



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

APRIL 2024



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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on patrol
in the Mt. Emily Unit*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Hunter Education Field Day - Hood River

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles held a hunter education field day in Hood River with the assistance of a Fish and Wildlife Sergeant, Patrol Troopers, an ODFW employee, and special guest K-9 Scout and his handler. There were 20 students in attendance who completed their field day requirements. Students went through the hunters trail, safe handling of firearms, hunting regulations, anatomy, firearm actions, fence crossing, shoot/no shoot scenarios, ethics, proper tagging, etc. The students and parents also got to see demonstrations from K-9 Scout as he worked through several scenarios of locating articles in the field. The field day and the presence of the K-9 were well received. Troopers received multiple compliments throughout the day regarding how well the class was organized and the quality of the information they received.

Trooper Presents at Sutherlin High School

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper presented to a Sutherlin High School "Emergency Services" class of about 15 students. The Trooper also gave a presentation about careers with OSP to 60 Sutherlin High School Seniors.

Trooper Speaks at Irrigon High School

A Heppner Fish and Wildlife Trooper was requested to speak with two classes of 9th-11th grade students at Irrigon High School. The students are enrolled in an Ecology/Environmental Science class. The Trooper spent two hours with 28 students and discussed wildlife interactions with humans, hunting and fishing laws, regulations, and the importance of protecting Oregon's natural resources. The Trooper also discussed recruitment for OSP and explained the duties of a Fish and Wildlife Trooper.

Roseburg Troopers Present at OHA Meeting

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team and Douglas County Assistant District Attorney, attended the local Oregon Hunter's Association (OHA) chapter meeting. A Trooper put together and presented a briefing regarding the implications of the illegal use of thermal devices for scouting and hunting big game in our area. Another Trooper briefed the members regarding several thermal cases he has worked in the area thus far and the Roseburg team shared ideas with the group on what they could do to assist with enforcement efforts.

Tygh Valley Youth Turkey Clinic

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles represented Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division at the 23rd annual Youth Turkey Clinic that was held in Tygh Valley on the White River Wildlife Area. Approximately 50 youth and their parents were in attendance. Troopers spoke to the group about various Fish and Wildlife related topics and fielded questions from the participants. Another Trooper presented on turkey calling, turkey hunting strategy, and scouting for a successful hunt.



Trooper Instructs at ATV Training

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the Statewide 2024 State Parks ATV In-service. This training is for the County, Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and State Police ATV enforcement divisions. About 50 law enforcement personnel were in attendance. The Trooper presented fish and wildlife laws related to ATVs, and led one of four scenarios that all participants attended throughout the two-and-a-half-day event.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Trooper Helps Return Dog to Owner

An off duty Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from a Paulina rancher who advised while they were cutting cattle and moving them, one of their cattle dogs was picked up by a concerned citizen passing through the area. The cattle dog was reported to have been limping on a sore paw down the public road that cuts between the very large ranch operation. The owners were upset after finding out their dog was being taken to a dog rescue facility in Bend, 2.5 hours away, and contacted the Crook County Sheriff's Department (CCSO). The Trooper worked with CCSO to recover the dog that night. The owner advised they preferred to have their Belgian Malinois, named "Fate" stay with the Trooper since the dog knows him and likes him. Fate slept inside the Trooper's house and was returned to her owners the following morning.



Owlets Found on Farm in Vale

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call of some owlets that were found in a pile of hay at a rural farm in Vale. The three owlets were transported from the scene and released to a volunteer with the Ruth Melichar Bird Center in Boise, Idaho to be rehabilitated and released into the wild once they reach adulthood.

Bull Elk Freed from Fence and Debris

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a bull elk stuck in a fence. Upon arrival it was discovered that the elk had freed itself from the fence. But it was reported that the elk had a large amount of rope and other debris wrapped around its head and antlers. The bull was tracked into a nearby stand of timber. The debris around the elk's antlers had become entangled around a tree, trapping the elk. The Trooper contacted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and two ODFW members responded to the location. The elk was tranquilized so all the debris could safely be removed. The debris was successfully removed. The elk was healthy and appeared uninjured.

Traffic Stop Leads to Warrant Arrest

Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers were headed into the Ochoco Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) to check for people bear hunting and scouting for turkey season. A pickup in front of them was observed failing to drive within its lane and was subsequently stopped. A check of the driver found he had an active felony warrant for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)** out of Crook County. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Crook County Jail.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Osprey with Broken Wing Taken to Rehab

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers captured an Osprey that had a broken wing. The feisty fella was transported to The Bird Alliance of Oregon for rehabilitation.



Injured Hawk Taken to Wildlife Center

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of a possible road struck red tailed hawk in Newberg. The hawk appeared to have a broken wing. The hawk was captured and taken to Chintimini Wildlife Center in Corvallis.

Subject Cited on Sauvie Island Wildlife Area

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received several complaints about a suspicious occupied vehicle on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA). The Trooper had contacted the operator of the vehicle in the past for not having a SIWA parking permit. The Trooper contacted the subject in his vehicle again over the weekend. The subject had since purchased a yearly parking pass but was smoking marijuana in his vehicle in a public place and admitted to being in the wildlife area after hours. The subject was issued a violation citation for **Use of Marijuana in a Public Place** and **SIWA-Violation of Closure Hours**.



Roadstruck Eagle Rescued - Beatty

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Beatty in response to a golden eagle that had been road struck. The bird was located and captured. It was then transported to Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation and is expected to make a recovery.



Planter Basket Removed from Deer's Neck

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted ODFW biologists with locating a buck deer with a planter basket caught around its neck. The deer was located, and ODFW was able to tranquilize the deer and remove the bucket.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Troopers Assist with Tows on Land

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper was on patrol near Yellowjacket Lake when he was flagged down by a family with small kids advising that their camp trailer was stuck in the mud and they needed help. The male subject advised that he had been up since 5 am, trying to get cell service to call for help. The Trooper gave the father a courtesy ride back to Burns so he could get a winch and some other tools to free the camp trailer. The Trooper checked on the family the following day and they had gotten the camper out of the mud. The family was grateful to OSP for the help.



The same Burns Trooper was in the Silvies unit when he was flagged down by two families with kids waving their arms in a meadow to get his attention. The families were camping with a fifth wheel and a camp trailer, and both had gotten stuck in the deep mud in the meadow. The Trooper was able to call a tow truck for the campers and escorted the tow truck to their location. The campers had unhooked one of trucks from the fifth wheel and numerous attempts were made to hook the truck back up to the fifth wheel, because it needed wheels under it to be pulled out. The mud was too deep, and the campers truck kept getting stuck. The tow truck eventually got stuck too and another truck had to be shuttled to the location to get the tow truck out. The families were grateful to OSP for the help and said that they had only seen one other car go by all weekend.



...and on the Water

Pendleton and Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River. During the patrol eight boats and 22 people were contacted. One boat was found disabled with four people on board. The boat was towed into the Irrigon Marina and two of the occupants were transported back to their vehicle at the Umatilla Marina.



A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper came across two boaters in distress drifting in the shipping channel on the Columbia River. Contact was made and the captain requested to be towed. The Trooper towed them out of the shipping channel to a safe anchorage to wait for a family member to bring them fuel.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



ODFW and OSP Work Together on Wildlife Area

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the East Central Team and the Baker City OSP Pilot worked cooperatively with ODFW Philip Schneider Wildlife Area staff to perform a saturation patrol on the weekend leading up to the opener of the wildlife area. One citation was issued for **Unlawful Entry in Wildlife Area**, one warning for **Unlawful Entry in Wildlife Area**, and one warning for **Fail to Display Wildlife Area Parking Permit**. Other offenses included **Operating ATV without Permit/Decal**, **Failure to Immediately Validate Turkey Tag**, and **Open Container of Alcohol**. The number of shed antler hunters were down considerably this year in part due to opening day being a Monday and rainy weather conditions throughout the evening.

Subject Trespasses While Chasing Turkeys

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded with Union County Sheriff's Office to a trespass call near Summerville. A reporting party stated a subject in camo was dropped off with a shotgun and a turkey decoy then entered his neighbor's property without permission. Upon arrival the subject was located walking down the road. He stated he had obtained permission to be on the property next to the one in question, and that property was the only one he had hunted on. He said he used OnX hunt maps and knew he couldn't enter the property in question and was adamant he didn't enter it. When the Trooper located tracks on the private land that matched the subject's boots, he finally admitted he had trespassed trying to get in front of a group of turkeys he was chasing. The landowner was contacted and wanted to pursue charges. The subject was cited and released for **Hunting on Another's Cultivated or Enclosed Land**.

Multiple Citations Stem from Search Warrant

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper, along with several Troopers from the Mid-Valley Fish and Wildlife Team, served a search warrant on a residence in east Linn County. The case developed from a trespass and theft call in the fall of 2023. Multiple sets of deer antlers/skulls, a rifle and a raptor foot were seized. The suspect was cited for five counts of **Unlawful Possession Buck**, **Placing Offensive Substance in Water**, **Unlawful Possession of Prohibited Species (Raptor)**, **Trespass II with a Firearm**, and **Hunting No Big Game Tag**.

Subject Shoots Turkey from Roadway

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of a subject who had shot a turkey in the middle of a county road. The reporting party provided the vehicle license plate, and the registered owner of that vehicle was contacted immediately. The owner of the vehicle ultimately admitted to shooting a turkey from the roadway. He was subsequently cited for **Hunting Prohibited Area: Public Road** and **Take of Game Birds Prohibited Area: Roadway**.

Subjects Violate BLM Winter Range Closure

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper had previously identified two subjects repeatedly violating Bureau of Land Management (BLM) winter range closures near Prineville. Two subjects from Lincoln City were identified with one having an active felony warrant. A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with the subjects at their residence. Both subjects were issued a citation for **Operate ATV in Violation of Posted Restrictions**. One of the subjects was lodged at the Lincoln County jail for warrants out of Linn County and a local municipal court.

Subjects in Protected Western Snowy Plover Area

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted an Oregon State Park beach ranger with identifying and locating two subjects who were in a Western Snowy Plover management area with a dog. The subjects refused to identify themselves to the beach ranger and left the area on foot so as to not let the ranger know what vehicle was theirs. The Trooper was able to identify one of the individuals from a prior contact. The subjects were contacted at their residence by the beach ranger and Trooper. The subjects continued to be uncooperative and were ultimately issued citations by the beach ranger for **Possession of a Dog Within a Closed Snowy Plover Management Area** and **Interfering with a Park Ranger**.

WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



Mattress Removed from Campsite - Grizzly Unit

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Grizzly Unit which was slow with the previous night's snow. An old mattress was removed from a campsite on McKay Road and taken to the Crook County landfill.

Subject Cited for Trapping Violations

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Sergeant, a Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper, and a US Forest Service (USFS) Law Enforcement Officer checked an area that had been reported to have several snares with skunks in them on USFS land. After patrolling for several miles, including about a mile on foot due to snow, two snares were located with skunks still in the snare. The skunks had been reported a week prior, and it was obvious the trapper had not checked his traps in weeks. The Trooper continued checking the area and located 26 other open snares. The suspect was contacted and confessed to not closing his traps. He stated he had been snowed out and had not made it up to close them as the snow melted. It was the second time the suspect had been investigated for such issues. The suspect was criminally cited for **Fail to Inspect Traps and Remove Animals** with the referral of charges for **Trapping Closed Season, Fail to Inspect Trap, Exceeding Bag Limit of Bobcats**, and **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation** to the Lake County District Attorney.

Subject Shoots at Waterfowl with Pellet Gun

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the area around the West Linn Public Fishing Dock on the Willamette River, when he observed a young male subject with a pellet gun shooting at waterfowl. The Trooper contacted the subject who told him he brought the pellet gun to keep sea lions away while he was fishing from the dock and did not intend to shoot at birds. The Trooper cited the subject for **Harassing Wildlife**. No birds appeared to have been harmed.

Taxidermy Check Leads to Unlawful Take Cite

La Pine Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted administrative taxidermy checks. During the checks information was received regarding the unlawful take of a buck deer in 2023. The Troopers were informed about a subject that attempted to have a mule deer buck mounted without a valid tag. Troopers were already investigating this subject after he posted a photograph of himself online, posing with a three-point buck taken in 2023. Troopers determined the subject did not have any deer tags in Oregon for 2023. The subject was located in Bend and cited for the **Unlawful Take and Possession of Buck Deer**. The buck was seized as evidence.

Subjects Trespassed from GDRC Lands

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the old Topsy Reservoir on the Klamath River for trespassers. He located a vehicle down a closed road on Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC) land. The subjects were camping and had an illegal campfire. The vehicle owner was cited for the Travel Management Area (TMA) violation and the fire extinguished. Both individuals were issued written trespass notices from all GDRC lands for 90 days.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Over 50 Razor Clams Seized and Donated

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted two days of razor clam surveillance patrols during a negative tide. Multiple recreational clam diggers were contacted and multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit: Razor Clams, Fail to Retain Clams as Required, No Resident Shellfish License, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Over 50 razor clams were seized and donated to a local food bank.

Skipper Cited for Undersized Dungeness Crab

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with a commercial fish dealer in Winchester Bay who had purchased a load of crab the previous week which had a percentage of undersized crab in it. The skipper was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

Multiple Subjects Cited for Clamming Violations

Astoria and Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a patrol on Seaside Beach, during a low tide, observing commercial and recreational razor clam harvesters. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceeding The Daily Limit of Razor Clams, Fail To Retain Clams As Required, and Dig Clams for Another**. On one of the contacts, a Trooper observed a subject digging clams for a group of four other people. The Trooper followed one of the subjects off of the beach, and watched him put a bucket with clams into a car in the parking lot (while the one person doing the digging remained on the beach and filled another bucket with clams). This subject was cited for **Exceed The Daily Limit of Razor Clams**.

Garibaldi Clam Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a foot patrol in Garibaldi, during a low tide, observing recreational bay clam harvesters. Multiple citations and warnings were issued for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clams and Dig Clams for Another**.

Commercial Fishing Vessel License Checks

Newport and Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting license checks of commercial fishing vessels when they discovered two commercial fishermen did not have a valid 2024 license. During the investigation one subject provided false information for his citation and to avoid detection for his felony arrest warrants. There were also undersized Dungeness crab found in the offload. The individual who provided false info left the area and did not return. That individual was later identified and an additional arrest warrant for giving false information was applied for. One other subject was cited for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License**. The case was forwarded to the Lincoln County District Attorney's office for consideration.



Two Subjects Cited for Lingcod Violations

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant was in Garibaldi when he observed a group of jet skis return to the dock from fishing and clamming. An inspection of the groups catch revealed one individual had retained four lingcod, two over the limit, and another individual had retained an undersized lingcod. There were additional violations involving the jet skis boat registrations. Citations were issued for **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Lingcod and Unlawful Take of the Undersized Lingcod** and warnings were issued for the boat registrations. The three lingcod were seized and later donated to charity.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Subject Keeps Eight Extra Trout

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was checking anglers at Timber Linn Pond when he observed a subject transporting individual trout back to their vehicle after every catch. The investigation revealed the subject had retained 13 trout, well over the daily bag limit of five, and was continuing to angle for more. The subject was cited and released criminally for **Continuing to Angle after Retaining Daily Limit.**

Subject Cited - Cascade Locks Marina

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was conducting angler checks at the Cascade Locks Marina, when a subject was observed quickly reeling his line in and started putting his gear away when he noticed the Trooper's truck pull up. The subject was contacted and admitted he had not purchased a non-resident angling license but was about to do so. Upon further checking of the subject's gear, it was determined he was using barbed hooks. The subject was issued a violation citation for **Angling Prohibited Method**, and **No Harvest Tag**. He was given a written warning for **No Non-Resident Angling License** after promptly purchasing the proper one-day licenses and endorsement.

Coos Bay and Empire Lakes Patrols

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant checked clam diggers at Coos Bay. One subject was found to have 17 gaper clams (five over the limit of 12). He was cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Gaper Clams**. Another subject was warned for **No Shellfish License**. The Sergeant stopped by Empire Lakes after that and issued three citations for **No Angling License** and warned a juvenile for **No Angling License**.



Elderly Fisherman Assisted - Ochoco Reservoir

Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers were checking anglers at Ochoco Reservoir. An elderly fisherman who was observed walking down the boat ramp was contacted about 30 minutes after seeing him walking out there. Upon contact a Trooper observed the subject was having trouble tying on a hook. The Trooper offered to assist the fisherman who quickly accepted. As the Trooper tied and baited the poles the fisherman told him he was 94 years old and was trying to catch his 97 year old friend a fish, since his friend could no longer walk to go fishing. He stated he couldn't see the line well enough anymore to tie on a hook and was hoping he would eventually get lucky and get it tied. After getting him set up the fisherman thanked the Troopers for the assistance and for taking the time to be out doing the job.

Troopers Patrol Halderman Pond

A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled Halderman Pond on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area for the opening day of the Oak Island Unit. The Lieutenant was speaking with a subject at his vehicle when he observed the subject place the five trout he had just caught into the trunk of his car, instead of utilizing the cooler in his backseat. An investigation and search of the cooler revealed the subject had retained 11 rainbow trout (six over the limit). Troopers seized the six trout and issued the subject a violation citation for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Fish**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Blind Slough Gillnet Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers used the department's small skiff to patrol the Blind Slough commercial gillnet select area during early morning hours. Soon after launching the skiff in the slough, they detected a vessel with net deployed and no skipper on board. After waiting approximately 15 minutes they traveled down the slough and noticed a subject start up his vessel that was moored to a local float house approximately 500 yards away from the net. After contacting the man, it was learned he was the skipper and had been away from the net for several hours. He was subsequently cited for **Fishing Prohibited Method: Gillnet Unattended.**



Subject Caught Cutting Up Poached Sturgeon

The Westside and Oak Island Units of the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area recently opened to the public for the summer, giving anglers bank access to the Gilbert River. Sturgeon angling is closed on the Gilbert River, including catch and release. A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper witnessed a subject catch and retain a sturgeon. Additional Troopers arrived and found the subject actively cutting the approximately 47" sturgeon into three pieces. Troopers had contacted the subject earlier in the day and had discussed with him the regulations regarding the Gilbert River, specifically that it was closed to sturgeon and bait. Troopers seized the sturgeon, the subject's fishing rod and the fillet knife he was using to cut up the sturgeon. The subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Sturgeon** and cited for **Angling Prohibited Method: Bait.**

Subjects Angling with Bait in Prohibited Area

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was watching a group of people angling on the Gilbert River on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area when he observed them catch and release two sturgeon. Sturgeon angling is closed year-round on the Gilbert River, including catch and release, and bait is not allowed from April 16th to May 15th. Another Trooper contacted the group, which was comprised of two adults and several youth. The adults stated that they weren't trying to target sturgeon, but they were using small chunks of herring for bait. The two adults were each issued violation citations for **Angling Prohibited Method: Bait.**

Unlawful Take of Sturgeon- Gilbert River

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted sturgeon enforcement on the Gilbert River. The Sergeant observed two subjects; one of which was clearly angling for sturgeon and the other acting as a lookout. The Sergeant observed the subject land a sturgeon and both individuals immediately started packing up their belongings placing them in a pickup parked nearby. The last trip included wrapping the sturgeon in a beach towel and placing it in the extended cab portion of the pickup. The Sergeant contacted them as they started to leave and the driver admitted to catching the sturgeon with bait and hiding it in the pickup. The sturgeon was revived and released. The subject was cited criminally for **Unlawful Take of Sturgeon: Closed Area** and **Angling Prohibited Method: Use of Bait** and the pole was seized.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

High Lakes and Rivers Patrol

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper patrolled the high lakes and rivers contacting sixteen anglers. One subject was contacted while fishing with a worm on the Deschutes River below Wickiup Dam. The subject was issued a citation for **Angling Closed Stream** and warned for **Angling Prohibited Method: Bait**. One citation was issued to a subject at South Twin Lake for **No Resident Angling License**, while two other subjects were warned for **No Paper Angling License in Possession**. Two other subjects were issued citations for **No Non-Resident Angling License** at North Twin Lake.

Willamette River Boat Patrol

St. Helens and Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Willamette River from Cathedral boat ramp to the confluence of the Columbia River. Overall, 11 boats and 21 anglers were contacted. Special attention was given to the fishing boundary with the Columbia. Three boats were observed angling well over the deadline and violation citations were issued for **Angling Closed Area**. In all, eight violations/warnings were issued for **No Electronic Tag in Possession, Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, Angling with More Than One Line/Rod, No Columbia River Endorsement, and No Boater Education Card in Possession**. Additionally, six boat inspections were completed and recorded.

Father and Sons All Cited for Poaching

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Willamina Creek Lower Falls where a Yamhill County Deputy had contacted five young males fishing in a closed area. This area has been a frequent problem with people poaching native steelhead. Through interviews the Trooper was able to determine the juveniles were the sons of a primary suspect in several other steelhead poaching cases at that same location. The four juveniles and one 18-year-old were cited for **Angling Closed Area** and **No Resident Angling License**. Their fishing rods were seized after they cut off their gear and threw one rod into the water. The Trooper was eventually able to locate the father who provided a full confession and was cited criminally for **Angling Closed Area/Stream, Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead, Failure to Validate Harvest Card**, and six counts of **Driving While Suspended: Felony**. One fish was seized as evidence from his chest freezer.

Umpqua River Poachers Cited

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team, assisted by a Roseburg Patrol Lieutenant, interviewed multiple suspects related to an ongoing investigation into a tight knit group of subjects poaching wild steelhead out of the main Umpqua River on a frequent basis. The case began with an anonymous tip and after months of investigation using trail cameras and surveillance on the fishing hole, the cell phone of one of the suspects was seized via search warrant. After analyzing photographic evidence on the phone, four suspects were interviewed and cited for **Illegal Take and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

Joint Columbia River Boat Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol with the US Coast Guard (USCG) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) personnel on the Columbia River, departing out of the Hood River Marina. The USCG vessel Blue Shark made its way down the Washington Coast from Puget Sound and up the Columbia River. The Trooper, along with a WDFW Officer, spent the day with the crew getting them familiarized with the area and conducting fishing and boating safety inspections in the Bonneville Pool. The crew conducted multiple boat safety and angler checks on the water during the eight-hour patrol. The USCG was very appreciative of the assistance during the patrol from OSP and WDFW personnel.

Poachers Caught with Over 100 Illegal Crab

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a group of crabbers at the docks on Alsea Bay. After inspection of catch, gear, and licenses, it was determined the group was in possession of 144 undersized and female Dungeness crab. The crab were returned to the bay and the crabbers were cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized and Female Dungeness Crab** and **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit**. Four crab pots were seized.

Razor Clam Patrol - Clatsop Beach

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked recreational razor clam diggers on Clatsop Beach. He checked multiple diggers and issued four citations. Three for **Failure to Use Own Container for Clams** after witnessing a large group of diggers switching containers and/or not possessing containers at all. A short time later he issued a citation for **Failure to Retain Clams** after watching a man bury several broken clams.

CASE DISPOSITIONS



Subject Pleads Guilty in Harney County Case

In December 2023, a Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated the unlawful take of a trophy mule deer buck in the Whitehorse Unit during the 2023 archery season. The suspect had shot the buck with his bow and rifle in the Whitehorse unit, then loaded it up and transported it to the Beatty's Butte unit where he had a tag and staged it there for photos.

On April 22 the subject pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer**, which is a Class A Misdemeanor.

The subject was sentenced to:

- Three-year hunting license suspension
- \$7,500 to the TIP (Turn-In-Poachers) Fund

Subject Convicted in Sturgeon Case

In the spring of 2022, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper, who was conducting surveillance on the Gilbert River on Sauvie Island, observed a man catch and shoot a juvenile sturgeon in the head with a BB gun. The subject then hid the sturgeon in the bushes and denied having it when contacted by a Trooper. As a result of his actions the subject was cited criminally for **Unlawful Take Sturgeon**. After two years a jury trial was conducted and after hearing testimony from both Troopers and the subject he was found guilty of **Unlawful Take Sturgeon**. He received the following:

- \$750 restitution to ODFW
- Three-year angling license suspension
- 18 months probation
- 10 days on the Columbia County Work Crew



Subject Pleads Guilty in Grant County Case

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated a case at the Grant County Fairgrounds property involving a young adult male cutting cookies and chasing deer in his truck, which resulted in him striking and severely injuring a mule deer buck that had to be euthanized. The suspect pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of Buck Deer, Waste of Game Mammal, and Criminal Mischief III**.

The subject was sentenced to:

- 18 months probation
- Three-year hunting license suspension
- \$2000 in restitution and fines
- 30 Hours of Community Service
- Complete a Hunter's Education Course



Oregon's fish and wildlife populations depend on us.



Turn in poachers.

Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Cash Rewards

- \$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose
- \$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
- \$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
- \$200 Game Fish & Shellfish
- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting
- \$200 Snagging/Attempt to Snag

Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) Cash Rewards

Birds
 \$500 Hawk, Falcon, Eagle, Owl, Osprey
 All other protected avian species: see category below for listed species

Mammals
 \$500 Cougar, Bobcat, Beaver (public lands only), Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox

\$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish) (e.g. wolf, wolverine, kit fox, red tree vole, Canada lynx, sea otter, Columbian white-tailed deer, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, California least tern, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark, yellow billed cuckoo, leatherback sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, Oregon spotted frog, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle)

ODFW Preference Points Rewards

- 5 Points Bighorn Sheep
- 5 Points Rocky Mountain Goat
- 5 Points Moose
- 5 Points Wolf
- 4 Points Elk
- 4 Points Deer
- 4 Points Pronghorn Antelope
- 4 Points Bear
- 4 Points Cougar

Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association Cash Rewards

\$200 Acting as an Outfitter Guide for the Illegal Killing of Wildlife, Illegally Obtaining Oregon Hunting or Angling Licenses or Tags, or Illegally Offering to Act as an Outfitter Guide as defined in ORS 704.010 and 704.020.



Any tip helps and can be anonymous!
Dial *OSP (*677) on mobile devices
or call 1-800-452-7888 to report poaching.
 Visit ProtectOregonsWildlife.com to learn more.



Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division



We are the Guardians of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife

"Assuring compliance with the laws which protect and enhance the long-term health and equitable utilization of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitat resources."

Interested in becoming an Oregon State Police
Fish and Wildlife Trooper?

For information, please visit our website at:
www.osptrooper.com

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474
or email osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov

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