



# OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**FEBRUARY 2024**





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*On the cover:  
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on patrol on  
Grizzly Mountain near Prineville*



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## Oregon Partners in Conservation Convention

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Bend and Prineville and K-9 Scout manned the OSP Fish and Wildlife and Protect Oregon's Wildlife - Turn in Poachers campaign booth during the 2024 Oregon Partners in Conservation Convention at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds. The event was well attended by families with children. There were lots of outdoor related booths sharing information and providing outdoor educational learning aids. Needless to say, K-9 Scout was a show stealer and everyone loved him. The booth was very popular with the public and made it easy for young children to connect with the Troopers.



Protect Oregon's Wildlife - Turn in Poachers campaign's Yvonne Shaw

## Dufur School Presentation

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles presented to 8th grade students at the Dufur School. The presentation was about the career of a Fish and Wildlife Trooper. All the students enjoyed hearing about the duties and responsibilities and had several questions regarding the job.

## Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby Kids Day event at Cooper Creek Lake. About 15 boat inspections were completed and approximately 65 kids were in attendance. A Trooper later attended the "Guides Dinner" at the Douglas County Fairgrounds to provide direction regarding derby rules and give a short boating safety presentation. The next day, Troopers attended the guide send off to start the Derby which consists of 40 guides and two clients per guide. That evening, one of the Troopers attended the Derby Auction, as a helper/support staff, which was attended by over 700 people. A Trooper also attended the awards presentation on the final day of the Derby. During the Derby about 360 steelhead were caught and most were released.

## ODFW Hunter Education Field Day

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper, with the assistance of three other instructors, conducted a Clatsop County ODFW hunter education field day at the BKS Gun Club in Knappa. Twenty three of the 35 registered students showed up for attendance; all of which passed the course and will soon be mailed their permanent hunter education cards from ODFW.

## Recruiting Event - Prospect High School

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated in an outreach and recruiting event at Prospect High School. Approximately 160 kids were spoken to with a lot of interest in the Fish and Wildlife division of OSP. This was a fun group to speak with and we are hopeful to open some possible career futures for this community.

## Trooper Interviewed by OSU Student

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper met with a local student attending OSU to answer their questions regarding OSP's role in combating and enforcing regulations with regards to marine invasive species. The student was in the process of writing a research paper on the subject for a team project.



# SPORTSMEN'S SHOWS



## NW Sportsmen's Show - Portland

Fish and Wildlife Troopers worked the NW Sportsmen's Show in Portland where OSP Fish and Wildlife displayed the Trailer of Shame alongside ODFW displays. The Troopers answered many hunting and fishing related questions and contacted a large number of people who expressed interest in working for OSP.



Photo courtesy of Bob Swingle, ODFW



Photo courtesy of Bob Swingle, ODFW

## Eugene Boat and Sportsmen's Show

The South Valley Team spent time answering questions and talking with attendees of the Eugene Boat and Sportsmen's Show at the Lane County Fair Grounds. The event was a success, and many positive comments were received regarding the Trailer of Shame.

## Douglas County Sportsmen's Show

All members of the Roseburg team staffed the OSP Fish and Wildlife booth at the annual Douglas County Sportsmen's & Outdoor Recreation Show hosted at the Douglas County Fairgrounds.

## Jackson County Sportsmen's Show

The Rogue Valley Team along with ODFW manned a booth at the Jackson County Sportsmen's Show. A few thousand people attended and found the Trailer of Shame to be informative. Troopers and ODFW staff talked with the attendees and answered numerous questions throughout the weekend, covering a variety of topics.

## Saltwater Sportsmen's Show - Salem

The Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) worked the Saltwater Sportsmen's show. MFT members answered questions and spoke to the attendees about recreational marine fishing on the Oregon Coast.



# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Boaters Rescued - South Umpqua River

The entire Roseburg Fish and Wildlife team responded to a river rescue call with their drift boat to assist South Douglas County Fire and Rescue Units on the South Umpqua River near Canyonville. A male and female boater launched their 10' lake skiff with a 4 HP outboard motor at Stanton Park in Canyonville and attempted to navigate down the river into a rapid; and they managed to secure themselves and their boat to a small brushy island in the rapid. They were observed and reported to be clinging to the island. After arriving on scene with a drift boat, the Troopers and rescue personnel set up a z-drag system to safely ferry the boaters and their boat to shore. The boaters were wearing life jackets and did not require medical attention.

## Driver Arrested for DUII - Clatsop County

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the patrol division in responding to a two-vehicle crash on Hwy 30. Upon arrival, significant indicators of impairment were observed on one of the drivers before he was transported by medics to the hospital. The Trooper met a Patrol Trooper at the hospital where the subject had just been released. The subject was taken into custody just outside of the hospital and transported to the Clatsop County Jail. Standard field sobriety tests (SFSTs) were performed at the jail and a search warrant was obtained after the subject initially refused a breath test. The subject ultimately provided a breath sample of 0.10% blood alcohol content (BAC), several hours after the crash. The subject was charged with **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII), Reckless Driving, and Reckless Endangering x3.**



## Agencies Team up to Free Deer Stuck in Mud

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted ODFW and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ranger on a report of a deer stuck in the mud at Topsy Reservoir. The reservoir was recently drained as part of the dam removal project on the Klamath River. The deer was stuck in deep mud and sediment near the river. The Trooper and an ODFW Biologist used plywood and traction boards as weight displacement devices to leapfrog out the 100 plus yards to the deer. They then pulled the deer all the way back to the shore where the deer was able to stand up and run away unharmed.



## Bald Eagle Rescued - Burns

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Patrol Sergeant from the Burns office responded to a report of an injured bald eagle on US-20 near MP 126. The Sergeant stayed on scene while the Trooper went to ODFW for equipment to capture the bird. The Trooper was able to secure the eagle safely and transported it to ODFW. The eagle was placed in a holding pen and provided food and water by the Trooper. The ODFW wildlife biologists assessed the eagle for injuries, and the eagle was able to be released the following day.



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Dumped Carcasses Lead to Multiple Citations

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of two deer carcasses with a large amount of wasted deer meat and a white domestic duck being dumped on a closed road in the Spring Butte Travel Management Area (TMA). Tire tracks were observed heading toward a large subdivision in Klamath County. After two days of searching, a suspect residence was located. Another Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to assist, and the residents were contacted. A large four-point set of antlers, a three-point buck, and a dead raven were observed on the porch and a female subject stated she had killed the large buck. The subject's boyfriend, who is a convicted felon, exited the residence and told the Trooper the female subject had poached the large buck with a rifle during closed season, at night, in the back yard; due to being pregnant and unable to hunt during bow season. The subjects were cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck, Waste of Game Mammal, and Felon in Possession of Firearm.**

## Multiple Charges for Subject who Ran Down Deer

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was called by OSP Patrol regarding a complainant reporting a truck that was chasing down deer and “cutting cookies” in a field adjacent to the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day. The reporting party (RP) stated that a white Ford diesel truck hit a total of three deer and knocked one buck down severely injuring it. The RP then attempted to identify the truck and subjects and the truck took off. OSP had to euthanize the injured buck. The Sergeant interviewed the witness and collected scene evidence. The Sergeant contacted local law enforcement to be on the lookout for a white Ford diesel truck with missing grill pieces. Troopers canvassed the local area for most of the day and a John Day Patrol Trooper located a truck matching the description at a gas station in Mt. Vernon. The Sergeant responded and found matching broken grill pieces and deer hair on the front of the truck. The driver was interviewed and initially stated he hit a deer driving home on the roadway the previous night. When confronted with investigative evidence, the subject admitted to driving his truck on the fairgrounds property and hitting the buck. Upon completion of the investigation the subject met the Sergeant at the Grant County Jail and was subsequently charged with **Chasing/Harassing Wildlife, Unlawful Take Buck Deer, Waste of Game Mammal, and Criminal Mischief.** The reporting person and local community were very upset about the incident and thanked OSP for their perseverance in solving the case.



## Alligator Removed from Home - Springfield

Members of the Springfield Fish and Wildlife team responded to an address in Springfield with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) after receiving information the homeowner was in possession of an alligator. The homeowner was contacted and admitted they had an alligator, stating she did not know they could not possess it without permits. She stated it was her son's alligator and they had been keeping it for him for approximately 13 years. The alligator was seized and transported to a facility in Corvallis by an ODA veterinarian where it will live out its years. The homeowner was warned for **Unpermitted Possession of an Exotic Animal.**



# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Search Warrant Served - Vernonia

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the St. Helens Worksite, McMinnville Area Command, Portland Area Command, and North Plains Worksite served a search warrant at a residence in the Vernonia area in rural Columbia County. The search warrant was related to an investigation into a report of Exceeding Bag Limit of Antlerless Elk conducted in January 2024. Several items were seized during the service of the search warrant including processed and partially processed elk meat and three hunting rifles. The quantity and type of evidence seized and documented supported the charge of **Exceeding Bag Limit of Antlerless Elk** and **Fail to Allow Inspection**.

## Unlawful Take of Antlerless Deer

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a poached deer near Howard Prairie Lake. The landowner reported that someone who had been camping on his land shot a small doe with a shotgun. The landowner stated he did not know what the law was about hunting on private property and when he realized it was illegal, he reported it. The landowner stated that he kicked the campers out and that they were staying at a local campground in Ashland off Highway 66. The manager of the camp recognized the description of the suspect and his vehicle, and said they checked in the night prior but had left a few hours earlier towing a U-Haul trailer. The suspect was later located and cited and released for **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Deer**.

## Subject Self-Reports Tag Error

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report from an elk hunter in the Rainier area stating she had harvested a cow elk on her Upper Nehalem tag but when she went to tag it, she discovered she had forgotten to actually purchase the tag. The elk was subsequently seized and the hunter issued a warning for **No Big Game Tag**. The elk was later taken to the Meating Place in Hillsboro to be processed for donation.

## Subject Hazes Elk with Drone

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from dispatch of a landowner in Jewell who witnessed a herd of elk on his property acting nervous and balled up in a circle. He then noticed a drone hovering approximately 20 feet above the animals. The landowner located the subject operating the drone and when confronted about hazing the elk, the subject was dismissive about his conduct and drove away. The landowner took pictures of the suspect and drone, which included the federal aviation registration number. The Trooper was able to locate the subject via the federal aviation drone registration number. The subject stated he had recently purchased the drone and had only used it a few times and didn't realize the drone would cause the animals to be disturbed so severely. He was warned for **Hazing Wildlife** and agreed to no longer fly the drone so closely to wildlife in the future.

## Subject Shoots Elk Across Highway

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a call that a subject had shot at a herd of elk across a highway. The reporting parties stated the hunter left the scene after shooting twice across the highway and gave a description of the vehicle. When a Trooper arrived on scene the subject had returned to the location. Subsequent investigation determined the subject had shot twice with a shotgun across the highway and killed a cow elk. The cow elk and shotgun were seized and the subject was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk** and **Hunting From or Across a Highway**. The elk was processed and donated to a local charity.

## Unlawful Use of a Thermal Scope

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed an investigation into the unlawful use of a thermal scope to hunt deer which occurred in October of 2022. The subject was interviewed and confessed to using the device to hunt with. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Hunting Prohibited Method** and the illegal scope was seized as evidence.

## Casting Light From a Motor Vehicle

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Lakeview Trooper were working with the SW Region pilot when a vehicle was found to be casting light out both sides of a vehicle while driving on public land. One of the subjects had been warned before for spot lighting and there were prior complaints about him or his vehicle spot lighting. The subjects were cited for **Casting Light From a Motor Vehicle**.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Captain Cited After Lengthy Investigation

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial captain and limited fish seller in Winchester Bay after a lengthy investigation stemming from three separate commercial fisheries in 2023. The captain was criminally cited for the following:

- Albacore Tuna season: **No Wholesalers Fish Dealer License, Fail to Maintain Proper Fish Dealer Records, and Fail to Submit Fish Ticket Within the Required Time Frame.**
- Directed halibut season: **Fail to Submit Fish Tickets and Fail to Maintain Dealer records.**
- 2023-24 Dungeness Crab season: **250 counts of No Buoy Tags.**
- Further charges will be referred to Douglas County District Attorney's office.



## Joint OSP/USCG/WDFW Flight

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a living marine resource flight with the US Coast Guard (USCG) and a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer during the 2023-2024 North of Cape Falcon Dungeness Crab Opener. Multiple boats were observed prior to the 9:00 am start time and no violations were observed.

## Commercial Crab Hold Inspections

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted commercial crab hold inspections for the 2023-2024 Dungeness Crab North of Cape Falcon fair start opener. While conducting inspections the Trooper contacted an owner of a fleet of vessels that also has a bait dealers license. ODFW had contacted the Trooper about the bait dealer being continuously late on fish ticket submissions, submitting them well past the 21 day limit. The bait dealer was issued a warning for **Fail to Submit Fish Receiving Tickets Within Required Time Frame.**

## Wholesale Fish Dealer Checks - Portland

A Marine Fisheries Team Sergeant and Trooper conducted wholesale fish dealer and retail checks in Portland. A wholesale fish dealer made multiple purchases from commercial fishing boats for Dungeness crab and rockfish. The wholesale dealer was found to not have a 2024 wholesale fish dealer license. The investigation found the wholesale fish dealer had no record of receiving or possession of a 2024 wholesale fish dealer license. The wholesale fish dealer was criminally cited for **No Wholesale Fish Dealer License.**



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



*A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper and the SW Region Fish and Wildlife Pilot conducted an aerial patrol of all five of Oregon's marine reserves*

## Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab

While conducting inspections of commercial Dungeness crab offloads, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper found a large amount of undersized Dungeness crab being offloaded from a commercial fishing vessel. With the assistance of four additional Fish and Wildlife Troopers and an ODFW Biologist, thousands of Dungeness crab were remeasured prior to being processed which revealed that a percentage of the total load was undersized. The captain of the vessel was ultimately criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. Restitution will be referred to the District Attorney's office.

## Crew Cited for Undersized Dungeness Crab

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by a wholesale dealer and informed they discovered undersized Dungeness crab in the totes of crab they were offloading from a local fishing vessel. The Trooper responded and measured the entire 10,481lbs of Dungeness crab with the help of dealer employees. The Trooper discovered 218 lbs of undersized crab. Two out of the three deckhands which were responsible for the measuring of the crab, were cited for **Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. One deckhand told the Trooper while he was tasked to measure the crab, he was not measuring everything he placed into the holding tank and would "eyeball" several of the crab he thought were big enough. The Trooper spoke to the captain and he stated he had told his deckhands there was a zero tolerance for undersized crab and they needed to measure every crab.

## Commercial Crab Violations Found

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted Commercial Dungeness Crab inspections at the Port of Astoria verifying licenses, permits, and completion of Dungeness Crab logbook. On one occasion the captain of a commercial Dungeness crab vessel was found to not have his 2024 Non-Resident Individual Commercial Fishing License thinking that a vessel license was enough. The captain was ultimately issued a citation for **No Individual Commercial Fishing License** and was instructed that he need to purchase a license before continuing to commercial fish. Later the same day when the processor was offloading their crab, they found a large number of undersized crab in the offload. The processor contacted OSP and Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers and MFT Troopers responded. The Troopers took a sample of the offload and determined there were illegal crab in their sample. The captain was cited criminally for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.



# SHELLFISH & ANGLING

## Netarts Bay Nighttime Saturation Patrol

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper arranged a two-day nighttime saturation of the Netarts area in response to multiple complaints of subjects exceeding the bag limit and keeping female and undersized male crab. With participation from the Astoria, McMinnville, and Newport offices, as well as members of the MFT, many crabbers were observed. Throughout the two evening patrols multiple citations were issued for the following offenses:

- **Unlawful Take of Undersized Male Crab**
- **Unlawful Take of Female Crab**
- **No Shellfish License**
- **False Application for Resident Shellfish License**
- **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Gaper Clams**

Multiple warnings were also issued for various offenses and many crab and clams were seized and returned to the bay.

## Ochoco Reservoir Patrol

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the Ochoco Reservoir, contacting anglers and boaters. The reservoir was nearly full and trout fishing was good with some anglers catching trout limits. One citation was issued for **No Resident Angling License**, and warnings were given for **Insufficient PFD** and **Possession of Mutilated Fish**.

## Subject Cited Again for Clam Violation

Coos Bay and Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked clam diggers in the Charleston area during an extremely low tide that occurred just after dark. Compliance was low and several warnings were issued for minor violations. One subject was cited for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Clams**. He was able to retain his daily limit and returned 40 clams back into the bay. This subject was cited for the same offense several weeks earlier and will be submitted for a shellfish license suspension.

## Upper Deschutes River Patrol

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the upper Deschutes River. Three subjects were contacted angling on the closed section of river and cited for **Angling Closed Season** and **No Angling License**.

## Brownlee Reservoir Patrol

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted anglers at Brownlee Reservoir and the 203 Pond, issuing two citations for **No Resident Angling License**.

## Unlawful Take of Female Dungeness Crab

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a nighttime shellfish patrol on Alsea Bay. The Trooper contacted multiple people crabbing and found one group of subjects had 38 female Dungeness crab in their cooler. The female crab were released back into the bay and the subjects were cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Female Dungeness Crab**. They were educated on how to properly identify male and female crab.

## Angling for Steelhead with Bait - Molalla River

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two subjects on the upper Molalla River angling for steelhead with bait. The use of bait is prohibited on the Molalla River until May 15th each year. When contacted both subjects admitted to fishing for steelhead and were unable to sign into their mobile ELS accounts. An ODFW ELS check revealed one of the subjects did not possess an angling license or a combined angling tag and the second angler did not have a combined angling tag. Both received violation citations and were warned for the use of bait.

## Drift Boat Patrol - South Fork Coquille River

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a drift boat patrol on the South Fork Coquille River. Angler pressure was high, but catch rates were low. One subject was contacted who did not have an angling license or steelhead tag. The subject was warned for **No Resident Angling License** and **No Combined Angling Tag**.

## Subject Retains Snagged Fish - Alsea River

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of a subject who retained a snagged fish on the North Fork Alsea River. The Trooper located the subject who admitted the second hook on his line was hooked in the tail of the fish causing the fish to be reeled in backwards. The Trooper seized the fish and issued the subject a violation citation for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Steelhead**.

## Lake Billy Chinook Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles contacted two subjects on Lake Billy Chinook. Neither had 2024 resident angling licenses. One subject was found to have multiple warrants for his arrest. The subject was lodged at the Jefferson County jail without incident. Both subjects were cited for **No Resident Angling License**.





# 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  
Fish and Wildlife Trooper?

For information, please visit our website at:  
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Questions? Please call 503-378-4474  
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