

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SUMMARY

I-900 STATE AUDITOR'S PERFORMANCE AUDIT:

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Vehicle Use (July 9, 2009)

As Heard by the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Sub-Committee on I-900 Performance Audits
on July 22, 2009

The performance audit being discussed at this hearing was conducted solely and independently by the office of the State Auditor, under the authority of legislation approved by the voters in Initiative 900. The State Auditor is elected directly by the people of the State of Washington and operates independently of the Legislature and the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee. Staff to the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee prepare a summary of public testimony on State Auditor reports. These summaries are for informational purposes only, and do not serve as an assessment by committee staff of the findings and recommendations issued by the State Auditor nor do they reflect a staff opinion on legislative intent.

Title: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Vehicle Use

Audit Scope and Objectives:

The performance audit report indicates that this audit was designed to determine whether the Department of Fish and Wildlife has underused vehicles and the potential financial effects associated with selling underused vehicles. SAO evaluated the Department's vehicle use from July 1, 2007, through November 30, 2008. Of the Department's 1,177 permanently assigned vehicles, SAO indicates it examined the Department's use of 218 vehicles for which the Department reported mileage below state guidelines for minimum vehicle use. SAO reports that this audit did not review maintenance operations or the cost of those operations.

SAO Findings:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife could generate up to \$171,000 if it sold 69 underused vehicles. If it chooses not to replace these vehicles, it could avoid spending up to \$1.2 million.

SAO Recommendations: SAO recommends the Department of Fish and Wildlife:

- Strengthen monitoring to ensure that mileage information entered into the mileage-tracking system is accurate, underused vehicles are identified, and the fleet consists of only those vehicles necessary to carry out its mission;
- Review the remainder of the fleet not examined as part of this audit to identify additional vehicles that should be sold, reassigned, or submitted to the Office of Financial Management for a waiver; and
- Allow and encourage the use of personal vehicles when it is more economical and efficient to the state to do so.

Agency Responses in Audit Report?	Yes, in Appendix D.
Legislative Action Requested?	No.

Agencies Testifying:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Jeff Olsen, Assistant Director for Business Services, and Ross Fuller, Fleet Manager)

Summary of Testimony from Audited Agencies:

The Department prepared a one-page response to the audit, and we are available here for any questions. We are looking forward to getting the new equipment revolving fund going. It was an enlightening process to go through the audit, and this will help with our fleet management.

Other Parties Testifying:

(No other parties signed in to testify.)

Summary of Testimony from Other Parties:

(No other parties signed in to testify.)