

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission – Division of Law Enforcement

	TITLE	GENERAL ORDER 59
	Resource Protection Service	EFFECTIVE DATE August 24, 2011
	APPLICABILITY All Sworn Members	RESCINDS/AMENDS N/A
REFERENCES General Order 38		

1 POLICY

- A** It is the policy of the FWC Division of Law Enforcement to establish Resource Protection Service assignments to engage offenders who are difficult for uniformed officers in marked vehicles and vessels to apprehend. The Resource Protection Service (RPS) is staffed with sworn Division members serving as Resource Protection Officers (RPOs).
- B** It is the policy of the FWC Division of Law Enforcement that Resource Protection Officers may work in plain clothes.
- C** It is the policy of the FWC Division of Law Enforcement that Resource Protection Officers are part of Uniform Patrol Operations. RPOs do not conduct deep covert investigations.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES

- A** The Training Section, with assistance from Patrol Operations and the Investigations Section, is responsible for developing and delivering the appropriate training to Resource Protection Officers.
- B** Area Captains are responsible for providing supervisory oversight, enforcement direction and guidance for Resource Protection Service activities.
- C** Squad Lieutenants are responsible for
 - (1) Providing operational supervision of Resource Protection Officers.
 - (2) Ensuring that RPOs primarily target resource violations.
- D** Resource Protection Officers are assigned to a field supervisor as part of a patrol squad. In some instances, Resource Protection Units may function as a separate squad assigned to an Area Captain's entire patrol area.
- E** Resource Protection Officers are responsible for:
 - (1) Primarily targeting resource violations, particularly those related to protected species, bag limits, and illegal methods of taking fish or wildlife.
 - (2) Meeting local patrol needs by working calls for service related to potential resource violations, search and rescues, urgent patrol needs, and targeted boating safety details.
 - (3) Working a wide variety of assignments, including individual patrol, squad patrol, and joint details involving both uniform patrol and RPS activities.
 - (4) Writing warnings, citations and making arrests while in plain clothes.

3 PROCEDURES

A Personnel Selection

- (1) Officers and Lieutenants from Uniform Patrol Operations are eligible to become Resource Protection Officers.
- (2) RPOs are volunteers who are task-oriented, dependable, flexible, and self-motivated.
- (3) Members interested in serving as an RPO shall submit a request to the Area Captain through their chain of command. The member's chain of command may add comments and endorsement to the member request.
- (4) Assignments to Resource Protection Service are made by the Regional Commander in consultation with the Area Captains.
- (5) Members may be removed from Resource Protection Service by their own request or at the discretion of the Regional Commander.
- (6) Resource Protection Service assignments are rotating, temporary one-year assignment. Members may be assigned to Resource Protection Service more than once. Members will return to their previous squad assignments after their Resource Protection Service assignments.

B Work Schedules

- (1) Resource Protection Service members will work flexible hours, and frequently deviate from existing, contracted shifts. Members are expected to communicate with their supervisor regarding their schedule and targeted details.

C Uniforms and Personal Appearance

- (1) Resource Protection Service members may wear plain clothes whenever the member would otherwise wear Class C uniforms.
- (2) Resource Protection Service members shall maintain personal appearance and grooming in accordance with General Order 23, *Uniforms, Personal Appearance and Dress Code*, Procedures section, subsection O, but female members may wear their hair below the shirt collar while serving as a Resource Protection Officer.

D Equipment

- (1) The Resource Protection Service will utilize vehicles and vessels from existing inventory, which may be reconfigured as necessary for unmarked RPS patrols. Any equipment needs shall be coordinated through the Field Services Section to ensure statewide consistency, compliance with current vehicle and vessel rigging standards, and to prevent unauthorized modifications to Division equipment.
- (2) The Investigations Section will coordinate the issuance of confidential tags.
- (3) The Division will provide RPS members with appropriate firearms, secondary weapons, holsters and handcuff/magazine holders for use on plain clothes patrol.

E Training

- (1) Officers and Lieutenants assigned to Resource Protection Service are required to attend class room and firearms training in accordance with General Order 38, *Undercover, Surveillance, and Decoy Operations*.
- (2) The Training Section, assisted by Operations and Investigations members, will ensure that RPOs receive training in the following areas:
 - (a) Plain Clothes Patrol/Concealed Firearms Carry Course

- (b) Ethics
- (c) Legal issues
- (d) Officer Safety for plain clothes patrol
- (e) Policy

4 FORMS

FORM NUMBER	FORM TITLE
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