



OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION





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On the cover:

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrols the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers on a beautiful spring day

SPRING SALMON FISHING



Spring salmon fishing on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers is a long-standing tradition in Oregon, drawing eager anglers to dust off their trolling and plunking setups, to intercept returning Chinook. As water temperatures rise and river flows stabilize, these fish begin their upstream journey, offering both opportunity and responsibility. While the excitement of the season is undeniable, it also coincides with a critical period for wild salmon populations. The Snake River Spring Chinook and Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook runs are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Since ethical and legal angling practices play a major role in protecting wild salmon during the spring season, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Troopers spend a significant amount of time patrolling this fishery. Using appropriate gear, minimizing handling time, and practicing proper catch-and-release techniques can improve survival rates of released fish.

Typical offenses encountered in this fishery include the use of barbed hooks (Columbia River), the use of more than one rod, and failing to validate one's catch. Troopers use active boat and shore patrols to contact a high volume of anglers during the season and are keenly focused on the detection and apprehension of those taking wild salmon.

Black market sales of non-commercial spring salmon are also reported to the Oregon State Police every year. These reports often result in resource intensive and complex investigations leading to criminal charges.

Ultimately, the future of spring salmon fishing on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers depends on a continued commitment to stewardship. Protecting wild salmon is not just a regulatory requirement but a shared responsibility among anglers, agencies, and communities. By respecting the balance between harvest and conservation, today's fishing opportunities can be preserved for future generations.

OUTREACH & EVENTS



K-9 Buck Makes Friends at School

K-9 Buck and his handler traveled to the Albany Christian School for a visit. The Trooper read “Officer Buckle and Gloria” to four classes of first and second graders. K-9 Buck interacted with all the children and was a big hit. The Trooper answered questions and discussed how K-9 Buck helps the public.



Trooper Assists with Hunter Ed Course

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted with a hunter education course. The Trooper gave an OSP enforcement presentation one evening describing the duties game Troopers perform and went through some of the common violations they encounter. Each student was given questions that could be answered using the 2026 Big Game Regulations to get the young hunters used to utilizing the regulations. The class concluded on a Saturday with a field day in which the Trooper led groups of students in a hunter’s trail walk. The walk presented scenarios that encouraged students to consider whether situations were safe, ethical, or legal. Although the weather was rainy and windy, the students appeared to enjoy the walk and asked several questions along the way. There were 15 youth and two adults taking the class. Several parents attended the field day as well.

Trooper Attends Hunter Safety Class

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Heppner Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a hunter safety class with 29 students and 10 adults. Several topics were covered for the students and parents. The class was held at the Pendleton Convention Center during a gun show and the OSP presence was appreciated by many.

Trooper Attends Hunters Ed Class - Hermiston

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a hunter education class in Hermiston. Six children, six adults, and two ODFW hunter education instructors were present. The Trooper gave a presentation which included duties of Fish and Wildlife Troopers, tools and vehicles operated, ATV laws, gun safety, common game violations, ELS, and Turn-In-Poachers hotline and what information helps OSP make a case. Both children and parents engaged in constructive back and forth conversation. The Trooper was encouraged by ODFW instructors to attend as many of the upcoming hunter’s education field days as possible.

Sergeant Teaches at Forest Grove High School

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeant taught a class on two different days to 60 students at Forest Grove High School. On the second day, the Sergeant spent the entire 90-minute class answering questions like “If I’m diving for crab, do I have to measure them before I come to the surface” and “can I hunt nutria with a blow gun.” The class was full of adventurous youth, seeking answers to some challenging questions.

OUTREACH & EVENTS



OSP Attends Elevate Oregon Event

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from the East Valley Team, North Valley Team, Central Region, and OSP Headquarters, along with Troopers from several other divisions presented to kids from Elevate Oregon, a youth mentorship program based in Portland, about different jobs within OSP. The kids got to check out a boat, ATV, and the Trailer of Shame, as well as meet two Fish and Wildlife K-9s.



Trooper Helps Teach Hunters Ed Course

A McMinnville Fish and Wildlife Trooper helped teach a hunters education course field day at a local Polk County farm. A live fire safety course was the main event where students got to shoot bolt action 22 rifles at a paper target using iron sights. There were approximately 20 students in attendance from ages 8 through 16. The students got to see a large elk enforcement decoy and had many good conversations about what to do if they made a mistake.

Troopers Attend Plunking Clinic

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Sergeant participated in the annual Plunking Clinic put on by ODFW and Tualatin Valley Northwest Steelheaders at Walton Beach on the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA). Approximately 40 participants learned the nuances of how to catch salmonids from the beach.

Troopers Man Booth at Crab Community Feast

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended a community crab feast in North Bend. The Troopers manned a booth for the community outreach event. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

Troopers Attend OHA Banquet

Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers attended the OHA Capitol Chapter banquet. The Troopers met many local hunters and fielded a number of questions.

Trooper Reads to Kids During Dr. Seuss Week

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper visited the Eddyville School for their career day. Being that it was also Dr. Seuss Week, he read Dr. Seuss's "Green Eggs and Ham" to all of the elementary classes, handed out stickers and answered questions.



Trooper Reads to Kindergartners

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a community "Read in" during Read Across America Week at the Pendleton Early Learning Center. The Trooper spent time reading with kindergarten students and passing out OSP stickers.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Injured Owl Taken to Cascade Raptor Center

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a call of an injured owl in the Blue River area. The Trooper was able to locate and capture the owl, transporting it to the Cascade Raptor Center in Eugene.

Road Struck Eagle Taken to Rehab Center

A Bend Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of an injured eagle outside of Prineville. The eagle had a partially broken wing and was most likely hit by a vehicle. The Trooper contacted Think Wild Rehab Center and coordinated with the landowner for access to the injured bird. The eagle was captured by members of Think Wild and was taken to the rehabilitation center.

Trooper Rescues Man on Broken Down UTV

A Burns Fish and Wildlife Trooper was on the East Steens Road early the morning after bobcat trapping season had closed. The Trooper contacted an individual on foot who advised his UTV had broken down in the middle of the night while he was out hunting for his last bobcat of the year. The Trooper gave him about a fifteen-mile ride back to his truck and trailer so he could return to recover his broken down UTV. He was extremely grateful to OSP for the help.

Injured Bald Eagle Taken for Evaluation

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of an injured bald eagle. The Trooper coordinated with Umpqua Wildlife Rescue to capture the eagle. The eagle was safely captured and taken for evaluation and treatment.



Deer Freed from Fence near Battle Mountain

A Pendleton Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted a motorist who located a deer stuck in a fence near Battle Mountain. The Trooper arrived and was able to free the deer which was able to run away on its own with minor cuts.

Wildlife Center Optimistic about Eagle Recovery

An Astoria Patrol Trooper responded to a call of an injured eagle that had hit power lines in the city of Warrenton knocking out power to numerous residences. The eagle was captured and a Fish and Wildlife Trooper transported the injured eagle to the North Coast Wildlife Center the next morning. A check with the vet techs at the wildlife center indicated the eagle was doing surprisingly well and they were optimistic about the bird's recovery.

Elderly Man Rescued from Stranded Vehicle

While searching for a stolen vehicle, Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers came upon a stranded motorist stuck in a snow drift on U.S. Forest Service land in the Applegate Unit. The elderly gentleman had been stranded for 24 hours, and Search and Rescue had been activated. The vehicle was out of gas from running all night to keep him warm. The Troopers were able to free the vehicle, and the gentleman was provided with gas, coffee, and food before being escorted to a safe road.

GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



Troopers Clear Fallen Trees from Road

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles put the chainsaws to work and cleared trees that had fallen across a forest service road due to heavy winds. This particular road is heavily used throughout the year and provides access to certain portions of the White River Wildlife Area, as well as a large chunk of national forest.

Fort Rock/ Silver Lake TMA Patrols

Lakeview and La Pine Fish and Wildlife Troopers worked together during the month of March to combat and deter violations of the Fort Rock/ Silver Lake Travel Management Area (TMA) in the Hole-in-the-Ground area. Assistance was also provided by other local Fish and Wildlife Troopers and the Central Region OSP Pilot. Over two weekends, there were a total of 88 contacts in the TMA with 30 citations and 39 warnings issued for violating the TMA.

Pilot Assists on TMA Patrols

Lakeview and La Pine Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the northern Lake County Travel Management areas with assistance from the Central Region OSP Pilot. More than twenty vehicles were contacted violating the motorized vehicle use restrictions. Citations and warnings were issued.

Bikers Violate Winter Travel Closure

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles responded to a complaint from ODFW of three individuals who were seen traveling within the winter closure of the White River Wildlife Area on mountain bikes. A photo was provided to the Troopers who were patrolling close to the area. Troopers were able to locate the three individuals on the road as they were leaving the area. Contact was made and the bikers acknowledged they saw the closure signs on the gate, but stated they could save about 10 miles on their bike ride if they were able to cut through the closed area. The bikers stated they were in the wrong by doing so. All three individuals were issued citations for **Unlawful Entry Closed Area: ODFW Lands**.

Driver Arrested for DUII

A Springfield Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a vehicle for multiple traffic violations. During the contact, the Trooper noticed signs of impairment. The driver consented to standard field sobriety tests and was subsequently arrested for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)**. The driver provided a breath sample of .24% blood alcohol content. The driver was issued citations for **DUII, Driving While Suspended: Misdemeanor, Reckless Driving, Fail to Install IID, and Driving Uninsured**.

Unlawful Entry in ODFW Wildlife Area

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area for a report from ODFW of a suspicious truck parked just inside the boundary of the wildlife area. The East Region OSP Pilot responded and conducted an aerial search to assist in locating the subjects. The Sergeant located a phone number for the registered owner of the truck who stated his young adult son and a friend were out shed hunting in the area. Shortly before dusk, the two subjects made it back to the vehicle. Both admitted to having walked about 7-8 miles and didn't notice closure signs until walking out, despite the truck being parked within sight of closure signs. Both subjects were cited for **Unlawful Entry in ODFW Wildlife Area**.

Trooper Helps Apprehend Stolen Vehicle Suspect

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Astoria and Seaside Police Departments, and Clatsop County Sheriff's Office with the apprehension of a suspect following the theft of a vehicle in Astoria. The suspect fled the scene and eluded officers over 30 miles at a high rate of speed causing multiple crashes along Highway 101. The vehicle finally came to a stop after a collision, and the suspect attempted to flee to a nearby residence when the Trooper and Seaside Police apprehended the suspect without incident.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT



Subject Cited for Unlawful Take and False Report

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant, with assistance from a Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper, completed an investigation involving the unlawful take of a 6x6 bull elk with a rifle the day after the 2024 archery season closed. Investigation revealed the suspect killed the bull elk with his rifle on private property in the Murderers Creek Unit and then tagged it with his Archery Elk Tag. The suspect then knowingly falsified his ODFW mandatory report form stating he killed the bull elk during archery season. The Trooper interviewed the suspect, who had moved to the Florence area, and obtained a confession from the suspect for killing the bull elk with his rifle and tagging it with his archery tag. The suspect was charged with **Unlawful Take Bull Elk** and **Knowingly Making a False Report to ODFW**. The 6x6 antler set was seized.

Subject Cited after Poaching Investigation

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper completed a long-term joint investigation with Curry County Sheriff's Office. In August a tip was received that a subject had shot at least three antlerless elk closed season and wasted at least two of the elk. Extensive investigation was performed over several months. Some elk meat was seized from a Gold Beach residence. Through interviews, information was gained that the suspect shot the elk with a stolen firearm which was then sold shortly after the incident. The firearm was located and recovered by the Sheriff's office. Ultimately, the suspect was cited and released for **Take/Possession of Antlerless Elk** and **Waste of a Game Mammal**. The Sheriff's Office lodged the subject in jail for **Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Possession of Stolen Property, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Criminal Trespass With a Firearm**.

Meat Processing Facility Given Multiple Citations

Springfield Area Troopers concluded their investigation into a meat cutting/processing facility in Cottage Grove. In February, Springfield Area Troopers conducted an inspection at the facility due to numerous complaints. Troopers found the facility to be operating with no licenses as they had expired in 2025. Troopers also located nine buck deer heads and one set of antlers with no written record of transfer. The owner of the facility was ultimately issued criminal citations for **Violation of Licenses Required** (292 counts) and **No Written Record of Transfer** (10 counts).

Thermal Use Results in Search Warrant

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from Roseburg and Coos Bay served a warrant on a subject reported to be using thermal imaging while deer hunting in the 2025 western Oregon deer season. The suspect confessed to using a thermal imaging device to hunt for the last four years. The thermal imaging device was not located. One rifle was seized, and the suspect was cited and released for **Hunting, Locating, or Scouting with the Aid of a Thermal Imaging Device, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Crime**.

MARINE FISHERIES



Squid Fishery Monitoring

A Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Sergeant and Trooper continued to monitor the market squid fishery in Newport. Troopers monitored closed periods, vessel/skiff registration, gear regulations and offloads. Two vessels were contacted and their nets were measured and checked to ensure they were in compliance with regulation.



Commercial Dungeness Crab Offloads

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers were observing commercial Dungeness crab offloads in Newport when a large amount of undersized crab was observed from a single boat. The Troopers began measuring the offload of approximately 950 lbs. At the conclusion of measuring, it was found that 11.86% of the load was undersized. The boat captain and two crew members were contacted and interviewed. The captain took responsibility for the undersized crab stating his crew were not properly trained on measuring. The captain was cited for **Take/Possession Undersized Crab**, and both crew members were warned for the same offense.

Subject Cited for No License/Harvest Tag

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a subject at South Beach Marina in Newport who had just returned from salmon and groundfish angling in the ocean. The subject and his group stated they had gone out and attempted to catch a salmon as it was the opener for ocean salmon from Cape Falcon to the Oregon/California border. The subject stated he did not catch a salmon but did retain his lingcod and general marine bag limits. Upon inspection it was observed the subject did not possess a valid angling license or combined angling harvest tag. The subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **No Combined Angling Harvest Tag**.

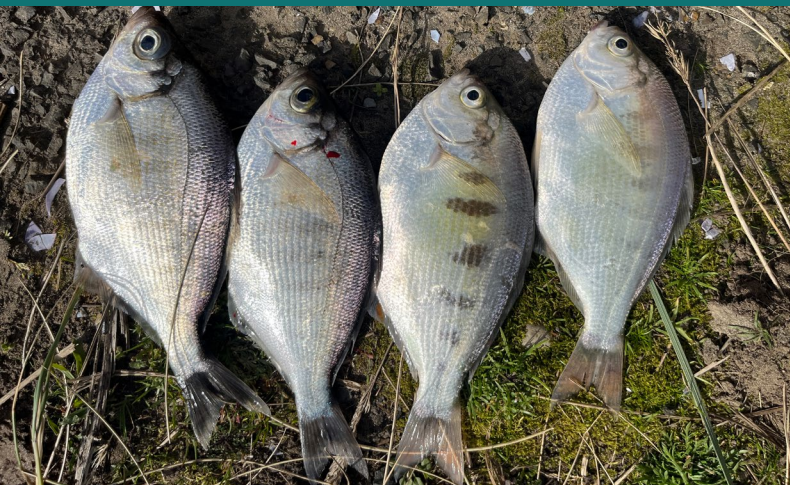
Company Cited for Gear Left More Than 14 Days

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted the company responsible for a commercial fishing vessel and associated Dungeness crab permit which had failed to make a landing of crab within 14 days of the previous landing. When the Trooper contacted the company, it had not only been 48 days since the last landing, but also 48 days since the gear was last tended. Dissolution of the company and internal disputes were the reasons given for the lapse in landings and neglect to tend the gear. After taking enforcement action, the Trooper assisted the owners of the company with arrangements to retrieve the gear from the ocean. The company was cited for **Leave Gear Set More Than 14 Days without a Landing**.

Bay Shellfish Checks

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted shellfish checks in the Siletz and Yaquina Bays. Over 30 contacts were made with one citation issued for **Take Crab With More Than Three Pots/Rings/Lines**. Several warnings were also issued for various violations

MARINE FISHERIES



Four Surf Perch Seized

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked angler surveillance of groundfish and surf perch anglers in Fort Stevens State Park on the south jetty. Several subjects were contacted and stated they were unaware they needed an ocean endorsement to fish off the jetty and were provided education and a verbal warning. On one contact a subject who was actively angling stated they did not have an Oregon angling license and was hoping their Washington license was sufficient. The subject was advised they would need to obtain a non-resident Oregon angling license if they wished to resume angling. Four surf perch were seized and donated to Loaves and Fishes in Astoria. Enforcement action was taken for **No Non-Resident Angling License**.

Low Tide Razor Clam Patrols

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted shellfish razor clam patrols during a low tide. On one contact a subject was observed digging a hole and placing three razor clams in it from a bucket of razor clams. When asked why the subject was burying the razor clams the subject stated he was over his limit and wasn't counting. The subject was ultimately issued a violation citation for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams**.

Commercial Pink Shrimp Fishery Preparations

Many fisherman were in port mending and getting nets ready to fish prior to the April 1st commercial pink shrimp fishery season opening. This is a good time for Troopers to easily see nets spread out on the docks and check them for compliance prior to them being put onto the boats. Several nets were checked and some of the bycatch reduction devices, commonly known as an "excluder," had bent areas on the grate creating an opening between the bars in excess of the limited 0.75 inches. The crew working on the nets was informed of this and said they would ensure the grates were repaired prior to fishing.

Undersized Commercial Dungeness Crab

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a phone call from an ODFW employee sampling commercial Dungeness crab offloads on the Newport Bayfront. The employee reported observing numerous undersized crab in an 881 lb offload. The entire offload was measured and found to be over 18% undersized. The captain and crew of the vessel were interviewed, and it was determined one of the deckhands was responsible for the majority of the measuring. One deckhand was cited for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab** while the captain and other deckhand were warned for the same offense.

Multiple Angling/Crab Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a boat motor to the dock at South Beach Marina with expired validation stickers. Upon contacting the two individuals in the boat it was observed there were crab and herring on board. Both individuals stated they had been herring fishing in the bay while only one of them was crabbing. The Trooper requested to inspect angling and shellfish licenses from the individuals, and it was learned neither of them had valid angling or shellfish licenses. A check of the crab onboard also revealed undersized crab had been retained. Enforcement action was taken against one individual for **No Resident Angling License, No Resident Shellfish License, Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab, Fail to Display Validation Stickers, and No/Improperly Displayed Identifying Numbers on Vessel**. The other individual was cited for **No Resident Angling License**.

Failure to Submit Fish Ticket

OSP works closely with ODFW to compare fish tickets with fisheries that require logbooks. Frequently there are issues with either the fisher not recording the landing or a dealer not completing a fish ticket. Accurate reporting on both ends is critical in managing fisheries. A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper followed up with a commercial bay crabber whose logbook entries were either missing or did not match up with landings. The fisherman was sure his landings were correct and he had landed them to the dealer back in November. A Newport Sergeant later received a call from a wholesale dealer who reported they had been called by the fisher about a missing fish ticket. The dealer explained when he went to check his records, he found a dock receipt for the landings stuck between some other fish tickets and it had never been entered. The wholesale dealer normally didn't have any compliance issues so was warned for **Failure to Submit Fish Ticket**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Lake Billy Chinook Boat Patrol

A Central Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant, Bend Sergeant, and Trooper from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol on Lake Billy Chinook. During the contact the Troopers contacted 60 anglers and located individuals in violation of **Inadequate Number of Life Jackets, No Angling License, No Type IV Throwable, and Expired Boat Registration.**

South Beach Marina Angler Checks

Newport Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted angling checks at the South Beach Marina. Hundreds of anglers were contacted while the herring were in, and several boats were inspected. After the first day of herring checks, the word quickly spread, and anglers complied with catch limits. Anglers were issued citations for **No Angling License and No/Expired Certificate of Number.** Warnings were issued for **No Valid Electronic/Paper Angling License in Possession, No/Expired Certificate of Number, Fail to Display Validation Stickers, No Waterway Access Permit, and No/Improperly Displayed Identifying Numbers on Vessel.**

Snake River Angling Violations

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed an adult male subject and three juvenile subjects actively angling the Snake River from East Island Road. The investigation revealed that the adult subject was fishing with two poles, did not have a valid fishing license or a two rod validation. Two of the juveniles did not have youth fishing licenses and the 11-year-old was the only one lawfully angling. The adult subject was cited for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **No Two Rod Validation** and two counts of **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense.**

Malheur County Saturation Patrol

Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a saturation of waterways in Malheur County including the Snake River, Owyhee River, and Lake Owyhee which resulted in the following citations being issued: **No Resident Angling License, No Non-Resident Angling License, Two Rod Validation, and Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Violation.** The Troopers observed three subjects on the other side of the Owyhee River standing next to two poles with lines in the water. One of the subjects fled on foot from the scene and was hiding at his camp prior to police contact. One of the Troopers located the subject in the brush near his camp. A records check of the subject revealed a statewide felony warrant for a probation violation out of Malheur County. The subject was arrested and transported to the Malheur County Jail where he was lodged for the warrant.

Troopers Educate Group on Angling Regulations

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles received a report of someone unlawfully catching and retaining a non-adipose fin-clipped steelhead on the Hood River. The investigation revealed that a young man, his sister, and his aunt and uncle had gone on a spur of the moment outing. The juvenile boy had caught the fish and did not possess an angling license, harvest card, nor Columbia River Endorsement. Troopers spent considerable time educating the group on angling regulations and fish identification. Ultimately, the fish was seized and donated to charity and the uncle was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Steelhead.**

Sturgeon Patrol - The Dalles Pool

Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled The Dalles Pool on a recent sturgeon retention day. Two Troopers and a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Officer patrolled from one boat, a Sergeant and Trooper patrolled from another boat, a Trooper patrolled aboard a WDFW boat with two WDFW Officers, and two Troopers patrolled the shore. In total, 213 anglers and 60 boats were checked. Citations were issued for **Fail to Allow Inspection of Catch, Unlawful Take/Possession Under-Sized Sturgeon, No Combined Angling Harvest Card, Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hood, Angling Prohibited Method: Two Rods, and Inadequate Number of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs).** Additionally, seven warnings were issued and one undersized fish was seized.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



One-Day Smelt Season on the Sandy River

Prior to the smelt season opener, a Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles was assisting the Portland area team at the Sandy River to protect the smelt. He observed two subjects dipping nets and taking smelt. Three Portland area Troopers were guided into the area and contacted the subjects who were in possession of 11 pounds of smelt. One subject attempted to hide behind a tree to avoid Troopers. The pair were loading smelt in buckets and contractor garbage bags. The pair were also in possession of three 50-count boxes of contractor bags, and claimed they just bought the bags for the restaurant they work for but had not intended to use those for smelt collection, even though one of the boxes was opened and they were using the same type of bags. The equipment and smelt were seized, and the pair was criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Fish Closed Season** and **Angling Closed Season**.

Portland and Salem Fish and Wildlife Troopers patrolled the Sandy River during the smelt run. At the time, the smelt season was not yet opened by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. While patrolling the northwest bank of the Sandy River, a Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a headlamp near the riverbank and saw a subject actively dip netting smelt. As Troopers approached the area, the subject fled by jumping into the river to avoid contact. The subject made it about fifty to sixty yards in the cold water and was eventually detained. The subject was issued a criminal citation for **Unlawful Dipping**. A five-gallon bucket containing over 40 lbs. of smelt, a large dip net, and a headlamp were seized as evidence.

Fish and Wildlife Troopers and Detectives from around the state assisted with the 2026 smelt opener. The smelt run waned just prior to the opening, resulting in very little successful harvest. In all, 295 contacts were made. One citation and one warning were issued for **Dipping Without a License**. Six subjects were cited dipping outside the open area. Troopers also worked with ODOT incident response to monitor and control traffic issues created by the open fishery.

The entire Mid-Columbia Fish and Wildlife Team assisted with the smelt season. Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles located three subjects **Dipping Smelt Closed Area** and they were issued citations for the violation. Their 20-30 smelt were returned live back to the river. Troopers also warned a father and his two young children for fishing in a closed area.

East Valley Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a subject related to a previous contact that occurred during smelt season. During the previous contact, the subject lied extensively about his identity while the Troopers were attempting to identify him in relation to issuing an angling citation. The subject was criminally cited for **Giving False Information to a Police Officer**.

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Suspect Pleads Guilty in Bull Elk Case

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated the unlawful take of a trophy class 6x6 bull elk that was killed the day before archery season opened in September 2025 in the Strawberry Wilderness in the Murderers Creek Unit. The suspect pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk** and was given the following sentence:

- 40 hours of community service
- 3-year hunting license suspension
- \$7,048 in fines and restitution (including \$500 to the OHA TIP Fund)
- Forfeiture of compound bow

Suspect Sentenced to Jail in Poaching Case

Madras Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a case disposition for a poaching case they diligently worked from 2024-2025. Two subjects were investigated for shooting four deer and one elk out of season among numerous other offenses. The first suspect pleaded guilty to two counts of **Taking, Angling, Hunting, or Trapping in Violation of Wildlife Law** (out of 15 initial charges sent to the DA's office). The subject was given the following sentence:

- 20 days jail
- 36 months bench probation
- 5-year hunting license suspension
- \$15,000 restitution

Suspect Pleads Guilty to Firearm Possession

A Fossil Fish and Wildlife Trooper stopped a vehicle during 2025 Buck Rifle Season in the Fossil Unit on a State Forest Road for a traffic violation. During contact, a rifle was observed between the door and the driver's leg. A check of the driver returned that he had a firearm prohibition and could not lawfully possess a firearm. The firearm was seized and the driver was cited and released for the criminal charge of **Unlawfully Possessing a Firearm**. The suspect pleaded guilty and was given the following sentence:

- 12 months bench probation
- \$500 fine

Suspect Pleads Guilty in Cow Elk Case

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Trooper investigated the unlawful take of a cow elk in the Northside Unit in November of 2025. Investigation revealed the suspect was a resident of Maryland and had been obtaining resident Oregon licenses and tags for the past three years. The suspect was charged with multiple crimes and subsequently pleaded guilty to **Unlawful Take of Antlerless Elk**. The suspect was given the following sentence:

- 40 hours of community service
- 3 year hunting license suspension
- \$4,676 in fines and restitution





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 to learn more.



