



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

FEBRUARY 2023



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*On the cover:
A Trooper overlooking Klamath Lake*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



ODOT and OSP Work Together to Protect Wintering Deer on Highway 20

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a vehicle vs deer crash on US-20 near milepost 124. The Trooper was sitting a half mile from the crash site with his emergency lights on trying to slow down traffic because of the high volume of wintering deer that had been hit in that stretch of the highway. The occupants of the vehicle reported no injuries, and the vehicle was towed from the scene due to damage. The Trooper spoke to the ODOT supervisor after the scene was clear, and requested more traffic control signs, or wildlife crossing signs to slow traffic and save some deer from being hit.

ODOT was able to put up two reader board signs advising traffic to slow down in the two-mile stretch where the deer are wintering. The ODOT signs advised "Deer Next Mile and Deer Crossing Ahead."

The Oregon State Police would like to thank ODOT of Salem for approving the signs, and the Burns/Juntura ODOT crew for their assistance in putting the signs out and helping the wintering deer.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Troopers Attend Learn to Fish Event

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Klamath Falls and Central Point attended the ODFW Learn to Fish weekend at Lake of the Woods. The event was focused on teaching new anglers how to ice fish. Fish and Wildlife Troopers gave multiple presentations to over 300 anglers on fish identification, rules and regulations.

Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team assisted with the Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby event. Troopers assisted with Kids' Day at Cooper Creek Lake (75 students in attendance), career day for local high school seniors, and the Enhancement Derby Auction and Banquet (sold out with over 680 in attendance).

Trooper and DDA Attend OHA Meeting

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Deputy District Attorney (DDA) from the Jackson County District Attorney's Office attended the Rogue Valley Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Meeting and gave a review of the Rogue Valley Team's 2022 cases. The Trooper and DDA fielded several questions relating to new regulations in 2023, past cases, and general inquiries regarding the nuances of enforcing Fish and Wildlife laws and regulations.

Trooper Stops to Talk to Students

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper went out for an ATV patrol of the Ochoco Unit. When he arrived at the Mark's Creek Snow Park, he was greeted by students and teachers from Paulina School who were out with the Forest Service having an outdoor education day. The Trooper stopped and talked with the students about wildlife, safety, and the job of an OSP Fish and Wildlife Trooper. The students got to look at the ATV with tracks and take pictures.

Springdale Job Corps Visits OSP Office

Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a youth outreach event at the OSP Portland Area Command. Troopers gave a speech about the Fish and Wildlife Division to students from the Springdale Job Corps Center. Other OSP members in attendance included Recruiting, Diversity Equity and Inclusion, Patrol, and the Public Information Officer.

Sergeant Attends STEP Meeting - Coos Bay

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant attended the South Coast Anglers Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) meeting in Coos Bay as a guest speaker. About 35 people were in attendance. Topics discussed included regulation changes and updates, recruiting, and recent fish and wildlife enforcement efforts on the south coast.

Trooper Assists with Swiftwater Rescue Training

A North Plains Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Oregon State Marine Board and Clackamas Fire with their annual Swiftwater Rescue Training. Troopers, Deputies, and Firefighters from around the state participate in this course to learn the basic skills of self-rescue and rescuing victims in fast moving water. The course is held on the Sandy River, Bull Run River, Clackamas River, and Willamette River within Clackamas County.

Troopers Attend RMEF Youth Day - Pendleton

Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Troopers, along with K-9s Buck and Scout and their handlers, participated in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) Youth Outdoor Skills Day in Pendleton. Over 250 youth attended the event. The kids enjoyed being able to interact with the Fish and Wildlife K-9s.

Trooper Assists Hatchery Salmon Collection

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Staff at Cole Rivers Hatchery with their weekly salmon collection. Although there were not many salmon in the collection pond, it provided a good opportunity for OSP to engage with hatchery staff and learn more about the mission at Cole Rivers Hatchery.

Presentation and K-9 Demo - Keizer

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and K-9 Buck and his handler conducted a presentation at Emerald Pointe Senior Living in Keizer. They talked about the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division and K-9 program. K-9 Buck and his handler conducted a demonstration.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Trooper Clears Fallen Trees on ATV Patrol

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Ranger conducted a patrol of the Klamath River Canyon to address numerous ATV issues. They received information from a retired officer regarding a UTV that was operating with a red and blue lightbar and possibly a siren. Conditions were extreme with deep mud, ice, rocks and downed trees (which the Trooper cleared with his chainsaw). The UTV was eventually located operating with the illegal lightbar, and the operator was cited. Over 30 off-road vehicles were contacted with numerous violations addressed. Additional patrols are planned in the area.

Troopers Assist with Boater Rescue

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to assist Douglas County Fire District 2 Water Rescue with a boat incident on the lower main Umpqua River. A brand new 21-foot boat was stuck on a rock outcropping with three adult occupants on board the vessel. The two Troopers and two Douglas Fire District 2 members reached the victims by OSP boat and successfully rescued all three occupants, then anchored the vessel to shore for later recovery. The bottom of the vessel seemed to be intact and there were no injuries to the occupants.

Disabled Motorist Transported to Hospital

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper was working patrol overtime and came upon a disabled motorist in the lane of travel in heavy fog. There were several near misses while waiting for ODOT to respond. After the vehicle was moved off the highway the Trooper noticed the driver's faculties seemed off. Upon further investigation it was determined to be a medical issue. Emergency medical services responded and the driver was transported to the hospital and his vehicle was towed at his request.

Stolen Vehicle Found During Welfare Check

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angling checks on the Rogue River. The Trooper located a man slumped over in his truck with his doors open. A welfare check was conducted on the man who was found to be sleeping. The vehicle that he was sleeping in was found to be stolen out of Florida. The subject also had an extraditable warrant out of Los Angeles and was in possession of more than two grams of meth. The subject was lodged at the Jackson County Jail for the warrant and **Possession of Methamphetamine.**



Buck Cut Free from Hammock

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a residence on Highway 20 east of Powell Butte Highway to a buck with its antlers stuck in a hammock. After consulting with ODFW the hammock was cut off with some material still on the antlers, anticipating it would shed soon.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Subject Found in Possession of Bull Elk Head

OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers in John Day investigated a subject from Mt. Vernon suspected of poaching. The subject has his hunting privileges suspended indefinitely for multiple prior wildlife related convictions. Troopers drove past the subject's residence and could see a large bull elk and head in plain view on the subject's porch. Troopers contacted the suspect who was in possession of a large bull elk head and antlers. The head still had flesh and tissue attached. The head and antlers were seized, and the suspect was criminally cited for **Unlawful/Take Possession of Bull Elk**.

Subject Shoots Ducks in Closed Season

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint of shooting on the Warrenton Bayfront, the day after the close of duck season. An investigation in the area uncovered an adult male hunting ducks and in possession of two mallards during closed season. The subject was cited for **Taking Ducks Closed Season** and the birds were seized.

K-9 Scout Helps Locate Traps

Fish and Wildlife Troopers were patrolling east of Prineville near Post following up on trapping violations occurring, and located an additional trap set, not related to the first. K-9 Scout located the first due to sight bait being used. The second trap also had a cell camera. Shortly after having their photo snapped the owner of that set called the OSP Prineville Office and the owner volunteered to meet on site. The young cooperating owner led Troopers to his three other sets and warnings were issued for **Unlawful Use Sight Bait, Unlawful Use Game Mammal, Unbranded Trap**, and **Unlawful Trap Set State Park Property**.



ATV Patrol - Chesnimnus Unit

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper and a USFS Law Enforcement Officer conducted a shed hunter ATV patrol in the Chesnimnus Unit. Several old ATV tracks were observed, and fresh wolf tracks were spotted. No shed hunters were contacted.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



Commercial Crab Patrol - Newport

The entire Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) conducted training combined with a commercial crab patrol out of Newport. The team inspected multiple strings of gear and found one string with six pots out of compliance. Pots were located that were illegally fishing without buoy tags and with tags from previous years. The fisherman was cited for **No Buoy Tags** and the pots were seized.



Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab

Marine Fisheries Team Troopers were notified by ODFW of undersized Dungeness crab at a seafood plant in Newport. A Sergeant and a Trooper responded and measured all of the crab from the fishing vessel. They discovered the commercial fishing vessel had retained over 900 lbs of undersized crab, which was 27% of the fishing vessel's entire load. Two deckhands and the captain were cited.

Multiple Commercial Crab Violations

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked Commercial Dungeness Crab offloads at the Port of Brookings. After discovering a number of undersized crab during an offload, Troopers inspected the entire load (approximately 14,700 lbs). The large fishing vessel was found to be in possession of 347 lbs of undersized crab. Additionally, two female crab were located during the offload. The boat captain and crew had been issued citations in the past for possessing undersized crab. Two days later, the vessel was inspected during a smaller offload (approximately 6000 lbs) and again was found have 15 lbs of undersized crab. Once the offload was complete the Trooper gained consent to search the boat. Inside the fish hold, the Trooper located four additional undersized crab concealed in the corner of the fish hold. Furthermore, the crew and captain concealed a small basket of crab inside the bathroom of the vessel. Only one crab out of the basket was found to be undersized. The captain of the vessel was criminally cited and released for **Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** and **Fail to Sell Commercial Fish/Shellfish to a Wholesale Fish Dealer**. One of the deckhands was cited and released for the same.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Troopers Remove Logs from Waterway

St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River. They came upon two large logs and removed them from the navigational waterways.

Subject Conceals Female Dungeness Crab

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked shoreline crabbers on Tillamook Bay after dark and contacted a male subject who was attempting to hide a small female Dungeness crab while conversing with him. The Trooper asked to check the crab that was now hidden in a plastic bag and the subject presented the female crab. The subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Female Dungeness Crab**. The crab was released unharmed back into Tillamook Bay.

Repeat Offender Found on Umpqua River

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a patrol of the lower Umpqua River. Four anglers were contacted, resulting in two citations for **No 2023 Combined Angling Tag and 2023 Angling License/Tag**. One of those individuals was cited at the same location on the same date last year for the same violation.

Subject Admits to Knowingly Using Three Lines

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on Tenmile Lake. One subject was observed trolling in his boat while using three lines. The subject advised he was aware that using three lines was prohibited, and chose to do it anyway to increase his chances of catching a fish. The subject was issued a violation citation for **Angling Prohibited Method**.

Razor Clam Closure - Florence

Fish and Wildlife Troopers were conducting a routine patrol of the North Jetty in Florence. Three subjects were contacted with clamming equipment and bags containing mussels. One subject had razor clams in his possession. At the time of contact, razor clam harvest was closed. One subject received a citation for **Take/Possession of Razor Clams Closed Season** and the other was cited for **No Shellfish License**. Three Razor clams and 57 mussels were seized.

Subjects Angling for Trout in Closed Season

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Sergeant checked anglers on Three Rivers near the Cedar Creek Hatchery. Two of the subjects contacted did not have 2023 Resident Angling Licenses. Further investigation revealed that neither subject had purchased an angling license or tag for 2023. The subjects had not caught any fish, and both stated they were fishing for trout, which was closed on all coastal streams at the time. The subjects were both cited for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **Angling Closed Season: Trout**.

Angler Checks on Big Elk Creek

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks on Big Elk Creek. During the patrol a subject was contacted whose hunting/fishing privileges had been suspended since 2012. The subject was issued a criminal citation for **Angling While Suspended**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING

Subject Cited for Multiple Angling Violations

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers were patrolling the Clackamas River at McIver State Park when they noticed a subject unlawfully fishing for steelhead with two rods. Upon contact it was discovered that the subject did not have any licenses, tags, or endorsements. The subject was issued a violation citation for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **No Combined Angling Tag, No Columbia River Basin Endorsement** and **Angling Unlawful Method: Two Rods**.

Starfish Unlawfully Retained

While a Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacting subjects crabbing in Netarts Bay, he encountered one subject who had retained three starfish. The subject also had a couple of short Dungeness crab. The Trooper educated the subject regarding the starfish being prohibited to keep and the short crab. The Trooper issued a citation to the subject for **Take/Possession of Protected Wildlife** and warned him for **Take/ Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**. Multiple other warnings were issued throughout the patrol.

Illegal Turbot Found at Portland Business

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper obtained information that a business in Portland was selling live flounder. Troopers responded to the business/restaurant and observed live fish in several tanks. One of the species was turbot fish which are not a native species to Oregon and requires a transport permit from ODFW. The business did not have a live fish transport permit for the turbot. Twelve turbot fish were seized and the business was cited for **No Live Fish Transport Permit**.

Angler Checks on Owyhee River

Baker City and Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted angler checks on the Owyhee River. Two subjects were observed actively angling and one subject was releasing a brown trout when contacted by the Troopers. Subsequent investigation revealed that neither subject had 2023 Angling Licenses and both were cited for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

Subjects Unable to Show Electronic Licenses

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was checking anglers on the Sandy River at Oxbow Regional park in rural Multnomah County. He came upon two anglers that claimed to have licenses and tags but were unable to pull them up on their smart phones due to lack of service in the area. The Trooper educated them on how to use the smart phones offline in low or no coverage areas. The Trooper was able to determine the anglers had purchased the required license and tags and were advised to discontinue angling until they could get their smart phones working offline.

Out-of-State Subjects Caught Without Licenses

Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted two subjects from Washington who were angling for steelhead. Both subjects, a father and son, said they had purchased 2023 non-resident angling licenses, combined angling tags, and Columbia River Basin Endorsements, but they did not have the documents on them. A check with ODFW's ELS system showed that neither subject had purchased angling licenses, combined angling tags, or Columbia River Basin Endorsements for 2023. Both subjects were cited for **No Non-Resident Angling License** and were warned for **No Combined Angling Harvest Tag** and **No Columbia River Basin Endorsement**.

Angling Closed Stream - Chetco River

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled the North Fork tributary of the Chetco River, which was closed to angling for wild steelhead spawning ground protection. The Trooper noticed a vehicle parked near the north fork. A subject was observed angling with a fly-fishing rod within the closed area for quite some time. Suddenly, the subject grabbed his gear and fled the area, running down stream to the main stem Chetco (open area). The subject was located and was initially dishonest, claiming he never fished in the tributary. He ultimately admitted to angling in the tributary for steelhead. Further investigation revealed the subject did not purchase a combined angling tag or Rogue South Coast Steelhead Validation. Additionally, he had only resided in Oregon for one month but was already purchasing resident angling licenses. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Angling Closed Stream**. Charges were referred to the District Attorney for **Possession of Falsely Applied for License, No Combined Angling Tag, and No South Coast Steelhead Validation**.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Subject Pleads Guilty in Bear Baiting Case

In September 2020, a Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information regarding an illegal bear bait site within the Metolius Unit. The bait site consisted of barrels cabled to a tree with two permanent wooden structures, a tree stand and a ground blind, built on forest service land. The bait site was monitored and became active again in June 2021. The bait brought in was specifically to attract black bears. Central Oregon team members began routinely surveilling the area. In July 2021, a Trooper was able to stop a vehicle after leaving the bait site. The suspect was arrested and cited for **Use of Bait to Attract Black Bears** and **Offensive Littering**. Multiple items were seized as evidence and a search warrant was issued. A US Forest Service (USFS) law enforcement officer was notified and followed up on additional forest service violations.

At trial readiness, the subject pleaded guilty to **Use of Bait to Attract Black Bears** and received:

- 5-year hunting license suspension
- 24 months bench probation
- 200 hours of community service

Pair Plead Guilty to Multiple Wildlife Crimes

In late 2022, a Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated, and criminally cited, a father and son hunting pair that shot a mule deer in a hunt unit in which they did not have a tag and on private land they did not have permission to be on. Both pleaded guilty to multiple wildlife crimes. They received the following fines and suspensions:

Father:

- 3-year license suspension
- 12 months bench probation
- \$250 fine
- \$250 restitution to the TIP fund
- 16 hours of community service

Son:

- 3-year license suspension
- 12 months bench probation
- \$250 fine
- \$250 restitution to the TIP fund
- 16 hours of community service

Subject Pleads Guilty for Shooting WED

In October 2022 McMinnville and North Plains Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a deer Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in rural Yamhill County. Thirty minutes after legal shooting lighting a subject shot the WED from his driver's seat several times with a pistol. The subject also did not have a deer tag. The subject pleaded guilty and received the following sentence:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- 18 months probation
- 40 hours community service
- \$1,000 in total fines
- Forfeiture of the pistol

Subject Pleads Guilty in Tillamook County

In November 2022, McMinnville and North Plains Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a call that a subject had shot at least three elk. It was determined the subject killed three, wounded one, and his party killed one more. Two elk were seized and two were harvested by the group. The non-resident subject pleaded guilty in Tillamook County. He was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension,
- 12 months probation
- \$5,000 restitution to ODFW
- \$1,000 restitution to the TIP fund
- Forfeiture of a rifle and scope combination

Subject Pleads Guilty for Killing Elk in Wrong Unit

In November 2022, a McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper cited a subject who killed a 6x5 bull elk in the wrong unit on October 29, 2022. The tag was valid for "one elk" in the Willamette Unit for the whole 8-month season. Investigation proved the elk was taken in the Trask Unit. The subject pleaded No Contest to a Class A Violation and received:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- Loss of 8 ODFW hunter preference points
- \$5,440 fine
- Forfeiture of the elk

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:

www.osptrooper.com

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