Conservation-based organization, Shikar-Safari Club International, honored a John Day-area Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division trooper as the State's top wildlife enforcement officer for 2012. The award was presented Friday, June 7, 2013 at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) meeting in Tigard in the presence of his wife, peers, meeting attendees, and commissioners.

Shikar-Safari Club International representative Lynn Loacker gave Senior Trooper Marv Ritter the Shikar-Safari Club International "Wildlife Officer of the Year" award, placing him in a distinguished group of officers who have earned recognition for their commitment to fish and wildlife enforcement and protection of natural resources. The award has been given annually for more than 25 years to honor outstanding wildlife enforcement officers whose efforts during the previous year reflected outstanding performance and achievement among the state agency's sworn fish and wildlife law enforcement personnel.

"Senior Trooper Ritter continually performs at a high level and brings a strong work ethic to everything he does. I appreciate the Shikar-Safari Club International's recognition of Senior Trooper Ritter's fine efforts towards protecting Oregon's citizens and natural resources." said Captain Jeff Samuels, OSP Fish and Wildlife Division Director.

Ritter, age 60, has worked for OSP for 9 years. During the last seven years Ritter has been assigned in the Fish and Wildlife Division as a member of the Columbia Basin Team. He is currently the only Fish and Wildlife trooper in the John Day area patrolling nearly 5,000 square miles. On May 31, Ritter was announced as the recipient of the OSP Fish & Wildlife Division's 2012 "Fish and Wildlife Divisions Trooper of the Year" award.

Shikar-Safari Club International is a worldwide organization dedicated to the protection, enhancement and preservation of wildlife and has placed particular emphasis on endangered and threatened species through the promotion of enforcement of conservation laws and regulations.

Photographs - Oregon State Police
#1 (Left to right: Senior Trooper Ritter and Lynn Loacker)
The Oregon State Police is a full-service public safety agency providing diverse services to the citizens of Oregon. Our mission is to enhance livability and safety by protecting the people, property, and natural resources of the state. To realize our vision and accomplish our mission our objectives are to BE THERE (be ready and able to respond to the increasing needs of Oregonians); PREVENT HARM (engage in vigilant enforcement of laws and regulations while making Oregon's roadways safe and reducing our citizen's exposure to crime, fire and disasters); and, SUPPORT OREGON COMMUNITIES (providing specialized services and assistance throughout Oregon in support of the statewide public safety infrastructure).

The primary responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife Division is enforcement of fish, wildlife, and commercial fishing laws and protection of Oregon's natural resources and the habitats upon which they depend. Fish and Wildlife Division officers are fully trained State Troopers who also enforce traffic, criminal, boating, livestock, and environmental protection laws and respond to emergency incidents.

Contact Info: Captain Jeff Samuels
Oregon State Police
Fish & Wildlife Division
Office: (503) 934-0221