and surveillance techniques. His deep understanding of international shipping and regulatory processes—and his willingness to mentor colleagues—has made him a valued resource throughout the Law Enforcement Division.

"Lieutenant Specialist Garber represents the very best of California's conservation law enforcement community," said Nathaniel Arnold, CDFW Deputy Director and Chief of Law Enforcement. "His technical expertise, leadership, and relentless commitment to protecting our natural resources make him exceptionally deserving of this honor. His work has strengthened our department, our partnerships, and our ability to combat illegal wildlife trafficking."

Garber also leads in the use of emerging technologies. He is a key departmental expert in translation tools, digital forensics platforms, investigative databases, GPS tracking systems, and social media-based warrants. His ability to spot investigative leads during routine port inspections has significantly strengthened CDFW's capacity to detect, investigate and disrupt the illegal wildlife trade.

In the area of officer safety, Garber played a major role in researching, testing, and implementing the Department's Team Awareness Kit (TAK) blue-force tracking system, which has significantly improved statewide situational awareness and operational safety.

His work in ports enforcement also contributed to the passage of Assembly [Bill 1319](#) (2025), which strengthens California's ability to intervene in illegal wildlife importation by criminalizing violations of other states' wildlife laws.

Within CDFW, Garber serves as a tactical paramedic, Field Training Officer, Drone and First Aid Committee member, Peer Supporter, and recognized subject matter expert. His professionalism, humility, and dedication have enhanced CDFW's capabilities statewide.

CDFW congratulates Lieutenant Specialist Logan Garber on this distinguished honor and thanks him for his outstanding service to California's natural resources. His selection as WAFWA's Pogue-Elms Wildlife Officer of the Year reflects not only his exceptional service, but also CDFW's ongoing commitment to protecting California's fish and wildlife through innovation, collaboration and excellence in conservation law enforcement.

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CDFW NEWS

Jason Roberts Named Regional Manager for CDFW's Northern Region

July 9, 2026



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has named Jason Roberts as the new Regional Manager for its Northern Region.

Roberts has more than two decades of experience with CDFW as a fisheries biologist, supervisor, program manager, policy expert and tribal liaison. He joined CDFW's Northern Region in 2014 and, among other assignments, managed CDFW's Upper Sacramento River Basin fisheries efforts and most recently served as Inland Fisheries Program Manager.

Roberts was instrumental in two of CDFW's most ambitious initiatives to help restore north state Chinook salmon populations: The pilot program with the Winnemem Wintu Tribe and

federal partners to return endangered, winter-run Chinook salmon to their historic spawning and rearing grounds in the McCloud River above the Shasta Dam and the removal of four California dams on the Klamath River, the largest dam removal effort in world history.

“Jason’s leadership, deep technical knowledge and steady approach to complex challenges have made him an invaluable part of our Northern Region,” said CDFW Director Meghan Hertel. “His experience and longstanding relationships across the department and in our northernmost communities will serve him and all of us well in this new role.”

Headquartered in Redding, CDFW’s Northern Region encompasses nine counties in northern California: Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama and Trinity. Roberts replaces Tina Bartlett, who retired earlier this year.

Roberts was born and raised in Yuba City, Calif., and earned a bachelor’s degree in biological conservation from California State University, Sacramento. He joined CDFW in 2004 as a Scientific Aid.

Roberts lives in Redding with his wife and two sons. Away from work, he enjoys coaching youth soccer, fishing, camping and water sports with his family, particularly on Shasta Reservoir and Whiskeytown Lake.

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