



# OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**NOVEMBER 2024**



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*On the cover:  
K-9 Buck locates bear carcass, see [page 5](#).*

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## **Trooper Presents Birds of Prey - Eddyville Charter School**

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper visited the Eddyville Charter School's second grade class during their "Birds of Prey" module. The Trooper brought several birds to be displayed during the module, spoke with the class, and answered questions.

## **Career Presentation - Dufur**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles participated in a career presentation at the Dufur School for the 6th grade class. The students asked lots of questions of the Troopers and enjoyed the presentation.

## **South Coast Anglers Meeting**

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant gave a year in review presentation to the South Coast Anglers Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) group. Approximately 20 members were in attendance.

## **Trooper Speaks to Aquaculture Class**

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper spoke to a class about poaching to students at Warrenton High School that were enrolled in the aquaculture class. The instructor indicated the class had recently been studying what impact poaching has on wildlife and fish populations and its social/economic ramifications. The Trooper spoke for an hour to the 15 students and answered multiple questions. Several students showed interest in what a Fish and Wildlife Trooper does on a daily basis.

## **K-9 Buck Meets Cub Scouts**

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper and K-9 Buck conducted a public talk at a Cub Scouts meeting in the Eugene area. The Scouts were in the process of obtaining their community service badge. The Trooper discussed the Fish and Wildlife K-9 program, Oregon State Police, and tied the conversation back into serving the community. The Scouts asked great questions, and everyone was able to interact with K-9 Buck creating a positive experience.

## **OSP Donates Meat to OR Food Bank**

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper picked up and donated over 300 lbs of deer and elk meat to the Oregon Food Bank distribution center in The Dalles. They were very pleased to receive the donation.

# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Trooper Saws Through Tree to Rescue Man

Oregon State Police and medics responded to an elderly male who fell a tree on himself while cutting firewood off Hwy 31 near MP 17, on a remote spur road. The call to 911 was placed by the injured male's elderly wife who was unable to free her husband trapped under the tree. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper, who was closest, located the couple and aired the location. The Fish and Wildlife Trooper cut the injured male free from the tree using his OSP department issued chainsaw. Medics arrived and the male, who had serious spinal, head, and traumatic injuries, was transported by Life Flight. Another Fish and Wildlife Trooper and Patrol Sergeant assisted with Life Flight.

## Lost Dog Reunited with Owner - Columbia County

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was driving through Scaponia Park in Columbia County when he came upon a dog that was soaking wet and very cold. There was nobody in the park and the dog had a collar but nothing on it to identify the owner. The dog was more than happy to jump into the Trooper's truck where it was warm. While on the way to the Columbia County Animal Shelter, it was learned the owner of the dog called Columbia County Dispatch earlier in the morning to report their dog, Tally, had run away the day before while they were looking for mushrooms. Tally was later reunited to her grateful owner.

## DUI Driver Arrested - Polk County

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a vehicle in Polk County that was the subject of a driving complaint. The driver was impaired and ultimately arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI)**. The driver provided a breath sample which revealed a .22% blood alcohol content (BAC).

## Injured Owl - Tillamook

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received an off-duty call regarding a subject with an injured owl in the Tillamook area. The subject was houseless and calling from a local marijuana shop because he didn't have a phone. The shop refused to take possession of the owl until the morning, so the Sergeant made plans to meet the subject at an intersection the next morning and take possession of the owl. The owl was turned over to ODFW biologists.

## Trooper Helps Citizen Find Help

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles responded to the White River Wildlife Area for a subject that seemed to be having possible health issues. Upon arrival, the subject was heavily intoxicated and was having a mental health crisis. The subject spoke with the Trooper about the mental health issues he was having, and the subject said they needed someone to talk to. The Trooper worked with the local medics and counseling service to get this individual the help that they requested.

## Troopers Help Rescue Family

Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a report of a family who were stranded far into the Imnaha Unit during a heavy snowstorm/windstorm. The male hunter, who was with his wife and three young children, got their pickup stuck in deep snow on an unimproved forest road in freezing temps. The hunter was able to reach Wallowa County dispatch and notify them of the emergency while they stayed with the truck for several hours. They hiked on foot through the snow to their trailer, which was dropped at a nearby intersection and waited. Troopers attempted to drive in to rescue the family, but the snow was too deep to continue. Search and rescue were activated, and members on snowmobiles responded to the location. The family was brought out via snowmobile and the family members were provided rides back to Joseph by the Troopers.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## K-9 Buck Locates Bear Carcass

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant began an investigation regarding a bear posing a threat to human safety. The subject stated he shot the bear as it was charging him but did not report it until nearly 44 hours later, because he was embarrassed by the event. His dad told him to report it, so he did. The Sergeant responded to the location but could not locate the carcass that evening. The following day, a Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with a K-9 search to locate the bear. The area received snowfall overnight, however K-9 Buck was able to locate the bear after a short search. The Sergeant examined the bear carcass and determined the bear had a frontal shot and it appeared to be at close range. That was consistent with the subject's initial statements. The Sergeant and Trooper traveled to the Bend area and met with the subject who shot the bear. After another interview regarding the incident, the subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Report Take of Black Bear Posing Threat to Human Safety**.

## Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk - Bridge Creek

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a cow elk that was found shot and killed in the Bridge Creek Wildlife Area. The Trooper was able to locate the suspect and, with witness statements and physical evidence, developed probable cause the suspect shot the cow elk. The suspect was known and had been cited by another Trooper during buck deer season for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Deer**. The suspect was contacted and reinterviewed the next day and after being presented with all the evidence stated, "well yeah, I probably did shoot it." The suspect was cited criminally for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk**. The elk was salvageable thanks to the reporting party's camp who helped quarter and pack it out. The meat was donated to local charity in Ukiah.

## Grouse Seized, Subject Cited

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was checking elk hunters in the Siuslaw hunt unit when he observed a group harvesting mushrooms in an area that was closed to public entry by the landowner. During the contact the Sergeant learned one person shot a grouse earlier in the day and did not have his upland game bird validation. Further investigation revealed the subject was a felon and he used a 12-gauge shotgun to harvest the grouse. The subject was issued the following citations and warnings: **Felon in Possession of a Firearm, No Upland Game Bird Validation, and Trespass**. The 12-gauge shotgun and grouse were seized as evidence.

## Subject Cited for Using Thermal Optic

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a subject who had just harvested a bull elk. While checking his license and tag, the Troopers observed he was in possession of a handheld thermal optic, which was in plain view. During the subsequent investigation, the subject admitted he had used the thermal device while scouting for animals. He was criminally cited for **Hunting or Scouting Wildlife with Infrared, Thermal or any other Night Vision Device**. The thermal device was seized as evidence.



## Spotlighters Cited, Nine Firearms Seized

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted a night enforcement flight with the assistance of the OSP Southwest Region Pilot. During the enforcement flight Troopers located and contacted six subjects who were spotlighting from their vehicles. Five were charged with **Hunting with Aid of Artificial Light** and **Hunting Prohibited Hours**, one subject was also charged with **Hunting Without Valid Paper Tags in Possession**, and one subject was charged with **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. Nine firearms, one infrared optic, one monacle, and one flashlight were seized as evidence of these crimes.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subject Shoots Deer from Road

An Albany Trooper was patrolling rural Linn County on opening day of Muzzleloader buck deer season when he came upon a pickup slightly pulled over in the road. The pickup was unoccupied and the driver's window was down. Approximately 75 yards in front of the pickup, the Trooper noticed a fresh blood puddle in the roadway. A subject came out of the nearby brush with a three point buck and his muzzleloader. The subject admitted that the buck was standing in the roadway when he shot it. The subject was issued a citation for **Hunting from or Across Highway**. The muzzleloader and buck were seized as evidence. The deer was donated to Lebanon Soup Kitchen.

## Subject Buys Resident Tags in Both OR and ID

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information on a resident who moved to Idaho and purchased resident tags in both states. The Trooper coordinated with Idaho Fish and Game to conduct an interview. The suspect was ultimately found to be in violation in both states. The subject agreed to meet an Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper to turn over the Oregon tags and be issued citations. The subject was issued a criminal citation from Idaho Fish and Game, and was issued criminal citations from OSP for **Unlawful Application for License and Possession of Falsely Applied for License or Tags**.

## TIP Leads to Unlawful Take Citation

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted follow up regarding a TIP of an unlawful take of a buck deer and criminal trespass in the Sumpter Unit. Several days later, the Trooper stopped a vehicle matching the description of the involved vehicle and evidence was observed. The suspect was contacted and admitted to the unlawful take. The suspect was cited and released for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer and Hunting on Another's Cultivated or Enclosed Land**. The 4x4 buck deer and a rifle were seized.

## Hunter Self-Reports Shooting Two Elk

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a self-reported call of a young female hunter who accidentally killed two spike bull elk in the Trask Unit, several miles from the closest access gate. The hunter shot the first spike from approximately 300 yards away and thought it was just wounded. Her hunting partner urged her to take a follow up shot and, in the excitement, she shot a second identical spike bull. The two bulls died within 50 feet of each other. Troopers seized the second bull and donated the meat to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. The hunter was given a warning for **Unlawful Take Bull Elk** and educated on the importance of making good ethical shots.



## Elk Seized in Criminal Trespass Case

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a follow up investigation from a TIP received from a private timber land lease holder. The lease holder advised the Trooper they had contacted multiple subjects on their lease dragging a dead buck deer. The Trooper contacted a subject at their residence who ultimately admitted to killing the deer on the lease without permission. Two subjects were issued criminal citations for **Criminal Trespass II** and the buck deer was seized.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Video Shows Subject Shooting Deer with Pistol

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information regarding a possible poaching incident after the reporting party was shown a video of a large buck being shot with a pistol. After interviewing multiple subjects a suspect was developed. When the younger brother of the suspect was interviewed he admitted to wounding the buck with a rifle and his brother took the video killing it with the pistol. It was later learned the incident took place three years ago outside of Silver Lake during the winter range. The older brother was interviewed and consented to providing the timestamped video and an original picture. The large 6x5 antlers were seized and both brothers were cited and released for **Unlawful Possession of Buck Deer**.

## Spike Elk Left to Waste - Tioga Unit

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to the report of a spike elk which had been shot and left to waste in the Tioga Unit several days earlier. When the spike elk was located it was determined the elk was shot twice, once in the body and once in the head, and it was no longer fit for human consumption. A few days later a subject was contacted by Troopers at his residence. The subject admitted to shooting the spike, thinking it was a legal bull. When the subject found the elk, it was still alive, so he shot it in the head to finish it off, then decided to leave it to waste due to exhaustion and the unlawful take. The subject was issued citations for **Unlawful Take Spike Elk** and **Waste of a Game Mammal**. The subject's rifle was seized as evidence.

## Subject Kills Tundra Swan - Miller Island Refuge

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of a subject at Miller Island Wildlife Refuge who had shot and killed a Tundra Swan. The Trooper contacted the subject, who admitted to shooting the Swan. The subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take Game Bird**.

## Couple Cited for Role in Unlawful Take of Deer

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated a report of a possible poaching complaint, which was reported the day prior. The initial complaint was that a male subject had killed a deer, and the reporting party believed the subject didn't have a tag. It was determined he did have a license and tag but had not validated his e-tag. The following day, OSP received an additional report that the wife of the subject killed a doe deer, and she did not have a doe tag. The wife was interviewed and denied any knowledge of a doe, but stated the buck was being stored at her aunt's house. The aunt was contacted and showed the Troopers the two deer that the husband and wife had brought the day prior and advised that one of them was a doe, which was seized. The pair were contacted again that afternoon, and during the interview, both were uncooperative, evasive and continued to deny they killed a doe, even when advised the animal had been seized. Through lengthy interviews it was determined their 14-year-old son shot the doe, and all three of them believed it was a spike until they went to recover it. The husband was criminally cited and released for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense** and **Fail to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**. The wife was criminally cited and released for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense** and **Possession of a Firearm by a Felon**. The rifle used during the incident was seized as evidence, and the doe was donated to charity.

## Freak Hunting Accident Sends Man to Hospital

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call for service of a bull elk and rifle found in the Weyerhaeuser tree farm. The elk had been gutted and the rifle was located a short distance away in the road. During the investigation it was determined a male had been pushing the elk off of the 30+ foot embankment down to the road when he got entangled with the elk and fell down the steep embankment landing under the elk. The male suffered multiple injuries and was rushed to the hospital by his girlfriend. The male subject was identified and found to only have a general archery tag. A Coos Bay Patrol Trooper followed up with the family at the hospital and determined the elk was legally harvested by the girlfriend. The Trooper took the elk and rifle and transferred it to family members for processing and safe keeping.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT

## K-9 Buck Locates Deer Parts, Gets Skunked

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted a Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper with a K-9 search related to an unlawful take of whitetail deer investigation. K-9 Buck located several parts of a freshly killed deer scattered in a wooded area. It was believed the parts were scattered by wildlife and the parts located were indicative of a deer being processed by hunters in the field. The evidence located and collected brought further supporting evidence to the Trooper's investigation. During the search, K-9 Buck located a skunk resulting in being sprayed in the mouth and front shoulders. After a short break, K-9 Buck went back to work locating more evidence. K-9 Buck and his handler had a cold ride back to the Springfield area with all the windows down.

## Subjects Shoot Deer on Private Property

Salem and McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a report of four subjects who trespassed on private property and shot a large buck. The subjects offered the landowner \$100 dollars to let them have the deer. The landowner placed the deer in the bed of their truck and had the subjects wait for Troopers to arrive. Upon arrival, Troopers interviewed the four subjects. The subject who shot the deer was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take Buck Deer** and **Hunting on the Enclosed Lands of Another**. The other three subjects who were not carrying guns and stated they were just helping the other subject were all cited for **Criminal Trespass**. The deer and rifle were seized, and the meat was donated to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

## Columbia River Waterfowl Boat Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked with a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Agent on the lower Columbia River for a waterfowl boat patrol. They used the USFWS patrol boat and checked 12 hunters between the John Day boat ramp east of Astoria up to Karlson Island in Svenson. Two citations were issued, one of which was for **Hunting with Unplugged Shotgun**. The other was for **Taking/Illegal Possession of Waterfowl (Canada Goose)** after a group of three subjects were contacted on Minaker Island. During the contact, the goose was spotted tossed in the brush away from their blind. After questioning, one of the three men finally admitted to shooting the goose only after realizing goose season in this area remained closed for two more weeks. Also, during the boat patrol they conducted five boat inspections; issuing several miscellaneous Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) warnings and two warnings for **Failure to Sign Federal Duck Stamp**.

## Spike Elk WED Operation - Saddle Mountain

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a Spike Elk Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) operation in the Saddle Mountain Unit during the first season controlled elk hunt. The Saddle Mountain Unit is a 3-point or better unit. During the course of the operation four individuals shot at the WED. In one incident, while the Troopers were issuing citations to a group that had just shot at the WED, another vehicle drove by the Troopers, stopped less than 100 yards away in the roadway and begin shooting at the WED from the tailgate of their vehicle. That subject did not stop shooting until a Trooper approached in his marked patrol vehicle with the emergency lights on. Four subjects shot at the WED and were issued criminal citations for **Take/Possession of Spike Elk**, and one subject was criminally cited for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Five rifles were seized.



## Successful Legal Hunter Poses with Trooper

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked an early morning shift on Thanksgiving Day near the Pine Creek Conservation Ranch due to previous poaching activities. No violations were found during darkness hours. At first light two vehicles were found on the Pine Creek Ranch watching a herd of deer with a buck in it. The Trooper checked ONX maps and was able to determine the deer were walking off ranch property and onto a section of BLM (property line not marked). When the buck was well onto BLM land a tag holder shot the buck and was contacted seconds later and surprised to see a Trooper. Both vehicles had unit tag holders who were pleased to know OSP was out in the area. The hunter requested a photo with his legally harvested buck and the Trooper.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Spike Elk Poached - Trask River

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a poaching case on the Trask River. The Trooper learned that a vehicle was driving Trask River Road when the passenger saw a spike elk cross the road into someone's yard. The suspect got out of the vehicle and shot across two lanes of travel, into a blind corner, at a house on private property he did not have permission to be on. The suspect then went onto the private property and shot the elk a second time killing it. The driver also trespassed when he helped gut the elk. The suspect told the Trooper he tagged the elk right after he shot it. All he had on his tag was 5:45pm which is well after legal shooting hours. The reporting party also told the Trooper the shots occurred around the same time. The driver of the suspect vehicle informed the Trooper he was bear hunting. The driver was criminally cited for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense, Trespassing, and Bear Hunting with Centerfire Rifle without Used or Unused Elk Tag**. The suspect that shot the elk was criminally cited for **Fail to Validate Tag, Hunting Prohibited Hours, Hunting in Violation Criminal Trespass, Unlawful Take of Bull Elk, and Shooting From/Across a Road**. The suspect's rifle and the elk were seized. The elk was donated to a local church charity.

## Trespassing While Elk Hunting

Over two days, a Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed, then generated probable cause to believe that at least two individuals were trespassing while elk hunting in a closed and well posted "No Trespassing" area near Glide. The subjects were identified and interviewed. Both admitted to being on the property and one was elk hunting with a rifle. The male subject was cited and released for **Criminal Trespass While in Possession of Firearm** and the female subject was cited and released for **Criminal Trespass II**.

## Subjects Trespass to Take Elk - Pacific City

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper was informed of a male subject shooting off a fence post into a field off Highway 101 near Pacific City. A pickup stopped in the highway as a bull elk crossed the road and blocked traffic as a male subject got out of the vehicle and shot the bull in a field. The truck then drove into the field and the three occupants cut the 4x4 bull in half, loaded it up and left into Pacific City. The landowner did not give anyone permission to hunt his field and wanted trespass charges filed. The Trooper located video of the truck from a Pacific City gas station and the Trooper and a Lieutenant located the suspect at the Sand Lake store after checking the Sand Lake campground. Another Trooper arrived at the store and the subjects admitted they never had permission to hunt on the property. Two subjects were charged for **Hunt in Violation of Criminal Trespass and Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. The shooter was charged for **Unlawful Take and Trespassing while Hunting**. The elk and rifle were seized.

## Bear Meat Stored at Newport Restaurant

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from a Patrol Trooper of a bear that was shot on private property south of Waldport. Upon further investigation it was determined the landowner had shot a bear on his property without a valid tag and failed to notify law enforcement. Two other subjects, one of which had a valid bear tag, picked the bear up from the landowner and validated his tag for the bear he did not harvest. The bear was processed, and the meat was taken to the third subject's restaurant in Newport, where it was determined parts of the bear were being kept. Investigation revealed hind quarters of the bear were found in a freezer that also stored food for the restaurant. The local health department was contacted, and immediately sent a representative to the restaurant. The health department also found large amounts of sport caught rockfish in the freezer the owners claimed were for personal consumption. The health department closed the restaurant until they could ensure the areas in contact with the bear and fish were properly sanitized. They also required the restaurant to only keep small quantities of food for personal use and to store it in a separate small freezer/refrigerator and not to commingle these items with food for the restaurant. The Trooper cited the restaurant owner for **Unlawful Take of Black Bear and Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**; the second subject was cited for **Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag**; and the third subject was cited for **Unlawful Possession of Black Bear and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

# COASTAL ELK SEASONS



## Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to an active hunting complaint off Willamina Creek Road in Yamhill County. The reporting party had witnessed a subject park his vehicle in the roadway and walk onto private property and shoot towards an elk herd before departing the area. The subject shot three times into a herd and killed a 5x6 elk in the Trask Unit. In the Trask Unit, the second General Coastal Elk Season is only open for spike bull elk. The Trooper arrived on scene and made contact with the subject who had returned after retrieving rope from town. The subject's .308 rifle was seized as evidence and he was issued a criminal citation in lieu of custody for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass and Unlawful Take of Bull Elk**. Additional Troopers and the landowner assisted in recovering the bull elk. The elk was field dressed and donated to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

## Three Elk Donated to Charity

During first and second Coastal Elk Seasons, a McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to multiple incidents of cow elk shot and killed either accidentally or under suspicious circumstances. With the help of local hunters and landowners, all the animals (three total over multiple incidents) were recovered and the meat donated. A couple of these were in difficult to reach locations and had to be quartered and packed out.

## Bull Elk WED Operation - Wilson Unit

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a branch bull elk wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) operation in the Wilson Unit during the second coast elk hunting season. Only spike elk are allowed to be taken in the Wilson Unit during this season. Not long after setting up the WED, a vehicle stopped at the decoy's location and the passenger got out and immediately fired a rifle at the decoy (from the road, using the car door as a rifle rest). Upon contact, Troopers found the subject did not have a hunting license nor an elk tag. The driver of the vehicle, who had an elk tag, did not get out of the car. The passenger was cited for **Taking Branch Bull Elk Closed Season, No Hunting License, No Big Game Tag, and Hunt from Road**. The driver was cited for **Loaning Big Game Tag**. Later in the operation, another vehicle stopped at the decoy's location and the passenger got out and fired a rifle at the decoy (again from the road, using the car door as a rifle rest). The shooter was a juvenile, and his father was driving and advising the juvenile. The father said that he did not know that the Wilson Unit was spike only. The father was cited for **Aid in a Wildlife Offense: Taking Branch Bull Elk Closed Season**, and warned for **Hunt from Road**.

## Subject Found Hunting Outside Unit Boundaries

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed an administrative check on a male subject in the Tioga Unit. The subject had a General Coastal Elk tag and admitted to hunting in the wrong unit. The subject was educated on the regulations and issued a violation citation for **Hunting Outside Hunt Boundaries**.

# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

## Subjects Angling in Closed Area without License

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject walking back to his vehicle on the Elk River approximately one mile above the angling deadline with a fishing rod. The subject did not know about the angling deadline. While checking his license and tag he opened the ELS app on his cell phone that showed he was paper tagging. He was informed he needed to print out his tag and have it with him or transfer it with ODFW to electronic tagging. The subject was warned for **Angling Closed Area** and **No License/Tag in Possession**.

## Chetco River Salmon Patrols

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the Chetco River for salmon anglers on several different days. Overall, compliance was high; but five citations were issued for **Take/Possession of Foul Hooked/Snagged Salmon, Aiding in a Wildlife Offense, Fail to Immediately Validate Combined Angling Tag, and Angling Closed Stream/Area**. One Chinook was seized.

## Crab Violations at Alsea Fishing Docks

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper had received reports of over limits and undersized Dungeness crab being retained at the port of Alsea fishing docks. The Trooper contacted crabbers throughout the week and multiple citations and warnings were written for **Undersized Crab, No Shellfish License, and Exceeding Pot/Ring Limit**.

## Captains Cited for Logbook Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted several commercial crab fishermen who had failed to turn in their required commercial crab logbooks from the 2023-2024 ocean Dungeness crab season. Several captains were issued citations and warnings.

## Floras Lake to New River Patrol

Gold Beach and Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers floated Floras Lake outlet to New River in response to complaints of subjects exceeding bag limits of salmon. The Troopers checked five anglers and no enforcement actions were taken.



*PV Guardian (photo taken May 2024)*

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING

## Stolen Trail Camera Leads to Multiple Citations

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles conducted follow-up regarding an OSP Fish and Wildlife trail camera that was stolen at the end of September. The suspect avoided law enforcement contact for weeks. Further investigation led to multiple videos and photos that showed the suspect both in the act of stealing the camera and unlawfully taking a Steelhead. One video showed the suspect snagging a Steelhead, then clubbing it on the head before removing the snagged hook. A second video showed the suspect in the tree, while he recorded himself with his iPhone, just before cutting the cable lock to the camera. After the suspect was confronted (via text message) with photos of himself in the tree, he quickly returned the stolen camera to a nearby tree at the location where it was stolen. After the suspect's wife was contacted and presented photos of her husband stealing the camera, he immediately called and then admitted to the incident, including unlawfully taking multiple fish that day. The suspect then reported that the camera had been returned to the area where it was stolen (taped to nearby tree). The suspect later met with the Trooper and was issued criminal citations for **Theft II, Criminal Mischief II Tampering With Physical Evidence, Unlawfully Take Of Snagged Fish, and No Non-Resident Angling License.**

## Tenmile Lakes Boat Patrol

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted a boat patrol on Tenmile Lakes checking Coho anglers. A boat was contacted with two subjects on board, and it was determined both subjects caught their daily limit of one wild Coho approximately 1.5 hours before being contacted. The pair admitted they hadn't tagged their fish and were still trolling for salmon when contacted. One of the subjects blamed his untagged fish on the MyODFW app, and the other said he had no excuse because he was paper tagging and had a pen on the boat. The paper tagger was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Tag** and was warned for **Continue Angling after Catching Daily Limit**; the e-tagger was warned for the same. About two hours later, a boat was contacted with three subjects on board, all of whom were trolling for coho. One of the subjects caught his daily limit "just minutes" before being contacted and hadn't tagged the fish. The subject showed the Troopers a picture of him holding the fish, which showed a timestamp of about 20 minutes earlier. This subject was cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Tag** and was warned for **Continue Angling after Catching Daily Limit.**

## Angling in Closed Area of Deschutes River

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a section of the Deschutes River on a call where the reporting party stated there were four male subjects with fishing rods walking along the edge of the river near his residence. Upon arrival, the Trooper was able to gain access to the river and contacted the subjects as all four were angling. All four subjects said they live in California and were staying at the Best Western. When asked, none of the four subjects were aware of the closure and did not have an angling license. All four subjects received citations for **Angling Closed Area** and warned for **No Non-Resident Angling License.** They were advised where they could fish in the area and where they could get a one-day angling license.

## Umatilla River Shore Patrol

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a shore patrol on the Umatilla River. During his first contact with a steelhead angler, it was revealed the subject had harvested a steelhead and was continuing to fish without immediately validating his harvest card. Upon further inspection of his catch, it was revealed that the Steelhead had an adipose fin. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession Steelhead, and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card.** The wild steelhead was seized as evidence. The subject's name seemed familiar to the Trooper and upon further checking, the subject had previously been cited during the fall salmon season for **Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks** and warned for **No Columbia River Endorsement.** Later that day the Trooper contacted seven subjects fishing for Steelhead above McNary Dam on the Columbia River. The Trooper cited a subject for **Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks.** The subject had been previously warned for the same offense.

## Kayaker Takes Undersized Crab

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject crabbing from a kayak off 12th Street in Garibaldi on Tillamook Bay. The Trooper watched the crabber and could see that he was not measuring the crab that he pulled from his rings. The subject was contacted on the railroad tracks after he had landed on shore. The subject threw a small bag of crab behind him when he saw the Trooper standing there. The Trooper identified himself and told the subject to get the crab he tossed, which were all undersized male Dungeness crab. The subject was cited for **Possession of Undersized Crab.** The crab were released back into the bay unharmed.

# CASE DISPOSITIONS



## Guide Pleads No Contest in Archery Elk Case

During the 2023 Season, a John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated a criminal trespass that took place during the archery season. Investigation revealed an adult male guide from an area outfitter had unlawfully taken two archery elk hunting clients onto private property. The male suspect recently pleaded no contest to two counts of **Aid/Counsel in Wildlife Offense** and **Criminal Trespass II**. He received:

- 4-day jail sentence
- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 80 hours community service
- \$1100 fine
- \$500 to TIP Fund
- \$500 to victim landowner
- Must complete a hunter education course

## Suspect Pleads Guilty in Rifle Elk Case

During the 2023 rifle elk season, John Day Fish and Wildlife Troopers along with assistance from The Dalles Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated an unlawful take of a bull elk in the East Northside Unit while in violation of criminal trespass. Further investigation revealed the suspect shot from the roadway and also did not have an East Northside Unit elk tag. The adult male suspect recently pleaded guilty in the Grant County Circuit Court to **Unlawful Take Bull Elk, Hunting Outside Unit Boundaries, and Criminal Trespass**. He received:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 80 hours community service
- \$1500 fine/restitution
- \$1000 to TIP fund
- Forfeiture of his .308 Rifle
- Must complete a hunter education course

## Suspect Pleads Guilty to Holding Cougar

Troopers out of Albany served a search warrant in July 2024 involving a male suspect holding a live cougar at his residence. The suspect pleaded guilty to **No Wildlife Hold Permit, Possession of Deer, Possession of Starling, and Unlawful Possession of a Firearm**. The subject received:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 24 months bench probation
- \$3,562.50 in fines
- Forfeiture of all seized evidence



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

## 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 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)

## 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](http://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  
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For information, please visit our website at:  
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