



# **OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION**



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**APRIL 2020**





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*On the cover:*

*A Fish and Wildlife Trooper  
observing Alsea Bay.*



# RETIREMENT

Sergeant First Class Christopher Ashenfelter retired on May 1st, 2020 after nearly 31 years with Oregon State Police. SFC Ashenfelter started out as a Cadet with Oregon State Police in 1989, and has worked in all three divisions of OSP (Patrol, Criminal, and Fish and Wildlife). He was also one of our last Motorcycle Troopers.

According to Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant Vonn Schleicher, "One thing that has been unique to Sgt. Ashenfelter and his wife is his awareness of those around him. He recognizes the pain and suffering of his co-workers and subordinates. Over the many years of our career, I have watched Sgt. Ashenfelter and his wife unselfishly check in on Troopers and their family when they've been faced with trying times."

When asked about what he appreciates about SFC Ashenfelter, Lt. Schleicher stated, "Sgt. Ashenfelter truly represented himself for his Troopers. There wasn't a moment where he wasn't thinking about the health, well-being and safety of his Troopers. He often evaluated things based upon how he could make it easier for his Troops. Sgt. Ashenfelter was very respectful when he provided criticism or feedback to his supervisors, with it often centered around if we had given consideration to how this affected the Trooper. His insight and critique were always welcomed."

Senior Trooper Martin Maher agrees, "As our Sergeant, Chris made sure we were taken care of. He made it possible for us to take the time off we needed and that we had the equipment necessary to do our jobs. He cared about us. He and his wife Michelle hosted a team/family BBQ every summer. It was a good time to get together as family and share stories and good food. He made special efforts to recognize his employees with special gifts to acknowledge their accomplishments during the past year. I received a set of pruners after running a limb through a jet boat window one year. When [my] dad died, Chris and Michelle attended the memorial service. That meant a lot to me."

Senior Trooper Maher went on to mention one of SFC Ashenfelter's many great cases. "Chris made a really good spotlighting case a few years ago. It was the last day of western rifle deer season and the team was working after legal shooting hours ended. Chris spotted a light being cast on a distant ridge and directed the department aircraft to the location as he beat feet across canyon to intercept. The suspect vehicle casting the light kept going deeper on to the private forest land until Chris caught up and stopped them. After the smoke cleared Chris had cited two subjects for various wildlife crimes, seized a large black tailed buck, a rifle, and spotlights."

All of us at OSP wish him a long, happy retirement!





# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Reported Bear Not Sick, Just Sleepy

A Fish & Wildlife Sergeant & Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife District Wildlife Biologist responded to a call near the Nestucca River, where two ATV riders reported a sick bear lying along the roadside. Upon arrival, it was found that the bear was not sick; it was just struggling a little to wake up after a long hibernation.

## Transient Camp Arson - Denman Wildlife Refuge

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) about a transient camp on the Denman Wildlife refuge in the White City area. The Trooper entered the vacant camp with ODFW to find multiple fires around the camp that had been started and two that were still actively burning. The conditions at the time were very dry and windy with the potential of becoming a large fire. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) was contacted and they responded to the scene to extinguish the fire. While on scene an individual walked into camp and admitted to being the sole occupant of the camp and admitted to starting the multiple fires on his own. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Jackson County jail for six counts of **Arson I**.

## Trooper First on Scene of Pendleton Fire

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was driving through Pendleton when he saw flames towering over a house. He drove to the location and noticed a large shrub fire that had knocked down a power line, starting more fires. The fire department was not yet on scene. The Trooper secured the scene and helped the local residence to keep it from spreading until the fire department arrived.

## Couple Rescued After Vehicle Gets Stuck in Snow

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a 911 call regarding an elderly couple in a Toyota Camry that were stuck in the snow. The Trooper located the couple about 12 miles past Yellow Jacket Lake in the Silvies unit. The vehicle was stuck in about three feet of snow, and was high centered on ice. The Trooper dug the Camry out several times only to have it get stuck in the snow and ice again. A Harney County Sheriff's Office Sergeant later arrived on scene and assisted the Trooper with getting the couple free from the snow and ice. The couple was able to safely drive their own vehicle out once it was free. The 96-year-old male driver advised the Trooper that he was trying to make it all the way to Highway 395 North, which is about 30 miles through the mountains.

## Driver of Disabled Vehicle Arrested for DUII

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped to assist a disabled vehicle near milepost 270 eastbound on Interstate 84. He noticed signs of impairment and called OSP Patrol Troopers to the scene to assist. The investigation resulted in the driver being arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)**. She was transported to the Union County Jail where she provided a breath sample revealing a .27% BAC, more than three times the legal limit. The subject's vehicle was towed from the scene.

## Barred Owl Rescued - Columbia County

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report from a landowner in the Rainier area of Columbia County regarding an injured barred owl he found on his property. The owl was located under a pile of tree branches and did not want to fly away and when it tried to walk it would fall to one side. The owl was retrieved from the landowner and transported to the Audubon Society and left in their care.





# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Trooper Rescues Two Owls in One Day

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a report of a barred owl sitting in the parking lot of the Mill Casino for several hours. The Trooper secured the barred owl with the assistance of the Mill Casino Security.

Just a couple hours later, the Trooper received a report of another owl sitting in an open area in Winchester Bay. The second one (a great horned owl) was secured by US Coast Guard (USCG) members.

Both birds were transported to the Cascades Raptor Center in Florence for assessment and care. The barred owl was treated for emaciation and parasites. The female great horned owl was found to have an injured wing, which was operated on. The great horned owl was going to be returned to where it was found once it is recovered from surgery.



## Subject Located and Cited for Offensive Littering

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a large pile of trash located in front of a timber company gate off of Crooked Finger Road. A backpack was located in the trash area containing two different pay stubs belonging to a subject. The subject was located, interviewed and issued a criminal citation for **Offensive Littering**.

## Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area Saturation Patrol

ODFW Wildlife Area Managers requested assistance from OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers to address anticipated issues on the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area. Primary concerns were unlawful entry into the wildlife area, unlawful motorized vehicle travel, prohibited camping, and No Wildlife Area parking permits. John Day and Fossil Fish and Wildlife Troopers teamed up with ODFW and BLM Law Enforcement to conduct continuous patrols on the wildlife area over a two-day period. Over 40 vehicles/ATVs entered the wildlife area and over a dozen contacts were made. Violations included: **Unlawful Entry into Wildlife Area (3), Camping Prohibited Area (2), No ATV permit/decal (2), No ATV Operators Permit (1), and No Parking Permit (4)**. Education and warnings were the enforcement actions taken. Multiple individuals expressed their appreciation for the increased presence of law enforcement and ODFW on the wildlife area.

## Fox Kept as Pet Surrendered to ODFW

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from La Grande and Enterprise received information that a subject had taken a red fox from the woods and the fox was living in the residence as a pet. Investigation at the residence resulted in the subject turning over the fox. The subject was cited and released and the fox was released to ODFW.



# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS

## Suspect Denies Shooting Coyote From Highway

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a complaint of a subject who had shot at a coyote from his vehicle on HWY 214 (Marion County). The coyote was on a private property and the reporting party had witnessed the act. The Troopers responded to the scene where the land owner provided the Troopers with a detailed description of the suspect and vehicle. The Troopers also interviewed a second witness who had heard the shot and observed the same vehicle leaving the scene. The Troopers discovered the subject had been cited in the past by F&W Troopers for other hunting crimes and had been uncooperative during prior contacts. The Troopers were able to contact the suspect at his residence. The subject denied the accusation but allowed the troopers to inspect his pistol. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Hunting on the Enclosed Land of Another** and **Hunting from Highway**. Subject was also cited for **Fail to Update DMV Address**.

## Violation of Roadkill Salvage Permit Law

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received an anonymous complaint of a subject in the Lincoln City area bragging about an elk he killed. The subject was located and it was determined he and another subject came across a road struck calf elk that they dispatched. They received incorrect information on the road kill salvage laws and salvaged and retained the elk. One of the subjects had the carcass hanging in a shed on his property. The Trooper made arrangements to meet him and seize the elk. The subject was warned for **Violation of Road Kill Salvage Permit** and the elk was seized. He was educated on how the road kill salvage permit works and stated he wouldn't make the mistake again. (For more information on the requirements, see: [myodfw.com/articles/roadkill-salvage-permits](http://myodfw.com/articles/roadkill-salvage-permits))

## Neighbor Reports Deer Shot in Orchard

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call regarding a neighbor possibly shooting deer in an orchard. The Trooper received a picture that depicted a dead deer that was up against her neighbor's fence. Just prior to Troopers arriving, the reporting party called and reported another gunshot. Troopers arrived and observed a male on an ATV carrying a lever action rifle. Ultimately, the investigation revealed that the subject shot and killed two deer on the property. The subject's orchard was fenced in with a deer proof fence, however, a tenant of the property left a gate open allowing four deer to sneak in during the night. The subject didn't know how else to remove the deer and decided to shoot them. The subject was issued a citation for two counts of **Unlawful Take of a Game Mammal Closed Season**. Troopers recovered the two deer from the property and donated them through a charity organization. The subject was also given contact information about how to contact ODFW and apply for damage kill permits.



*A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking turkey hunters on the youth weekend and contacted the juvenile hunter depicted above, who shot her first turkey in the Ukiah Unit.*



# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS

## Several Suspects Charged in Connection with Unlawfully Killing Multiple Big Game Animals

On April 8, 2020 Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers served search warrants relating to an extensive investigation into multiple wildlife crimes.

The subject of the investigation is William Hollings (34) of Philomath.

Evidence was seized relating to the following crimes:

- Felon in Possession of Firearm
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Bull Elk
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Black Bear
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Cougar
- Lend/Borrow or Sell Big Game Tag
- Hunt Closed Season
- Hunt No Big Game Tag
- Fail to Properly Check in Cougar to ODFW

Fish and Wildlife Troopers located evidence of additional wildlife related crimes and three additional suspects.

On April 25, 2020 Fish and Wildlife Troopers served several more search warrants relating to these wildlife crimes.

These warrants involved:

Nicholas Lisenby (39) from Lebanon  
Amanda Hughes (37) from Lebanon  
Eric Hamilton (33) from Alsea

Evidence was seized relating to the following wildlife crimes:

- Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Bull Elk
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Black Bear
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Cougar
- Unlawful Take/Possession of Bobcat
- Lend/Borrow or Sell Big Game Tag
- Hunt Closed Season
- Hunt No Big Game Tag

Based on evidence seized or processed, troopers believe the three males participated in the unlawful take/possession of 27 big game animals within the last two years, with evidence indicating many of the animals were killed during closed season or prohibited hours.

Values attributed to Oregon's wildlife by Oregon Revised Statute 496.075 could total \$162,700.00 in restitution to the State of Oregon.

The listed crimes occurred throughout the following counties: Benton, Lane, Linn, Lincoln, Polk and Tillamook, and charges have been forwarded for consideration of prosecution.

## SHELLFISH & ANGLING



### Lakeview Area Angling Patrol

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled several desert lakes. In total ten anglers were contacted with one citation for **No Angling License**, and two warnings for **No Angling License** and **Angling After Retaining Daily Limit**. Two additional contacts were warned for **Removal of Archaeological Item Without Permit**. The two anglers (photo at left) were happy to pose for a photo with their legal catch at Ana Reservoir.

### Non-Residents Found Angling During Closure

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking anglers at McKay Reservoir and found two individuals from Washington that were fishing. They were advised that angling in Oregon was closed to non-residents at that time and they were given warnings for **No Non-Resident Angling License**. The Trooper also contacted another subject that was fishing and when he noticed the Trooper he cut his lure off and put his pole on the ground. The subject said he used to live in Oregon, but currently lives in California and just came back to visit. The subject admitted to having prior fish and wildlife violations in Oregon and not having an angling license. The subject was issued a citation for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Sturgeon Poacher Caught

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting night time sturgeon patrols on the Willamette, when they observed a subject in a known sturgeon fishing area after legal angling hours. The Troopers contacted the subject in a nearby parking area after he concluded fishing. The subject was known to both Troopers and is a multi-time violator fresh off an angling suspension. The subject was found to be using common sturgeon fishing gear and stated initially that he had caught and released one sturgeon. The Troopers told the subject they would be going down to the water to look around and the subject admitted there was a sturgeon in the rocks near where he was fishing. The subject said he tried to throw the fish back, but it landed in a pool surrounded by rocks. The subject said he thought when the tide came up the fish would swim away. Troopers located a sturgeon in the rocks, with the subject's jacket and other gear near the fish. One of the Troopers was able to revive the fish and it was released back into the water. The subject was cited and released for **Failing to Immediately Release** the fish. Other charges were referred to the District Attorney's Office.

## Suspended Angler Just Can't Help Himself

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a male subject angling off of the Touvelle Bridge into the Rogue River. The Trooper was familiar with the subject and the fact he was suspended from fishing for a long history of angling crimes and unlawful salmon harvests. The Trooper contacted the subject as he began to leave the area and verified his identity. During questioning the subject stated he knew he was angling while suspended but just couldn't help himself. The subject was found to be suspended until 2024. The subject was cited and released criminally for **Angling While Suspended** and his rod was seized. The subject faces a possible lifetime suspension and probation sanctions.

## Owyhee River and Reservoir Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant patrolled the Owyhee River and Reservoir, contacting 72 anglers, and issuing three citations and 23 warnings. The majority of the warnings were related to non-resident anglers and the COVID-19 closures. Citations included **No Angling License**, **No Non-Resident Angling License**, and **Take/Possess Game Fish**.

## Poacher Runs from Trooper at Sauvie Island

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Gilbert River within the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA). A group of people were observed catching a sturgeon. The sturgeon was netted, pulled onto the bank, and carried up to the tree line out of view. The male subject who caught the fish retrieved a machete from a bucket and returned to the fish. A few minutes later the group quickly gathered all their gear and hurried towards the parking lot. The subject who caught the fish was carrying a five gallon bucket on his shoulder. The bucket was covered with a black trash bag, concealing its contents. The Trooper made contact with the group at their vehicle. Upon approach the subject grabbed the bucket and started running toward the river, ignoring commands to stop, and threw the contents into the river. The subject, who had been convicted of **Unlawful Take of Sturgeon** and suspended in 2015, denied catching a sturgeon. The subject did not have a license and was using bait, which is currently unlawful on the Gilbert River. The subject was cited and released for **Unlawful Take of Sturgeon, Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch, and Angling Closed Stream**. After breaking contact the Trooper searched the area where the fish was caught. During the search he located a sturgeon head, tail, and fins. Additional charges will be referred to District Attorney's office.

## Angling Closed Area - Cole Rivers Hatchery

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a call from an ODFW employee at Cole Rivers Hatchery concerning a group of anglers that may be fishing the outflow, which is closed to angling. The Sergeant was unable to locate the group. As he was driving back downriver he received another call of an individual that was fishing the outflow near the head gate at the start of the outflow where steelhead congregate. ODFW got a photo of the subject and then checked his license and tag. The subject left before the Sergeant got to the hatchery. The next day, the Sergeant drove to the subject's residence near Cave Junction and cited him for **Angling Closed Area**. The subject said he did not know it was closed, despite the fact that there was a closed to angling sign about 10 feet from where he had been fishing.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



*Troopers pull and examine crab pots on a recent boat patrol.*

## Gilbert River Angler Surveillance

Marine Fisheries Team Troopers assisted the St. Helens office with the sturgeon angling closure on the Gilbert River by conducting angler surveillance. Multiple subjects were observed catching sturgeon, and angling with bait (which is prohibited), but no subjects were observed retaining sturgeon.

## Surfperch Angler Caught Within Closed Marine Reserve

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject who was actively surfperch fishing in the Otter Rock Marine Reserve. The subject admitted to being aware of the Marine Reserve and stated he knew he was “pushing the limit.” The subject was issued a citation for **Angling Closed Area - Otter Rock Marine Reserve**.

## Undersized Commercial Crab Found

OSP was contacted regarding undersized commercial crab that were found on board a commercial Dungeness crab fishing vessel. The vessel was contacted and the load was inspected. 98 lbs of undersized crab were found of the total offload (1,977 lbs) which resulted in 4.97% of the load being undersized. The captain and two deckhands were contacted and the two deckhands were subsequently cited for **Unlawful Possession of Undersized Commercial Crab**. The captain was warned for the same. The crab were released back into the bay.

## South Coast Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an offshore boat patrol between Gold Beach and Port Orford. Upon contacting a suspicious sport fishing boat, the captain lied multiple times and an excess of seven marine fish were seized. The captain received a violation citation for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Marine Fish**. Multiple commercial crab strings were checked for buoy tag compliance and the Troopers towed a vessel in distress across the Rogue River bar and back to safety in less than ideal conditions.

## Unlawful Take Lingcod and Cabezon

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a boat patrol from Cannon Beach to Tillamook Head. One boat was contacted fishing off of Tillamook Rock, and the two subjects on board said that they had three lingcod on board. The subjects said that there no more fish on board, but a subsequent consent search revealed three more lingcod in another compartment (two of which were undersized). The subjects again said that there were no more fish on board, but the Trooper located a cabezon in a bucket. The subjects knew the limits and size restrictions on lingcod, and knew that cabezon angling was closed. The subjects were cited for **Unlawful Taking Undersized Lingcod, Exceed the Daily Limit of Lingcod, and Unlawful Taking Cabezon Closed Season**.



# 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  
\$200 Unlawful Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag(s)  
\$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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