



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

March 10, 2006

The Editor
Golden Star

Editor:

Your recent editorial about the Conservation Officer Service (COS) may have left your readers with a mistaken impression about the deployment of seasonal Conservation Officers this year (Refreshing honesty – Troubling logic, March 8).

The Conservation Officer Service does an excellent job of protecting wildlife and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. Their professional services must be allocated where they're needed most – and that is what is happening with this year's deployment of seasonal conservation officers. Deployment decisions are based on operational considerations in the regions and the experience of senior conservation officers.

Priorities change over time, which is why the service carefully evaluates the seasonal CO program at the end of each year and makes recommendations according to the needs it has identified. The Conservation Officer Service determined that the volume and complexity of needs north of, and in Golden's immediate vicinity, did not justify a position in the area this season.

Golden will benefit by the addition of a seasonal CO in Invermere, who will work alongside the two Conservation Officers permanently stationed there.

Sincerely,

Barry Penner
Minister of Environment