

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division

The Field Review



Our oath of office pledges enforcement protection.
We Are the Guardians of Oregon's Fish and Wildlife.

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Permits May Be Required for Certain Special Forest Products

Oregon has many native forest products people can legally collect for various uses, and management and protection is required to ensure equitable utilization and sustainability of these natural resources. As with angling and hunting, laws pertaining to harvesting special forest products (SFP) varies around the state; however, rather than by water body or unit, laws may differ, depending on if the land is state-owned (ODF), federally owned (USFS or BLM), or privately owned. Permit and product volume guidelines and harvesting times may vary, even on different lands owned by the same entity. Interested harvesters need to take responsibility in determining who owns the land where the SFP is located and understand that entity's laws before harvesting.

“Special forest products” are forest products other than traditional timber that could be used for commercial, personal, and/or scientific purposes, including, but not limited to, firewood, poles, yew bark and needles, cedar salvage, vine maple, cascara bark, seedlings, nuts, berries, moss, Christmas trees, boughs, wild edible mushrooms, cones, naturally occurring rock, bear grass, wildflowers, and evergreen shrubs and foliage (such as ferns, Manzanita, salal, huckleberry, Oregon grape, and rhododendron). “Harvest” means to separate by cutting, prying, picking, peeling, breaking, pulling, splitting, or otherwise removing a SFP from its physical connection or point of contact with the ground or host vegetation or the place or position where it lay.

Offenses relating to SFP include unlawfully harvesting/cutting and/or transporting special forest products without a permit and trespassing on private property. Depending upon the amount and/or value of the illegal harvest and/or other violations detected, misdemeanor to felony charges could apply, such as Theft and/or Offensive Littering. If a person violates SFP laws, officers can take enforcement action under ORS 164.813 (<http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/164.html>). The law also prohibits people from picking, cutting, removing, and/or mutilating plant life and natural resources from any state park. In addition, nonedible psilocybin, hallucinogenic mushrooms are controlled substances and are not special forest products, and possessing these is a Class C felony. The following are special forest products cases worked in January:

Sr. Tpr. Maher (Oakridge) and a USFS LEO patrolled the North Fork of the Willamette Drainage and contacted two subjects who illegally cut a load of firewood. USFS cited the subjects for **Unlawful Cut and Transport of Firewood**.

Sr. Tpr. Harris (Coos Bay) stopped a subject for traffic violations. During the contact, he discovered the subject had a load of Douglas fir firewood he cut from the Elliott State Forest without the required permit. Harris cited the subject for **No Firewood Permit**.

While manning a highway closure, Sgt. Lea (Coos Bay) contacted a group of subjects possessing more than 12 cubic feet of salal, the maximum volume for personal use without having to obtain a permit. When Lea determined the subjects did not have any permits, he cited the operator for **Unlawful Transportation of Special Forest Products**.

Sr. Tpr. Maher (Springfield) patrolled a Weyerhaeuser truck road when he saw a fresh set of vehicle tracks in the snow. He followed the tracks and found several piles of Oregon grape leaves on the road along the way. Eventually, he found the vehicle parked on the truck road. Attached to the vehicle was a small utility trailer with a pile of Oregon grape plants, including roots, stripped of their leaves. Maher contacted four male subjects near the vehicle and determined all were involved in the harvesting of the special forest product, and they did not have any permission from the landowners where the Oregon grape was taken nor from Weyerhaeuser to access the private road. Maher cited all four subjects for **Criminal Trespass II**. He also issued one citation for **Unlawful Cutting of Special Forest Products** to the subject who claimed responsibility for the group cutting and eventually selling the Oregon grape to a local buyer. Maher seized the estimated 100+ pounds of Oregon grape plants as evidence.



Oregon grape, a special forest products. Photo credit: L. Michels/Public Domain

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Dispositions / Environment

Dispositions Received

Wasco County Circuit Court sentenced a subject Sr. Tpr. Gunderson (The Dalles) cited for Unlawful Possession of Elk and Fail to Validate Elk Tag to \$598 fines/fees, \$1,500 restitution to ODFW, three years hunting license suspension, and forfeit the seized elk.

A subject who trespassed on two private properties during a 2011 rifle hunt pled guilty to Criminal Trespass while in Possession of a Firearm. The court dismissed a second count and sentenced the subject to \$850 fines/fees, three years hunting license suspension, and one year probation.

A subject who shot and killed a 4 x 4 buck mule deer while trespassing on private property during a 2011 rifle buck Heppner Unit hunt pled guilty to Hunting Buck Deer in Violation Criminal Trespass. The court sentenced the subject to \$625 fines/fees, \$800 restitution to ODFW, three years hunting license suspension, 35 hours community service, and one year probation.

A subject who aided his 16-year-old son in killing a bobcat in the Murderers Creek Unit pled guilty to Aiding in Wildlife Violation—Taking Bobcat Closed Season (the 16-year-old son was warned). The court sentenced the subject to \$500 fines/fees, \$800 restitution to ODFW, three years hunting license suspension, 40 hours community service, and two years probation.

Deschutes County Circuit Court sentenced a subject Sr. Tpr. Hayes (Bend) cited for Fail to Immediately Tag Deer to \$82 fines/fees and two years hunting license suspension; a subject Hayes cited for Aiding in a Wildlife Violation to \$111 fines/fees and one year hunting license suspension; and a subject Tpr. Ring (Bend) cited for Hunting Prohibited Area to \$82 fines/fees, \$800 restitution to ODFW, one year hunting license suspension, and forfeit rifle.

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Tpr. Imholt, Tpr. Boyd (Springfield), and BLM located a subject driving a van and pulling a trailer loaded with salal. The troopers initiated a traffic stop for several violations and discovered the van contained about 4,000 pounds of salal. The operator only had a photocopy of a BLM forest products permit filled out for 1,500 pounds of salal and allowed for 4,500 pounds. Photocopies of forest products permits are not allowed, just like wildlife tags. The original permit showed up in another van, and the operator corrected the permit to reflect the amount of salal. BLM rangers arrived and cited the permit holder for a permit violation, the second time he received one.

While searching for anglers on the Columbia River off of I-84, Sgt. Allori (Portland) contacted a subject at Dalton Point State Park hiking on a trail leading to the river. He asked if she was angling, and she said no, but one of her friends was angling nearby. He hiked back to the parking area with the subject who then said she needed to use the restroom. He observed the subject drive to the restrooms, stop her vehicle briefly, and then drive out of the park without exiting her vehicle. Thinking this was unusual, he hiked back to where he initially encountered the subject and found rubber bands, twine, and cut and bundled snake grass. He left to attempt to locate the suspect. After not finding her, he returned and photographed the scene and picked up all 127 rubber bands discarded and two bundles of twine. He started driving back toward Portland thinking there was not a possibility of making this case. After about six miles, he observed the suspect getting onto I-84 from a viewpoint at the same time he passed by.



Snake grass illegally cut from a park. Photo credit: File

Had he been 30 seconds later, he may have missed her. He stopped the suspect. Initially, she denied leaving anything behind and said she did not have any rubber bands; however, he could see a fishing rod broken down behind her seats coincidentally held together with the same type and color of rubber bands. Allori cited the subject for **Offensive Littering** and warned her for Unlawful Cutting of Forest Products in the State Park.

For more information on SFP, contact the landowner's local office or for ODF, visit http://www.oregon.gov/odf/state_forests/state_forests.shtml#Public_Use; for USFS, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/passes-permits/forestproducts/?cid=stelprdb5262354>; or for BLM, visit each district office's website for information (Salem's has some good information regarding BLM rules: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/sfp/index.php>).

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species	EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	Rct.	Recruit
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle	FTA/FTP	Failure to Appear/Pay	Sgt.	Sgt.
BAC	Blood Alcohol Content	IDFG	Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game	SIU	Special Investigations Unit
BER	Boat Examination Report	LEO	Law Enforcement Officer	Sr.	Sr.
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	Lt.	Lieutenant	SO	Sheriff's Office
BUII/DUII	Boating/Driving Under Influence Intoxicants/Drugs	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	TMA	Travel Management Area
Capt.	Captain	ODF	Department of Forestry	Tpr.	Trooper
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game	ODFW	Department of Fish and Wildlife	UPCS	Unlawful Possession of Controlled Substance
DA/DDA	District Attorney/Deputy DA	ODOT	Department of Transportation	USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality	OHA	Oregon Hunters Association	USFS	U.S. Forest Service
DSL	Department of State Lands	OSMB	Oregon State Marine Board	USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
DWS	Driving while Suspended	PFD	Personal Flotation Device	WDFW	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
				WED	Wildlife Enforcement Decoy

Fish and Wildlife Division • www.oregon.gov/osp/fw • **503-378-3720** • patricia.bauer@state.or.us

Environment / ATV / General Law

Drugs Found during Forest Patrol

Sr. Tpr. Frerichs (Roseburg) was patrolling Roseburg Forest Products' property near Hinkle Creek and observed evidence of trespassing by a motor vehicle. A short time later, he observed the vehicle and contacted the driver for traffic violations. The driver and passenger admitted they were on the private property and retrieved metal cable to sell at a scrap yard. When Frerichs was arresting the passenger, he found the passenger in possession of a hypodermic, marijuana, and two baggies of methamphetamine. Frerichs charged the driver with **Driving while Revoked** and **Criminal Trespass II** and the passenger with **UPCS—Less than One Ounce of Marijuana, UPCS—Methamphetamine, and Criminal Trespass II**. Tpr. Zuver (Patrol) lodged both subjects in the Douglas County Jail.

Littering Investigations Worked

Tpr. King (Tillamook) found a large pile of trash on private land near Hebo. In the trash, he found multiple receipts and letters. He contacted the subject who admitted he dumped the trash. King cited the subject for **Trespass II** and **Offensive Littering**.

Sr. Tpr. Love and Tpr. Ring (Bend) responded to a report of garbage and elk parts dumped near Sunriver. They located evidence that led to a grocery store where surveillance footage revealed a suspect. They contacted the suspect and issued a citation for **Offensive Littering**.

Sr. Tpr. Maher (Springfield) was patrolling near Cottage Grove when he found a large pile of garbage dumped alongside a Weyerhaeuser road near London Road. Belongings found led to a residence and eventually to the suspect. Maher cited the suspect for **Offensive Littering** after he admitted to dumping the trash at the location.

Tpr. Smith (Tillamook) found a large pile of trash on private land near Hebo. In the trash, he found multiple receipts and letters identifying a subject who Tpr. King (Tillamook) recently cited. Smith, with King's assistance, contacted the subject who admitted he dumped the trash. Smith cited the subject again for **Trespass II** and **Offensive Littering**.

Tpr. Imholt (Springfield) patrolled a BLM road that has had problems with subjects driving ATVs off road. He observed several areas that ATV operators tore up within the last hour. Imholt stopped two subjects on off-road motorcycles who drove past him covered in dirt and mud. He cited one subject for **No Off-Road ATV Permit** and the other for **Operating ATV without Driving Privileges**. As Imholt was on the stop, he observed three additional subjects on off-road motorcycles driving on a closed trail through the woods near him. He hailed the motorcycle operators, and they came over. Imholt cited the subjects for **Committing Unlawful Damage** and warned them for No ATV Education Card.

Sr. Tpr. Love and Tpr. Ring (Bend) contacted a subject at his residence about an advertisement regarding wanting to purchase elk meat for his consumption. During the contact, they found the subject was not home but his roommate was, and they detected an overwhelming odor of marijuana. They called Detective Baird (Criminal) who advised the residence did not have a medical marijuana grow license and responded to assist. The troopers' investigation revealed the roommate did have an illegal marijuana grow. As the lead investigator, Love seized evidence, including 10 pounds of marijuana. The troopers lodged the subject in jail for **Manufacture of a Controlled Substance—Marijuana**.

Marijuana Grow Discovered



Grow discovered during game investigation. Photo credit: File

Felon Caught Hunting Waterfowl

Tpr. Freitag (Salem) responded to a report of a convicted felon hunting ducks at St. Louis Ponds in Gervais. When contacted, the suspect admitted to hunting ducks and geese with the 12-gauge shotgun that was in his vehicle. He said hunting is his "addiction." Freitag lodged the subject in the Marion County Jail for **Felon in Possession of Firearm**.

Wanted Subjects Found

Tpr. Reel, Tpr. Boeholt, and Tpr. Ferguson (Portland) worked a boat patrol on the Willamette River. Reel and Ferguson contacted a group of subjects on the bank near a boat ramp in Milwaukie and learned one subject had a **Fugitive of Justice** warrant out of Clark County, Washington. The troopers lodged the subject in jail without incident.

Tpr. Galusha (Tillamook) received information about a wanted subject staying in Garibaldi. After a short search, Galusha contacted the subject at his girlfriend's residence in Barview. A records check revealed the subject had three warrants out of Tillamook County for **Angling while Suspended, Probation Violation—Angling while Suspended, and Probation Violation—Criminal Mischief II**. Galusha confirmed the warrants and lodged the subject in the Tillamook County Jail.

ATV Laws Enforced

During a January snow fall, Tpr. Shimer (St. Helens) contacted several ATV/off-road operators including assisting several who had become stuck in the snow. He also stopped a juvenile on an off-road motorcycle traveling on a county road. The juvenile was not wearing a helmet and did not have a motorcycle endorsement. Shimer cited the subject for **Fail to Wear Safety Helmet—Motorcycle**. While in the area, Shimer observed two subjects riding an ATV down the highway. After stopping and identifying the subjects, Shimer learned the passenger had a **warrant** for his arrest for fail to appear at a DUII trial. Shimer lodged the wanted subject in the Columbia County Jail.

Sr. Tpr. Lindberg (Madras) patrolled the Metolius winter range closure and observed subjects operating two ATVs on a paved county road. He stopped and contacted the first ATV operator; the second subject fled on his ATV. Lindberg pursued the subject a short distance then terminated the pursuit. He re-contacted the first subject who identified the fleeing suspect. After a phone call, the suspect returned to Lindberg's location where he advised he eluded because he did not want a ticket. Lindberg cited the first subject for **Operation of an ATV on a Paved Roadway** and the second for **Operation of an ATV on a Paved Roadway and Attempting to Elude a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle**.

Wildlife / Hunting

Cougars Found in Residential Areas

Tpr. McClay and Tpr. Ritter (John Day) responded to a call of a cougar sighting at the John Day baseball fields. When the troopers arrived, they saw a cougar in the main field walking along the fence. They had to shoot the cougar as it was inside the John Day city limits and the surrounding vicinity is a large residential area. Shortly after, another report came in about two other cougars sighted near the baseball fields. In cooperation with Grant County and ODFW, officials tracked down and killed one of the two cougars. Ritter and McClay sighted the third cougar near the OSP office, but it escaped. ODFW brought in dogs, but they were unable to locate the cougar again. The troopers notified local citizens and all law enforcement, and everyone is keeping an eye out for the cat.



Cougar killed in baseball field next to a residential neighborhood. Photo credit: File



Cougar found living in a camper in landowner's barn. Photo credit: File

Falsely Applying for Licenses Defrauds State

Sr. Tpr. Coggins (Enterprise) completed an investigation of a Vancouver subject who had been falsely applying for resident hunting licenses and tags since 2005. As a result of his investigation, Coggins cited the male subject for **False Application for Oregon Resident Hunting Licenses and Tags in 2010 and 2011**. In total, the suspect defrauded the State of Oregon out of \$3,184.75 over the past two years.

Subjects Discharged Weapons on Wildlife Areas

Tpr. Imholt (Springfield) responded to a report of subjects shooting high-powered rifles and handguns at duck decoys, and in the direction of duck hunters, at the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Imholt located the subjects who were shooting beer bottles for target practice using a pellet gun and a .22 handgun and left the mess of shattered bottles. Imholt cited the subjects for **Discharging Prohibited Weapon on a Wildlife Area**, warned them for Littering, and ordered them to pick up the glass.

Tpr. Tague (Central Point) was talking to off-duty Sr. Tpr. Cushman (Central Point) at Denman Wildlife Area when they heard a shot well after shooting hours. Tague left and located a vehicle on the far side, and the owner was putting his shotgun in a case when Tague contacted him. The subject stated he was not hunting but shooting his shotgun at some cattails by Military Slough and a .357 magnum. Tague checked the subject's shells and found they were lead shot. Cushman and his dog Dusky checked the pond. They could not find any dead animals, but Cushman did find a spent shell that matched the subject's. Tague cited the subject for **Possession/Shooting Lead Shot on Wildlife Area** and warned him for Shooting a Pistol on the Wildlife Area.

Sr. Tpr. Cushman (Central Point) and Sr. Tpr. Bigman (Patrol) responded to a residence regarding a cougar complaint. The woman became concerned after a cougar killed her cat on her back porch. She and her adult son saw the cougar, and they were not able to run it off. The woman said she felt the cougar was living in her barn. About five seconds into the barn, Cushman spotted the cat about 10 feet away crouched inside an old camper. The owner quickly gave permission to shoot holes in her camper and ran for the house. After killing the cat, Cushman examined the cat and determined it was emaciated.

Dog Chased and Killed Deer

Tpr. Stone (Roseburg) located a trophy black-tailed buck two domestic dogs mauled near Wolf Creek. Due to the extent of its injuries, Stone had to dispatch the buck. Stone located and cited the owner of the primary aggressor dog for **Allowing Dog to Chase / Kill Deer**. Stone could not locate the second dog. He donated the deer to Wildlife Safari.

Subject Held Injured Hawk

An anonymous subject contacted ODFW reporting a Christmas Valley subject was holding an injured hawk. Sr. Tpr. Bean (Gilchrist) had difficulty contacting the suspect, as she lived behind a locked gate. Eventually, Bean made contact, and the subject turned the hawk over to him. Bean cited the subject for **Unlawful Holding of Wildlife** and turned the hawk over to a wildlife rehabilitator.

Trapping Violations Discovered

Sr. Tpr. Kehr (Newport) received a complaint of an unlawful trap set in the Slick Rock Creek area. He confirmed the set had sight bait too close to the trap and identified the trapper through his brand. Kehr contacted the trapper and issued him a citation for **Unlawful Use of Sight Bait within 15 Feet of Trap** and a warning for Improper Brands.

Tpr. Galusha and Tpr. Peterson (Tillamook) followed up on a report of a suspicious person seen setting up beaver traps along the Nestucca River. The subject ran and hid in some brush when a landowner made contact. The troopers responded and found a beaver trap set along the river. They located the subject who admitted to trapping without a license. The troopers cited the subject for **Trapping with No License**.

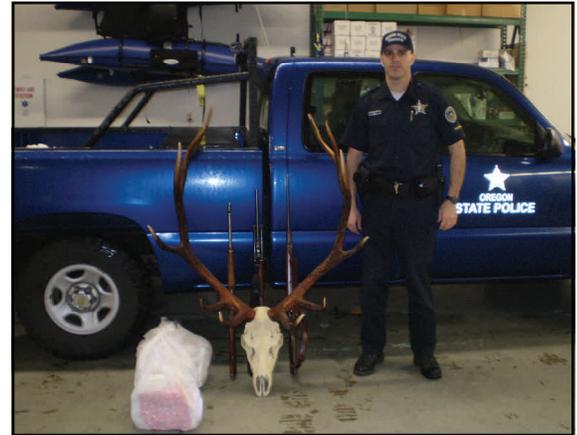
Wildlife / Hunting

Prank not a Joke

Tpr. Jewett (Pendleton) received a complaint where a Pendleton High School student found a trash bag in his vehicle in the high school parking lot containing 14 ducks and five geese not cleaned and rotten. A couple days later after some follow up, Jewett received some suspect information and made contact. The suspect told Jewett he had forgotten about the birds and was just playing a joke by dumping them in his friend's pickup at the school. Jewett cited the suspect for **Waste of Wildlife—Game Birds x 19**.

6 x 7 Shot before Season

Tpr. Reel (Portland) received an anonymous tip regarding a subject who shot a 6 x 7 bull elk prior to the opening of the Cascade bull elk season. Reel and Tpr. Schoenborn (Portland) contacted the subject at his Estacada residence. The subject admitted to shooting a 6 x 7 bull in October, eight days before the season opened. The subject is also a convicted felon, prohibited from possessing a firearm. The troopers charged the subject with **Felon in Possession of a Firearm x 3** and **Unlawful Possession of a Bull Elk** and seized a 6 x 7 European mount, three rifles, and about 100 pounds of elk meat.



6 x 7 poached before season began. Photo credit: File

Big Game Illegally Taken

Earlier in the month, Tpr. McClay (John Day) received information about a cow elk unlawfully killed near John Day around the beginning of December. McClay spoke with the suspect's girlfriend while Tpr. Ritter (John Day) spoke with the suspect. The girlfriend told McClay her boyfriend did kill an elk in the beginning of December, but she did not know the specific date or area it occurred. When McClay finished the interview, Ritter called and said the suspect advised he killed a cow elk out of season and in the wrong unit and used a first season general elk tag to tag the elk. McClay met Ritter with the suspect at his home where they seized what was left of the elk. The troopers cited the suspect criminally for **Unlawful Possession of Elk and Hunting Elk Closed Season**.

Sgt. Thompson (Newport) received information regarding a possible elk poaching in the Table Mountain area in Lincoln County. He and Sr. Tpr. Kehr (Newport) spoke to the girlfriend of a potential suspect at a residence in Newport. She adamantly denied any wrong doing on their part. A consent search revealed a bowl filled with fresh back strap and shoulder meat from an elk in a refrigerator. The girlfriend stated she was simply thawing out "steak." A blue tarp containing blood and elk hair was also found in a vehicle parked outside. After a few more conflicting stories, the girlfriend eventually admitted she and her boyfriend had gone out the previous day and her boyfriend killed a cow elk. She then showed the troopers three elk quarters and the rifle he used. The boyfriend met Kehr at the Newport office that evening and confessed to the poaching. Kehr cited the male subject for **Unlawful Take of Cow Elk Closed Season and Unlawful Possession of Cow Elk**, warned the female for Aiding, and seized the rifle and meat.

Birds Unlawfully Hunted

Sr. Tpr. Love (Bend) responded to a report of a subject who shot and wasted two geese. Love contacted the subject who stated he did not like the geese on his property, so he shot them with his shotgun. The subject did not possess a hunting license or any waterfowl validations. The subject threw one goose into a canal and the other along a roadway. Love issued the subject citations for **Unlawful Take of Canada Goose** and **Waste of Wildlife** and several warnings.

Tpr. Stone and Sr. Tpr. Merritt (Roseburg) contacted two subjects after receiving a tip that one subject shot a turkey during closed season. Following a short conversation, the subject admitted to shooting the hen turkey with his Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. He confessed he did not know when turkey season was nor did he purchase a tag; he just shot it because it was there. The troopers cited the subject for **Unlawfully Taking Turkey—Closed Season**.

Sr. Tpr. Pearson (The Dalles) contacted two subjects hunting waterfowl on the Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge near Rufus and had taken a number of geese and a duck. As the refuge is closed to hunting, Pearson cited each for **Taking Waterfowl Closed Area—Bird Refuge**. During the contact, the subjects mentioned they were upset as they lost their black lab when it had swam off after a crippled bird and did not return. They feared the dog had drowned. Shortly after the contact, Sr. Tpr. Holloran (Patrol) located a black lab, none the worse for wear, along I-84 about a mile from where Pearson contacted the subjects. OSP returned the dog to her very grateful owners.

Tpr. Glaser (Salem) received a call from a duck hunter who reported he observed two subjects who shot and killed two geese and wounded a third. The area was closed to goose hunting. Glaser responded to the area and contacted the suspects. Subsequently, he seized the two geese and cited both for **Taking Goose Closed Season / Area**.

Tpr. Reel and Tpr. Ferguson (Portland) were checking waterfowl hunters on Sauvie Island when they received a complaint of a subject using an electronic duck call. The troopers heard the call as they approached the location. Upon contact, the troopers located the electronic call, and the subjects admitted to using it for hunting. The troopers issued one citation for **Unlawful Use of an Electronic Call**.

Sr. Tpr. Niehus (Klamath Falls) received a complaint of subjects hunting waterfowl within the city limits of Klamath Falls. He responded and found two subjects hunting from a boat on Lake Ewauna. Though it is common knowledge this area is inside the city, these two stated they did not know. Niehus cited both subjects for **Hunting Prohibited Area—within City Limits**.

Tpr. Glaser (Salem) observed a vehicle parked off an I-5 on-ramp looking at ducks in a pond. He contacted the occupants who were dressed in duck hunting apparel. The subjects told Glaser they had killed a Western goose in the NW Permit zone. Glaser informed the subjects the zone was currently closed. He seized the goose and cited one subject for **Taking Goose Closed Season / Area**.

Sport Angling / OSMB / Commercial Fish / Shellfish

Greenling Sea Trout Taken

Tpr. Keeler (Coos Bay) observed two male subjects fishing in the surf from the rocks near Sunset Bay. He watched one angler catch and retain a greenling sea trout. Upon contact, neither subject could produce 2012 angling licenses. Keeler cited one subject for **Unlawful Take Greenling Sea Trout—No Angling License** and the other subject for **No 2012 Angling License** and seized two greenling as evidence.

Angling Tip Led to Arrest

Sgt. Meyer (Central Point) responded to a report of a subject who exceeded the limit of trout at Expo Ponds. He watched the subject for a brief time and saw him put a fish on a stick with many other fish on it then stash the stick on the bank near some brush. When Meyer approached, the subject saw him coming, and he tried to hide the fish. Meyer found the subject possessed nine trout and was using two rods without a two-rod license. The subject also had a felony warrant for Sexual Assault. Meyer arrested the subject on the warrant and cited him for **No Two-Rod License** and **Exceeding the Bag Limit of Trout**. Sr. Tpr. Neville (Patrol) lodged the subject in jail.

Steelhead Poachers Nabbed

Sgt. Schwartz (Astoria) contacted two anglers walking toward the parking area at Gnat Creek with three steelhead. When asked if they had additional fish in their vehicle, one subject replied they did not. After additional replies that were questionable, Schwartz located a vehicle in the parking area the anglers admitted to operating. Eventually, Schwartz gained consent to search and located five additional steelhead in the trunk, totaling **eight steelhead** the two anglers retained. Subsequently, Schwartz cited both subjects for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Steelhead** and one subject additionally for **Failure to Immediately Validate Angling Harvest Card** and seized four steelhead.

Tpr. Smith and Sgt. Hoodenpyl (Tillamook) worked Three Rivers and watched the deadline at Cedar Creek. They observed a subject cast into Cedar Creek, a closed area. After a short period of time, the subject hooked a steelhead from under a weir in the closed stream. The subject fought the fish for a while then had another subject on the bank net the fish. Both troopers could see the fish was tail-hooked. The subject who caught the fish retained and tagged the fish. Upon contact, the subject said he did not know the fish was snagged, or he would not have retained it. The troopers cited the subject for **Taking Steelhead Prohibited Method—Snagging** and seized the fish.

In an area closed to steelhead angling on Schooner Creek, Sr. Tpr. Kehr (Newport) contacted a subject rigging up next to his vehicle. The subject did not have a license. When asked, the subject said no one was with him. Kehr asked about a bag lying next to the road a short distance away. The subject then remembered his girlfriend was down at the creek. She did not have a license either. Much to the boyfriend's dismay, the girlfriend advised they were steelhead angling, and her boyfriend set up everything and casted the gear because she has never fished in her life. Kehr cited the boyfriend for **No 2012 Angling License** and **Angling in a Closed Area** and warned the girlfriend.

Suspended Subject Caught

Sgt. Lea and Tpr. Brandon (Coos Bay) checked anglers on the East Fork Millicoma River. A records check of two subjects revealed one subject did not have a 2012 angling license, and the other was suspended from angling. The troopers cited the first subject for **No Angling License** and criminally cited the second for **Angling while Suspended**.

Angled for Sturgeon at Night

Tpr. Borchers, Tpr. Boeholt, Tpr. Reel, and Tpr. Schoenborn (Portland) worked a night foot patrol on Swan Island along the Willamette River and located three anglers at about 8:00 p.m. Under the cover of darkness, Borchers approached and observed one subject attempt to hide a 43-inch sturgeon in the bushes and five rods with lines in the water. When contacted, a consent search revealed they were using barbed hooks and a second sturgeon in one of the subject's vehicles. The troopers issued all three subjects multiple criminal citations, including **Unlawful Possession of Sturgeon, Angling Prohibited Hours, Angling Prohibited Method—Barbed Hooks, and Angling with More than One Rod** and seized all five rods and two sturgeon.

Marine Resources Protected

Tpr. Smith (Tillamook) contacted a subject crabbing in Netarts Bay. During the contact, he found the subject retained 10 crab and did not possess a 2012 shellfish license. Smith cited the subject for **No 2012 Shellfish License** and released the crab.

Sr. Tpr. Klepp (Astoria) cited three gillnet fishermen for **Failure to Submit Commercial Catch to ODFW** relating to the 2011 spring salmon Tongue Point Select Area season when ODFW must check all commercially caught salmon and sturgeon prior to delivery to a licensed wholesale buyer. All three fishermen made multiple deliveries and failed to report their catch.

Tpr. O'Connor (Astoria) received a call from ODFW about a fish processor who bought crab from five different boats the previous day without a 2012 wholesale fish dealer license. O'Connor and Tpr. Vogel (Astoria) contacted the plant manager who produced tickets for the deliveries from a different wholesaler. The troopers cited the wholesale dealer who provided the tickets for **No Fish Buyer's License x 5**.

Boat Patrols Yielded Citations

Sr. Tpr. Knapp (Enterprise) and Sgt. Hawkins (La Grande) conducted a boat patrol on the Snake River in Hells Canyon. They checked 35 anglers and seven boats, resulting in issuing six citations for **Fail to Validate Combined Harvest Tag** and four warnings, three for barbed hooks and one for No Angling License.

Sr. Tpr. Vanderwerf, Sr. Tpr. Kipper, and Tpr. Frazier (The Dalles) conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River. They checked 57 anglers and 11 boats. They issued 11 citations for **UPCS—Less than One Ounce of Marijuana**, various boating warnings, and one warning for Taking Undersized Sturgeon. The one-inch too short sturgeon was released unharmed.

On the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, Sr. Tpr. Maher (Oakridge) observed a guide with two clients angling out of a drift boat that did not have a current guide decal. During the contact, he found the guide also did not have a guide license; however, his clients had their licenses. Maher followed up with OSMB and found the guide did not register for 2012. Maher cited the guide for **No Outfitter/Guide Registration**.

Sr. Tpr. Stinnett (Gold Beach) checked commercial and sport boats at the Port of Port Orford. He issued three commercial fishermen criminal citations for overages. He also observed a sport boat on the bay using a motor with no registration. On contact, the boat owner did not think he needed to register a 12-foot boat. Stinnett cited him for **Failing to Register Boat** and warned him for No AIS Permit. He contacted another boat with expired registration. Stinnett cited the boat owner for **Expired Registration** and warned him for No AIS Permit.

Interagency Cooperation



18 sets of antlers stolen in burglary recovered from antler buyer. Photo credit: File

18 Sets of Antlers Returned to Rightful Owner

Harney County SO (HCSO) investigated multiple burglaries in the Burns area where numerous items stolen included 18 sets of elk antlers, a hunter's lifetime collection from hunting various states. HCSO arrested several suspects and asked for OSP's assistance in locating and recovering the stolen antlers. Sr. Tpr. Caldwell (Burns) and Sgt. Cyr (Baker City) received information the antlers were sold to an antler buyer in La Grande. The troopers contacted antler buyers in the area and, fortunately, located a buyer who bought the victim's entire collection. The troopers recovered all 18 sets of antlers from the La Grande antler buyer and returned the collection to their rightful and very appreciative owner.

Juvenile Poached Deer

Sgt. Hawkins (La Grande), Union County SO, and La Grande PD responded to a report of subjects shooting a deer near La Grande and located and salvaged a dead doe. The officers developed multiple suspects; and, eventually, the SO arrested several suspects for various crimes, including **Theft of Firearms**. Sr. Tpr. Davis (La Grande) concluded the investigation by interviewing one juvenile involved. Davis determined the juvenile shot the deer with a stolen rifle. Davis cited the juvenile for **Taking Deer Closed Season** and **Waste of Wildlife**, and the SO lodged the juvenile in a facility in Walla Walla.

Trooper Assisted SO with Shooting Complaint

Tpr. Clement (Salem) assisted Linn County SO with a shooting complaint in November at 2:00 am. They located an unoccupied vehicle a short distance from where they found a wounded 4 x 4 black-tailed deer. Clement could see a .22 rifle and a second 3 x 3 black-tailed deer head in the vehicle. At the time, they did not locate any suspects. Clement seized the vehicle and applied for a search warrant. A search located a stolen gun and other evidence. Through a subpoena for phone records and several interviews later, Clement identified two possible suspects. He and Tpr. Andrews (Salem) conducted several witness interviews. In January, a parent of one suspect contacted Clement and Andrews to arrange a meeting to interview both suspects at the same time. As a result, the troopers charged one suspect with **Hunting Black-Tailed Deer Closed Season (Crime)** and **Unlawful Possession of Black-Tailed Deer** and another with **Hunting Black-Tailed Deer Closed Season**.

Wanted Subject Eluded Troopers and Deputy

While working the Middle Fork of the Willamette River below Hills Creek Dam, Sr. Tpr. Marshall Maher (Oakridge) contacted a subject sitting in his parked vehicle on a side spur road off of USFS Road 21. During the contact, the trooper recognized the subject from a previous arrest. After breaking contact, a records check revealed a felony and a misdemeanor warrant for the subject's arrest. The trooper returned to re-contact the subject and found he fled on foot. Sr. Tpr. Martin Maher (Springfield), Tpr. Mathews (Patrol), and Lane County SO Deputy Mann responded to assist in attempting to locate the suspect. During the afternoon, officers spotted the suspect twice, but the suspect continued to elude on foot. Late in the afternoon, Marshall Maher and Mann camouflaged themselves and set up in the brush near the suspect's vehicle, and Martin Maher and Mathews set up in their patrol vehicles further away. Officers apprehended the suspect while he was trying to get back to his vehicle and took him into custody without incident and lodged him in the Lane County Jail.

Technology Aid Helped Agencies Catch Thieves

On a Thursday evening, a subject reported to OSP her purse containing her iPhone, driver license, and financials cards was stolen from her place of employment. When Sr. Tpr. Niehus (Klamath Falls) received the complaint, he confirmed the phone had been set up with a Find My iPhone feature. While periodically checking the phone's location, Niehus received a signal after someone turned the phone on, indicating the phone was located in downtown Klamath Falls. He called Klamath Falls PD (KFPD) who sent officers to assist.

Tracking the phone, Niehus guided the trailing city officers to the suspect's parking spot, and KFPD officers contacted the suspects. Niehus sent an alert sound to the phone that KFPD heard coming from under the front seat. When the suspect reached for the phone, the officers stopped him and placed him and a female passenger in custody. A search located a stolen gun next to the phone where the suspect had been reaching, 1/4 ounce of meth, and a notebook detailing **in depth surveillance of at least six houses** and other information. KFPD was able to clear up six burglaries with the notebook.

KFPD searched the suspects' residence and found additional meth, eight stolen guns, several other stolen items, and other evidence and obtained a lead on four more firearms stolen and dumped into the Klamath Lake. They also took a subject to jail on a warrant. KFPD continued the investigation and conducted follow-up to determine what was stolen and from who and where. The suspects led them on some goose chases with where they supposedly dumped stolen guns and gun safes in the Klamath River. Klamath County SO Dive Rescue checked several areas and found only four empty gun safes. KFPD charged both subjects for **Theft and Possession of Stolen Property**, both with multiple victims, and **UPCS—Meth**. They lodged the male and cited the female.

Interestingly, the two initial suspects contacted did not steal the subject's purse/iPhone. The male suspect actually bought the iPhone from another subject earlier that morning. With their description and text messages sent on the phone, KFPD identified the suspect who stole the victim's purse. KFPD later picked up this suspect on a Probation Violation warrant. After conducting an interview with the purse thief, KFPD cited him for **Theft**.

Interagency Cooperation / Public Relations

Division Troops Invaluable during Floods

Many Division members around the state assisted with evacuations and traffic issues during January floods. Division troopers, trucks, and boats were invaluable during these high water events. Salem, Albany, and Springfield Division members assisted with the evacuation of Turner. They transported 16 people and several pets from flooded homes and streets to higher ground. Marion County SO deputies then transported the flood victims to a local Aumsville church where the Red Cross set up a temporary evacuee shelter.

Sr. Tpr. Salisbury, Tpr. Wetzel (Florence), and Sgt. Lea (Coos Bay) assisted with traffic issues while the Siuslaw River flooded over Hwy 126 in various places from Mapleton to Florence. They also checked many flooded residences to assist with evacuations. Wetzel assisted Lane County SO Marine deputies with rescuing several stranded citizens utilizing a Division boat. All during the week, the Siuslaw River flooded over the highway in several places, with very high water and tides.

Lost ATV Operator Found

Sr. Tpr. Kehr (Newport) was called out to assist the Lincoln County SO Search and Rescue team with the search of a lost ATV rider. Kehr knew the subject and his possible whereabouts, as he contacted him riding his motorcycle in the Cougar Mountain area east of Lincoln City. He went to the area and quickly located the subject at 12:35 a.m. The subject's motorcycle broke down, and he was waiting with it by the side of the road. Kehr gave the subject a ride back to the command post.

Troopers Guest on Show

Sr. Tpr. Martin Maher (Springfield), Sr. Tpr. Marshall Maher (Oakridge), and ODFW Biologist Brian Wolfer were guests on KUGN 590AM. During the 45-minute talk show, topics discussed included mandatory reporting, current hunting and angling seasons, boating safety, and licensing requirements.

PLAY Event Huge Success

Sr. Tpr. Niehus (Klamath Falls) attended the second annual PLAY Outdoors event at the Klamath County Fairgrounds. PLAY event (Promoting a Lifetime of Activities for Youth) is designed to introduce families, especially kids, to a wide variety of outdoor activities. More than 1,200 children and 1,000 adults attended the event, 600 more than last year's event.

Meetings Attended

Sr. Tpr. Collom (Central Point) gave a presentation to one of the local Hunter Education classes to 13 new youth hunters who attended.

Sgt. Allori (Portland) gave a presentation to about 30 people from USCG at Swan Island in Portland. Topics covered included local fish runs and regulations on the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

Sr. Tpr. Cushman and Tpr. Tague (Central Point) attended the monthly OHA meeting. Cushman spoke to about 60 people about the prior month's activities. Tague will speak to the group in February.



One of many roads that flooded in Oregon in January. Photo credit: File

Troopers and other Agencies Cooperated in Patrols and Investigations

Tpr. Imholt (Springfield) worked a waterfowl patrol with USFWS Ranger York at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. They checked several subjects and issued one citation for **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**. Later that day, Imholt and York met up with BLM Ranger Cox to patrol for ATVs. The area has been a problem with ATV operators creating their own trails on BLM and private timber properties. Imholt contacted two ATV operators, and Ranger Cox contacted one. The officers cited all three subjects for **Operating an ATV with No ATV Permit**.

Sr. Tpr. Hayes (Bend) received a report of an intoxicated driver on US 97 near La Pine that matched the description of an attempt-to-locate vehicle operated by a person suspected in a double homicide investigation in Los Angeles, California. Hayes located the vehicle and coordinated a felony stop with Patrol troopers and other law enforcement agencies. After stopping the vehicle, Hayes took the subject into custody, charging the subject with **Reckless Driving** and **Fail to Carry and Present a Driver License**. OSP towed the vehicle to the Bend office, and Patrol troopers obtained a search warrant for possible evidence of the double homicide in Los Angeles.

Tpr. Jewett (Pendleton) contacted three subjects parked at the Bombing Range Road wildlife area. The subject stated his pickup was overheating and having engine trouble. Jewett noticed a safe in the back of the pickup partially covered with a leather coat. Jewett inquired about the safe, and the driver said his brother works at the landfill and put it in the pickup to add weight for getting around on the icy roads. The driver gave consent to search the coat. Once the coat was removed from around the safe, Jewett noticed the door was pried half way open, displaying documents still inside. Boardman PD Officer Morris and Morrow County SO Sgt. Rayburn arrived for backup. The driver gave consent to search the vehicle, and the officers retrieved one of the documents from the safe. Morris checked the subject's name on the document with his dispatch and discovered the subject is a victim of a burglary that occurred in Boardman about one month ago. Morris took the driver into custody for **Possession of Stolen Property**, due to Boardman PD being the primary investigating agency on the burglary case.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division

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



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