



2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Background: The Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA) was established when the Elizabeth Nowak-Washington Auto Theft Prevention Act (E3SHB 1001) was signed into law and became effective July 1, 2007.

Funding Mechanism: The WATPA account is funded through a surcharge on traffic infractions. WATPA receives \$2.58 from every \$10 surcharge collected. Expenditures from the account are designated for activities related to motor vehicle theft and other associated crimes, including: education, prevention, law enforcement, investigation and prosecution.

Appropriations: During the 2013-15 biennium, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$5,900,000 to WATPA. A majority of the appropriation is distributed in grant awards while other funds are utilized to provide administrative oversight and other training opportunities such as the semi-annual WATPA Conference.

Grant Awards: WATPA awarded \$5,160,344 in 2013-15 grant funds for a variety of activities including: law enforcement, prosecution, crime analysis, technology and equipment, public awareness, training and education.

Multi-Agency Task Forces:

- East King County Cooperative Auto Theft Initiative (Bellevue Police) (\$196,764)
- Yakima County Sheriff's Office Auto Theft Reduction Unit (Yakima County) (\$204,800)
- Guided Enforcement for Auto Theft and Enforcement (Clark County) (\$268,248)
- Spokane Regional Auto Theft Task Force (Spokane County) (\$364,826)
- ACE Task Force (Lakewood PD) (\$871,744)

- SNOCAT (Snohomish County) (\$1,511,390)
- PATROL (Federal Way Police) (\$1,614,100)

Other Award Recipients:

- Senior Volunteer Stolen Vehicle Recovery Program (Bellingham Police) (\$7,900)
- Public Outreach/Innovation Programs Equipment (Wenatchee Police) (\$25,000)
- Stolen Vehicle Recovery Program (Bellingham Police) \$25,000)
- ALPR (Toppenish Police) (\$25,000)
- Tri-Cities Regional Auto Theft Network (Richland Police) (\$45,572)
- Scholarships for local law enforcement to attend the state auto theft investigators conference (WSATI) (\$6,600)

Fiscal Stewardship:

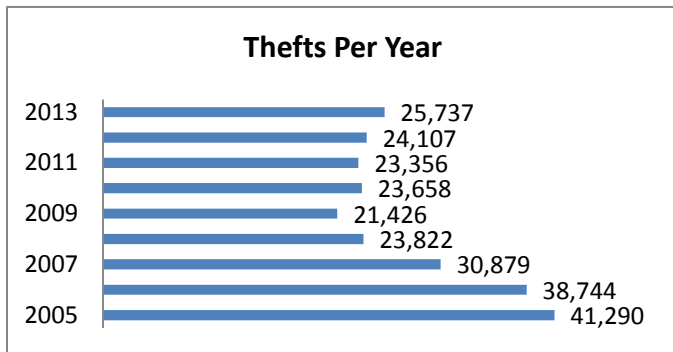
Over the past year, WATPA instituted the following measures to increase fiscal stewardship.

- Site visits and audits of all 2012 WATPA grant recipients were conducted.
- Revisions to the grant allocation process, with added focus on public awareness, individual and task force performance.
- The WATPA Board encouraged smaller taskforces and workgroups to merge with local WSP taskforces to promote a force multiplier and leverage economy of scale.
- A complete revision of the WATPA reporting form with focus on accountability and return on investment (ROI).

Authority Impact: The mission of the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority is to prevent and reduce motor vehicle thefts and other associated crime in the State of Washington. The information that follows reflects WATPA's impact on auto theft across Washington State by providing a small sampling of anecdotes from each region.

Washington State Auto Theft Trends

WACIC Data (Provided by WSP)



*2013 Data: July 1, 2012 thru June 30, 2013

Southeast Region (\$1,365,445.50)

Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Walla Walla, and Yakima Counties

Richland police are warning drivers to lock up their cars, as local vehicle thefts and prowls continue to climb. Officers spoke with students at Washington State University Tri-Cities about auto theft prevention. They say about 75% of cars that are broken into are unlocked. Police recommend drivers park in well-lit areas, keep valuables out of sight, and not hide a second set of keys in the car.

Southwest Region (\$5,333,557.37)

Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum Counties

Analysis being done for law enforcement efforts is now also being used to help the prosecuting attorney offices to prioritize, collate, and prosecute cases. While still in the early stages of implementation success has already been seen with over a dozen career auto thieves being sentenced to an average of 34 months in prison.

Northwest Region (\$12,495,990.84)

Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, San Juan, Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties

Corey Johnson, a Marysville resident has been arrested and booked on numerous counts of Possession of Stolen Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle and Burglary. He plead guilty and has been sentenced to guilty to 2 counts Possession Stolen Motor Vehicle (receiving 33 months each count) and a Taking Motor Vehicle without Permission 1st degree (receiving 80 months). The sentences run concurrent, with a maximum sentence length of 80 months.

North East Region (\$1,513,616.37)

Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Grant, Kittitas, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens Counties

On April 24, 2004 Mr. Ellis had 5 collector vehicles stolen from his property in Spokane County. The victims are elderly and go to Arizona every year for the winter. They have a large shop where they have stored vehicles for over 20 years. When Mr. and Mrs. Ellis returned from their annual trip to Arizona they discovered that 5 of their vehicles had been stolen. One of the 5 vehicles belonged to the deceased father of Mr. Ellis who is now 84 years old.

The Ellis' were ecstatic the Spokane Regional Auto Theft force was going to continue to investigate the loss of their other vehicles. Mr. Ellis was nearly in tears when he heard the task force was going to try to locate his other vehicles, including his father's first truck.

Additional Information: For additional information on WATPA's work to prevent and reduce motor vehicle thefts and other associated crime in the State of Washington, please visit the WATPA website at <https://watpa.waspc.org/>.