



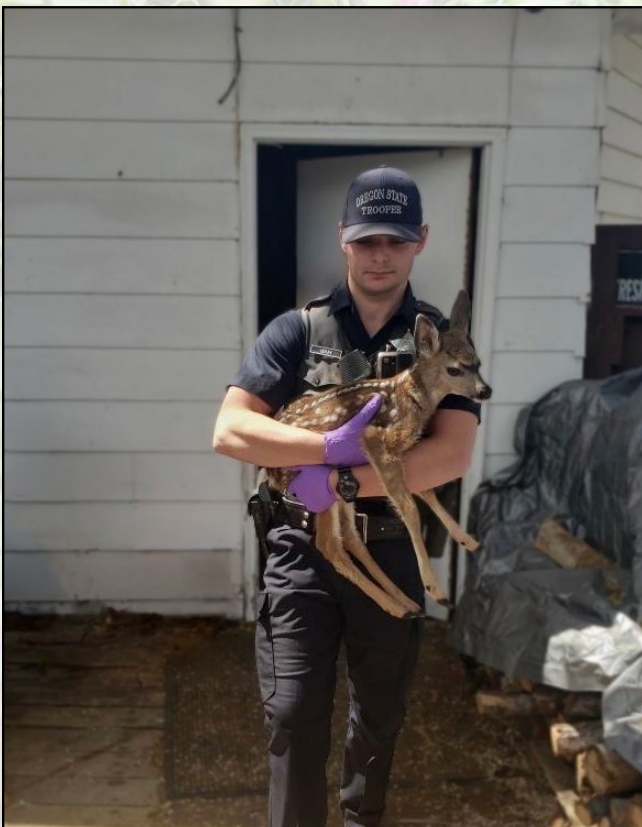
OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION





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On the cover:

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper seizes a deer fawn (see page 3 for more)

LEAVE WILDLIFE IN THE WILD

Spring is in full swing across Oregon, bringing a surge of newborn fawns, elk calves, and fledgling birds. During May, the Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division receives a high volume of calls from well-meaning citizens who have picked up "abandoned" young animals.

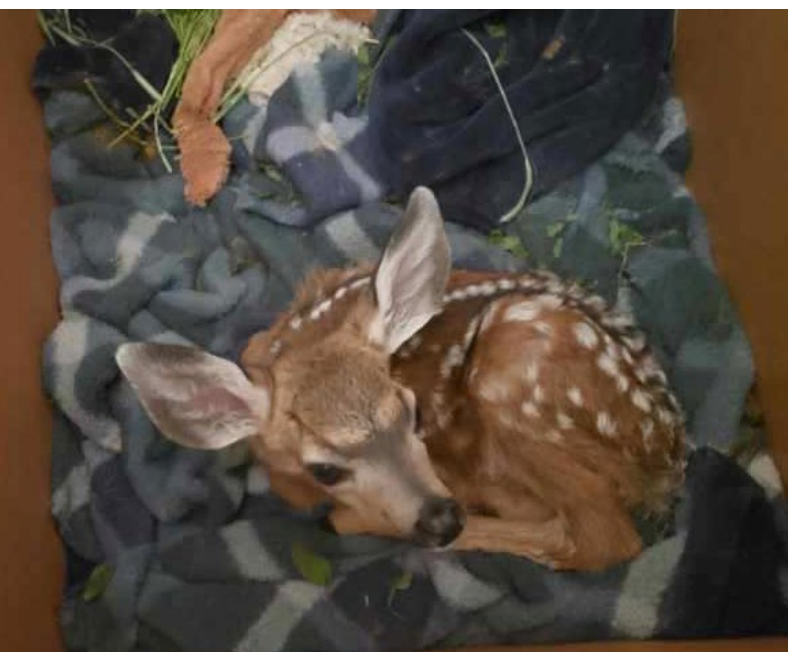
The cover photo this month highlights an incident that perfectly illustrates why it is important to leave wildlife in the wild. A Klamath Falls Trooper responded to a residence where citizens had taken a young deer fawn (photo below) from a grassy pasture. Believing the mother had abandoned it, the residents brought the fawn inside and were attempting to raise it in their home. OSP and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) intervened, seized the fawn, and issued a citation for unlawful possession of wildlife. Fortunately, the fawn was safely transferred to ODFW for professional rehabilitation and a chance at being released back into the wild.

While this story had a manageable outcome, many do not. We want to remind everyone of the vital rules for protecting our local wildlife.

For comprehensive instructions on how to handle specific wildlife encounters and to learn more about keeping Oregon's animals safe, please review the official ODFW guidance available on their website.

Thank you for doing your part to keep Southwest Oregon's wildlife wild and safe.

All information on how to handle wildlife is courtesy of ODFW. Find out more at: myodfw.com/articles/leave-young-wildlife-wild



Why You Should Keep Your Distance

- **They are rarely abandoned.** Parents of wildlife routinely leave their young hidden while they forage nearby.
- **Human scent causes harm.** Touching a young animal can inadvertently alert predators to its location.
- **Removal reduces survival.** Removing an animal from its habitat severely lowers its chances of living a full life.
- **It is illegal.** Holding or moving wild animals without a permit violates state law and carries penalties.

What You Should Do Instead

- **Stay back.** Observe from a safe distance.
- **Leave them alone.** Trust that the mother is nearby and will return once you leave.
- **Control your pets.** Keep dogs on leashes to protect vulnerable young wildlife.
- **Call the experts.** Contact an ODFW office or an authorized wildlife rehabilitator if an animal is visibly injured.

K-9 BUCK RETIRES



Oregon's first conservation K-9, Buck, officially retired from service on May 20, 2026. First deployed in 2018, Buck responded to 184 missions across the state and participated in 156 outreach events. Some of Buck's deployments led to the recovery of key evidence that contributed to convictions in wildlife crime investigations, as well as homicide and major assault cases.

During the retirement gathering, K-9 Buck and his handler, Senior Trooper Josh Wolcott, were presented with the OSP Harold R. Berg Lifesaving Award for their assistance in locating and rescuing a citizen from a pond.

Congratulations to Buck on his well-earned retirement. Thank you to our partners at the Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) for their continued support of the Conservation K-9 Program.



Lieutenant Clay Core presents a plaque to Sr. Trooper Wolcott



OWF's Tim Greseth speaks about OWF and OSP's partnership



INTRODUCING K-9 DRAKE



OSP Fish and Wildlife Division is proud to introduce the division's newest K-9, Drake, who succeeds Buck as Senior Trooper Wolcott's partner. Drake is a 1-year-old, black lab who is eager to learn and has already shown great tracking abilities. Following are some of K-9 Drake's recent activities.



Lieutenant Core and Sr. Trooper Wolcott with Drake and Buck



K-9 Drake and his handler traveled to the Bend area where they met with a 4-H club. Approximately 10 participants, including adults, attended. The Trooper discussed the Oregon State Police K-9 program, K-9 care, K-9 training, and conducted demonstrations for the group. The presentation was well received.

K-9 Drake and his handler also presented to the Albany chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). During the presentation, the Trooper discussed the K-9 program, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife priorities, and answered many questions. The presentation was well received.

Springfield Fish and Wildlife Troopers and K-9 Drake conducted classroom talks at the Albany Christian School. Troopers spoke about the Oregon State Police and the K-9 Program. K-9 Drake was a big hit with all of the kids!

K-9 Drake and his handler assisted the Lane County Sheriff's Office with a K-9 search related to a subject that had been missing for approximately one week. During the search, K-9 Drake located three human tracks that were verified to be searchers from the prior day. Other locations where K-9 Drake showed interest were documented and search and rescue teams searched utilizing divers, ground searchers, other K-9 teams, and drones.

K-9 Drake and his handler assisted the McMinnville Police Department with conducting a K-9 search. The McMinnville Police Department was conducting an investigation related to a shooting that had occurred in a local area park. K-9 Drake was deployed to search a large area for any evidence tied to the shooting.

OUTREACH & EVENTS



Trooper Attends Youth Angling Event

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles attended a youth angling event at Camp Baldwin put on by ODFW, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Mid-Columbia Chapter, and Boy Scouts of America. Many families and youth were in attendance. The fishing was excellent, and everyone had a great time.



Troopers Attend Youth Angling Event

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles attended a youth angling event at Bikini Pond hosted by ODFW and CCA Mid-Columbia Chapter. Many families and youth were in attendance. Several of the more inexperienced youth anglers were assisted by the Troopers, which led to successfully landing a fish.



Trooper Attends School Outdoors Day

A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper participated in the Brooklyn Elementary Outdoors Day, at Phillips Ford Park, Baker City. About 70 kids participated in the event and were taught about big game mammals and furbearers in Eastern Oregon. ODFW pelts and big game skulls and antlers were used as teaching tools throughout the day.

YMCA Healthy Kids Event - Baker City

Baker City and Ontario Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in the YMCA Healthy Kids event, at the Geiser Pullman Park, Baker City. About 200 kids participated in a life jacket safety course, which involved an obstacle course. The kids also learned how to cast and reel fishing poles.

OUTREACH & EVENTS

Trooper Attends Charity Fishing Derby

An Enterprise Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended a Kokanee Derby at Wallowa Lake. This was a medical charity drive for a local Wallowa County man. The Derby was able to raise over \$20,000 with 65 participants. The top fish weighed 3 lbs, 11 oz. Consolation prize was awarded to a participant who reeled in a sardine sized Kokanee at a whopping 1.25 oz.

Sergeant Presents at Deschutes Club Meeting

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant from The Dalles gave a presentation at the annual Deschutes Club meeting. About 60 people were in attendance and the Sergeant presented information on enforcement activities on the river as well as how to operate the ODFW app successfully in areas without cell service. This is a frequent challenge as much of the river canyon is an out of service area.

Trooper Presents at Rogue Valley OHA Meeting

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the Rogue Valley Chapter Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) meeting to provide members with an update on the Rogue Valley Fish and Wildlife Team's recent enforcement activities, trending issues, and answer members' questions.

Trooper Speaks at Bend OHA Meeting

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper attended the OHA Bend Chapter's monthly meeting as the guest speaker. The Trooper gave a presentation covering the good work of the Central Oregon Fish and Wildlife Team over 2025. About 40 members were in attendance including multiple US Forest Service (USFS) employees and a retired OSP Sergeant. The presentation was well received and many questions were fielded.

Troopers Attend Pendleton Learning Center Event

Pendleton area Fish and Wildlife Troopers assisted patrol members and bomb technicians at the Pendleton Learning Center, speaking to 10 different classes and approximately 75 children and teachers. Students were able to look inside a fish and wildlife truck, a North River boat, the team's side-by-side, and look at a bull elk decoy. Discussion topics included day-to-day operations as a Fish and Wildlife Trooper, and boat and ATV safety.

Youth Fishing Event - Laurance Lake

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles attended a youth fishing event at the Laurance Lake settling pond in Parkdale. The weather was cold and rainy, but despite this the event was a success with approximately 60 youth and adults catching a lot of trout.



Troopers Give Presentations at Multiple Pendleton Area Schools

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers from Pendleton, Hermiston and Heppner provided educational presentations at three middle and high schools. An ODFW Biologist joined the Troopers to outline changes to upcoming deer hunting seasons, specifically new deer hunt areas. ODFW interactive maps outlining the new areas were accessed and demonstrated. The presentation also covered other topics regarding waterway access permits, angling, hunting, TIP rewards, thermal use, and marine board requirements. This presentation has also been provided to other schools as part of the Columbia Basin Team's goal of educating youth throughout their patrol area, increasing awareness surrounding the new deer hunt areas.

RESCUES & COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE



Goslings Rescued - Medford

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report from a resident in Medford who had located five goslings and could not find the parents in the area. The Trooper responded and attempted to locate the parents but was unable to. All five goslings were brought to Wildlife Images for evaluation and care.

Fledgling Red-Tailed Hawk Rescued

A St. Helens Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the report of an injured bird in the Clatskanie area. When he arrived on scene, he found a fledgling red-tailed hawk on the side of the road. The hawk was removed from the area and transported to Bird Alliance of Oregon in Portland for evaluation.

Injured Cyclist Rescued - Spence Mountain

A Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a cyclist that crashed on a very technical, high speed, downhill course on Spence Mountain. The cyclist's exact location was initially unknown, and he was suffering from a significant leg injury. The Trooper hiked half a mile up the mountain after several miles of rough off-highway roads. He was able to locate the cyclist who appeared to have a significant femur fracture as well as hitting his head. The Trooper coordinated emergency medical and search and rescue response. A Klamath County Sheriff's Office forest Deputy was able to bring a compact side-by-side up the trail with a medic on board. The subject was stabilized on a backboard and responders were able to strap the backboard to the bed of the side-by-side and slowly make their way down the trail to the ambulance. The subject's dog, property, and bicycle were also transported to family members at the trailhead.



Road-Struck Eagle Taken to Wildlife Rescue

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and ODOT responded to a report of a road-struck eagle on Highway 138 W, near Yellow Creek. The eagle was located alive but unable to fly. It was recovered and transported by the Sergeant to Umpqua Wildlife Rescue for further evaluation and treatment.



GENERAL LAW & ENVIRONMENT



OSP and BLM Cite Subject for Dumping Trash

A Prineville Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a littering complaint on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land near Prineville. The caller had located mail and pill bottles with matching names. The Trooper and a BLM Officer determined the subject named on the mail had recently been evicted. A neighbor provided a vehicle description of a crew who cleaned out the house. A Prineville Police Department Officer located the vehicle, and the homeowner confirmed it was the people she hired to clean out the house. A subject admitted to the dump and was cited for **Offensive Littering** by OSP and **Dumping of Commercial Waste** by BLM. The subject has also been cited multiple times in 2026 for angling violations.

Wanted Person Arrested - Odell Creek

A La Pine Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling Odell Creek near Davis Lake and encountered a suspicious vehicle with the license plates covered. The driver was contacted and advised he was from Florida visiting the area. The Trooper recognized the subject from a previous statewide bulletin and news stories as a wanted sex offender from Wasco County who had failed to appear for sentencing on a 23-year prison sentence. The subject was taken into custody and lodged at the Deschutes County Jail.

Subject Cited for Offensive Littering

A Madras Fish and Wildlife Trooper patrolled Haystack Reservoir on Mother's Day. A female subject was observed smoking, while she was fishing, and then throwing the cigarette butt into the water. The Trooper contacted her and saw another cigarette butt between her feet on the ground. The subject received a criminal citation for **Offensive Littering**.

DUII Driver Arrested After Crash

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was on his way home from a nighttime patrol when he came across a crashed vehicle in the city of Portland. The driver was impaired and the Trooper requested Portland Police Bureau respond so that they may take the investigation in their jurisdiction. The driver attempted to get into an Uber that he had ordered while on scene and the Trooper arrested him for **Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII)**. A Portland Patrol Trooper responded and continued the DUII investigation with a blood warrant out of Multnomah County. After the blood sample was seized and the criminal investigation complete, a breath sample revealed a blood alcohol content (BAC) of .14%. His vehicle was towed.

Subject Cited for Cutting Trees in State Park

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted Patrol Division with a report of a subject felling trees on Tugman State Park property adjacent to Highway 101. The subject was observed leaving the area with a truck load of cedar, which he was attempting to sell at a local chainsaw carving business. More than a dozen trees were cut down on State Park property, though not all could be attributed to the subject. The subject was cited for **Pick, Cut, Mutilate, or Remove Plants or Natural Resources from State Parks**, and was made to return the wood to where it had been taken.

Eluding Subject Arrested

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper was traveling through La Pine and observed a subject who had eluded Deputies and Troopers for the last year. The subject was known to be wanted on sex abuse charges and have outstanding felony warrants. The subject was advised he was under arrest and a foot pursuit occurred. The subject resisted arrest and was taken into custody. He was lodged in the Deschutes County Jail for **Attempting to Elude, Escape, Resisting Arrest, Failing to Register as a Sex Offender**, and three outstanding felony warrants for parole and probation violations, and sex abuse.

WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT

Take of Game Bird Closed Season

A Fish and Wildlife Trooper from The Dalles received a tip report that a resident at the Sportsman Park had been shooting at geese with a pellet rifle. A neighbor recovered one goose that appeared to have suffered internal injuries and died. An interview was conducted and the suspect admitted to shooting at the geese to scare them off his property, including during the same period of time when the deceased goose was discovered. The air rifle was seized, and the same type of pellet was discovered inside the deceased goose. The subject was criminally cited for **Take of Game Bird Closed Season**.

Subject Cited for Taking Turkey from Road

A La Grande Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a subject shooting a turkey from a county road in the Mt. Emily unit late in the evening. Utilizing the ELS system a possible suspect and his hunting party were identified. The group of hunters were from Mississippi and were staying in the local area. The Trooper contacted the group and one individual admitted to shooting a turkey from the county road after the birds had run across the road in front of them. The subject was cited and released for **Taking Turkey Prohibited Area: Road/Road Right of Way**.

Unlawful Take/Possession of Bear

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information from an ODFW biologist regarding a hunter who had checked in a black bear without a valid bear tag. A follow-up investigation determined the hunter had not purchased his controlled spring bear tag at the time the bear was harvested. Enforcement action was taken for **Unlawful Take/Possession of Bear**, and the bear hide and meat was seized as evidence. The bear hide was transported to the Clackamas ODFW office, and the bear meat was donated to a charity.

Failure to Comply with Check-in Requirements

A Salem Fish and Wildlife Trooper was advised by ODFW about a subject who had killed a female cougar but failed to provide the required reproductive tract to ODFW. The Trooper contacted the hunter and conducted a thorough interview regarding the timing of the tag purchase and validation. The hunter provided photos of the cougar from a cellular trail camera before the tag was purchased. The hunter was issued a violation citation for **Failure to Comply with Cougar Check-in Requirements**.

Subject Cited for Removing Nest with Eggs

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Sergeant received a call from a resident at an apartment complex in Woodburn reporting that maintenance technicians pressure washed an active swallow nest off of a wall in the complex. The resident had photos and video which supported the fact there were eggs in the nest just prior to the removal. The maintenance manager explained they have a policy of ensuring nests are clear before removal. The actual technician claimed he checked the nest, and it was clear prior to removal. However when he was shown the video of the eggs in the nest, the technician admitted he may not have checked it well enough before beginning the work. He was issued a violation citation for the unlawful taking of the birds.



Stock photo of a swallow and its nest

MARINE FISHERIES



Low Tide Shellfish Checks

Marine Fisheries Team (MFT) Troopers conducted shellfish checks throughout the coast during a low tide series.

- An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted surveillance of the popular recreational bay clam fishery in Garibaldi. Enforcement action was taken for **Fail to Use own Container and Exceeding the Daily Limit of Bay Clams**. A total of 130 bay clams were seized over two days and returned to the bay.
- A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant conducted surveillance on Alsea Bay near Waldport. The Sergeant observed one subject clean gaper clams on the clam flats and put the clam necks into the pocket of his waders. When he came up to the roadway, he had eight gaper necks, five gaper feet and an additional six full gapers and two cockles over his limit. He was cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Bay Clams and Possession of Mutilated Clams**. Another subject was observed putting at least 15 gaper clams in his already partially full bucket that he was struggling to lift and carry. When they were contacted at the roadway, it was determined they had exceeded the daily limit of bay clams by 22 (17 gaper/25 cockles). The clammer was cited for the offense.



Commercial Shellfish Harvester Cited

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Sergeant investigated a commercial shellfish harvester who had harvested gooseneck barnacles and sold them to a market in Seattle without having the proper dealer licenses. The harvester admitted that on two of the occasions he shipped them without landing them first to a licensed commercial wholesale dealer or obtaining his own dealer license. He said he thought he could find a dealer at a later date, provide them with pounds, and they would create a fish ticket for the dates he sold the barnacles. It was also determined he did make a landing to a wholesale dealer but had provided the dealer with a false weight for his cooler (tare weight) when it was on the scale in order to get a higher product weight to cover for the product he shipped out the day prior. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was notified and they conducted a check at the Seattle market where they located and seized 25 lbs of gooseneck barnacles that had been shipped from the harvester in Oregon. Enforcement action was taken for three counts of **No Wholesale Fish Dealer License, Failure to Dye Bait Clams, No Non-Reporting Wholesale Dealer License, and Failure to Submit Logbooks**. It was also discovered the individual was driving with a suspended license, and he was cited for that offense as well.

Skipper Cited for Undersized Crab

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper made contact with a commercial fishing vessel which had offloaded crab. During the offload of a total of 542 lbs, 40 lbs were found to be undersized. The skipper was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**.

Ocean Salmon Boat Patrol - Brookings

A Gold Beach Fish and Wildlife Trooper performed an ocean recreational salmon boat patrol near Brookings. Numerous boats were contacted and catch rates were high. One boat was contacted with four anglers onboard. All subjects were found to be angling with barbed hooks. Additionally, one subject failed to validate his harvest card. The captain took responsibility for the barbed hooks. One citation was issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks** and one subject was issued a citation for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**. During another contact, a subject was found to be in possession of a Coho in a closed season. The subject was issued a citation for **Take/Possession of Coho**. Three warnings were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**, and one warning was issued for **Continuing to Angle After Retaining Daily Bag Limit**.

MARINE FISHERIES



Exceeding Daily Limit of Marine Snails

Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Troopers contacted a group of three clammers as they returned to their vehicle near Winchester Bay. The trio had gaper clams, mussels, and a significant number of marine snails in their possession. The daily bag limit for marine snails is ten per person; however the group had 139 snails. Two of the subjects also didn't have shellfish licenses. They were cited for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Marine Snails** and warned for **No Non-Resident Shellfish License**. The third subject was warned for **Exceeding Daily Limit of Marine Snails**. The group was allowed to keep one limit of snails, and the rest were returned to where they were harvested.

Clam Patrol - Clatsop Beaches

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper worked a negative clamming tide along Clatsop County Beaches. Multiple clammers were contacted and on one contact the Trooper observed a male subject continue digging well past the daily limit while his spouse picked up each clam. When contacted the spouse stated they kept digging because they were going to put back the broken ones. They were issued violation citations for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and **Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense**. Ten razor clams were seized and donated.

Commercial Fishing with a Suspended License

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted a commercial fisherman after he made multiple landings with a suspended commercial fishing license. The commercial fisherman has been suspended since 2021 and was cited during both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 crab seasons. The commercial fisherman was criminally cited and released for **Commercial Fishing with a Suspended License**.

Undersized Commercial Salmon

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper was observing a commercial salmon offload when a noticeably small Chinook salmon was dumped on the table. The salmon was measured at 26 inches and weighed 6 lbs. The salmon was seized and donated. The fishing vessel operator was issued a violation citation for **Possession of Undersized Salmon**. During the offload the Trooper also discovered that the fisherman had three more fish on board he stated he was selling to another dealer in port. The following day the Trooper learned that two of the fish were recorded on a fish ticket but one was not. He admitted to giving the fish away without it being entered on a ticket. He was cited for **Fail to Sell to a Wholesale Dealer**.

Bay Clam Checks - Garibaldi

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted bay clam checks in Garibaldi during a negative tide. During one contact a subject was observed walking up from the clam digging area, and when they saw an ODFW sampler in the parking lot they attempted to avoid contact and quickly placed their very full looking bucket in the back of their truck. When contacted by the Trooper, the subject did not know how many clams they had or what the legal limit was. The subject was found to be in possession of 95 bay clams and did not have a resident shellfish license. The subject was issued violation citations for **Exceeding Daily Bag Limit of Clams** and **No Resident Shellfish License**. The subject placed all 95 clams back into the bay unharmed.



Commercial Offload Inspections - Astoria

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper checked offloads of three species (shrimp, crab, and hake) during a busy morning at Pier 2 in Astoria. Enforcement action was taken when conducting an administrative check on a commercial crabber for **Failure to Maintain Logbook**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Multiple Angling Violations - Hayes Falls

Central Point Fish and Wildlife Troopers observed 23 anglers at Hayes Falls for multiple hours. Five fish were observed being foul hooked and two were retained. Six subjects were observed angling with illegal gear exceeding the six foot hook to weight limit, with the most being a 10 foot gear set. The subjects were contacted and six were cited for gear violations, two were cited for **Unlawful Take** and one was cited for **Failure to Validate**. Two fish were seized, and two rod/reels were seized.

Trooper Cites Subject with Lifetime Suspension

An Albany Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed a male subject angling whom he knew to be lifetime-suspended from angling. The subject had a contempt of court warrant for his previous angling while suspended charge and possession of meth. The subject admitted he had meth in his wallet. The Trooper took him into custody and lodged him on the warrant. The Trooper criminally cited him for **Angling While Suspended** and **Possession of Meth: Less Than Two Grams**. The Trooper seized his fishing pole, all angling gear, and the meth. This was the eighth time the Trooper had cited the subject.

Shad Seized and Donated - Bradford Island

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles were checking shad anglers along the Columbia Riverbank on Bradford Island when two anglers attempted to avoid contact with the Troopers and appeared to be fleeing from the area on foot towards the parking lot. The subjects were followed and contacted. One subject had attempted to change his clothing to avoid being recognized. Both were issued violation citations for **No Resident Angling License**. They later returned to the shoreline to retrieve shad they had retained earlier. Both were then issued additional violation citations for **Take/Possession of Game Fish**. Forty-nine shad were seized and later donated to the Discovery Center Raptor Program.

Subject Attempts to Hide from Trooper

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper observed two male subjects angling at a secluded public log pond in Coos County. As the Trooper approached by vehicle both subjects packed up their gear with one subject walking the 1/4 mile back to his vehicle while the other subject walked the other direction and disappeared into the bushes. When the Trooper met the subject at his vehicle, he admitted to not purchasing an angling license for the year. He was issued a citation for **No Resident Angling License**. The Trooper was not able to locate the second subject along the lake or along the nearby road (in the direction he was walking away). The Trooper returned to the area and located the subject farther along the lake, tucked into some bushes continuing to angle. The Trooper approached the subject unseen and contacted him. He admitted to not purchasing an angling license for the year. He was issued a citation for **No Resident Angling License** and warned for **Failing to Allow Inspection**.



Trooper Revives and Releases Trout

A Central Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant and an Albany Trooper conducted a boat patrol on Foster Lake. Many fishermen were contacted with cites and warnings given. A native trout was seized, revived, and released.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Subjects Caught with Snagged Salmon

During angling checks along the Rogue River, a Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted several subjects in violation of angling regulations, including angling prohibited hours, angling prohibited method and unlawful take. One contact included three subjects in a drift boat attempting to snag salmon. The Trooper observed one angler snag and bring in a salmon, then contacted the boat approximately 1/4 mile down river. Upon inspection, the salmon had a significant gash in the tail fin and the fish was still bleeding. The subjects admitted that the salmon had been foul-hooked and retained, but another subject on the boat recorded the harvest on his card instead of the subject who brought in the fish. Both subjects were cited for various offenses, including **Unlawful Retention of Foul-Hooked Fish, Fail to Immediately Validate, and Snagging**. The fish and two rods were seized and the juvenile that was with the adult subjects was warned and educated on ethical angling methods.

Memorial Day Weekend Patrols - Columbia River

Multiple Troopers from the Northwest Region participated in a boat saturation patrol over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, after ODFW extended spring Chinook fishing on the main-stem Columbia River. The patrols resulted in:

- Contacts: 160
- Citations: **Barbed Hooks (22), No Non-Resident License (1)**
- Warnings: **No license in possession (5), No Combined Angling Tag (1), No Columbia River Basin Endorsement (1)**
- Boat inspections: 12



Subject Admits to Snagging Salmon

A Central Point Fish and Wildlife Trooper was observing four subjects fishing during prohibited hours on McGregor Fishing Access Road on the upper section of the Rogue River. Upon making contact with the subjects, the Trooper observed that one of them was in possession of a recently landed Chinook salmon and was in the process of tagging the fish. During inspection of the fish, the Trooper observed a puncture wound in the left pectoral fin of the fish and noted that this wound was still actively bleeding. When confronted with the information the subject admitted to having snagged the fish and unlawfully retained it even though it was foul-hooked. The subject was cited for **Unlawful Retention of a Foul-Hooked Fish**, and the fish was seized. The three other subjects were warned for **Angling Prohibited Hours**.

Salmon Snagging - Sandy River

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a report of a subject actively snagging salmon in the Sandy River near Cedar Creek. The Trooper responded to the area and conducted surveillance on the subject while he was fishing. The subject was observed snagging a white fish and throwing it in the brush. The Trooper made contact with the subject and found that he retained a salmon and failed to immediately validate his harvest card. A records check revealed prior fish and wildlife related enforcement history and previous fish and wildlife suspensions. The subject was subsequently issued citations in lieu of custody for **Angling Prohibited Method: Snagging, and Failure to Immediately Validate a Harvest Card**.

ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Subject Illegally Takes Sturgeon Twice in Two Days

Portland Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted surveillance near the “End of the Road” on the west side of Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA) on the Gilbert River. A subject was observed catching and retaining a white sturgeon placing it inside his pickup. Troopers contacted the subject and determined the sturgeon measured approximately 59 inches and was still alive inside the pickup. The subject was cited for **Taking/Possession of Oversized White Sturgeon**, a class C felony, and **Angling in a Closed Area/Stream** (misdemeanor). The white sturgeon (photo above) was released back into the river. All associated gear, including fishing pole and a large fishing net, was seized as evidence.

The following day, Troopers responded to an angling complaint near the same area. Upon arrival, Troopers contacted the subject, who had been criminally cited the previous day at the felony level for retaining and concealing an oversized white sturgeon within his pickup. The subject had returned to the same location the following day and again unlawfully retained another white sturgeon. As the subject was leaving the area, he was stopped by Troopers, placed under arrest, and transported to the Columbia County Jail and lodged for **Unlawful Take/Possession of White Sturgeon**. The involved vehicle was towed and one fishing pole was seized as evidence. The 28-inch white sturgeon (photo at right) was released back into the river.



ANGLING ENFORCEMENT



Memorial Day Weekend Angling and Boat Patrols

Troopers from the East Central Team implemented their Memorial Weekend enforcement plan focusing on boating and ATV safety as well as angling violations. Troopers conducted patrols on the numerous waterways and adjoining forest and BLM lands that included: John Day River, Snake River, Owyhee River, Unity Lake, Murray Lake, Magone Lake, Lake Owyhee (photo above left), Warm Springs Reservoir (photo above right), Pole Creek Reservoir, Moon Reservoir, Yellow Jacket Lake, Delintment Lake, and Strawberry Lake. Hundreds of contacts were made with boaters, anglers, ATVs, hikers, and campers, resulting in over 50 citations and warnings for boating, ATV, and angling violations. Additionally, over 40 boat inspections were completed and numerous ATV checks conducted. Cooperative patrols were conducted with Idaho Fish and Game, Malheur County Sheriff's Office, and BLM.

A Fish and Wildlife Sergeant and Troopers from Baker City and Ontario participated in Memorial Day weekend saturation patrols on Hells Canyon, Oxbow, and Brownlee Reservoirs. Over the course of the weekend numerous anglers and boaters were checked. During the patrols the Troopers wrote citations for the following: **Take/Possession of Undersized Bass, Fail to Attend Rod/Line, No Two Pole Endorsement, Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense, Unlawful Take Game Bird, No Upland Gamebird Validation, No Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Permit, and No Angling License.** Several undersized bass were seized and released, two Chukar were seized, and a semi-automatic .22 was seized. Idaho Conservation Officers made numerous contacts and issued numerous citations as well.

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a joint boat patrol with Malheur County Sheriff's Office on Lake Owyhee as well as several foot and shore patrols over

the holiday weekend with a John Day Fish and Wildlife Sergeant. Over 150 people were contacted through angling, boating, and traffic stops. A total of 15 citations were issued, to include **Speeding, No Non-Resident Angling License, Angling More than One Line, Unattended Line, Unlawful Take Game Fish, and Inadequate Number of Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)** which resulted in a terminated voyage. All fish that were unlawfully taken were released unharmed. Additionally, 24 written warnings were issued, and over 20 boat inspections were completed.

A Fossil Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a multi-day enforcement float patrol with the BLM River Rangers over Memorial Day weekend on the John Day River from Clarno to Cottonwood Park. The focus of the patrol was boat inspections and angling compliance checks. Additional duties included clean-up of camp sites and inspections of known archaeological sites for recent looting. The patrol ended with 142 boaters and anglers checked, 48 boat inspections, three boating warnings, one angling warning, and one citation for **No Angling License.**



A Sergeant poses for a photo with a child at Bull Prairie Lake

CASE DISPOSITIONS

Subject Pleads Guilty - Grant County

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a Grant County case involving a mule deer buck that was unlawfully killed on private property without landowner permission during the rifle deer season. The adult male suspect pleaded guilty to **Hunting on the Enclosed Lands of Another** and was sentenced to:

- 3-year hunting license suspension
- \$1,567 in fines and restitution

Two Found Guilty - Clatsop County

Two subjects were found guilty of a TMA violation in Clatsop County Circuit Court. An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper cited them both in September 2025 during archery season for entering the Nuveen Capital Timber Company tree farm 51 minutes prior to legal entry time (One hour prior to sunrise) on mountain bikes. The judge ordered them both to pay a monetary fine of \$65.00.

Subject Found Guilty in Saddle Mountain Case

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a disposition from the Clatsop County Circuit Court involving an elk case from 2024 in which a man was found guilty of taking an antlerless elk on Thanksgiving Day during the Saddle Mountain 210Y bull elk season. That evening, the Trooper received a TIP from an individual who provided details of the crime. The next morning, Troopers traveled to the suspect's residence and caught the suspect in the act of carrying pieces of the carcass back to his garage in a backpack. A confession was obtained and they later traveled to the scene to gather further evidence. The man was sentenced to:

- 18 months bench probation
- \$3,000 fine
- The rifle and game meat were forfeited.

A TIP reward will also be sent to the informant.





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.



