

BEST
OF THE
WILD

OPERATION
CODY

Todd A. Vandivert

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An Undercover Investigation of
Illegal Wildlife Trafficking In Washington State

Fish & Wildlife Detective Todd A. Vandivert (retired)

This story, told in first-person, follows two undercover game wardens as they work to bring down the Pacific Northwest's wildlife parts black-market. The undercover game wardens, posing as husband and wife, lure commercial poachers into their trap by operating an undercover wildlife business complete with an enticing website. Follow along as the two wardens risk their lives dealing with dangerous criminals, all the while battling their own administration in an effort to keep their investigation running.

"The devastation of Africa's wildlife for illicit gain is constantly in the news. One might conclude it's an infrequent problem in North America since the subject seldom makes the paper. This book exposes that myth; it's an incredible story of wildlife destruction that's happening in our backyards. My hat is off to Todd and his partner Jennifer Maurstad for laying their lives on the line for wildlife."

*- Tony Latham, retired Idaho game warden
and author of Trafficking.*

"Best of the Wild/Operation Cody is a dark look into the thriving illegal trade of poached wildlife from bear gall bladder to caviar, to quite possibly the last gourmet elk steak your favorite restaurant offered as a "special." Best of the Wild is written by a 30-year veteran and undercover detective who gained the trust of meth addicts, restaurateurs, taxidermists, and Asian and Russian organized crime members to bring down the largest number of wildlife poachers in Washington State history."

*- Mary A. Golden, Author and
Executive Director Museum of Natural History*

