



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

MARCH 2022



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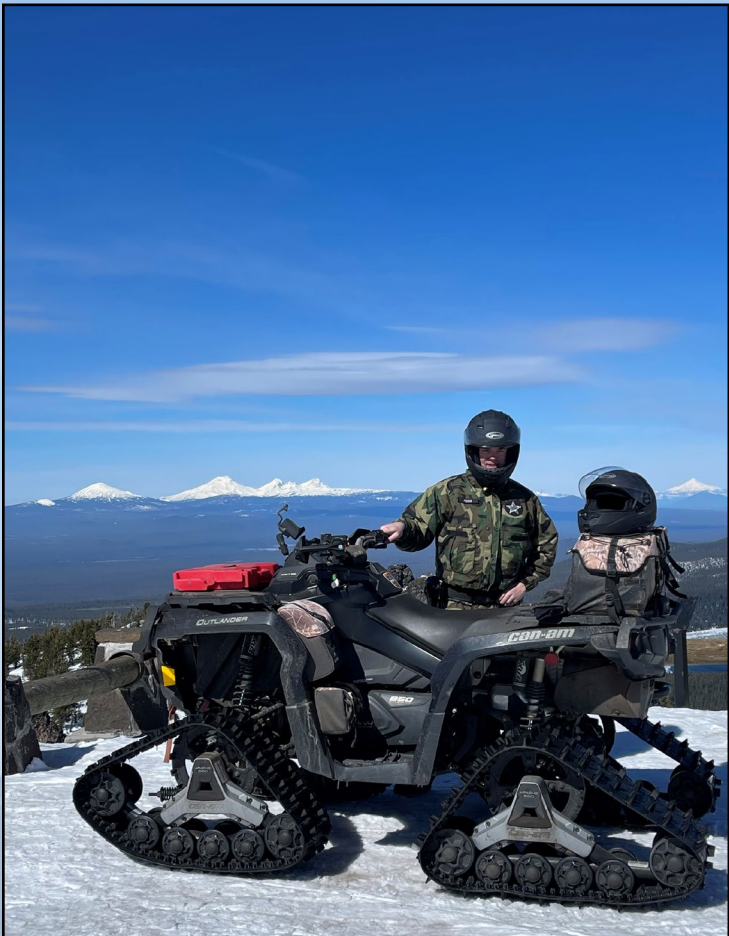
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*On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper on ATV patrol
in a remote area of Lake County*

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Snowmobilers Rescued From Paulina Peak

La Pine Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ATV Patrol in the Newberry Crater area to include Paulina and East Lakes. During the patrol a disabled snowmobile was located at the top of Paulina Peak. The Troopers were able to assist the six people in the party by towing their sled and transporting personnel and gear back to the parking area several miles away.

Hiker Rescued Near Lake of the Woods

Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a medical call near Lake of the Woods. A hiker had fallen along a trail and broken her ankle. The hiker was located and a Trooper was able to drive within a short distance of her. The hiker's ankle was stabilized and she was placed on a backboard. Muddy conditions prevented the ambulance from getting close, so she was transported in the back of the patrol truck to the waiting ambulance.

OSP Pilot Spots Subjects Inside TMA Closure

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper and the OSP East Region Pilot patrolled winter range Travel Management Areas (TMAs) during the week of spring break. The Pilot spotted four off-road motorcycles traveling through the closure from the air and the subjects were contacted by the Trooper on the ground. The adult subject was cited for **Violating Travel Management Area Closure**.

Troopers Assist on Cattle Trailer Accident

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted with a rollover crash involving a semi pulling a full cattle trailer on Interstate-5 northbound. The highway was closed for several hours to corral over 30 cows that survived the crash.

Subject Cited for Speed Racing

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the Crooked River and Prineville Reservoir contacting about 20 anglers. Three citations were issued for **No Angling License**. While making contacts, the Trooper observed three vehicles at the Powder House Cove boat ramp using the empty parking lot for a "drifting" course. The activity was terminated and the observed driver was cited for **Speed Racing Exhibition**.

Nighthawk Rescued from Mall

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Rogue Valley Mall for an injured bird inside a store. The Trooper retrieved the nighthawk and brought it outside safely where it promptly flew away.

Troopers Assist ODF with Klamath Basin Fires

Klamath Falls Troopers assisted local fire crews with a series of wind driven brush fires across the drought stricken Klamath Basin. High winds caused multiple controlled burns to spread. One fire was in the Klamath River Canyon and fire crews were unable to locate it in the rough terrain. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper located the fire and assisted Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) with the investigation.



Photo courtesy of Matt Anspach, ODFW

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Hunting on Closed Wildlife Refuge

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to an active hunting complaint on Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge in rural Polk County. Two separate witnesses reported an adult male subject arrive in the area in a full sized pickup and retrieve a shotgun. The witnesses told the subject the area is a closed wildlife refuge and hunting is not permitted. The subject continued walking out into the marsh and shooting at geese on the open water, killing one. The witnesses took pictures of the subject and associated pickup. The following day, a Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper made contact with the subject in Florence. The subject was criminally cited for **Take Game Birds Prohibited Area** and **Hunting on Closed Refuge**. The subject's shotgun and a goose were seized as evidence.

Subject Mistakenly Shoots Bull Elk

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a subject who had mistakenly shot and killed two elk, a cow and a bull, during a cow elk hunt in the Salmon River Estuary. The subject advised she shot at a cow elk, and ended up having to take a second shot. When she and her hunting partners went to retrieve the cow, they found a freshly killed bull nearby. They immediately called to report the mistake. The subject was warned for **Take/Possession of Bull Elk**. The bull elk was seized and taken to a local meat cutting facility where it was processed and packaged for donation to Lincoln County charities.

Suspect Arrested for Multiple Wildlife Crimes

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped and arrested a subject for Fish and Wildlife related warrants out of Benton County. The arrested subject is a fish and wildlife law violator and was contacted angling on the North Fork Alsea River in January without an Angling License or Combined Harvest Card. Additionally, a search warrant was served at the subject's residence in November of 2021 regarding the unlawful take of a large 4x5 black-tailed buck. An Oakridge Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Lane County Jail and issued the subject the following citations associated with the search warrant service: **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer, Borrowing a Big Game Tag, Hunting for Wildlife for Another Person, Hunting Deer Prohibited Hours, Hunting Deer Prohibited Method-Air Rifle, Unlawful Possession of Deer Parts x9, Sex Offender Fail to Report Change of Address (Misdemeanor), and Theft III (Theft of OSP Trail Camera)**. A second subject related to this case was contacted the next day and issued criminal citations for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Buck Deer, Lending Big Game Tag, and Aiding/Counseling/Assisting/Sharing in a Wildlife Offense**.

Goose Hunting Violations - Clatsop County

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked with two US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) field agents to contact goose hunters on private property in the Young's River and Lewis and Clark valleys near Astoria, during the last weekend of the NW Permit Goose Season. The Trooper spotted a group of three subjects hunting in Young's River and notified the agents of their location. The agents later contacted the men and subsequently issued two citations for **Hunting with Unplugged Shotgun** and **No Federal Waterfowl Stamp**.

Invalid Elk Damage Tag

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a report of an elk that was killed during a damage hunt the day before the tag was valid. The information was received from the Tillamook Office of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, who had issued the tag to the hunter. When the tag was picked up, the start date was the following day. The subject called in to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife the same day the tag was purchased and reported that he had filled the tag. The subject was cited for **Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk**. The elk meat was seized and entered into evidence at the Oregon State Police Tillamook Worksite.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS

Elk Carcasses Dumped in Waterway

A complaint was received from the Philip Schneider Wildlife Area regarding several elk carcasses that were dumped off a bridge into the South Fork John Day River. Investigation led to a group of subjects who had harvested several elk a week prior. A Fish and Wildlife Trooper interviewed one of the subjects who had e-tagged an elk. During the interview, a suspect was developed as the one in the party who most likely had been the last one to have the carcasses in possession. The suspect was contacted and admitted to dumping the carcasses into the water. He stated he was unsure of the law and was mostly being lazy as he had other more appropriate places he could have disposed of the carcasses. He was issued a citation for **Placing Offensive Substance into Waterway**. ODFW wildlife area staff removed six elk carcasses from the waterway, which matched the description of the elk harvested the week prior.

Subject's Shoot from Vehicle in Chesnimnus Unit

Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Troopers were dispatched to the Chesnimnus Unit for suspects hunting from their vehicles on a highway. Upon arrival it was found that two suspects were shooting from their vehicles and a third suspect did not have a 2022 hunting license. Two citations were issued for **Hunting From or Across a Highway** and **No Hunting License**.

False Swearing for OR Resident License

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a suspect for purchasing resident hunting and fishing licenses in 2021. The suspect admitted to living in Washington while making the purchase, but stated he had been moving back and forth and did not know he could not purchase resident license. The suspect was criminally cited for **False Swearing**.

Elk Harvested on Wrong Property

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated a report of an elk that was killed on the wrong property during an agricultural damage hunt. During the investigation, it was discovered that the subject had filled the damage tag the day before it was valid. The subject was cited and released by a Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper at the subject's residence in Molalla for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk**. The Trooper also seized the rifle used to kill the elk, a bullet the subject retrieved from the carcass after the elk was killed, and the associated elk meat.

WA Resident Buys OR Resident License/Tag

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted an individual via telephone who lives in Washington but had obtained resident hunting licenses and tags in Oregon during 2018 and 2020. The suspect admitted he had moved to Washington in 2014 but had kept his Oregon ID card in order to get Oregon Hunting Licenses so he could hunt with family and friends. The suspect agreed to come to Oregon and met the Trooper at the Umatilla Marina where he was criminally cited and released for **Unlawful Application for License**.

Unlawful Salvage of Bull Elk

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles investigated a tip regarding a bull elk that was taken out of season. The investigation revealed that the elk had died in a fence and was unlawfully salvaged by the landowner. The landowner and his son had spent the entire previous day gutting, skinning, and butchering the elk. When confronted, both parties were honest and cooperative. The elk meat and head were seized and the father and son were both warned for **Unlawful Possession of Bull Elk**.

Cat Caught in Leg Hold Trap

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint that an individual's cat had been caught in a leg hold trap and needed veterinary care. The owner of the leg hold trap was contacted and it was determined he was trapping inside city limits of Prairie City. The trap was placed on his property in an attempt to catch fox or skunk. The individual was cited for **Trapping Within City Limits** and warned for **No Trapping License and Unbranded trap**.

Accidental Spike Elk Harvest

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from a subject who believed that he had wounded a spike elk during a cow hunt. The spike had taken off into the timber with the herd after having been shot. The Trooper, with the assistance of the landowner, located the gut shot spike a mile away from where it was first shot. The elk was salvaged and the carcass was donated to the Tillamook County Correctional facility. The subject was warned for **Take/Possession of Spike Elk**.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Wholesale Dealer Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an investigation on three different wholesale dealers in regards to a variety of issues surrounding licensing and offloading practices. During the investigation the Trooper determined the wholesale dealers were in violation of multiple offenses:

- Two dealers were from California and were not keeping records as required within the state of Oregon, operating without buyer's licenses and failing to sort/record bycatch at time of landing.
- One of these dealers had another Oregon dealer offload for them at the Oregon dealer's facility without a required Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

One dealer was issued a citation for **No Buyers License** and **Failure to Maintain Fish Dealer Records**. The second dealer was cited for **No MOU**. The third dealer was cited criminally for **No MOU**, **No Buyers License**, **Failure to Accurately Complete Fish Ticket**, and **Failure to Maintain Fish Dealer Records**, as this dealer had been cited for most these offenses previously.

Commercial Razor Clam Violations

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a patrol observing recreational and commercial razor clam harvesters on Seaside Beach during a low tide. Several warnings were given and three citations were issued for **Exceed the Daily Limit of Razor Clams**. Also, a new commercial razor clam harvester was observed digging and retaining clams and not measuring them. Upon contact, the commercial harvester said they were unaware of the commercial size limit, however the harvester had not retained any undersized clams up to that point.

Unlawful Hagfish Purchase - Depoe Bay

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a wholesale dealer in Depoe Bay who made several purchases of hagfish in Newport without the proper buyer's license. This dealer had been previously cited for the same offense three years ago.

Commercial Fishing in Cape Falcon Marine Reserve

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. The Troopers located the buoys of multiple commercial crab pots from two separate commercial vessels inside the marine reserve. The buoys were anywhere from 10 to 40 yards inside the reserve, and were in violation of new rules prohibiting all commercial gear, including surface buoys, from being inside the marine reserve. Both of the captains were cited for **Commercial Fishing Closed Area: Cape Falcon Marine Reserve**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Take/Possession Marine Fish Closed Season

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Pacific Ocean outside Charleston. One boat was contacted with two anglers on board, and a search of their catch revealed they were in possession of two Quillback Rockfish. The anglers stated they were still operating under the regulations that were posted at the end of 2021, and had not looked at the current regulations, which were effective at the start of 2022, and prohibit the retention of Quillback Rockfish. The boat captain, who had been cited previously for angling for salmon with barbed hooks on the ocean, took responsibility for the illegal fish and was issued a citation for **Take/Possession Marine Fish Closed Season**. The fish were released with the aid of a descending device.



Pontoon Boat Patrol - Sixes River

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a pontoon boat patrol on the Sixes River. One subject was contacted after he finished reeling in a steelhead, and he was only able to provide his Non-Resident Angling License. The subject admitted to not having a tag, and was issued a citation for **No Combined Angling Harvest Tag**. The fish was released unharmed.

Subject Alters Steelhead Tag

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Sergeant had an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Watershed Manager ride-along on a patrol covering Benton, Linn, and Lane Counties. During the patrol multiple citations and warnings were issued. During one contact with a subject on the North Fork Alsea River the Sergeant noted the subject had edited the most recent date entered on a steelhead tagged earlier that morning. The Sergeant interviewed the subject who was initially evasive but ultimately admitted to altering a 5 to a 6 after catching two fish on the 5th and attempting to use the second entry from the 5th to tag his fish from earlier. The subject was issued a citation for **Improper Validation**.

Tag Purchased After Catch - Umpqua River

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from ODFW that a subject bought a steelhead tag, and validated the tag at the same time while fishing on the Umpqua River. Subsequent investigation resulted in a citation issued for angling with **No Combined Angling Harvest Tag**, as the subject didn't purchase a tag until she caught a steelhead.

Unlawful Angling in Marine Reserve

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was called to Falcon Cove for subjects illegally angling within the marine reserve. Upon arrival, the Trooper found that the subjects were in a legal area. The Trooper surveyed the subjects for a couple hours and after surveillance, issued citations for **Discarding Trash in the Ocean** (water bottle) and **Failing to Immediately Release Fish Unharmed**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Lake Billy Chinook Boat Patrol

Bend and Prineville area Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Lake Billy Chinook for the opening of the Metolius Arm for bull trout. In total 48 compliant checks were made, two warnings issued for Marine Board Violations, three legally taken bull trout were checked and numerous warnings issued for minor license violations.

Unlawful Commercial Sale of Dungeness Crab

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a commercial fisherman selling Dungeness crab off his boat in Charleston, and it was known that he did not have a Limited Fish Sellers Permit. It was determined that a customer purchased 11 crab, five of which were undersized. A check of the crab on board the vessel revealed the subject was in possession of approximately 77 crab, and eight more undersized crab were discovered, indicating that approximately 16% of the load was undersized. The subject, who has numerous pending charges for similar conduct, was criminally cited and released for **No Limited Fish Sellers Permit, Take/Possession Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab, Fail to Maintain Crab Logbooks, and Fail to Sell Commercial Catch to a Wholesale Fish Dealer**. The 11 crab that were sold and the undersized crab found on the vessel were seized as evidence.

Sturgeon Angling Crimes - Scappoose Bay

Acting upon a TIP (Turn In Poachers hotline), St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers surveilled anglers moored in a boat at Scappoose Bay Marina for two days. After establishing evidence that angling crimes were being committed, Troopers made contact and interviewed the subjects. A consent search uncovered five unlawfully retained sturgeon. Only one subject admitted to retaining all the fish. He was cited and released for **Take/Possession of Oversized White Sturgeon: C Felony, Take/Possession of White Sturgeon x4, No Resident Angling License, and Angling Prohibited Method-Barbed Hooks**. Two other subjects were cited and released for **No Resident Angling License** and **No Combined Angling Tag**. All the sturgeon were seized and released back into the bay. Two rods/reels and a barbed hook were seized.



Fishing Success on Coquille River

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a drift boat patrol on the South Fork Coquille River. Numerous anglers were contacted, but catch rates were low and no violations were observed. One angler, however, was very excited to show off his legal catch (above).

CASE DISPOSITIONS



Suspect Pleads Guilty in Elk Case

During the 200M Elk Muzzleloader season in November 2021, an Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling private property on foot near an area where a large herd of elk have been living. The Trooper heard three rifle shots within seconds of each other from approximately a mile away. The Trooper drove around the area, eventually finding a subject who claimed he killed an elk with his muzzleloader. The subject eventually admitted that he killed the elk with a rifle while trespassing. A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant arrived and assisted with the case. The large 6x7 bull elk and the subject's rifle were seized as evidence. A rifle bullet was recovered from the carcass of the elk. Three matching shell casings were later recovered on the private property. The elk meat was donated to charity and the subject was criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Bull Elk, Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass, and Hunting Game Mammal Prohibited Method.**

On March 10, 2022, the defendant appeared before the Linn County Justice Court and pleaded guilty to **Take/Possession Bull Elk** and **Hunting Game Mammal Prohibited Method.** He was sentenced to:

- 12 month bench probation
- \$16,610 - fines/fees/restitution
- Three year hunting suspension
- Forfeiture of 6x7 bull elk
- Forfeiture of rifle and scope

Three Suspects Plead Guilty - Wasco County

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles attended a sentencing hearing in regards to a deer and separate elk case involving three suspects in Wasco County that occurred in November 2021. The final outcome of those hearings is as follows:

Matthew Wilkinson pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of a Six-Point Bull Elk & Unlawful Take of a Buck Deer.** Defendant's sentence included:

- 12 months of bench probation
- 40 hours of community service
- A three year hunting license suspension on one count, concurrent with a five year hunting license suspension on the other count
- \$1000 compensatory fine to ODFW for the elk
- Forfeiture of the seized wildlife
- Forfeiture of all hunting licenses and tags

Lionardo Munoz pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of a Six Point Bull Elk.** Defendant's sentence included:

- 18 months of bench probation
- Three year hunting license suspension
- Forfeiture of the seized wildlife
- Forfeiture of all hunting licenses and tags
- \$15,000 compensatory fine to ODFW for the elk
- \$431.25 reimbursement to OSP for cut-and-wrap costs of elk

Rachel Hallett pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of Buck Deer.** Defendant's sentence included:

- 12 months of bench probation
- Three year hunting license suspension
- Forfeiture of seized wildlife
- Forfeiture of all hunting licenses and tags
- 40 hours of community service

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@OSP.oregon.gov

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 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?

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www.osptrooper.com

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