



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

MARCH 2023



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*On the cover:
A Trooper searching for a trespassing
suspect in Marion County*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Bighorn Sheep Capture

La Grande and Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted ODFW and Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) conduct a sheep capture on the Snake River utilizing the OSP jet boat. During the capture biologists checked the overall health of the bighorn sheep, gathered important data from the sheep and affixed transmitter collars to them. Troopers assisted the biologists for two days and a total of 21 sheep were captured.



2023 Sportsmen's Shows

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles, Portland, and surrounding areas took shifts manning the OSP booth at the Pacific Northwest Sportsman's Show in Portland. Lots of happy faces and show attendees walked by or stopped by the OSP booth to say thanks and ask questions.

Members of the Springfield Area Command's Fish and Wildlife Division attended the fiftieth annual Eugene Boat and Sportsman Show. On display was the "Trailer of Shame" (pictured above at the Portland show), which consists of various wildlife seizures from cases throughout the state. The Troopers also answered questions for sporting enthusiasts, handed out trinkets to those in attendance and assisted with comprehension of various wildlife regulations. F&W Conservation K-9 Buck was also in attendance throughout the show and enjoyed time with fans.

East Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers took turns manning the OSP booth at the Central Oregon Sportsman show in Redmond.

Southwest Region Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Jackson County Sportsmen's and Outdoor Recreation Show in Central Point. Troopers had a great time interacting with both human and animal attendees, as shown below.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Harney County Career Fair

Burns Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in the Harney County Career Fair held at the Harney County Fairgrounds which focused on career opportunities in outdoor and natural resource related fields. Troopers decorated their booth promoting the OSP Fish and Wildlife Division and provided giveaway items advertising OSP and career opportunities with the Oregon State Police. Over 100 school students and others from around the Harney and Malheur County areas took part in the career fair. Troopers answered wildlife related questions and made several connections with partner agencies. Troopers also connected a representative from the Natural Resources Department of Treasure Valley Community College who requested OSP attend their career day at the college.

Rotary Club Event - Eugene

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper and K-9 Buck conducted public outreach located at the Eugene Mission for a local rotary club. The Trooper discussed the Fish and Wildlife K-9 Program, Fish and Wildlife Division, and answered many questions from the public at the event. There were people in person and viewing remotely. The event was successful and well received.

Hunter Education Field Day - Hood River

Fish and Wildlife and Patrol Troopers from The Dalles, along with an OSP volunteer, assisted with a hunter education field day at the Hood River Gun Club. Troopers spent the day talking with the 28 students in attendance about wildlife conservation and the role hunters play while learning about ethical hunting, wildlife, firearms, and firearms safety. Troopers were given positive comments by the parents on how well the class was run.

Tygh Valley Turkey Clinic

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles attended a youth turkey clinic near Tygh Valley. The turkey clinic has been an annual event for 22 years and is put together with cooperative work between ODFW and OHA. The Troopers spoke for a half hour to a group of about 100 youth and parents. One Trooper then taught breakout sessions for the remainder of the day while the other Trooper answered enforcement questions. The event was a big success with lots of positive comments from attendees and clinic organizers.

Hunter Education Field Day - Knappa

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper and four other instructors held an ODFW Hunter Education Field Day at the BKS Gun Club in Knappa. Twenty-four students attended and successfully passed the day-long class.

Youth Turkey Clinic - Medford

Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a youth turkey clinic at the Medford ODFW Office. Approximately 30 youth hunters and family members attended and enjoyed getting to know each other and learn more about turkey hunting and safety. This was a great opportunity to get to know the future hunters in the area and build lasting relationships.



Troopers Speak to Charter School Group

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck were checking anglers in the Lane County area when they contacted a group learning to angle. While speaking with them the Troopers learned the group were members of a Charter School called "Teach-NW" and they were on a field trip. The instructor told the Troopers he teaches angling ethics and the importance of Oregon's Natural Resources, then takes the students on field trips throughout the year.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



National K-9 Veteran's Day - Heceta Head

Fish and Wildlife Conservation K-9 Buck and his handler provided a demo and meet and greet at the Heceta Head Lightstation for National K-9 Veterans Day. The celebration took place at the Keeper's House near the site of the WWII K-9 kennels, along the scenic walking trail that leads from the beach to the lighthouse tower. The Coast Guard Beach Patrol was formed in 1942 in response to German sabotage attempts in New York and Florida and the Japanese submarine bombardment of California and Fort Stevens, Oregon. From early 1943 to July 1944, Heceta Head served as a Beach Patrol station for the Coast Guard Dogs for Defense program. There were adoptable dogs from the Oregon Coast Humane Society and a guided tour of the Keepers House.

Hunter Education Meeting - Powder River

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Sergeant gave a presentation at the Powder River Sportsman's Club to a group of 25 hunter education students. The Sergeant spoke about the job as a Fish and Wildlife Trooper with OSP and then answered questions for the students.

OHA Redmond Chapter Meeting

Bend and Prineville Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Redmond Chapter meeting. The meeting had a presentation by the Forest Service regarding an upcoming event and the Troopers answered questions the members had. Troopers took a moment to try to help explain how to be more successful with the ELS system.

Elementary School Read Along

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated in a read along at a Boring area elementary school. The students got to see his OSP truck and ask questions and then the Trooper read a short story to the class. He also was interviewed by a small group of older students who were doing a project on gun violence. The Trooper was asked questions and helped the students with ideas for their project.

Trooper Assists at Special Olympics Event

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Southern Oregon Special Olympics with their basketball competition. The Trooper assisted with the opening ceremony and presented some of the medals to athletes. The athletes had a lot of fun competing and the event was rewarding for all.

Adult Turkey Clinic - Bend

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles traveled to Bend to assist in teaching at an adult turkey clinic hosted by ODFW. Attendees included members of Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), and the State Chapter National Wild Turkey Federation president in attendance. The class shrunk in size due to a harsh winter storm that hit the area, but attendance was still good with solid approval from the attendees.

GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Duck Rescue - Madras

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call from a citizen regarding a duckling entangled in a fishing line at the Madras youth fishing pond. A hen bufflehead duck was observed paddling around with a long piece of fishing line tangled around her. She was unable to fly or maneuver around with the other ducks. The Trooper attempted several times to reach the duck but was unsuccessful.

The Trooper decided to pick up a drift boat when he observed several firefighters with Jefferson County Fire District #1 conducting maintenance at their facility. The firefighter's help was requested, and all responded to the pond to again attempt a rescue. One of the firefighters hopped into the drift boat and the duck was caught with the net. The fishing line was entangled around her wing and tightly twisted around her neck several times. The firefighter was able to safely remove all the fishing lines after several minutes. After a quick photo op, the duck was released and quickly flew away.



Subject Arrested on Linn County Warrant

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper was traveling on Highway 31 toward Ft. Rock when he observed a vehicle stopped on the shoulder. As the Trooper approached the vehicle the passenger fled on foot into a wooded area. The subject was known to have an outstanding arrest warrant for distribution of 4,000 fentanyl tablets in Linn County. He was taken into custody and found to have 42 fentanyl tablets in his pocket. He was lodged at the Deschutes County Jail.

Trooper Assists Stranded Family

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper was traveling to Bend for vehicle maintenance when he located a family that was broke down on US-20 in snowy conditions. The family reported that they had been broke down since 1:30am and had no help and could not afford a tow-truck. The family advised that they were on their way to Texas. The Trooper assisted the family with giving the male subject a courtesy ride to Bend for a rental car. During the ride to Bend, the male subject continually told the Trooper that he did not realize how much he was helping him and his family by giving him a ride to get a rental car.

Trooper Rescues Lost Dog - Klamath County

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was driving to Lakeview on Highway 140 East when he saw a black and white dog cross the highway. The dog clearly had been outside for a few days. The dog did not have a collar and was unsure about the Trooper until she was presented with chicken. The dog happily got into the Trooper's truck after the free meal and was taken to the Klamath County Animal Shelter.



GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



Trooper Assists Stranded Citizens

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded with a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) ranger to a search and rescue call north of Klamath Falls. Two people in a truck were stuck on a forest service road. They were quickly located and assisted back to good roads. After assisting those individuals, the Trooper noticed three people standing on top of the ridge line a mile away. No vehicles should have been up that road and they were standing at the north edge of a large section of closed TMA property. The Trooper drove to their location and determined they were stuck ½ mile further down the forest service road. The Trooper was able to reach their SUV and get it unstuck. It was extremely difficult getting back up to the top of the ridge but both vehicles made it back to good roads.

Family Rescued - Cougar Reservoir

Springfield area Fish and Wildlife Troopers were patrolling a forest service road above Cougar Reservoir when they located a vehicle stuck in the snow. The Troopers discovered the family had walked to get help and the father had stayed with the vehicle. The Troopers were able to get the vehicle freed and reunite the family.

OSP/BLM Joint ATV Patrol - Klamath County

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper organized a joint ATV patrol with Klamath County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) and BLM. Officers patrolled both sides of the Klamath River Canyon. An unexpected snowstorm caused activity levels to be low and travel difficult. In total there were ten contacts made. One subject was warned for **No Woodcutting Permit**.



Trooper Recovers Capsized Boat - Nestucca River

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Tillamook County Marine patrol with a capsized drift boat on the Nestucca River. When the boat overturned, everyone aboard was able to make it back to shore unharmed. The drift boat ended up downstream pinned against some trees in heavy current making retrieval of the boat very difficult. The Trooper operated a jet boat while Deputies cut the boat out of the brush with chainsaws. The boat was freed and ultimately swept downstream where it was intercepted, taken to the bank and bailed out. The owner was very grateful and stated it took him a long time to build the beautiful handcrafted wooden boat. The boat did not show signs of any damage following the recovery.

Snowmobile Certification - Ukiah

Troopers from John Day, Pendleton, and La Grande, along with an ODFW biologist from Pendleton, attended a snowmobile certification course in Ukiah. The training was instructed by USFS Law Enforcement Officers from the Pendleton and Walla Walla offices. Attendees were trained in basic snowmobile operations, snowmobile maintenance and recovery, and avalanche safety including utilization of avalanche beacons.



ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



CA Suspect Cheats OR Licensing System

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed an investigation into a California resident who had modified his ODFW electronic licensing system (ELS) profile to show that he was active duty military to receive licenses and tags at resident prices. The Trooper submitted a records request through the Defense Manpower Data Center and received a report that the individual was not actively serving in the military, nor had he ever served. The Trooper viewed the ELS profile and determined the subject had been doing it for three years. The subject had also not completed mandatory reporting on his tags as required. The Trooper discovered that a taxidermist in California had processed a skull mount (European Style) of a 6x6 Bull Elk for the subject. The subject saved a total of \$2,820.50 from falsifying veteran's status. The subject was charged with five counts of **Unlawful Application for Hunting License and Tags**, two counts of **Unlawful Application for Angling License and Tags**, **Illegal Take/Possession of a Buck Deer**, and **Illegal Take/Possession of a Trophy Bull Elk**.

Bear Tag Purchased After Harvest

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up on multiple rapid harvest reports from ODFW. One of those reports involved a juvenile who had bought a bear tag, after legal shooting hours in the fall of 2022, then validated his tag a short time later. The juvenile then reported killing a bear on his mandatory reporting for 2022. The juvenile and his father were contacted and admitted to killing the bear. The father believed he had bought a bear tag for his son prior to the hunt and attempted to correct it by buying the tag and validating it after the fact. The bear was seized, and a citation was issued to the father for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk - Polk County

McMinnville and Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated an Exceeding Bag Limit/Take Antlerless Elk case in Polk County. A citizen had called in and said there was an extra elk down in the field. After speaking with surrounding property owners, the Troopers were able to identify a suspect. One Trooper interviewed the suspect's father while the other Troopers spoke with the suspect. The suspect went with the Troopers to the site, and he walked them through the event where he shot the elk. The suspect was ultimately cited for **Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk**.

Subject Shoots Geese in Closed Area

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a residence outside the city limits of Scappoose. Columbia County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) had responded to a residence after receiving a call regarding a subject shooting a shotgun over a paved community trail (Crown Zellerbach Trail). Upon arrival it was learned the subject was shooting at a flock of geese that flew over his residence. The subject admitted that he was unaware that anyone was on the trail and did not think about where the pellets would land. He believed he had wounded one goose as it separated from the other two and dropped lower in elevation out of sight on the other side of the trail. He said he looked for the goose but was unable to find it. The subject also admitted he had never hunted waterfowl and did not know if the season was open or closed. He also admitted to shooting at geese two days prior also flying over his residence, and the subject was under the influence of alcohol at the time. The CCSO Deputy arrested the subject for **Reckless Endangerment** and the Trooper issued citations to him for **Unlawful Take/Attempted Take of Goose** and **Hunting Goose Closed Season**. The Trooper attempted to locate the goose but was unsuccessful.

ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



Five Subjects Charged in Waste of Bull Elk

McMinnville and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers began an investigation into subjects suspected of wasting a raghorn bull elk on March 19th. The subjects had been confronted by a nearby landowner who contacted OSP with safety concerns of shooting direction. On the 22nd the landowner located a dead bull elk 250 yards from where the shooting had occurred. The bull had been covered with sticks and ferns. The landowners also noted their daily herd of five cows and two bulls was returning as five uninjured cows only. On the 23rd the Troopers contacted the primary suspect at his residence nearby. He eventually confessed to targeting two separate elk at close range and killing and harvesting a raghorn bull elk. The meat of the elk and a .338 rifle were seized as evidence. The primary suspect was cited for two counts of **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk** and a charge of **Waste of a Game Mammal** was referred to the District Attorney. Four additional people were present, two hunting and two helping pack. After multiple interviews, none of the five would admit to knowing about or covering the second wasted bull. The two helpers were charged with **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense** as they knew the harvested bull was not legal. All five suspects were charged with **Trespass 2** for using ATVs on private timberlands in order to access Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) lands and **Operating ATV in Violation of Posted Restrictions (ODF lands)**.



Two Cow Elk Taken Out of Boundaries

North Plains and McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to the report of two cow elk down outside of Forest Grove. One subject shot two cow elk and then called a second hunter to use his tag on the second elk. Upon Troopers arriving, the subject admitted he shot both accidentally but wanted his brother to use his tag for the second one. Through the investigation, Troopers also determined the subjects were hunting outside the boundaries of their General Season Antlerless Damage Tags. Both elk were seized and later donated to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. Both subjects were criminally cited for **Unlawful Take** and the shooter's rifle was seized as evidence.

Subjects Caught in Closed Wildlife Area

While patrolling the White River Wildlife Area (WRWA) closure, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles contacted two subjects who were observed coming out of the closed area. The first subject was located when the Trooper heard a shot from a small caliber firearm. The Trooper drove towards the direction he heard the shot and located a vehicle parked on the road with the subject hastily making his way back to his vehicle from the closed area. He was violation cited for **Unlawful Entry on State Wildlife Areas: WRWA** and **Hunting from the Roadway**. The second subject was contacted after a pickup was observed sitting on the roadway with the doors open and a subject walking around. The subject was seen walking out of the closed area with a firearm. He was violation cited for **Unlawful Entry on State Wildlife Areas: WRWA**, and warned for **No Valid Paper Hunting License in Possession** and **Unlawful Take Unprotected Game Mammal: Ground Squirrel**. One California ground squirrel was seized.

MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



The Marine Fisheries Team conducting a recent ocean training

Ocean Patrol Nets Multiple Violations

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an ocean patrol from the Columbia River to Cape Falcon focusing on bottom fish anglers and commercial fisherman, and on commercial crab gear restrictions. Numerous anglers and commercial open access fishermen were contacted. Citations and warnings were issued for **Taking Cabezon Closed Season, Exceed the Daily Limit of Marine Fish, No Non-Resident Angling License, Possession of Mutilated Marine Fish, and Violation of the Multi-Species Restriction**. Three Cabezon and three rockfish were seized.

Angler Checks - South Beach Marina

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted checks of crabbers and ground fish anglers at the South Beach Marina in Newport. Numerous anglers were contacted. One boat operator was cited for **Expired Boat Registration**. The registration had expired in 2018.

Columbia River Boat Patrol

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River near Rainier. Numerous spring salmon anglers were contacted and multiple boating inspections were conducted. Citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method Barbed Hooks for Salmon, No Harvest Card, No Angling License, Fail To Immediately Validate Harvest Card**, and OSMB offenses.

Spring Salmon Boat Patrol

Astoria and St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River in Columbia County. Numerous spring salmon anglers were contacted and multiple boating inspections were conducted. Citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method Barbed Hooks for Salmon, No Harvest Card, and No Angling License**.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Anglers in Compliance - Klamath Lake

A Klamath Falls Recruit Trooper checked 14 anglers along the Klamath Lake near Highway 140 West. All anglers were in compliance and were all happy to be out fishing on such a nice day. While talking to the anglers one got a bite and hooked into a large rainbow trout. The angler (photo above) landed the fish and was happy to get his first catch of the year.

Angler Checks - Brownlee/Oxbow Reservoirs

Baker City and Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted angler checks on Brownlee Reservoir and Oxbow Reservoir. The Troopers observed four poles with lines in the water and only one male subject nearby. Subsequent investigation revealed that another male subject was inside of a tent and asleep. The subject that was asleep in his tent was cited for **Fail to Attend Rod/Line**.

Subject Continues to Angle After Retaining Limit

Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles responded to a complaint at a local pond that was just stocked with trout. The reporting party reported a subject continued to fish after retaining a daily bag limit. The subject was located and stopped angling when he saw the Troopers. He originally stated he had not caught any fish. When asked if he had any fish in his vehicle, he said he had five. He stated he was trying to help his wife, who had three fish, catch her limit. He was cited for **Continuing to Angle After Catching Daily Bag Limit**.

Mutiple Violations - Millicoma Fish Hatchery

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers observed a group of three subjects angling within the closed area at the West Fork Millicoma fish hatchery. After observing the group for several minutes, they were contacted and stated they thought it was okay to fish there, even though it was posted otherwise. The group were unable to produce their licenses or tags upon request, because the two male subjects left their phones in their vehicles, and the female subject did not have a license or tag for 2023. One of the male subjects was cited for **Angling Prohibited Area: within 200ft of a Fishway**, and was warned for **No Electronic License/Tag in Possession**. The other male subject was cited for **Angling Within the Closure**, and was warned for **No Electronic License/Tag in Possession**, as well as **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**, because he told the female subject that it was okay for her to fish there. The female subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License**, and was warned for **No Combined Angling Tag**, and **Angling Within the Closure**.

Float Patrol - North Fork Nehalem River

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a float patrol on the North Fork Nehalem River checking steelhead anglers. Three bank anglers and one raft with two anglers and a guide were checked. One Marine Board inspection was completed. No violations were found throughout the day.



SHELLFISH & ANGLING



A Fish and Wildlife Trooper checks a legal bull trout on Lake Billy Chinook

Bull Trout Opener - Lake Billy Chinook

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles worked a 3-day/2-night patrol on the Metolius Arm of Lake Billy Chinook as it opened on March 1st for bull trout. A Jefferson County Deputy assisted with a boat and taking two Troopers on board on the 1st. A total of 76 anglers were checked, including the angler in the above photo, along with 40 boats. Several citations and warnings were given for ELS and Boat registration violations. Anglers reported 91 bull trout were caught and released.

Spring Salmon Patrol - Columbia River

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River in Clatsop and Columbia Counties. Numerous spring salmon anglers were contacted and multiple boating inspections were conducted. Citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method Barbed Hooks for Salmon, No Harvest Card, No Angling License**, and multiple OSMB violations. Angling pressure was high, but catch rate was low.

Exceeding Daily Limit of Clams - Charleston

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a clam digger in Charleston as he returned from the clam beds. When the subject saw the Trooper, he threw several clams out of his bucket under a pier near the parking area. When asked why he threw out the clams, the subject denied he did so. Eventually, the subject admitted he threw out six clams because he was over his limit. The six butter clams were retrieved and it was determined the subject had dug 25 butter clams and one gaper clam. The subject was cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Clams**. Six Butter clams were returned to the hole from which they were dug.

Applegate Lake Angling Patrol

Central Point and Grants Pass Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a joint patrol of Applegate Lake and noticed two subjects angling near the spillway of the dam. Angling is closed 1500 feet from the dam with signage restrictions posted.. The subjects were approximately 300 yards upstream of the closed sign and actively angling. The subjects were a father and juvenile son. The Troopers observed the man pack up and begin to walk back to his truck carrying two large mature wild steelhead. When confronted, the man admitted to catching both fish and was criminally cited for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, No Valid License/Tag in Possession, Take/Possession of Fish Closed Area/Stream, and Angling Closed Area/Stream**. The fish were seized and donated.



Drift Boat Patrol - Wilson River

A North Plains Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a drift boat patrol on the Wilson River with a Tillamook County Sheriff's Office Deputy. Throughout the patrol, several steelhead anglers were contacted and eight boat safety checks were completed. Toward the end of the float, The Trooper and Deputy observed a truck and trailer parked on a boat access area and saw two males cleaning fish. There were four hatchery steelhead and each subject said they caught two. Upon inspection of their tags, it was discovered one of the subjects did not have a 2023 Angling License or 2023 Combined Angling Tag. The subject was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of Hatchery Steelhead**. The fish were seized and later donated to the Tillamook County Jail.

SHELLFISH & ANGLING



Smelt Fishery Opens on Sandy River

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles assisted the Portland Fish and Wildlife team with the Sandy River smelt fishery. This fishery brought out thousands of people to participate. Several contacts were made, and several citations were issued for various violations. The most common violations being **Exceeding the Daily Limit of Fish** and **No Angling License**. With the amount of people exceeding, hundreds of pounds of smelt were seized as a result. The smelt were donated to various charities.



Troopers Seize 59 Pounds of Smelt

Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted multiple people dipping for smelt on the Sandy River during the time ODFW opened the fishery. A group of four people were contacted as they carried four full buckets of smelt back to their vehicle. It was learned one of the dippers did not possess an angling license and all four were in excess of the daily limit of 10 pounds per person. In total, 59 pounds of smelt was seized and the subjects possessing angling licenses were allowed to keep their limits. Three of the subjects received violation citations for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Fish**. The last subject received a warning for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The seized fish was taken to White's Country Meats to be processed and donated.

Subjects Catch Smelt in Closed Area

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted seven smelt dippers at Dabney State Park at around 10:00 am, two hours prior to the open season for smelt. This location was also upriver of the open boundary. The subjects claimed to not know the open areas or time limits for smelt dipping in the Sandy River. They were all issued citations for **Angling Closed Season** and educated on the legal time and location that smelt was open. Approximately 50 pounds of smelt were seized and donated to a local charity.

Quillback Rockfish Seized - Garibaldi

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked multiple boats in the Port of Garibaldi for bottom fish, and found a boat in possession of quillback rockfish which was closed at the time. One citation and a warning were issued for **Take/Possession of Marine Fish Closed Season**. Three quillback rockfish were seized and donated to the Tillamook County Jail.

Angling Violations - Dibblee Beach

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted over 40 subjects angling on Dibblee Beach in Rainier. During one contact a subject was angling with two rods, no salmon/steelhead tag, and both rods had barbed hooks. The subject admitted to also angling last year with no angling license or tag and having barbed hooks. He was issued two citations and several warnings.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Subject Pleads Guilty in Lincoln County Case

During the 2022 Western Oregon General Deer Rifle Season, Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an early morning Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) operation in the Alsea Wildlife Management Unit. A subject approached the decoy in his vehicle and shot it twice from the driver's seat. Further investigation revealed that the subject did not have a valid 2022 Western Oregon Deer Tag. He was ultimately cited for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer: Hunting Prohibited Hours, Hunting Wildlife From a Motor Vehicle, and No Big Game Tag**. The case was adjudicated in the Lincoln County Circuit Court. On a plea agreement, the defendant pleaded guilty to **No Big Game Tag**, and he was sentenced to:

- 3-years bench probation
- 3-year hunting license suspension
- \$500 compensatory fine for shooting the decoy, which was payable to the Oregon Hunter Association's Wildlife Enforcement Decoy fund

Subject Pleads Guilty in Commercial Net Case

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper cited a man criminally in 2022 for running a commercial net across Gnat Creek attempting to catch spring Chinook salmon. The man pleaded to the charge and it was dropped to a Class A Violation for which he paid a \$440 fine, his angling privileges were suspended for three years and he forfeited the net.

Subjects Plead Guilty In Cougar Case

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from a local ODFW biologist about a subject who checked in a cougar and had purchased the cougar tag a short time prior to validating it. Troopers interviewed the subject and a second subject and it was learned the first subject killed the cougar prior to purchasing the tag in Benton County. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take of Cougar** and the cougar and rifle were seized. The second subject was criminally cited for **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation**. In March the first subject agreed to a plea deal of a Class A Violation, \$440 fine, a three year hunting license suspension, and \$7,500 restitution to ODFW. The second subject received a Class A Violation with a \$225 fine.



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

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474
or email osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov

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