OSP MAKES ARREST OF KLAMATH COUNTY MAN WHO TOOK ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS (PHOTO)

News Release from Oregon State Police - Statewide
Posted on FlashAlert: February 23rd, 2015 3:31 PM

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On February 19, 2015, the Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Division in Klamath Falls, concluded a seven-month-long investigation into the unlawful take, possession, and sale of archaeological artifacts. A search warrant, served at the residence of DOUGLAS COTALLESE, age 46, of Klamath Falls, resulted in the recovery of numerous archaeological objects including funerary items and items of cultural patrimony. Troopers also located methamphetamine, scales, pack aging materials, and other drug paraphernalia items.

According to Sergeant Randall Hand of the Klamath Falls Office an extended drought in the region has exposed many archaeological areas normally concealed by water. Oregon Law says a person may not remove any archaeological object located on public or private lands unless that activity is authorized by permit. This case is being forwarded to the Klamath County District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

The Oregon State Police was assisted by the Klamath Tribe, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Oregon State Police and its partners are committed to working together to protect the natural resources of our state. To report archaeological crimes call 1-800-452-7888.
Sergeant Randall Hand can be contacted at (541) 851-4911.

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