



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

DECEMBER 2022



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*On the cover:
Fish and Wildlife Troopers using optics to
assist The Dalles Police Department and
Wasco County Sheriff's Office in locating a
wanted subject in rural Wasco County.*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Trooper Attends OHA "Horn Night"

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the annual "Horn Night" with the Josephine County Chapter of Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). For obvious reasons the elk antlers in the above photo were the talk of the evening.

Sergeant Speaks at Oregon Coast Angler's Meeting

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant attended the Oregon Coast Angler's meeting in Winchester Bay as a guest speaker. Approximately 35 members were in attendance. Topics included local investigations, angling and hunting regulations, the Coquille Tribal agreement with ODFW, changes in the wildlife enforcement field in recent years, and changing trends in how people recreate in the U.S. based on recent studies by wildlife agencies.

K-9 Teams Attend High Desert Museum Event

Both OSP Fish and Wildlife Conservation K-9s and their handlers attended the High Desert Museum's monthly Natural History Pub event in Bend. The Troopers discussed the Fish and Wildlife Conservation K-9 program and answered a variety of questions from the public. Approximately 150 people were in attendance.

Rogue Valley OHA Meeting

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Rogue Valley OHA Chapter meeting and provided a year-end update. One of the Troopers presented several videos and photos regarding OSP's flight operations in and around the Rogue Valley. The OHA members thoroughly enjoyed the Trooper's presentation and he fielded a multitude of questions regarding his aircraft's capabilities and his experiences.

Trooper Assists with Toy Drive - Umatilla County

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted a Umatilla County Sheriff's Office Detective and his daughter with a toy drive. The detective's daughter is a childhood cancer survivor and wanted to help other children after beating her disease. The gifts were distributed to children's hospitals in Portland, Seattle, Yakima, Richland, and Spokane. Gifts were also given to local foster children and child abuse resource centers in Umatilla and Union counties. Two semi-truck loads of gifts were collected from 11 Walmart stores in NE Oregon and Eastern Washington. Multiple law enforcement agencies and Walmart Transportation participated in the event.

Hunters Education Field Day - Hood River

Members of The Dalles Fish and Wildlife team along with members from The Dalles ODFW Biologist staff conducted a hunters education field day at the Hood River Gun Club. Nineteen Students attended in colder conditions with several inches of snow still on the ground. Troopers and ODFW staff spoke on habitat, laws, gun safety, and answered many questions along with live firearm stations, scenarios and gun handling drills. All students and parents that attended had positive attitudes and were very thankful the class was offered.



Trooper Shovels Driveway for Elderly Citizen

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted an elderly citizen in Summer Lake shovel out a snow drift blocking her driveway. The Trooper received an email from her thanking him.

"Please share these 'rescue' photos with your office. I was just about to give up when you stopped by and volunteered to clear out the huge drift at the end of my driveway. Thank you!"

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Deer Freed From Wire Fence

Multiple Fish and Wildlife Troopers in the Central Oregon area responded to a reported deer stuck in a fence. It was discovered the doe had become entangled in some chicken wire style fencing and could not free herself from it. ODFW responded and assisted the Troopers. The wire was cut away and the doe was freed.

Subjects Cutting Wood Without Permit

While assisting the Patrol Division with weather related crashes, an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a pickup truck and trailer parked at a gate on private property. After a short investigation, the Trooper located two male subjects who had been cutting wood and had a truck and trailer nearly full with wood. The men claimed to have a cutting permit that was left at home. Further conversation revealed that the men were selling the load of wood, which they had cut at their homes, but needed a "little more" to finish off the load. A survey of the area showed that a live standing tree had been cut down and cut up and there was a chain saw hidden in the brush. Both men were cited criminally for **Cutting Forest Products**.

Trooper Assists with Vehicle Stuck in Snow

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a motorist stranded 30 miles east of Bend on Hwy 20 during hazardous road conditions from heavy snow and ice. The Trooper found the vehicle 12 feet down a steep embankment high centered in deep drifting snow. The first tow to respond was not capable of getting to it and offered a ride to Bend and she would have to leave her vehicle there. Another heavier tow with four-wheel drive was requested and dispatched from Bend. The Trooper drove further down the highway and found a decent access point and then drove off road back to the drivers stuck vehicle creating a path for the tow truck. The tow arrived and was able to go off road and use the tracks to back close enough to pull cable and attach to the SUV. It had been about three hours since her vehicle slid off the road until it was freed from snow and back on the highway.

Lost Travelers Redirected

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper was traveling logging roads in the pipeline area and encountered two occupants driving in a small car in the dark and icy conditions. The occupants were from Texas and had become lost while using their Google Maps app on their cell phone to avoid the highway closure in their attempt to travel to Seaside. This has become a recurring problem whenever there is a Highway 30 closure. They were led out after being let through two locked gates.

OSP Pilot Helps Locate Violators

The South Central Fish and Wildlife Team conducted a winter range flight with the SW Region aircraft. Approximately 10 contacts were made. A Trooper located two individuals in the Interstate Unit that the Pilot had observed driving in an unsafe manner on a county road. Upon locating the vehicles, the Trooper observed a UTV approaching the road at a high rate of speed from the woods. The vehicle did not slow down and crossed the county road right in front of him, going partially airborne. The vehicle went clear across the road and into the trees on the opposite side. The driver was cited for **Careless Driving**. The other ATV operator was cited for **No ATV Permit Decal**.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Troopers Assist Motorists in Snowstorm

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was patrolling Grant County Road 20 which runs along the middle fork of the John Day River after a significant snowstorm, looking for bobcat hunters. The road had 12-18 inches of snow, with two-foot snow drifts in some locations. He came upon six vehicles stuck in the deep snow near milepost 10, a total of about 10 stranded motorists. This location is remote with no cell service. The motorists had followed Google Maps after Interstate 84 had been shut down and did not realize the road was closed to through traffic and was not maintained. The Sergeant spent about three hours shoveling, pulling, pushing, and chaining up vehicles to free them. Several motorists had no winter clothing. After clearing the initial vehicles, two commercial trucks drove into the area and became stuck. Both commercial drivers had little experience affixing chains or driving in snow covered areas. A Trooper arrived on scene, and they shoveled both truck tractors out and assisted in putting chains on both tractors to get them free. All the motorists, including one Navy Chief Petty Officer on leave trying to get home for the holidays, were very appreciative of the Trooper's efforts.



Troopers Clear Large Tree from Roadway

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the area of Highway 234 and John Day Drive in Gold Hill to assist Patrol with a large tree that was blocking both lanes. No ODOT staff were available at the time but thanks to the OSP Chainsaw Program, The Troopers were able to quickly get the roadway cleared.

Pickup Stuck in Mud on Private Timber Property

While working cow elk hunters on Hampton property an Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant located two male subjects in a lifted Toyota pickup in a large mud hole on the side of the logging road. The pickup was buried in the mud to its frame and sections of the road were torn up from unsuccessful attempts to pull the vehicle out. The subjects admitted to driving into the mud hole on purpose. After consulting with the timber company the subjects were cited for **Committing Unlawful Damage with a Class II ATV** and trespassed from all of the timber company's property.

Trooper Pulls Vehicle Out of Snow

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded with Klamath Falls Sheriff's Office search and rescue (SAR) to a family stuck in the snow near Sand Creek. The family had been following their GPS to Fort Klamath and tried to go down a forest service road with a couple feet of snow. Due to the location and conditions, no tow service would respond to assist. The Trooper was able to pull the vehicle out of the snow and escorted them back to the highway. They were also provided directions to safely get to their destination.

Lost Dog Reunited with Owner

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted three hikers while patrolling the North Bank Habitat area that reported finding a lost border collie while on their hike. The Trooper contacted the habitat area caretaker who reported they had been looking for the dog for two days. The Trooper, who knew the dog's owner through previous contacts, contacted the ranch and they responded to pick up their tired and hungry dog. Both the dog and owner were extremely happy to be reunited.

Two Rescued After Fallen Trees Block Roads

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper covered several calls for service during a severe winter windstorm that hit the north coast. Many hazards and crashes were handled. Two persons were rescued from behind fallen trees in two different locations in the Clatsop State Forest after they had driven into the forest and large trees had fallen behind them.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Subject Cited for Waste of Three Bucks

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted several subjects that were linked to a wildlife case from March 2021. During that incident, three black-tailed bucks were shot at night and left to waste on the North Spit of Coos Bay. When interviewed, one subject admitted to shooting all three bucks in the headlights of his vehicle, with three other subjects riding with him at the time. After the bucks were killed, no one made any attempt to salvage the meat. The subject who shot the deer was criminally cited and released for **Take Game Mammal Closed Season (x3)**, **Waste of a Game Mammal (x3)**, and **Hunting with the aid of Artificial Light**. The .17 caliber rifle that was used during the incident was seized as evidence.

Waterfowl Violations - Columbia River

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling the Columbia River for waterfowl hunters when one subject shot at birds 20 minutes after shooting light ended. As the Trooper was attempting to locate the subject in the dark, the subject made it around the Trooper and back to his truck. The subject left in such a hurry that he left his shotgun in the parking lot. Later that evening, the subject called OSP to see if the Trooper that was parked next to his truck had picked up his shotgun. The Trooper met the subject at the State Police Office. When the Trooper asked the subject about shooting his last duck, the subject thought he was legal, but he didn't know when legal shooting light ended. He claimed to not know there was a chart in the synopsis with waterfowl hunting hours. It was also discovered that the subject did not have a valid waterfowl validation and he was cited for **Shooting Prohibited Hours** and warned for **No Waterfowl Validation**.

Subject Shoots at Ducks from Highway

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject along the Crooked River who was parked along Highway 27. The subject stated he had shot at some ducks but didn't get anything. When asked, the subject stated he did not shoot from the road and was down by the river. After checking his validation, stamp, and shotgun/ammunition, he was released. The Trooper then followed his foot tracks in the snow approximately 50 yards up the road and found where the subject had fired two shots from the paved portion of the highway and located two spent shells in the middle of the highway that matched the type of ammunition the subject was using. The Trooper caught up to the subject down the road and issued him a citation for **Hunting from or Across Highway**. After the citation was issued, he admitted to shooting from the highway.

Subjects Hunting in Closed Area

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Coquille Valley Wildlife Area on a report that a pair of subjects were hunting on the Winter Lake Tract, which is only open for hunting on weekends, Wednesdays and holidays. A man and his grandson were located in the closed area and were found in possession of two ducks. The subjects explained they were unaware of the regulations, and had not bothered to read the several signs explaining them as they walked to the area they were hunting. The grandfather was cited for **Take Game Bird Closed Area**.

Trespassers Take Deer on Private Property

Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated a TIP that two subjects trespassed and killed a white-tailed doe outside of the hunt unit. The Troopers interviewed the subjects who admitted to being on the private property. One subject was cited and released for **Hunting on Another's Cultivated or Enclosed Land** and **Hunting Prohibited Area: Outside of Unit Boundaries**, and the second subject was cited and released for **Criminal Trespass II** and **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The deer was seized as evidence.

Subject Neglects to Purchase Drawn Tag

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from ODFW regarding a subject attempting to validate his tag after harvesting a buck in the Sprague unit. The subject was contacted and interviewed at his residence in Bend. It was the subject's first year hunting in Oregon and purchased his license and controlled hunt application electronically. He was unaware he needed to purchase his tag after successfully drawing as well. He was issued a warning for **Unlawful Possession: Buck Deer** and the remaining meat and 2x2 antlers were seized.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Archery Tag Holder Takes Deer with Rifle

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper received trail camera pictures from a reporting party in Clackamas County. The three pictures were of an unknown subject walking with a rifle, then returning an hour later holding a bow and later dragging a deer with another unknown male. Another Fish and Wildlife Trooper arrived on scene and met the two subjects who had returned to their pickup with the buck deer. The subject said he had not yet validated his Western Oregon Archery deer tag as he was having difficulties with the mobile ODFW application. During the investigation the subject admitted to shooting the deer with a .308 rifle on the last day of the late archery deer season. The subject admitted to leaving the area and coordinated with another subject who later assisted in the recovery of the deer. The deer was field dressed on scene and the subject's hunting rifle was seized as evidence. The subject was cited and released for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer** and **Hunting Prohibited Method: Hunting with Unauthorized Weapon**. The subject who knowingly assisted was cited and released for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

Deer Taken on Private Property

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from an informant that stated they had just observed a pickup turn on to Bull Run Road, stop and shoot a deer on private property. The occupants of the vehicle loaded the deer and drove away from the scene. The Trooper identified the occupants of the vehicle and located them at their residence with the deer. The Trooper seized the deer and antlers. The father of the juvenile subject was cited for **Aiding in a Wildlife Crime** and the juvenile was warned for **Take/Possession of Black-Tailed Buck Deer**.

Illegal Motorized Duck Decoy - Fern Ridge

An Oakridge Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area during a youth only reservation duck hunt. The Trooper spotted a motorized duck decoy being used in a reservation blind. The Trooper watched as a subject in the blind killed a duck while the motorized decoy was being used. The Trooper contacted a father and son in the blind. The father initially denied using the motorized duck decoy, but when the Trooper explained his observations, the father took responsibility for using the illegal decoy. Four ducks and a battery-operated duck decoy were seized, and the father was issued a criminal citation for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation (Hunting with Motorized Duck Decoy)**. The juvenile subject was warned for the offense.

Clatsop State Forest WED Operation

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a cow elk wildlife enforcement decoy (WED) in a clear-cut adjacent to a county road in the Clatsop State Forest. A vehicle with three people stopped at the decoy. The driver repositioned the vehicle so the front passenger could aim at the WED from the passenger seat, and the front passenger shot multiple times at the WED from out of the window of the cab. Another subject in the vehicle briefly pointed a second rifle at the WED. The subject who shot was cited for **Hunt From a Motor Vehicle** and warned for **Hunt From a Roadway**.

Unlawful Take of Bull and Spike Elk

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed an investigation of an incident that occurred during general western elk season. An initial report came in that one cow elk and two bull elk had been shot on commercial timber property. On the original incident date, the cow elk was located and recovered. The cow elk was processed and no projectiles were located in the carcass/hide. Two subjects were identified who had shot and harvested a 4x5 bull elk and a spike elk in close proximity to the cow elk. After further investigation it was discovered the two subjects were witnessed shooting over the top of their vehicle and across a road open to the public while taking the two bull elk. It was also determined the subjects had parked two vehicles in a day use only Travel Management Area the night prior and left both vehicles overnight in the same area all three elk were taken. Both subjects were cited for **Unlawful Take of Elk, Hunting From or Across Public Road, and Violation of the Travel Management Agreement**. Packaged meat from the bull and spike elk, and one spike elk head/antlers were seized as evidence.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

Exceeding Bag Limit of Rockfish - Brookings

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the ocean near Brookings. A boat was contacted and was found to be in possession of three rockfish over their limit. The subjects told the Trooper they knew the bag limit had been reduced in September. Additionally, one of the fish had been filleted and cut up, to be used for Lingcod bait. One subject was issued a citation for **Exceeding the Daily Bag Limit of Rockfish**. He was warned for **Possession of Mutilated Fish**. Three fish were seized.

Subjects Makes Multiple Tagging Errors

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a male subject fishing at the deadline above the Rock Creek pool on the North Umpqua. The Trooper observed the subject casting above the deadline with a bobber and jig. When the subject provided his combined angling harvest card, the Trooper observed he tagged two wild steelhead and one wild Coho on the North Umpqua between Winchester Dam and Rock Creek. The subject admitted to all three fish being wild. The subject consented to a search of his phone and a photo of the fish tagged in October was located. The fish was tagged as a Coho, but was actually a wild steelhead. The Trooper found multiple inconsistencies in his tagging records. The subject was cited for **Angling Closed Area: Violation**, and **Take/Possession Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead: Misdemeanor**.

Tag Purchase Confusion - Wilson River

While checking anglers on the Wilson River, a Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject who did not have a current combined angling tag. The subject told the Trooper they didn't buy a tag because they thought a tag was bought after a fish was caught. After educating the subject, they were cited for **No Combined Angling Tag**.

Multiple Angling Citations - Marion County

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked multiple trout anglers in Marion County. Three citations were written for **No Two Rod Validation**, and one citation for **No Angling License**. Eight warnings were given for **No Electronic License in Possession**. The Trooper also arrested a subject for an outstanding warrant.

No Combined Angling Tag - Trask River

While checking anglers along the Trask River, a Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper spoke with a subject angling for steelhead who did not buy his combined angling tag, but did have an angling license. The subject was cited for **No Combined Angling Tag**.

Boat Patrol - Columbia River

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River the day before opening day of sturgeon season. Six boats were checked with 12 anglers. One citation was issued for **No Angling License**. Three warnings were issued for various fishing license violations.

Angling Closed Area - Clackamas County

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a subject angling in a closed stream in Clackamas County. The Trooper found that the subject was new to Oregon and was a non-resident uniformed service member. The subject had multiple questions regarding hunting and fishing in Oregon. The Trooper provided the subject with his business card for any future questions and issued a warning for **Angling Closed Area**.

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?

For information, please visit our website at:

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