

MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

AUGUST 2022



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On the cover:
A Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant on patrol along the Metolius River

# **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



### **ODAA Summer Conference**

Members of the OSP Fish and Wildlife Division were on hand at the Oregon District Attorneys Association's (ODAA) Summer Conference in Seaside, Oregon sharing their new "Trailer of Shame". Our agency partner Oregon Department of Justice Wildlife/Anti-Poaching Resource Prosecutor, Jay Hall, gave a class on Wildlife Crimes and Oregon's anti-poaching laws. All and all it was a well-rounded event that showed a lot of support to the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division.



# Trooper Interviewed on Harney Live Radio

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was a guest on the local Burns radio station KZHC 92.7 Harney Live for a half hour segment with the host of the station. The Trooper discussed numerous topics to include, ODFW's ELS tagging system, proper tagging of harvested animals with ELS, what happens to big game animals that OSP seizes, Chronic Waste Disease (CWD), and other topics. The host of Harney Live was thankful for OSP's participation with the broadcast and asked if the Trooper could come back in December to give a recap of the 2022 Big Game seasons.

# National Night Out Event - Yamhill

Troopers participated in a National Night Out event in the city of Yamhill. Troopers brought their vehicles, a boat and a wildlife enforcement decoy. Troopers interacted with the public and answered questions about local Fish and Wildlife concerns and Patrol issues.

# **Hood River Hunter Education Field Day**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles helped with a hunters education field day class at the Hood River Gun Club. Troopers spoke to 22 students about ethics, gun safety, game and bird regulations, TIP Reward Program, and fielded multiple questions about e-tagging issues.



# **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**



# Blue Mountain Eagle Interview

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper participated in interviews with the Blue Mountain Eagle staff to assist them in writing several articles in the paper and 2022 Hunting Guide. Topics covered included impacts of poaching, recent regulation changes, and common offenses such as Electronic licensing, tagging violations, and trespass. Read the article, *The High Cost of Poaching*, here: bit.ly/3dBRyH1



# Hunter Education Field Day - John Day

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with a Hunter Education Field Day in John Day. There were approximately 20 students with parents in attendance. The Trooper worked with other instructors to have students complete their required firearm handling/shooting and a hunters trail walk. The students were presented with shoot/no shoot situations and various other scenarios they may encounter while hunting. Several questions regarding regulations were asked by both students and parents.



# Remodeled Trailer Displayed at State Fair

The newly remodeled Trailer of Shame was set up for display outside the OSP Command Post at the Oregon State Fair. The trailer has been receiving great reviews from the public and has proven to be huge draw and excellent outreach tool. The trailer was very busy drawing thousands of spectators who were very appreciative of the work the Troopers are doing statewide. Several dozen citizens were even referred to the recruiting department to talk about becoming future Fish and Wildlife Troopers.



# American Legion Law Enforcement Camp

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Senior Trooper participated in the American Legion Law Enforcement Camp at Camp Rilea. Three hours were spent educating the 11 students about the functions of the Fish and Wildlife Division, including hands-on learning about the specialized equipment used. The students had a great time and asked many excellent questions.

# 2021 FISH AND WILDLIFE PROSECUTOR OF THE YEAR



The Oregon State Police is pleased to announce that the 2021 Fish and Wildlife Prosecutor of the Year Award was presented to Deputy District Attorney II Alexander Hayes with the Clackamas County District Attorney's office. DDA Hayes was presented the 2021 award in front of his colleagues at the ODAA Summer Conference in Seaside. Portland area Fish and Wildlife Troopers took part in the presentation, representing our Division. Also present were DOJ Wildlife/Anti-Poaching Resource Prosecutor Jay Hall, ODFW Game Program Manager Brian Wolfer, and ODFW Stop Poaching Campaign Coordinator Yvonne Shaw.

In the nomination memos submitted by Fish and Wildlife Division members, several things were pointed out that we wanted to share with everyone:

"DDA Hayes has shown an incredible understanding of what it takes to be the best F&W prosecutor. He has shown

time and again he is a great communicator, goes above and beyond with his dedication to natural resource prosecution, is always available to the field force and is one of the most passionate and persistent prosecutors I have ever worked with in my 16 years in the Fish and Wildlife Division."

"DDA Hayes recently volunteered to assist with a presentation to local DDAs about wildlife law. DDA Hayes not only created his own presentation materials but asked for more time in the presentation to ensure he could present all the pertinent details."

"DDA Hayes epitomizes what it means to be truly humble as well, and always puts his cases and relationships as his top priority."

We want to thank DDA Hayes for his support of our Division, and for his comprehensive understanding of natural resource issues. Please join us in congratulating DDA Hayes on a job well done!

# **GENERAL LAW & RESCUES**



# **Abandoned Puppies Rescued**

While passing a popular location along the Applegate River, a Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a large kennel with no vehicles nearby. The Trooper turned around to investigate and located three abandoned puppies. A very helpful citizen stopped and assisted in lifting the crate into the patrol truck. The puppies were brought to the Josephine County Animal Shelter and were doing fine.

### Newport Troopers Assist Search and Rescue

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a Lincoln County Search and Rescue (SAR) mission for a female subject who had fallen and injured her knee while surveying birds for OSU. The subject was well off of any trail or pathway. The Troopers assisted the SAR Team carry the subject on a stokes basket up steep and heavy brush terrain to a waiting Lincoln County side-by-side where she was taken the rest of the way to an ambulance.

# Driver Uninjured in Crash - North Umpqua River

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper handled a single vehicle crash on Highway 138E near milepost 22. The driver lost control and the vehicle left the roadway. The vehicle went over an approximately 50 foot embankment stopping prior to entering the North Umpqua River. The driver was not injured.

# Motorhome Removed from River, Owner Charged

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper discovered an older motorhome partially in the Chetco River at Social Security Bar in Brookings. A suspect/owner was unable to be located at that time. The motorhome was submerged from the rear tires to the bumper exposing the water to brake dust, oil, fuel lines, and the black and grey water tanks. ODOT assisted in pulling the vehicle from the waterway to stop any further contamination. A suspect was located the following week and admitted to driving into the river while trying to turn around in the riparian area along the bank. The subject was charged with Criminal Trespass II, Abandoning a Vehicle, Water Pollution II, and Criminal Mischief III.

# **Trooper Assists with Search and Rescue**

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to assist the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue (DCSO SAR) on a report from a satellite based emergency service of a distress signal coming from the Boulder Creek Wilderness Area on National Forest land. Upon request from the SAR Incident Commander, the Trooper rigged and deployed a packing outfit comprising of three horses into the Wilderness Area. He was accompanied by a US Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer. Two young adults were located by DCSO SAR medical team members, as reported by the distress signal, deep inside the canyon on very steep and challenging terrain. The Trooper met with the DCSO SAR team and transported the young adults and rescue gear out of the wilderness later that morning. The persons were treated for heat exhaustion and dehydration.

# **Trooper and Deputy Rescue Stranded Subjects**

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of four subjects stranded on an island in Coos Bay. The group had their boat drift away from them due to high winds and the outgoing tide after they got out of their boat to walk around on the island. The boat drifted around in the bay before blowing ashore along Cape Arago Highway. The boat owners then watched as their boat was ransacked by a group of four individuals, who took all the belongings out of the boat, including the outboard motor, and hid it all in the brush, before dragging the boat further on shore and hiding it under some branches. As the owners watched this happen, they called a friend who came out and found most of their belongings and attempted to launch the boat to rescue them, but was unsuccessful. After locating the missing property, the Trooper and the Coos County Marine Deputy launched and picked up the group without further incident.

# PRONGHORN ANTELOPE SEASON



# **Antelope Hunt ATV Patrols**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Central Point, and the Southwest Regional plane patrolled the Beatty Butte, Warner, and Juniper Unit antelope hunts. A large number of hunters were contacted and several warnings for **Hunting From a Motor Vehicle**, **Violation of Regulated Closure** were issued.

# Self-Reported Unlawful Take of Antelope

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a self-reported hunting incident in the Warner Unit. The subject accidentally killed a doe pronghorn stepping from cover believing it was the buck pronghorn. The subject immediately reported it and was asked to field dress the animal. The subject was contacted returning to his vehicle with the animal. The animal was field dressed and taken to a local butcher shop to be donated to charity. The subject was warned for **Unlawful Take Antelope.** 

# Subjects Cited for No Tag in Possession

While conducting fish and wildlife enforcement during an open hunting season, Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted two subjects who were observed actively archery hunting antelope in the sagebrush on BLM lands off of Highway 95 in the Owyhee Unit. Upon contact, both of the subjects had Electronic Licensing on their cell phones but neither was able to show the Troopers a valid antelope tag. Both subjects were cited for **No Valid Electronic Tag in Possession.** 

# Unlawful Take - Thompson Reservoir

A Lakeview Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Thompson Reservoir in Lake County to a report of an antelope that had been shot and left to waste near a second gut pile. The hunters who reported the incident had been watching two small buck pronghorns hang out in that area. Having little cell reception for a return call, they started driving around looking for a four-wheeler with tracks that matched those in the dry lake bed at the crime scene. They located a camp nearby and talked to the subject about his hunt, discretely taking pictures of the motorhome's license plate, ATV tire tracks and hunter. The Trooper arrived at Thompson Reservoir and was contacted by the reporting party who stated the possible suspect was all packed up and getting ready to leave. The Trooper contacted the subject who admitted to shooting at one buck pronghorn and watching all four pronghorn scatter. When it didn't go down, he shot another. It fell and he looked to the other one as it also fell. He tagged the first one he shot, even though the second was bigger. He was criminally cited and released for Unlawful Take Pronghorn Antelope and his rifle was seized. The second antelope was unable to be salvaged.

### Hunter Finds Success in Whitehorse Unit

Troopers from the SE Team worked the opening weekend of the Whitehorse Antelope Season. Multiple hunters were checked and multiple warnings were issued for No Big Game Tag Affixed in Plain Sight, Failure to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag, No Valid License/Tag in Possession, and No ATV Permit. A moderate amount of success was had by hunters, as shown in the photo below of a happy hunter and his legal harvest.



# **ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS**



### Horse Patrol - Elkhorn Mountains

Roseburg and Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an overnight wilderness horse patrol in the Elkhorn Mountains of northeast Oregon. The Troopers made several positive public contacts who were all very supportive and pleasantly surprised to see OSP members conducting backcountry horse patrols.

### Trooper Educates Man on Sale of Elk Meat

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information about a garage sale ad on Craigslist in Bend where the seller was advertising elk meat for sale. The subject was located and interviewed prior to the start of the garage sale. The subject advised it was his wife who listed it as they were moving and she didn't like the meat or want to take it and wanted it gone. He stated his father wanted the meat and would receive it. He stated none of the meat would be sold and the ad edited. The Trooper advised him on the laws related to buying, selling, trading or offering to buy, sell or trade game parts as well as laws related to the transfer of wildlife. The subject was warned and was very appreciative of the explanation of the laws.



# **OSP Teamwork Results in Solved Elk Case**

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted a Baker City Sergeant with an eastern Oregon youth elk case from Baker County. Two witnesses had reported a full sized pickup stopped on Highway 7 shooting at and killing a cow elk from within the pickup and across the highway. The witnesses described the subjects shooting upwards of a dozen times in the direction of a large elk herd, which they had been waiting to hunt. The witnesses provided pictures, a license plate and a detailed account of their observations. The Sergeant responded to the scene and located a kill site, but did not locate any other injured or deceased elk. The Trooper made contact with multiple involved subjects in the Mt. Angel and West Salem area who admitted to stopping their pickup on the highway and encouraging a seventeen year old to shoot from the pickup which was parked in the middle of the highway. Two adults were cited and released for Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense and the shooter was cited for Hunting Wildlife from Motor Vehicle and Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk. The elk meat and a rifle was seized as evidence.

# Yamhill County WED Operation

North Valley Fish and Wildlife Troopers ran a buck deer Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in rural Yamhill County after legal hours on the opening day of archery season. Approximately 45 minutes after legal light a pickup pulled into the set, illuminating the WED with the headlights and the driver fired one round with a 9mm handgun out the window of the pickup, striking the WED in the shoulder. The subjects immediately fled the scene but were subsequently stopped by the Troopers. An interview of the subjects, who were brothers, revealed the passenger had told the driver to shoot the deer and handed him his handgun. The passenger had both deer and elk archery tags and the driver had an archery elk tag. The subjects were cited and released for multiple wildlife crimes and the handgun was seized as evidence.

# **ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS**



# **Crater Lake National Park Saturation Patrol**

Troopers from the Roseburg and Central Point teams and ODFW Wildlife Biologist conducted a saturation patrol of the western boundary of the Crater Lake National Park. Patrols were conducted via foot, patrol truck, ATV's, UTV's, horses, and airplane. Two horse patrols and numerous foot patrols were made into the National Park. All hunters and hunting activity was observed outside of the National Park and on Forest Service land. Foot patrols were able to make their way to known locations of previous illegal hunting activity within the National Park and found them to be inactive.



### Deceased Deer Located in Salem Filbert Orchard

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a report of a deceased doe on a secluded filbert orchard in the Salem area. The previous evening, an alert neighbor had observed an unknown pickup towing a small utility trailer driving into the orchard. The following day the neighbor discovered an intact doe carcass concealed in tall grass along the edge of the orchard. The Trooper determined the doe was likely shot and killed days earlier with a shotgun and no meat was taken. A subject was identified and later contacted at his residence. The subject ultimately admitted to shooting and killing the doe in his yard and leaving it there for upwards of two days before removing it and dumping it at the orchard. A Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun was seized as evidence. The subject was cited and released for Take/Possession of Antlerless Deer, Take/Possession of Game Mammal Closed Season, and Waste of Game Mammal.

# Deer Decoy - Howard Prairie/Hyatt Lake

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted deer Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in the area of Howard Prairie/Hyatt Lake on the archery opener. Approximately 30 minutes prior to legal shooting hours, two vehicles stopped at the WED, adjusted their headlights to illuminate the deer, and proceeded to discuss whether or not they should shoot it. Five minutes elapsed and one of the individuals walked up the hill, used his range finder and proceeded to shoot the deer decoy. The shooter was subsequently cited for **Hunting with the Aid of Light** and his archery equipment was seized.

After running the early morning deer decoy, the Troopers ran a deer decoy close to the same area to address individuals hunting from their vehicles. There have been complaints in the past of archery hunters hunting and shooting from the bed of trucks in this exact area. At around 7:45am, a pickup full of hunters saw the decoy and exited their vehicle. Two individuals climbed in the back of the truck with their bows while the driver got back into the truck and backed up about 20 feet. As soon as he stopped his truck, one of the individuals shot at the decoy from the bed of the truck. The shooter was cited for **Hunting from Motor Vehicle** and the driver was cited for **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation.** The Trooper also had another archery hunter stop and shoot at the decoy from the pavement right behind his truck. He was cited for **Discharging Weapon Across Highway.** 

# **MARINE FISHERIES TEAM**



### Recreational Crab Guardian Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers on the Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) conducted a Guardian patrol out of Newport to focus on compliance with the recreational ocean crab regulations requiring anglers to properly list a contact name and number on crab buoys. These regulations were enacted in regards to Oregon's efforts to assist in whale entanglement concerns. Troopers seized 15 pieces of recreational fishing gear fishing illegally without any legible identifiers on the gear. Recreational crabbers are reminded to ensure all crab gear deployed in the water has a clearly legible individual or boat name with a contact number. The press release regarding the regulations for recreational crab buoys is available at: www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2019/12 Dec/123019.asp

# Joint Columbia River Patrol with WDFW

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the lower Columbia River with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officers. Numerous warnings and citations were issued for Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon, and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card.

# Skipper Cited for Waste of Pink Shrimp

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial shrimp boat that was making a landing at a wholesale dealer. It was found that approximately 20,000 pounds of the 60,000 pounds landed had gone bad due to lack of ice. The skipper was cited for **Waste Commercial Pink Shrimp.** 

# **Buoy 10 Boat Patrols**

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted multiple boat patrols on the Columbia River during the Buoy 10 salmon fishery, as well as on the ocean. Numerous subjects were contacted, and multiple warnings and citations were given for Unlawful Taking Undersized Chinook Salmon, Unlawful Taking Non Adipose Fin-Clipped Chinook Salmon, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon, Angling Closed Area: Columbia River Control Zone (CRCZ), Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, Alter Harvest Card, and Fail To Renew Boat Registration (and other various Marine Board offenses).

### Ocean and Columbia River Zodiac Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean and Columbia River Buoy 10 salmon and rockfish patrol with the departments Zodiac. They contacted 21 boats (35 anglers) and issued nine citations and 12 warnings for angling offenses that included: Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, Taking/Illegal Possession of Non Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon, Angling Prohibited Area: Inside Young's Bay Control Zone, and Illegal Possession of Mutilated Salmon (Fillets). Four salmon were seized and later donated to Loaves & Fishes for charity.

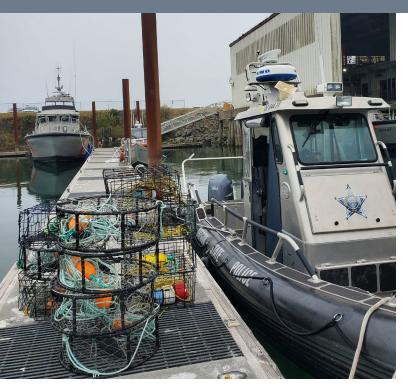
# **Nehalem Bay Boat Patrol**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Nehalem Bay. Numerous salmon and crab fisherman were contacted, and multiple shellfish and marine board warnings were given. The salmon catch rate was extremely low. One boat that was crabbing was contacted with two people on board and one shellfish license. The subjects had eight crab pots out, and 16 Dungeness crab on board, six of which were undersized. Their buoys were not marked as required as well. One of the subjects was cited for Taking Undersized Dungeness Crab and for Take Crab With More Than Three Pots.

# Trespassers in Closed Timberland - Chetco Unit

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled archery hunters in the Chetco Unit. The Trooper recognized a vehicle parked on the shoulder of a roadway not far from closed private timberland. The Trooper further recognized the vehicle to belong to a subject that had failed to check in his previous four black bear to ODFW. Surveillance of the timberland was performed, and three subjects were spotted from a distance, trespassing on closed timberland. Eventually, contact was made. Two subjects were issued citations for **Criminal Trespass II** and one youth was warned. Additionally, one subject was cited for **Fail To Check in Black Bear to ODFW Within 10 Days.** 

# **SHELLFISH & ANGLING**



### **Unmarked Crab Pots Seized**

Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Troopers performed a morning ocean boat patrol with an emphasis on whale entanglement for recreational shellfish crab pots. During the duration of the boat patrol 11 crab pots were seized for not being properly marked with identifying information. Follow up enforcement actions are being taken.

# Trout Seized at Hemlock Lake

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper began observing two subjects angling at Hemlock Lake who caught the Trooper's attention by releasing multiple dead trout (four were floating near the anglers). After about two hours of observation and observing one of the men retain seven trout, in addition to two he released dead, both men were contacted. Following the contact one subject was cited for Exceeding Daily Bag Limit: Trout and both were warned for Failure to Release Trout Immediately Unharmed. Two trout were seized and donated to the Roseburg Mission for charity.

# **Undersized Crab - Winchester Bay**

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a pair of crabbers as they returned to port in Winchester Bay. A check of their catch revealed they were in possession of 24 Dungeness crab, ten of which were undersized. One of the subjects took responsibility for the violation and was issued a citation for **Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab.** The undersized crab were returned to the bay.

### **Enforcement Float Patrol - Deschutes River**

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted an overnight enforcement float on the Deschutes River from Pine Tree to the mouth, covering approximately 39 river miles. Checks included over 17 anglers and multiple boats and guides. Three citations were issued for **No Electronic License in Possession.** 

### Ocean Boat Patrol - Port of Siuslaw

Florence and Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol in the ocean out of the Port of Siuslaw with an emphasis on salmon anglers. Catch rate and compliance was high amongst most anglers. During the patrol one boat was contacted as they were actively trolling for salmon. The Troopers began an administrative check and the anglers admitted to retaining four salmon. They did not have a clear reason why they were continuing to angle after retaining a legal limit and simply stated they were getting ready to head back in. Further inspection of their gear and catch revealed they had retained two wild Coho salmon and had not tagged two of the four salmon they had retained. They were also using barbed hooks. The anglers were cited for taking wild Coho salmon, angling prohibited method - barbed hooks and failing to validate harvest cards. They were warned for continuing to angle. The two unlawfully taken salmon were seized.



### Corbicula Clams Seized - Dibblee Beach

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted three women wading in the water at Dibblee Beach in Rainier who were collecting fresh-water Corbicula clams. The clams are prohibited to take. Two hundred and forty clams were seized. The three women were educated regarding the prohibited take and transport of Corbicula clams.

# 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 \*0SP(677)

TIP@OSP.oregon.gov

# 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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