



# OREGON STATE POLICE

## FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION



MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2025



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*On the cover:*

*A Fish and Wildlife Trooper's patrol truck  
in the North Coast Mountain Range.*

# COAST ELK SEASONS



Oregon's coast range is home to the state's famous Roosevelt elk, and every fall, hunters head into those misty green forests for the General Western Oregon Coast Bull Elk Seasons. The landscape itself is classic coast mountain range—thick timber, ferns, steep draws, and plenty of rain—so the hunt has a rugged, Pacific Northwest feel to it. The General Western Oregon Coast Bull Elk Seasons are split into two separate seasons. In 2025 the first season ran November 15–18, and the second season picked back up November 22–28. Hunters pick one of the two seasons when they buy their tag, and that tag lets them chase a single bull in most coast hunting units.

Because the terrain is so dense, much of the hunting takes place along old logging roads, in clear-cuts, or the edges of private timberlands. When the weather turns wet—and it usually does—elk tend to move a bit more, giving hunters better chances to catch them feeding or slipping through openings. Many folks say the coast elk seasons are as much about the atmosphere as the harvest: the smell of wet cedar, fog rolling through the trees, and the challenge of trying to spot a big-bodied Roosevelt bull elk in a sea of green.

Besides the general bull hunts, there are also some controlled bull and antlerless elk opportunities in the region, but those require drawing a controlled hunt tag prior to the season. For most hunters, though, the two main November seasons are the heart of coast elk hunting. As always, it's worth

checking the latest Oregon Big Game regulations before heading out as things like access rules and unit boundaries can shift a bit from year-to-year.

Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers spend a considerable amount of effort during November protecting these elk from poachers and strive to keep the playing field fair and equitable for hunters, and ensure fair chase rules are followed.

Typical violations encountered by Fish and Wildlife Troopers include not possessing a valid electronic or paper elk tag, loaning or borrowing an elk tag (party hunting), hunting the cultivated land of another (trespassing), and unlawful take of elk. In the Saddle Mountain Unit, which requires a controlled hunt tag specific for the unit, Troopers used Wildlife Enforcement Decoys (WED) to apprehend over fifteen subjects for **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk** during the 2025 season.

In a cooperative effort, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Oregon State Police and private timber companies have worked to create hunting opportunities by establishing Travel Management Areas (TMA) throughout the state. Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrol these areas to ensure hunters are not violating the rules set forth in the agreement. Typical violations include blocking gates, early or late entry, and driving on roads designated for walk-in only hunting.



*Ashley Walczak of Mill City, with a Roosevelt bull elk she legally harvested on the second day of the General Western Oregon Coast Bull Elk Second Season in the coast range.*

# COAST ELK SEASONS



## Bull Elk Shot on Private Property - Goble

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper responded to a property in rural Columbia County near the community of Goble regarding a bull elk that had been shot on private property. The suspect was seen dragging the elk back onto his property using a long tow strap and his truck. The owner of the property stated nobody had permission to hunt there and wished to pursue criminal charges. The suspect admitted to shooting the 5-point bull on the neighboring property but claimed he has hunted there for years and had gotten permission to do so many years ago from the reporting party's mother. The reporting party who is now the legal owner of the property, stated his mother would have not given anyone permission to hunt there and even if she did, he is now the owner and has been for about three years. The suspect was subsequently issued criminal citations for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass** and **Take of Bull Elk**. The elk was seized and donated to charity, and the rifle used was also seized.

## Subjects Hunt Outside of General Hunt Area

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report from a private timber company security guard who stated that he had trespassed two individuals during deer season and they had returned and were now hunting during the controlled Saddle Mountain second elk season on the property. Ultimately, three subjects were contacted actively hunting outside their vehicle. They had taken several steps to check if they were trespassed and due to a mix-up in the timber company system they were warned for the trespass, however they all possessed General Coast Season Elk tags which are not valid in the Saddle Mountain unit. The two adults received citations for **Hunting Outside Hunt Area** and the juvenile hunter was warned for the same. They were again trespassed off the timber property.

## Saddle Mountain WED Operation

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers conducted a spike elk Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in the Saddle Mountain unit on the last day of the season. Numerous vehicles drove through the set, but no one shot at the decoy. A subject exited from one vehicle with a rifle and began to stalk the decoy when the driver spotted the hide in the bush and called him off. Upon contact the subject was found to have a General Coast Second Season tag and was issued a citation for **No Valid Elk Tag**.

## Clatsop County Hunter Checks

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted hunter and Travel Management Area (TMA) checks across various locations throughout Clatsop County. On two separate instances, subjects were observed in possession of bull elk with no physical tag attached to the antlers. Each of the subjects were contacted and able to produce valid tags showing the correct time of harvest. Each of the subjects were educated on the regulations and warned for **Fail to Attach Big Game Tag in Plain Sight**.

## Subject Cited for Shooting WED

Astoria Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a spike elk WED during the opening day of the Saddle Mountain second rifle season (Saddle Mountain is a 3-point or better unit). One subject observed the WED, exited his vehicle and fired three rounds at the WED from the side of the roadway. Upon interviewing the subject, he admitted he did not take the necessary time to ensure it was a legal bull before shooting, and was just hoping it had enough antler points. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Take/Possession of Spike Elk** and the .338 Win Mag rifle used to commit the crime was seized as evidence.

## Subject Fails to Immediately Validate Tag

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting a General Coast Second Season patrol on Murphy Hill when he drove to an area where hunters had reported hearing multiple shots that morning. The Trooper located a subject who had shot a spike elk earlier. When the Trooper checked the subject's tag it was discovered the subject had not tagged the elk and about two hours had passed since it was harvested. The Trooper checked the subject in ODFW ELS and discovered the subject had a previous hunting suspension from 2007-2010 for a hunting violation. The Trooper issued a violation citation to the subject for **Fail to Immediately Validate Big Game Tag**.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH & EVENTS



## Sergeant Visits Portland Elementary School

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant visited a third grade class at Stephenson Elementary in Portland. The class is participating in ODFW's fish eggs to fry program where they are raising salmon eggs in the classroom to release. The Sergeant spoke to the students about OSP's role in salmon protection and some of the challenges salmon face. The students were extremely inquisitive and are excited for the impending hatch.

## North Bend High School Class Presentations

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Sergeant gave class presentations at North Bend High School about becoming an Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Trooper and shared some case reviews. Approximately 60 students attended the classes.

## Troopers Speak at High School Career Day

Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers spoke at Sweet Home High School for a career day. About 100 students attended multiple sessions.

## Troopers Present at Lewis and Clark Law School

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper and OSP Environmental Crimes Detective presented along with an Oregon Assistant Attorney General at the Earthrise Law Clinic at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland. The clinic focuses on environmental legal issues. The presentation focused on environmentally related criminal investigations. There were approximately 20 law students in attendance.

## Trooper Speaks at Laos Temple

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper visited a local Laos Temple and spoke to approximately 200 to 300 attendees, providing information and education on fish and wildlife laws and regulations. There were many curious attendees at the event. The Trooper answered numerous questions and provided business cards to several individuals.

## Troopers Attend Range Grand Opening

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Albany and Salem attended the grand opening of the new trap shooting range at E.E. Wilson Wildlife Area hosted by ODFW.



## Troopers and K-9 Buck Visit School

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Buck visited the Northwest Christian Academy in Eugene. The Troopers spoke to approximately 20 kindergarten students related to community service. A large portion of the talk consisted of interaction with K-9 Buck. The visit was well received.

# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Mule Deer Freed from Wire Fencing

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a residence in Klamath Falls to assist ODFW with a large buck mule deer stuck in a fence. The deer was successfully sedated, and a large quantity of wire fencing was cut from its antlers. A ratchet strap was also cut from its antlers that appeared to have been attached for some time. The animal was revived and released in much better shape. The elderly property owner was very grateful for the assistance.

## Motorcyclist Knowingly Trespasses

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles received a call from a hunting lease agent regarding a person operating a motorcycle in an area closed for motor vehicle travel. The Trooper was able to locate the suspect who admitted to being on the property and acknowledged he knew the signs on the gate stated no motorized vehicles allowed. The suspect had placed tape over his license plate to avoid detection as well. The suspect was cited and released for **Criminal Trespass II**.

## Injured Hawk Taken to Wildlife Images

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a call of an injured hawk in Grants Pass. Wildlife Images was closed at the time that the call came in and the following day was Thanksgiving so the Trooper coordinated with a Patrol Trooper to have the bird transported to a local wildlife rehabilitator who could hold the animal until Wildlife Images opened. The day after Thanksgiving the Fish and Wildlife Trooper transported the bird to Wildlife Images for evaluation and treatment.

## Road Struck Barred Owl

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a road-struck barred owl in rural Clatsop County. The owl was collected and held overnight and then delivered to the Wildlife Center of the North Coast for evaluation and rehabilitation.

## DUII Driver Arrested

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Sergeant was returning from checking anglers on the Deschutes River when a passenger car passed him at a high rate of speed. The vehicle then swerved all over road and nearly caused a head on crash. The Sergeant stopped the vehicle and observed numerous signs of impairment from the driver. The driver refused standard field sobriety tests and was arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)** and **Driving While Suspended: Misdemeanor**. The driver was transported to the Jefferson County Jail where his blood alcohol content (BAC) was measured at 0.16%.

## Trooper Assists with Eluding Suspect

A Fossil Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted the Wheeler County Sheriff's Office with taking a subject into custody on the John Day River below Priest Hole. The subject was under the influence of controlled substances and had lit several out-of-control fires. When the subject was told he was under arrest, he fled, jumped into the river and swam across. The Trooper located the individual approximately a mile and a half down river as he attempted to swim back across the river. The subject complied with the Trooper's commands and was taken into custody without further incident. The Wheeler County Sheriff's Office transported the subject to Northern Oregon Regional Correctional Facilities (NORCOR) and was charged with **Contempt of Court, Escape, Reckless Burning, and Offensive Littering**.

## K-9 Buck Locates Shell Casing

Springfield Fish and Wildlife and Patrol Troopers responded to assist the Lane County Sheriff's Office with two persons shot near the McKenzie Bridge area. Troopers arrived and assisted with detaining individuals on scene and clearing numerous trailers, houses, and outbuildings. Two victims were transported to the hospital by Life Flight. K-9 Buck was deployed to locate casings and an outstanding firearm. K-9 Buck located a shell casing with others located nearby. A Trooper located the outstanding firearm. The Lane County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident.

## Trooper Helps Stranded Thanksgiving Travelers

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted some stranded travelers who were trying to get to Medford for Thanksgiving. They were out of gas and had been at that location for hours. The Trooper purchased enough fuel for them to get to their intended destination.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subject Trespasses to Shoot Deer

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by a subject who had a special veteran outfitter buck tag and shot a 4-point buck. The subject was required to have the outfitter with him while hunting, but shot the buck without the outfitter. The outfitter had the tag with him and was in a different hunting unit. The buck was shot without a tag in possession, a tag was not validated, and the subject fired from the side of a public road onto private land without permission. The landowner was contacted and wanted to press charges. The subject was charged with **Hunting on Another's Cultivated or Enclosed Lands**, and warned for **Fail To Validate Tag** and **Hunting Prohibited Area: Public Roadway**. The 4-point buck was seized and donated to charity.

## Subject Confesses to Shooting Two Elk

On opening day of the Eastern Oregon General Season Spike Elk Hunt, a La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked a subject who had just harvested a spike. The spike was legal and properly tagged. Approximately one hour later the subject contacted dispatch to advise he had actually shot two elk, the second one being a 3x3 bull. The Trooper recontacted the subject who stated he had been too nervous to tell the Trooper what had happened when he was initially contacted. The bull was salvaged and transported to a local butcher for later donation to a charity. The subject was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take Bull Elk**.



## Intact Elk Heads Unlawfully Imported

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper was contacted by ODFW concerning two hunters from Oregon who killed two bull elk in Idaho and had transported the heads with the brain matter still intact into Oregon. Both subjects were issued citations for **Import of Cervid Parts**. The antlers of both bull elk were sawed off at the base of the skull so that no brain tissue would be exposed. The heads of the bull elk were bagged and turned over to ODFW to be destroyed.

## Subject Caught Using Thermal to Scout for Deer

The Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Team conducted a special operation targeting illegal thermal imaging use. One subject was observed, and video recorded, utilizing a thermal imaging device to scan a clear-cut in front of one of the Troopers. The subject was contacted during a vehicle stop and admitted to using the device to "up the odds" of finding a large buck, while knowing it was illegal. The thermal imaging device and a custom built 7MM rifle were seized and the subject was cited for **Hunting/Locating Wildlife with Thermal Imaging IR/Night Vision Equipment**.

## Subject Caught Trespassing

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report from a subject who stated he shot a deer, and it ran on private property and died. The subject stated the landowner was angry at him and would not let him retrieve the deer. Two Troopers responded to the location and interviewed all involved parties. It was determined the subject shot the deer on the landowner's property and he and a companion were caught by the landowner when they were trespassing to recover the deer. The subjects lied to the landowner about what they were doing. The landowner wanted to press charges for trespass. The subject was criminally cited for **Trespass 2** and **Unlawful Take Buck Deer**. His companion was cited for **Trespass 2**. The deer and rifle were seized.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subject Cited for Unlawful Take of Cougar

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a TIP regarding a subject who posted photos on Facebook and said that he killed a cougar with his knife as it tried to attack him. The photos showed the subject posing with what appeared to be a young cougar with faint spots. The wounds observed were inconsistent with his story. The Trooper checked the ODFW Electronic Licensing System (ELS) and found the subject had purchased a cougar tag and validated it in the same night. Two Troopers interviewed the subject at his residence and found that he in fact purchased the cougar tag after killing the cougar, yet claimed self-defense. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Take of Cougar** and seized the hide and skull.



## Subject Takes Mule Deer Without Tag

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper received an anonymous tip about a subject who had possibly shot a large mule deer buck near Highway 140 East and Washburn Way earlier that day. At the time, the only open deer season was a controlled hunt muzzleloader season with very few tags available. The Trooper confirmed the suspect did not have a valid tag for the unit. The Trooper responded to the suspect's house to conduct and interview. The subject confessed and admitted he had no big game tag or hunting license for the deer. During a consent search of the garage, the Trooper located the deer antlers and quartered meat. The meat and antlers were seized, and the subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Take of Buck Deer**.



## Subject Shoots Deer from Back Porch

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report from an individual who heard their neighbor the previous night fire a single shot from a centerfire rifle and then observed lights from an ATV and tractor in a field. They believed the activity was related to killing a deer at night. The Trooper went to the suspect's house and a female subject quickly admitted that her and her husband filled her deer tag the previous night off their back porch. She said she tried to shoot the deer but was unable to see it through the scope so her husband shot the deer for her. They both admitted using a flashlight to be able to see the deer. The male subject said he thought it was a buck but when he got up to it, he realized he killed a doe. The deer and rifle were seized as evidence. The male subject was criminally cited for **Take/ Possession Antlerless Deer** and the female subject was criminally cited for **Hunting Prohibited Hours**.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subjects Trespass and Unlawfully Take Deer

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a report of two subjects shooting at a three-point buck near the city limits of Clatskanie. The Sergeant contacted seven witnesses and two different landowners who were involved. Evidence was located including drag/blood marks near a landowner's garage. Suspects were developed and interviewed after initial attempts to contact them failed. One female subject was cited and released for **Unlawful Take Buck Deer, Hunting the Enclosed Land of Another**, and **Reckless Endangering** after firing a shot down a busy county road at the deer, standing on the road. One male subject was cited for **Unlawful Take Buck Deer** and **Hunting the Enclosed Land of Another**. Two rifles and a three-point buck were seized.

## Deer Shot from Drift Boat - Molalla River

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of subjects who shot a deer from a drift boat along the Molalla River, and trespassed onto private property without the landowner's permission. The subjects were issued citations for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer, Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. The rifle and deer were seized as evidence, and the deer meat was donated to the Union Gospel Mission.

## Subject Admits to Shooting Deer from Road

Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers investigated a potentially unlawfully taken deer. The suspect was located and subsequent to an interview, admitted to standing on the paved portion of a road while shooting at a buck in the ditch of the road. The subject was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession Buck Deer**. The deer and rifle were seized as evidence.

## Trespass in Permit Only Area

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information regarding someone trespassing onto the Springfield Weyerhaeuser tree farm permit only access area. The individuals were reported to be on an ATV and went around a locked and closed gate. The Trooper was in the area and initially did not locate the individuals, but did however locate a cellphone believed to be from one of the suspects trespassing. While the Trooper was patrolling the area, the cell phone rang. The Trooper answered the phone and was told the individual on the ATV had lost it. The Trooper then located the ATV with two occupants. Subsequent investigation led to both individuals being issued a citation for **Trespass**, and one individual received a second citation for **No Big Game Tag**. The cellphone was returned with the citations to the suspect.

# WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENT



## Subject Cited for Thermal Use

The Newport Fish and Wildlife Team conducted thermal operations in the Alsea Unit. A subject was observed using a thermal device from his vehicle while scouting. The subject was contacted, and the thermal device was seized. The subject was criminally cited and released.

## CMV Driver Cited for Taking Roadkill Deer Head

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a complaint from ODOT regarding a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver who had cut the head off a large whitetail buck deer that was road struck on I-84 near Meacham. A description and direction of travel were provided. The Trooper located and stopped the truck. The head was located in a cargo box on the CMV trailer during a consent search. The driver stated he wanted to display it and claimed he often sees dead deer along the interstate. He was informed of the law and cited for **Take/Possession of Roadkill**. The buck head was seized as evidence.

## Elk Poached in Tillamook State Forest

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a possible elk being poached in the Tillamook State Forest along Salmonberry Road. A description of a vehicle was provided and was observed leaving the scene of the area. A traffic stop was conducted with quartered portions of game meat observed in the back of the vehicle under a compartment cover. Through an interview the subject admitted to shooting the elk out of season. The remains of the elk were located and additional meat was salvaged that had been left to waste. The subject was criminally cited and released for **Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk** and **Waste of Game Mammal**. The rifle was seized as evidence and the game meat was seized and donated.

## Hunting Party Cited - Northside Unit

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a report of a suspicious cow elk that was shot about 100 yards off paved County Road 18 in the Northside Unit. The head, proof of sex, and entire neck was left at the kill site. The Sergeant and a Trooper responded and interviewed the reporting parties who identified the group claiming to have killed the elk. The reporting parties agreed to take Troopers to the elk carcass. While hiking up to the elk, Troopers spotted an adult male dressed in camo trying to hide behind a tree. Troopers contacted the subject who was very nervous and interviewed him regarding the elk. The subject stated in summary he was from out of state and was not hunting at all. He claimed another member of the group had killed the elk the previous afternoon and immediately left the area with the elk. Further indicators of deception were observed, and the subject provided his name and contact number (which turned out to be false). Troopers spoke with the reporting parties again who said the subject was the one who had told them he had killed the elk the previous day. The Sergeant recognized the subject as being part of a group he had contacted the previous day camped at Magone Lake. The Sergeant had checked two elk at the camp and the group stated that only one other member of the group had a tag, an elderly person. The subject who had been hiding was interviewed again and confessed to lying about his name and admitted to killing the elk. Three other individuals were interviewed and two admitted to assisting in getting the elk out and taking it to their house in Canyon City to hide it from being checked by Troopers at their camp. Troopers subsequently gained consent to seize the elk which was taken to Russell's Meats for donation to the food bank. The main suspect was cited and released for **Unlawful Take: Cow Elk, Possession of Falsely Applied for Big Game Tag, and Waste of Wildlife**. He faces several other charges of falsely applied for tags and licenses for the past two years. The other two individuals who assisted in processing and hiding the elk were cited for **Aid/Counsel in Wildlife Offense**. Multiple warnings were also issued.

# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Stranded Juvenile Humpback Whale - Yachats

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a call of a stranded juvenile humpback whale near Yachats. Representatives from the Marine Mammal Stranding Network requested law enforcement response as they were getting reports that people were in danger as they were in the surf with the whale attempting to help it. The Sergeant arrived on scene with a Newport Patrol Trooper around midnight to find dozens of vehicles parked alongside the roadway impeding highway traffic. There were also dozens of people in the surf trying to keep the whale wet and get it back into the ocean. The highway was cleared and individuals with the whale were warned about the dangerous ocean conditions and told that representatives from the stranding network would be arriving the next day to assist with the whale. The incident continued to draw many concerned citizens and onlookers as members from the stranding network and Oregon Coast Aquarium attempted to rescue the whale. OSP and Oregon State Parks assisted in crowd control for two days until the whale was eventually euthanized as there was no way to get it back into the ocean.

## Chetco River Patrol

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled closed salmon spawning tributaries on the Chetco River. Four different subjects were found to be angling in the closed streams. Three citations and one warning were issued for **Angling Closed Area/Stream**.

## Newport Bayfront Crab Checks

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted crab checks on Newport's bayfront. One individual was contacted and found to be in possession of five undersized Dungeness crab. The subject was cited for **Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab** and all five undersized crab were released back to the bay.

## Commercial Crab Pot Theft Investigated

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed an investigation into the theft of a commercial crab pot. The suspect crab pot was recovered during the post-season derelict gear program out of Garibaldi. The crab pot was identified as belonging to a local fisherman, different from the buoy tags attached to it. During an interview, the suspect claimed they had legally obtained the crab pot during the 2024 post-season derelict gear program and suggested the yellow ODFW tag was weak and must have fallen off. Additional investigation showed no record of the crab pot in the suspect's 2024 derelict gear logbook. Charges were referred to the Tillamook District Attorney's Office for **Theft in the Second Degree**.

## Siletz River Angler Checks

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted angler checks on the Siletz River as boats returned to the boat launch. One boat that was contacted had two Coho which were not recorded on a tag. One of the subjects stated he had caught one of the Coho and his juvenile son had caught the other. The subject stated they were not tagged because his phone battery had died while they were fishing on the river and he did not notice until he had gone to tag the fish. The subject was cited for **Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Card** and warned for **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## John Day River UTV Patrol

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper from The Dalles conducted a UTV patrol in a remote area of John Day River below McDonald's Ferry Landing checking steelhead anglers. They accessed the area through recently obtained private property permission. Three subjects were checked in total, one subject could not bring up his ELS on his phone. Two of the subjects were floating the river in an inflatable kayak without a valid boater's pass. The subject who could not provide a license was verified they had a valid license, tag, and proper endorsements.

## OSP Pilot Assists Ground Trooper

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted by the Bend OSP Fish and Wildlife Pilot in the air patrolled the South Central Oregon areas from the Cascades to Silver Lake. During the patrol the Pilot located seven subjects angling on a closed section of the Deschutes River from the air. The subjects were contacted by the ground Trooper and issued warnings and a citation for **Angling Closed Season** and **No Angling License**.

## Angling Closed Stream - Spencer Creek

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper was dispatched to a report of a subject fishing on Spencer Creek, the creek is closed to fishing for spawning salmon. The Trooper reviewed trail camera pictures of the area and found a picture of the subject walking to the creek with a fishing pole. The Trooper arrived on scene and contacted the subject, who no longer had the fishing pole in his possession. The subject lied about fishing until confronted with the trail camera photograph. The subject then confessed to fishing for trout before seeing one of the ODFW signs stating the creek was closed to fishing. The fishing pole and tackle was consistent with trout fishing. He was issued a citation for **Angling Closed Stream**.

## Winchester Bay Crab Patrol

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Winchester Bay after receiving a report of two subjects likely keeping undersized Dungeness crab. The two subjects were surveilled for about an hour and were contacted as they were preparing to leave the crab dock. The subjects had two 5-gallon buckets of crab, and admitted they didn't count their catch. The subjects had retained 29 crab, ten of which were undersized. Additionally, one of the subjects didn't have a valid shellfish license. The unlicensed subject took responsibility for measuring the crab and was cited for **Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab, Exceeding Daily Limit of Dungeness Crab** and was warned for **No Resident Shellfish License**. The other subject was cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Dungeness Crab** and was warned for **Take/Possession Undersized Dungeness Crab**. Seventeen crab were returned to the bay.

## No Two-Rod Endorsement

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject after observing him reeling in two lines as the Trooper drove towards him on Lake Billy Chinook. The subject did not have a valid two rod endorsement, claiming he thought it was included in his angling license. The subject was cited for **No Two-Rod Endorsement**.

## Evening Patrol - Chetco River

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed surveillance on the Chetco River for salmon anglers during late evening. A subject was observed catching and keeping an adult wild Chinook. After more than 30 minutes had passed, the subject was contacted, and it was discovered he had not tagged the fish. The subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**.

# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Troopers Treated to Northern Lights on Patrol

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and La Grande Trooper conducted a two-day boat patrol on the Snake River in Hells Canyon checking steelhead anglers and elk hunters in the Snake River Unit. During the patrol four citations were issued for angling violations, one for **Failure to Immediately Validate Angling Tag for Steelhead** and three for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Steelhead**. The night the Troopers spent on the river they got to see the northern lights (photo above).

## Crabbing Closed Season - Garibaldi

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two boats in the ocean that were crabbing during the closure. The crabbers were contacted when they returned to the marina in Garibaldi. The subjects on both boats thought it was open, and told the Trooper they wondered why nobody was crabbing in the ocean. One boat retained 20 Dungeness crab and the other retained 36. Two citations were issued for **Crabbing Closed Season/Area**. The crab were seized and donated to a local church.

## Sandy River Patrol

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an angler check on a subject actively fishing for salmon on the Sandy River near the Stark Street bridge. The subject did not have a valid paper tag in his possession. Records showed the subject had been warned for the same issue last year. The subject was issued a citation for **Angling Without a Valid Paper Tag in Possession**.

## Angler Checks - Trask River Hatchery

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked anglers at the Trask River Hatchery. One subject was observed fishing and was contacted. The subject stated they were not fishing. The Trooper told the subject he was seen fishing, and added the last cast the subject made got hung up. The subject did not have an angling license or tag and was issued a citation.

## Subject Takes Wild Coho

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a tip complaint about a subject that took a wild Coho salmon from the Clackamas River. The complainant provided a photo of the subject holding the fish. The Sergeant contacted the subject, who stated he caught a hatchery fish, and showed a combined angling tag which listed a hatchery harvest. The subject provided several statements which showed knowledge of the regulations and was confronted with the fact there was a picture of him. The subject admitted the take of the wild fish and surrendered several fillets and a jar of eggs. The subject was criminally cited and released.

## Angler Checks - Aaron Mercer Reservoir

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angler checks at Aaron Mercer Reservoir. When he got out of his truck, he saw a subject look at him and throw his fishing rod in the bushes. The Trooper contacted the subject who stated he was just hanging out with his friends who were fishing. Once confronted on the fact he threw the pole in the bushes, the subject came clean and apologized. He was cited for **No Angling License**.

## Kilchis River Patrols

Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked approximately a dozen boats on the Kilchis River. A Trooper cited two male subjects, one for **Angling Closed Season for Trout** and the other for **No Salmon/Steelhead Tag**.

Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Troopers checked salmon anglers on the Kilchis River. Most anglers were targeting the hook and release chum salmon fishery. Citations were issued for **No Nonresident Angling License, No Combined Angling Tag, and Aiding in a Wildlife Violation**.

# CASE DISPOSITIONS

## Subjects Take Plea Deal in Wild Coho Case

In July, a Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper conducted an ocean patrol out of Newport. Two subjects were contacted who were actively fishing and had retained seven Coho salmon, three of which were wild. None of the salmon were tagged. Two criminal citations were issued for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin Clipped Coho Salmon, Exceeding Daily Limit of Fish, and Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. The three wild Coho salmon were seized and donated to the Newport Senior Center. In October both subjects agreed to a guilty plea and were found guilty of ORS 498.002, Class A Misdemeanor of Taking, Angling, Hunting, or Trapping in Violation of Wildlife Law or Rule and were fined \$750.00.





Oregon's fish and wildlife populations depend on us.



# Turn in poachers.

## Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Cash Rewards

- \$2,000 Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat & Moose
- \$1,000 Elk, Deer & Antelope
- \$600 Bear, Cougar & Wolf
- \$400 Game Fish & Shellfish\*
- \$400 Snagging/Attempt to Snag\*
- \$300 Habitat Destruction
- \$200 Illegally obtaining Oregon hunting or angling license or tags
- \$200 Unlawful Lending/Borrowing Big Game Tag(s)
- \$200 Game Birds or Furbearers
- \$200 Spotlighting

\*Rewards for Game, Fish & Shellfish and Snagging/Attempting to Snag are sponsored, in part, by Northwest Steelheaders Association and Coastal Conservation Association.

## Oregon Wildlife Coalition (OWC) Cash Rewards

### Birds

\$500 Hawk, Falcon, Eagle, Owl, Osprey

All other protected avian species: see category below for listed species

### Mammals

\$500 Cougar, Bobcat, Beaver, Black bears, Bighorn Sheep, Marten, Fisher, Sierra Nevada Red Fox  
 \$10,000 for Wolves east of Highway 395  
 \$11,500 for Wolves east of Highway 395 and north of Highway 20

\$1,000 Species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" under state or federal Endangered Species Act (excludes fish)  
 (e.g. wolverine, kit fox, red tree vole, Canada lynx, sea otter, Columbian white-tailed deer, California brown pelican, western snowy plover, California least tern, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, short-tailed albatross, streaked horned lark, yellow billed cuckoo, leatherback sea turtle, olive ridley sea turtle, Oregon spotted frog, green sea turtle, loggerhead sea turtle)

## ODFW Preference Points Rewards

- 5 Points Bighorn Sheep
- 5 Points Rocky Mountain Goat
- 5 Points Moose
- 5 Points Wolf
- 4 Points Elk
- 4 Points Deer
- 4 Points Pronghorn Antelope
- 4 Points Bear
- 4 Points Cougar

## Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association Cash Rewards

\$200 Acting as an Outfitter Guide for the Illegal Killing of Wildlife, Illegally Obtaining Oregon Hunting or Angling Licenses or Tags, or Illegally Offering to Act as an Outfitter Guide as defined in ORS 704.010 and 704.020.

**Any tip helps and can be anonymous!**  
**Dial \*OSP (\*677) on mobile devices**  
**or call 1-800-452-7888 to report poaching.**  
 Visit [ProtectOregonsWildlife.com](http://ProtectOregonsWildlife.com) to learn more.



# 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](http://www.osptrooper.com)

Questions? Please call 503-378-4474  
or email [osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov](mailto:osptrooper@osp.oregon.gov)

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