



# OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

FEBRUARY, 2019



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*On the cover:*  
**Winter Range Patrol  
Spring Creek, Starkey Unit**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



## RMEF Youth Outdoor Skills Day

East Region Fish & Wildlife Troopers participated in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Youth Outdoor Skills Day in Pendleton. Approximately 600 people attended the event. It was a great experience for the kids and they enjoyed seeing some of the local wildlife related cases. The Troopers also brought one of the decoys down and the kids enjoyed being able to touch it and learn how they are used to help protect the wildlife. Troopers spoke at a seminar and explained to the kids how the mission of the RMEF is similar to that of the OSP Fish and Wildlife Division, what to do when they are contacted by police in the woods, what to do if they see a violation committed or if they commit a violation, and the importance of wearing orange while hunting. The message was well received and the Troopers received a lot of positive feedback.

## Umpqua Fishing Enhancement Derby

Fish & Wildlife Troopers from the Roseburg Patrol Office participated in the 27th annual Umpqua Fishing Enhancement Derby. In the past 26 years, over \$1.5 million has been raised and the funds have been put to use for fish habitat restoration projects. A Senior Trooper participated in several events throughout the four day event, while several troopers and supervisors were present for the Kids Fishing Day on Cooper Creek Reservoir. Over 70 fifth grade students were paired up with 20 fishing guides who donated their time to the event.

Kids Fishing Day on Cooper Creek Reservoir



# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



## Poacher Caught - Black-tailed Deer

A Trooper from the Newport Area Command received information of a subject from east Lincoln County who had shot and killed two black-tailed deer during the 2018 Western General Deer Rifle season. Troopers contacted the subject at his residence and the investigation led to the subject admitting to killing two buck deer. The subject admitted to shooting the first deer on private property he was not allowed to be hunting on. The subject validated his tag on the first buck then took the validated tag and killed a second buck later in the week in the Alsea Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) placing the already validated tag on the buck's antlers. Two sets of black-tailed deer antlers, game meat, a 30-30 Marlin rifle and a 2018 Resident Western General Rifle deer tag were seized as evidence. The subject was cited and released for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer** and **Exceeding Bag Limit of Game Mammal**.

## Spotlighters Caught - Cougar Mountain

On January 19, 2019 a Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the Oakridge Worksite started an investigation after a deer gut pile was found in the Cougar Mountain burn area east of Oakridge. The investigation revealed that the suspects were likely using an ATV at night when the deer was killed during closed season. Further follow up was conducted which revealed another older deer kill site. Cameras were set up along the roadways in the area to monitor for night time traffic. A night time deer decoy operation was conducted on January 25, 2019. Several Troopers worked the area in an effort to apprehend the poachers. No activity was observed on this night. On February 1, Troopers conducted another night time deer decoy operation in the area. At about 10:10 PM two subjects were observed spotlighting from an ATV. The ATV was also equipped with a high intensity (LED) light bar. The ATV passed by the decoy with spotlights on but apparently the subjects did not see it. The ATV was stopped and its occupants were contacted and were found to be in possession of two pistols with rounds in their magazines, and a scoped rifle with rounds in the magazine. There were also open containers of alcohol in the ATV. The subjects were both cited for **Casting Artificial Light from a Motor Vehicle while Armed**. The operator of the ATV was also cited for **Open Container of Alcohol**.

## Fail to Allow Inspection

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper out of The Dalles office received a call from a White River Wildlife Area ODFW employee. The employee located a man on the White River Wildlife Area in the Smock Prairie area who claimed to be hunting ducks. When the man was informed by the ODFW employee that duck season was closed, the man became upset and said that he believed it didn't end until the end of the month. The man refused to provide the ODFW employee his hunting license upon request and left the area. The ODFW employee was able to take a picture of the vehicle and license plate. Fish & Wildlife Troopers went to the man's residence and he was subsequently cited and released for the crime of **Fail to Allow Inspection of Hunting License upon Request**, and warned for the violation of **Hunting Ducks Closed Season**.

## Hound Hunters - Central Point

After the recent snow in the Central Point patrol area, an influx of hound hunters hit the woods, as well as other hunters and ATV riders enjoying the snow. Fish & Wildlife Troopers from Central Point checked numerous hound hunters, late season elk hunters, and ATV riders. One of the houndsmen had previously been checked and cited twice in one week for furbearer regulation violations. The good news is, this year he was 100 percent in compliance as was his hunting partner. Fish & Wildlife Troopers also helped several vehicles that were stuck in the snow or had slid off the road.

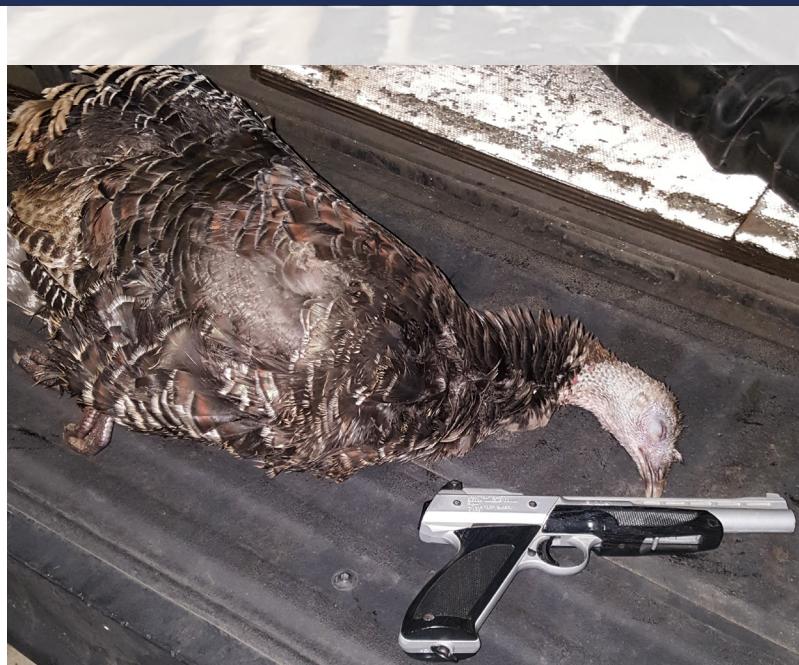
# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS

## Multiple Wildlife Crimes Uncovered in Jewell

Fish & Wildlife Troopers out of the Astoria office received a report of an elk carcass hanging in the backyard of a subject's house in Jewell. The reporting person stated they had been finding elk parts in a nearby creek that runs behind the property over the past several weeks and was concerned that subjects at the residence have been involved in the unlawful taking of wildlife. The Troopers responded to the reported address and could see an elk carcass hanging behind a shed on the property. The property owner was contacted and interviewed in regards to the taking of the elk. The subject stated he was driving home and came across an elk that was "flopping around" on the side of the highway and presumed the elk had been road struck. The subject called a friend in order to assist him with loading the elk. While waiting for his friend to arrive the subject stated the elk died and neither he nor his friend had shot the elk at any point. Upon examination of the elk, it was determined the elk had a significant gunshot wound that had entered and exited through its neck. There was no other observable trauma present on the elk that would indicate it was road struck. While at the subject's residence a pile of deer skulls/antlers were seen in plain view. Upon questioning the subject, he stated they were given to him by a neighbor that had moved out recently. There were no big game tags associated with the deer skulls/antlers and the subject did not have a written record of transfer for the wildlife parts. One cow elk and seven deer skull/antlers were seized as evidence. One suspect is facing criminal charges for: **Unlawful Possession of Cow Elk, Possession of Unlawfully Taken Wildlife Parts x 7.**

## Social Media Helps Catch Poacher - Enterprise

Fish & Wildlife Troopers out of the Enterprise office concluded an investigation involving an individual unlawfully taking a mule deer buck closed season. The crime was uncovered by a Trooper while he was investigating a separate individual on unrelated Fish and Wildlife offenses. It turned out that the two suspects were friends on social media. The Trooper was able to locate several communications with photos, date stamps, and admissions of unlawfully taking the mule deer buck. Troopers contacted the suspect at his residence and issued him a citation for **Unlawful Take Mule Deer Buck-Closed Season.**



## Unlawful Take of Turkey in Jefferson

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the Salem Area Command responded to a report of a wild turkey that was shot with a BB gun in a residential neighborhood in Jefferson. Investigation revealed that a male subject had shot a turkey in his back yard with a BB gun due to being frustrated with the bird and claimed it had damaged part of his roof. The turkey was found in a garbage can in his driveway. The bird and the BB gun were seized and he was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Game Bird.**

## Portland Area Trapping Complaint

Portland Area Fish & Wildlife Troopers fielded a trapping complaint from a local tree farm. The reporting party stated that there was a trapper setting snare and foothold traps along a heavily trafficked unofficial multi-use trail. While the location of the traps weren't illegal per the regulations the land owner requested that OSP contact the trapper and ask him to remove the traps for public safety. During the investigation Troopers found that this was the same trapper that accidentally caught a deer fawn in a snare trap in January. Troopers contacted the trapper at his residence, asked him to remove the traps, and spoke with him about ethical and safe trapping practices.

# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM

## Commercial Dungeness Crab Investigation

Fish & Wildlife Troopers completed a commercial Dungeness crab fishing investigation involving a commercial fishing vessel out of Brookings. Two days prior to the Southern Oregon commercial crab gear setting opening date; a F&W Trooper observed the vessel's crab pots on shore. It was noted that the gear had multiple untagged buoys and previous year's tags on buoys. The next day the Trooper observed the fishing vessel being loaded with gear. Multiple pots containing buoys with last year's tags were observed being loaded onto the deck of the boat. With the assistance of NOAA Law Enforcement, the vessel was tracked during the legal gear setting opener utilizing VMS (Vessel Monitoring System). The next day F&W Troopers located all of the vessel's crab gear in the ocean between Gold Beach and Port Orford. Two Oregon State Police Ocean boats were utilized during this event. All of the strings of gear were located and documented. The fishing vessel is permitted to fish 300 pots. The Troopers located 362 pots total, putting the vessel 62 pots over their limit. Additionally, 65 of the pots located did not have buoys with valid 2018-19 buoy tags, as required. The captain and deck boss were contacted and instructed to remove the illegal gear prior to the opening day of gear pulling. The party complied and brought ashore all illegal gear the next day. All crabs were released into the ocean. Upon inspection of the gear when it was brought to shore, it was furthermore discovered that 12 pots did not have vessel identifying tags, as required. The captain of the boat and the deck boss were both criminally cited for **Exceeding Permitted Pot Limit in Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishery, No Buoy Tag, and No Pot Tag.**



*Yelloweye Rockfish*

## Unlawful Take Yelloweye Rockfish - Coos Bay

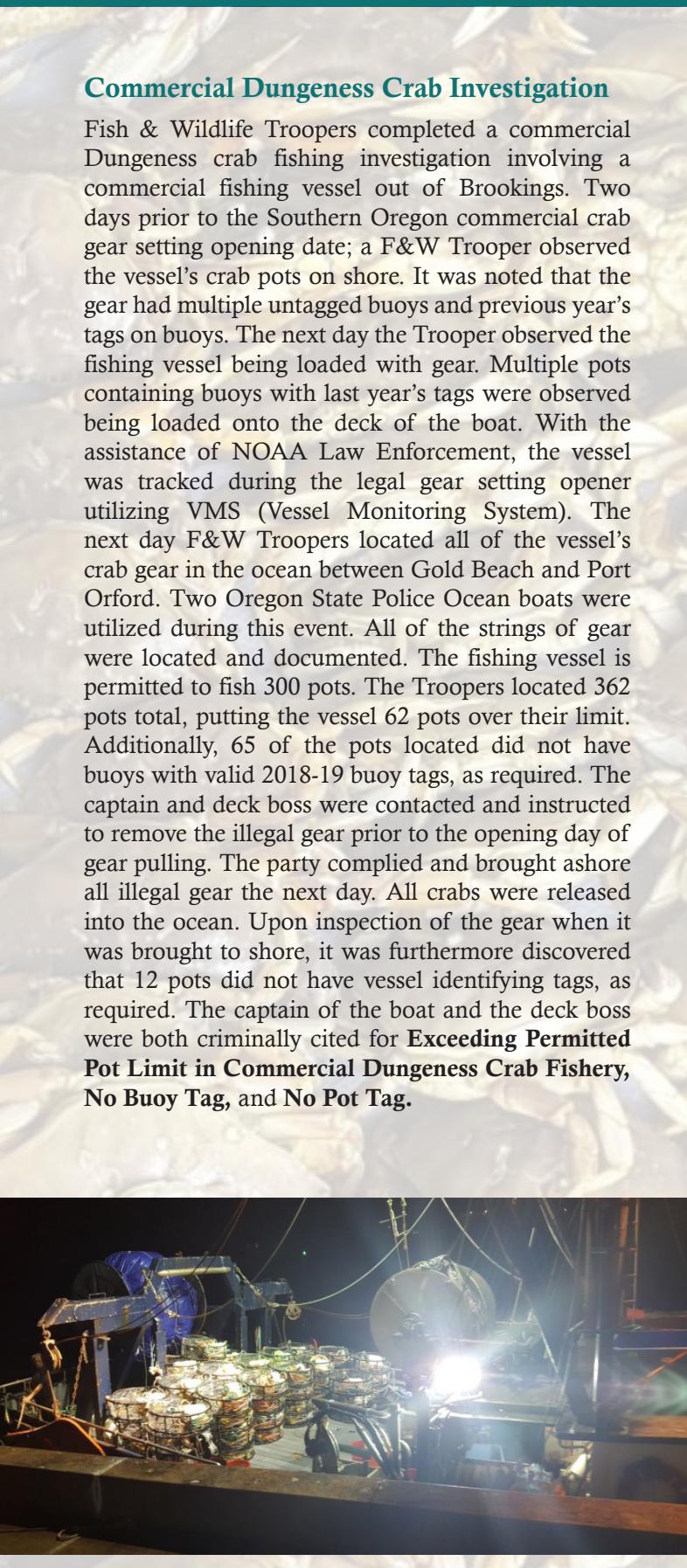
A Fish & Wildlife Trooper out of the Coos Bay Office was contacted by ODFW regarding a sport fishing boat that came to the boat ramp with two juvenile Yelloweye Rockfish on board. The trooper contacted the anglers that were on board and questioned them about the fish. The owner of the boat admitted he was at fault and requested to receive the citation. He was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of a Marine Fish Closed Season – Yelloweye Rockfish**. The fish were seized and donated to the local mission.

## e-Tag on the Elk River

A Trooper from the Gold Beach Worksite observed two subjects angling for steelhead on the Elk River below the hatchery. One subject stated he had purchased his license and tag and chose e-tag, however he was only able to produce a partial email on his phone showing that he had purchased something from ODFW in December of 2018. The subject had not downloaded the ODFW app and was out of cell service. The subject was warned and advised he needed to return to service in order to download the app so he could tag any fish he might catch that day.

## Fail to Maintain Log Books

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the Astoria Area Command contacted a commercial crab vessel that had not made a landing in Oregon or Washington in 30 days. The captain was able to provide fish tickets that showed that he had landed crab in Washington to a small live buyer on multiple occasions, but the buyer had not submitted his tickets to Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW). The captain was cited for **Fail To Maintain Logbooks**. The Washington buyer violations were forwarded to WDFW.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Commercial Crab Enforcement with U.S. Coast Guard

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the Coos Bay Area Command conducted a law enforcement flight with USCG Sector North Bend. The mission of the flight was to locate any commercial fishing vessels that may be pulling commercial crab gear earlier than the 0900 hours start time for the 2019 South Coast Opener. During the flight, one vessel was located pulling gear at 0806 hours. Communication was made via radio and the Trooper was able to advise the skipper not to pull any pots until 0900. The skipper advised that they had 260 crab on board. The skipper was cited and paid restitution to ODFW for the value of the crab.

## GENERAL LAW & RESCUES

### Snow Patrol

A Roseburg area Fish & Wildlife Trooper participated in a joint snow patrol with USFS law enforcement during a snowmobile event at Diamond Lake. During the patrol, the officers assisted with recovery of two snowmobiles stuck off the trail in deep powder; one nearly went backwards into a 12-foot deep snow covered creek bed. Near the end of the day officers responded to a snowmobile crash with injuries, where a female rider was transported by personal vehicle to the hospital with a possible broken knee and leg.

### Stuck in Silver Lake

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the La Pine office was patrolling in the Silver Lake road closure and located a vehicle stuck in a remote area. The two subjects had spent the night in the area after missing the road closed sign. The subjects were cold and wet. After providing assistance, the Trooper warned the subjects for illegal motorized travel.

### Enforcement Flight - Jackson County TMA

Fish & Wildlife Troopers conducted a patrol of the Jackson Travel Management Area (TMA), west of Shady Cove, while the OSP plane assisted above. The OSP plane spotted two vehicles well within the road closure area and looked to be cutting firewood on private timber company land. The plane followed the two vehicles as they drove out of the road closure and notified Troopers on ground they were coming out the Longbranch Road area. Troopers contacted both vehicles as they trespassed across private land to exit the TMA. The two vehicles were found to be illegally harvesting madrone firewood. Both drivers were charged criminally for **Theft of Forest Products** and warned for **TMA-Road Closure** violation.

### Red Tailed Hawk Rescued

A Fish & Wildlife Trooper from the Coos Bay Area Command was dispatched to an injured bird of prey south of Bandon. Upon arrival, the juvenile Red Tailed Hawk was able to fly a short distance, but ultimately allowed the trooper to pick it up. It was secured and transported to the Cascades Raptor Center in Eugene, where it was evaluated and treated for starvation and anemia by a veterinarian.



# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Checking Crab - Free Fishing Weekend

A Trooper from the Newport Area Command checked recreational crabbers during the free fishing weekend. Even though crabbers didn't need shellfish licenses, they did need to obey rules on legal sizes for retention of crab. A lot of education was given on proper measuring techniques, usage of a crab gauge vs a dollar bill, cellphone, or "eye balling it" as there were a lot of individuals who were inexperienced in crabbing that were trying it out.



## Unlawful Take of Sturgeon Near Wheatland Ferry

Fish & Wildlife Troopers from the Salem office conducted a boat patrol downstream from Wheatland Ferry on the Willamette River. A boat with two anglers was located tied off to the bank at a known sturgeon hole. Both subjects appeared nervous upon contact and one lied about not having his license. Multiple Northern Pike minnow could be seen in the boat and upon being questioned about what they were fishing for the subjects stated Northern Pike minnow. An inspection of their gear showed they were

clearly targeting sturgeon and both were using barbed hooks. A consent search of the boat revealed a 42" sturgeon hidden in the bow hold. The boat owner was cited criminally for **No Combined Angling Tag** and **Unlawful Take of Sturgeon** and the second angler was cited violation for **Angling Prohibited Method- Barbed Hooks** for sturgeon. The sturgeon was seized and donated to the Union Gospel Mission in Salem.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING

## Razor Clam Investigation - Astoria

OSP Troopers from the Astoria Area Command interviewed a suspect that had been observed on multiple occasions harvesting commercial quantities of razor clams and then transporting them into Washington without first landing them to an Oregon wholesale fish dealer. The suspect

admitted to bringing clams to a commercial crab boat owner in Washington and then receiving payment for the clams. The suspect was cited on multiple counts of **Failure to Sell Shellfish to a Wholesale Fish Dealer** and **Failure to Submit Razor Clam Logbooks to ODFW**.

## CASE DISPOSITION

### WED Case Results in Multiple Charges

In 2018, a subject shot a black-tail deer WED (Wildlife Enforcement Decoy) operated by Troopers from the Salem and McMinnville offices. The subject shot more than 2.5 hours after dark, from a paved road, with a 30 round magazine, and did not have a hunting license or deer tag. In January, 2019 the subject was sentenced to a 3 year hunting license suspension, \$2,100 in fines, \$500 to the WED program, forfeiture of the rifle, and 18 months bench probation.

### Tioga Unit Elk WED Case

Roseburg Area Command Fish & Wildlife Troopers conducted an elk WED in September 2018 in the Tioga Unit. Prior to legal shooting light a subject stopped and shot the WED with his archery equipment. The subject was ordered by the Douglas County Circuit Court to pay a \$440 fine and \$500 restitution to the WED program.

### Fail to Check in Bear, Validate Big Game Tag

Fish & Wildlife Troopers from the McMinnville Area Command charged a North Plains resident with **Take of Bear over Bait**, **Fail to Check in Bear within 10 days**, and **Fail to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**. While the bait charge was dismissed, the subject received a 3 year hunting license suspension, \$7,500 restitution to ODFW, a \$580 fine, 18 months bench probation, forfeiture of a Browning A-Bolt .270, and the loss of any preference points.

### Elk River Snagging

Eight anglers were cited this fall in two different investigations on the Elk River for flossing/snagging. All eight were recently convicted for **Angling Prohibited Method - Snagging**, and were fined the presumptive violation fine amount of \$440 each.

### Douglas County Deer WED Case

In October of 2018, Fish & Wildlife Troopers from the Roseburg Area Command conducted a deer WED. The operation took place during day light hours with the WED being placed on private property. Despite the property being clearly posted, the landowner had ongoing problems with people trespassing/hunting on his property. A vehicle stopped and two subjects both shot at the WED while standing on a public road. Both subjects were ordered by the Douglas County Circuit Court to pay a \$500 fine, and \$500 restitution to the WED program.



POSTED  
PRIVATE PROPERTY  
DO NOT ENTER OR HUNT ON THIS PROPERTY  
BY LAW IT IS ILLEGAL TO ENTER OR HUNT ON THIS PROPERTY

# TURN IN POACHERS

## PREFERENCE POINTS -OR- CASH REWARDS

5 Points-Bighorn Sheep  
5 Points-Rocky Mountain Goat  
5 Points-Moose  
5 Points-Wolf  
4 Points-Elk  
4 Points-Deer  
4 Points-Antelope  
4 Points-Bear  
4 Points-Cougar

\$1,000 Bighorn Sheep  
\$1,000 Rocky Mountain Goat  
\$1,000 Moose  
\$500 Elk, Deer & Antelope  
\$300 Bear, Cougar & Wolf  
\$300 Habitat Destruction  
\$200 Illegally obtaining license/tags  
\$100 Game Fish & Shellfish  
\$100 Upland Birds, Waterfowl & Fur Bearers

The TIP program offers preference point rewards or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take/possession or waste of big game mammals.

## WHAT SHOULD I REPORT?

- Nature of violation or activity observed or advised about
- Location of activity (Road, Milepost, GPS, etc.)
- Date and time of violation/activity
- Description of any vehicle involved
- Name and/or description of violator

[Click here to access the TIP form](#)



1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP(677)

[TIP@state.or.us](mailto:TIP@state.or.us)

Oregon State Police work hand-in-hand with the Oregon Hunters Association and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure the preservation of wildlife resources.

# OREGON STATE POLICE

Interested in becoming an Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Trooper?

For information, please visit our website at:

[www.osptrooper.com](http://www.osptrooper.com)

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474 or email [osp.trooper@state.or.us](mailto:osp.trooper@state.or.us)



## FISH & 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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