INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

Law Enforcement and Investigations

The Intermountain Region Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI) program is responsible for patrolling nearly 34 million acres of National Forest System land. This land is broken down into 12 national forests and 1 national grassland in Utah, Nevada, western Wyoming, eastern California, and southern and central Idaho. Many of the national forests are in close proximity to urban areas with high population densities. The Intermountain Region hosts more than 20 million visitors a year to hunt, fish, hike, ski, camp, drive, ride, and enjoy the national forests and grasslands.

The USFS LEI works very closely in partnership with other local, state, and federal law enforcement partners. Currently there are 68 cooperative law enforcement agreements with the county sheriffs that have USFS lands within their respective counties. LEI also serves in partnerships with several other task forces to include the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and local drug task forces.

Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) throughout the region are involved in several community relations projects such as the "Shop With a Cop Program," staffing informational and education booths at sportsman's expos, working closely with OHV and snowmobile organizations, partnering closely with our ski resorts, and county search and rescue organizations.

AT A GLANCE

Our mission is to protect the public, employees, natural resources, and other property under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

USFS LEI Special Agents and LEOs live and are ingrained in their local communities. Many of these communities are very small and rural. USFS LEOs work closely with county sheriffs, game and fish departments, and other local and state officers as they are often the only law enforcement in the areas in which they live. An example of this is when an LEO in Utah responded to an active shooter threat at a local school. The LEO was the fourth unit on scene and played an integral role in securing the area and the safety of the students. Also, this LEO was the only female officer on scene for a good portion of the incident. She was invaluable when it came to searching female students. Fortunately no one was injured, and the danger was resolved when a student with a loaded gun was arrested.

Currently, the region's Law Enforcement organization is composed as follows:

- 32 Uniformed Law Enforcement Officers (4 K-9 units)
- 5 Patrol Captains
- 3 Special Agents (Criminal Investigators)
- 3 Sworn Command Staff (Special Agent in Charge, Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Regional Patrol Commander)

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer & Provider.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTIGATIONS
Intermountain Region

OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS

- USFS LEI employees come from a diverse background that includes prior military service, prior law enforcement experience, student trainees, and a wide variety of other backgrounds.
- Our Special Agents and LEOs go through one of the most extensive and challenging law enforcement training programs offered by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) as well as an extensive field training program.
- USFS LEOs are each responsible for patrol areas of up to 1 million plus acres of land.
- Backup for USFS LEOs is often 45 minutes to several hours away.
- USFS LEI staff members focus on educating the public and gaining voluntary compliance.

LOCAL AND STATE RELATIONS

Currently the Intermountain LEI staff is working to maintain and improve an already great working relationship with our local and state partners. Leadership regularly attends the Utah Sheriff's Association meetings along with various other local, state, and federal agency head meetings throughout the region. LEI works proactively to keep local and state counterparts informed of policy changes and issues that may affect local jurisdictions. For example LEI staff met with county and state officials to address concerns and help draft a county ordinance and forest order that were in concert with one another to deal with law enforcement issues surrounding the most visited reservoir in Utah.

- Sworn as State Peace Officers (Cross Deputized) with many Sheriff's Offices throughout the region.
- Special Agents serve as members on the Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF) Domestic Terrorism Squads.
- Special Agents and LEOs serve on Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and local drug task forces to combat the illegal manufacture and trafficking of controlled substances on public lands.
- LEI routinely engages in joint training ventures with state and local law enforcement counterparts.
- LEI provides backcountry operations training to local, state, and federal law enforcement.
- An LEO coordinated an Eagle Scout project with the Boy Scouts of America to clean up and improve a popular campground in Idaho. The LEO promoted positive interaction between law enforcement, the Forest Service, and the local community by making a significant contribution to the protection of natural resources and by developing boys into becoming productive men in the community.

An LEO participates in the "Shop with a Cop" program, which aims to bridge the gap between at-risk children and law enforcement by providing them with a positive holiday shopping experience.

CONTACT

INTERMOUNTAIN REGION

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RECENT RECOGNITION

Several LEOs from the Intermountain Region escorted the Capital Christmas Tree from Idaho to Washington, D.C., stopping and interacting in community relations in multiple cities along the route.