



# **OREGON STATE POLICE** **FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION**



**MONTHLY FIELD REVIEW**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**





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*On the cover:  
A Fish and Wildlife Trooper at Ottertall  
Lake in the Mt. Hood National Forest*



# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Unlawful Dredge Mining - South Umpqua River

Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded to a water quality complaint regarding possible illegal suction dredge mining in the South Umpqua River near Milo. Upon arriving in the area they located one male adult subject actively suction dredge mining. After watching and photographing the individual they made contact and learned that he had an outstanding arrest warrant in addition to not having permits related to the mining activity. The man was cited and released for the warrant and for **Unlawful Fill Removal: No Permit**. There was extensive resource damage visible including channelization, holding pools, tailing piles in/near the river and trash/equipment on the riverbank.

## Trooper Assists with Medical Emergency

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was driving on a rural road outside of Sandy when he came across a medical emergency in the middle of the roadway. The Trooper found several bystanders performing CPR on a person lying in the road. The patient was riding his bicycle when he collapsed for an unknown reason and was found unresponsive and without a pulse. The Trooper called for medics and stepped in to take over performing CPR until medics arrived. The patient was transported to OHSU in a Life Flight helicopter. The Trooper assisted a Deputy in notifying the patient's wife at her home. The Trooper called OHSU several days later and was informed the patient was in stable condition.

## Subject Cited for Damaging Gravel Parking Lot

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated damage to a newly repaired parking area at Loren's Drift on the Trask River. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) placed new gravel in the parking area and had it graded. Shortly after the work was completed, a person drove through the area at a high rate of speed while turning tight circles, leaving deep ruts in the fresh gravel. ODFW personnel placed trail cameras in the area and the subject came back twice more and caused more damage, which was captured by the cameras. The photos also captured the vehicle description and license plate. The Trooper was able to locate the suspect vehicle and contacted the driver. He ultimately admitted to causing the damage to the Loren's Drift parking area and was cited and released for **Criminal Mischief II**.

## Trooper Transports EMT to Patient in Remote Area

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper assisted in a medical aid call at the Bureau of Land Management, North Bank Habitat Area along the North Umpqua River. The Trooper transported an emergency medical technician (EMT) to the patient via pickup to the remote location. The EMT treated the severely dehydrated patient with fluids and the patient was then transported off the ridge to the waiting ambulance.





# GENERAL LAW & RESCUES



## Three Dogs and Five Cats Abandoned at a Camp

Ontario and Baker City Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted an investigation at an abandoned camp near Bully Creek Reservoir on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property. One of the Troopers had previously been by the camp on two different days prior to this and had observed three dogs chained up with no visible water or food and five cats locked inside of the fifth wheel trailer. In a span of three days it appeared that no one had been by the camp, the dogs were severely malnourished, showed signs of aggression towards each other when given food and water by the Troopers; and were lacking proper care and shelter. The cats inside of the trailer had no visible water or food, their litter boxes were overflowing with fecal matter and urine was everywhere on the floors. Contact was made with the owner of the trailer, who told the Troopers he was stranded in Ontario with no way back to the camp. The Troopers secured tools and dog food from the Ontario Police Department and then fed and provided water to the animals at the scene of the camp. The animals were secured in crates and transported to the Ani-Care Animal Shelter in Nyssa, Oregon where they were secured overnight in kennels and again provided food and water. The animals were later evaluated and assessed by staff from the Ani-Care Animal Shelter and a veterinarian office in Vale. The vet determined that the animals overall had obvious signs of neglect in regards to grooming, nutrition and marks around their collared areas from having been tied up. Two suspects were interviewed in Ontario which resulted in a male suspect being cited and released for eight counts of **Animal Neglect I** and one count of **Offensive Littering**. A female suspect was cited and released for eight counts of **Animal Neglect I**.



## UTV Violations - Logan Valley

A John Day Fish and Wildlife Trooper was patrolling US Forest Service (USFS) 16 Road near Logan Valley and stopped a UTV for violations. Further investigation revealed the driver's license was criminally revoked and an ignition interlock device (IID) was required. The driver was cited and released for **DWS: Misdemeanor, Fail to Install IID, and No ATV Permit**. A licensed passenger took control of the UTV.

## Trash Dumped in the Sumpter Unit

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper received a tip from a hunter in August regarding some trash that was located in the Sumpter Unit off of Mormon Basin Road and on Bureau of Land Management Property. A Baker City Fish and Wildlife Trooper drove to the location, took digital photographs and found a box with a shipping label on it and developed a lead on a suspect who lived in Nyssa, Oregon. Troopers located and interviewed the suspect, who denied dumping the trash and was subsequently cited and released at his residence for **Offensive Littering**.

## Trooper Helps Fight Grass Fire

While patrolling the Siuslaw River, a Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper located a grass fire and a small group of citizens fighting the fire along the highway. The Trooper called the fire into OSP dispatch and assisted the citizens in extinguishing the fire. They utilized shovels, water bottles and fire extinguishers to subdue the flames. Five gallon buckets were located and they began to bring water up from the river until the fire department arrived. Once the fire department arrived they began spraying water on the smoldering logs and grass and it was eventually extinguished.

## Prohibited Turtle Species Found at Pet Store

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper accompanied a biologist with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on a pet store inspection in Portland. The store was reportedly in possession of a prohibited turtle species. During the inspection the store was found to be in possession of a pond slider, which is classified in Oregon as prohibited to possess or sell. An employee stated that the slider was not for sale, and that someone dropped it off and they were keeping it alive for display. Pond sliders are an invasive turtle species that, if released into the wild, are harmful to native turtle species. The pet store was provided information about prohibited species in Oregon. The ODFW biologist seized the turtle and the Trooper issued the store a violation citation for possessing it.



# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



## Unlawful Possession of Antlers

An Ontario Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted hunting checks on two archery hunters that were camped off of Castle Rock Road in the Beulah Unit. As the Trooper was talking to the subjects he observed a 5x4 mule deer skull with antlers attached resting against the tire of one of the subject's pickup trucks. The subjects told the Trooper they were hiking down a draw and found the dead head and carried it back to camp. The subjects were educated on the unlawful possession, the head and antlers were seized and one of the hunters was issued a written warning for **Unlawful Possession of Buck Deer**.

## Subject Shoots Arrow at Decoy from Road

Baker City Fish and Wildlife Division Members conducted a Wildlife Enforcement Decoy (WED) in the Desolation Wildlife Management Unit (WMU). A vehicle stopped and the passenger got out with his bow, and crouched on the side of the road until the vehicle left. The passenger then shot an arrow all the way across the road at the decoy. Upon making contact it was determined that the driver and the passenger had Western Oregon archery deer tags, not Desolation archery deer tags. The driver was cited for **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation** and the passenger/shooter was cited for **Hunting Outside Unit Boundary** and **Hunting from the Road**.

## Spotlighters Caught - Jackson County

The Central Point and Grants Pass Fish and Wildlife Team participated in a night flight over Jackson County. Troopers on the ground contacted a truck that was observed spotlighting by an OSP Fish and Wildlife Pilot. Both driver and passenger were cited for **Casting Artificial Light**.

## Deer Shot with Rifle During Archery Season

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles responded to a complaint from a hunter in which he believed a subject had shot a deer with a rifle during an archery only season. The reporting party was an off duty police officer and called after he heard a rifle shot just before dark in a clear cut below him along a county road. The reporting party called his local dispatch and in the process of getting State Troopers en route was able to have a Hood River County deputy stop the suspect vehicle who had left the scene. Troopers initiated an investigation along with assistance from a Hood River County Sheriff's Deputy. The investigation revealed that a 17-year-old male had shot a 3x3 buck deer with a 7mm rifle and tagged it with his Hood-White River archery tag. The suspects girlfriend admitted to assisting him load the deer. The suspect was criminally cited for **Take/Possession of Buck Deer: Prohibited Method**. The suspects girlfriend was issued criminal citation for **Counseling/Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**. The deer and rifle were seized as evidence.





# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



## Suspect Shoots Deer Near Gates at Night

Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers received a call of a suspect shooting a deer with a rifle near Gates at night; where the vehicle sped off after the shot. The Troopers arrived and waited at the deer until the suspects came back. The suspects were startled by a neighbor and attempted to take off, but were stopped by the Troopers. Subsequent to an interview, the driver admitted to shooting the deer earlier in the night. The passenger admitted he was a felon and he touched the rifle, which was in the vehicle, earlier in the day and shot the rifle the previous week. The driver was criminally cited for **Unlawful Take Antlerless Deer, Hunting Prohibited Hours, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Driving While Suspended**. The passenger was cited for **Felon in Possession of Firearm**.

## Road struck Deer Salvaged for Donation

Albany Fish and Wildlife Troopers received information of a vehicle possibly trespassing on private property in Benton County and the following day the same reporting party called back and the same vehicle was still on the property with a deceased deer. The subject was contacted and interviewed. The deer was a road struck deer from earlier in the day and the subject admitted to trespassing on private property. He was criminally cited for **Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass** and his archery equipment seized. The subject did not want the road struck deer and it was donated to the Lebanon Soup kitchen.

## Elk Taken While Trespassing

A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information that a subject had trespassed onto private land and killed a 5-point bull elk. The subject had left the area with the elk but a vehicle description was provided. The Trooper located the vehicle approximately 45 minutes later. A traffic stop was initiated and investigation led to the subject admitting to trespassing while killing the elk. The elk was seized and the subject was cited and released for **Criminal Trespass II**.

## Tag Purchase Error

A subject self-reported that he had shot a buck deer in the Tioga Unit and then realized he had not used his Sports Pac voucher to purchase an archery tag. A Coos Bay Fish and Wildlife Trooper contacted the subject. The deer was seized for donation to charity and the subject was warned for **No Valid Deer Tag**.

## Subjects Use Drone to Scout

A North Plains Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated a case in Banks where two subjects were seen using a drone while scouting private property. The subjects, who had permission from the property owner to hunt there for the upcoming rifle season, were observed by a witness flying a drone over the property. After contacting both subjects, they said they thought drones fell under the "8-hour rule" when a person cannot hunt within 8 hours of flying into an area. The Trooper made it clear to the subjects that drones are not allowed to be used in any aspect of hunting and they were issued warnings for **Hunting Prohibited Method**. After learning of their violation, the property owner revoked their permission.



# ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF WILDLIFE LAWS



## Bull Elk Shot with Rifle During Archery Season

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to a report of a dead bull elk on Mehl Creek Road in Elkton. The bull had the head and meat removed. The elk had been shot by a rifle during archery season. The investigation revealed the subject shot the bull from the roadway with a .270 caliber rifle then enlisted the help of three friends and family to pack it out. At the conclusion of the investigation, the subject was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk** and his rifle, antlers and meat from the bull were seized. The meat was able to be salvaged. Two other subjects were issued citations for **Aiding in a Wildlife Offense**.

## Search Warrant Served in Benton County Case

Troopers from the Mid-Valley Team served a search warrant on a residence in Benton County related to a case of a convicted felon shooting a cougar with a firearm. Four firearms, eight buck deer antlers, two bull elk antlers, and a cougar were seized along with a violation level amount of methamphetamine. The suspect was interviewed at the Linn County Jail, where he was being held at the time of the search warrant service, and admitted to taking the cougar without a tag. The suspect was cited for **Unlawful Take/Possession Buck Deer x8, Unlawful Take/Possession Bull Elk x2, Unlawful Take Cougar, Felon in Possession of Firearm x4, and Possession Of Methamphetamine**.

## Pilot Observes Spotlights on Logging Road

The North Coast Team conducted a night flight with the an OSP Fish and Wildlife Pilot on a Saturday night. Early in the evening a vehicle was observed driving up a logging road and scanning both sides of the vehicle with a spotlight through each clear cut. After approximately 20 minutes, the vehicle was stopped and the occupants were contacted. The driver, who was operating the light, was suspended hunting from a previous case where he and another subject had shot a cow elk and claimed it was road struck. The passenger, who had a bow leaning against her legs, was a known associate of several other known poachers as well. Both subjects admitted to hunting elk earlier that morning. The driver will be charged with **Aiding in a Wildlife Violation: Hunting with the Aid of Artificial Light** and **Hunting While Suspended**. The passenger will be charged with **Hunting With the Aid of Artificial Light**.

## Land Owner Preference Tag Violation

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper received information about a possibly illegally killed bull elk posted on social media. Following further investigation, the information was confirmed and contact was made with the subject who allegedly killed the elk several days prior. Upon contact, the subject explained that he did not have a tag, but thought the landowner had purchased and provided the tag for him. Additionally, it was learned the subject had purchased a hunting license two days after killing the elk. The 5-point bull elk was seized, and the subject was criminally cited and released for **Unlawful Take/Possession Bull Elk**.



# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Lincoln County River and Ocean Saturation Patrol

Several Fish and Wildlife Troopers participated in a three-day saturation patrol coordinated by the Lincoln County Sheriff's office and the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB). Marine deputies from multiple counties (Clackamas, Tillamook, Lane, Washington, and Linn), OSMB personnel and local US Coast Guard (USCG) Stations all teamed up to focus on the fall salmon fishery and boating related issues within the county. Teams simultaneously hit all of the coastal rivers and Pacific Ocean within Lincoln County. Over the course of the weekend, hundreds of anglers and crabbers were contacted. Marine Deputies and the USCG issued a variety of citations and warnings for boating safety violations. Troopers spent a considerable amount of time educating and working with anglers who had chosen to have electronic tags but were unable to log into the system due to the lack of cell phone coverage on most of the rivers. Troopers seized four salmon and issued citations and warnings for a variety of issues including:

- **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**
- **No Harvest Card**
- **Failure to Properly Validate Harvest Card**
- **Possession of Undersized Dungeness Crab**
- **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks (Ocean)**
- **No Electronic License and/or Tag in Possession**
- **Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon (Ocean)**
- **Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**
- **Failure to Tend Fishing Rod**

## Commercial License Violation

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper finished an investigation into a commercial salmon fisherman that lives in Vancouver, WA and has a vacation home on the Oregon Coast. The subject had been applying for resident commercial fishing licenses, boat licenses, and troll salmon permits. The subject was cited for **False Application for a Commercial License or Permit**.

## Coho Angling Violations - Nehalem Bay

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a boat patrol on the ocean off of Nehalem Bay during the wild Coho recreational salmon season. Numerous anglers were contacted, and multiple warnings were given. Nine citations were issued for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon**, three citations were issued for **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**, and one citation was issued for **Exceed the Daily Limit of Salmon**. On one contact, as the Trooper approached a boat with three subjects on board, he could see one of the subjects putting something in the forward compartment in the bow of the boat. The Trooper contacted the subjects, and they said that they had six salmon on board (in a cooler). None of the salmon had been validated, they were using barbed and barbed treble hooks, and appeared nervous. Eventually one of the subjects admitted that there were seven salmon on the boat, which was located in a garbage bag in the forward compartment. All of the subjects were cited for **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks for Salmon** and **Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Card**, and one of the subjects was cited for **Exceed the Daily Limit of Salmon**.

## Night Columbia River Patrol

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted a night time Columbia River patrol in the Portland Area, with US Coast Guard Station Portland during a mainstem commercial gill net fishery. The Trooper and the Coast Guard contacted multiple commercial vessels, and some recreational vessels. The catch rate was low, but multiple warnings were given to commercial vessels for navigation rules and lighting violations, and one recreational vessel was cited and escorted back to the dock for not using any navigation lights.

## Coho Salmon Misidentified

A Florence Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to the Port of Siuslaw after receiving information from ODFW regarding unlawfully taken Coho salmon. The salmon were seized and the subject was interviewed. He stated he caught one and someone on his boat caught the other. They believed they were Chinook and retained both from the ocean. He later learned from ODFW they were Coho and the ocean was closed to retention. He also stated he wanted to claim all responsibility since it was his boat. The subject was issued a citation for **Unlawful Take of Coho Salmon**.

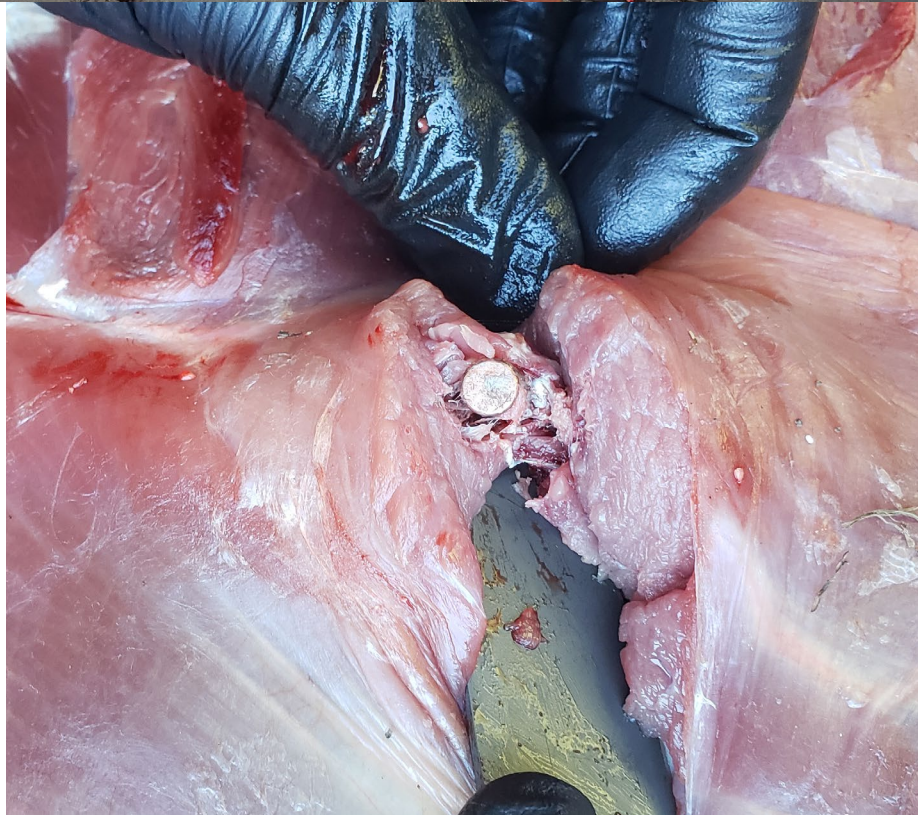


# MARINE FISHERIES TEAM



## Unlawful Take of Bull Elk - Nehalem

An Astoria Fish and Wildlife Trooper responded to Nehalem on a report that two elk hanging in a walk-in cooler appeared to have been rifle shot. Upon inspection, both elk were confirmed to have been tagged on archery tags and also appeared to have been rifle shot. One of the elk had a mushroomed bullet visible in a front shoulder. Troopers were able to track one of the subjects down for an interview. The subject initially lied about what had happened, but after a lengthy interview he confessed to shooting the bull with a .45-70 rifle. He also told the Troopers where the second subject was staying. When interviewed, the second subject also initially lied about shooting his bull before admitting it, after which he retrieved his rifle from where he had hidden it in the brush for fear of having it seized. Both subjects were cited criminally for **Unlawful Take of Bull Elk Prohibited Method**. Both rifles were seized, as well as the two elk, which were donated to the Tillamook County Jail.





# SHELLFISH & ANGLING



## Chinook Caught Below Warrior Rock Deadline

Fish and Wildlife Troopers conducted a boat patrol on the Columbia River at the Warrior Rock Deadline near St. Helens. Chinook and Coho angling is allowed above the deadline, but below the deadline Chinook fishing is prohibited. A number of citations and warnings were issued for **Angling Closed Area/Stream, Take/Possession of Game Fish Closed Area/Stream, and Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks**. Two Chinook salmon were seized as they were caught below the deadline and donated to charity.

## Salmon Snagged - Umpqua River Forks Park

A Roseburg Fish and Wildlife Trooper located a male subject who was reported to have snagged and kept a fall Chinook salmon at the Umpqua River Forks Park. The Trooper contacted a witness, took his statements and confirmed he would testify in court. The suspect was interviewed, cited and released for **Take of Foul Hooked (Snagged) Chinook Salmon**.

## Angling Patrol - Irrigon Fish Hatchery

A Hermiston Fish and Wildlife Trooper conducted an early morning patrol to observe anglers near the Irrigon Fish Hatchery. While observing the anglers, the Trooper saw one subject snag and retain a Chinook salmon. The subject was cited and the fish was seized and donated to charity.

## Port of Depoe Bay Angling Violations

A Newport Fish and Wildlife Trooper investigated several angling cases at the Port of Depoe Bay. Citations were issued for **Take/Possession of Undersized Chinook Salmon, Failure to Immediately Validate Harvest Card, and Take/Possession of Prohibited Species: China Rockfish**. Three Chinook salmon and one China rockfish were seized and donated to a local food share.

## Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon Taken

A Tillamook Fish and Wildlife Sergeant responded to a report of a non-adipose fin-clipped Coho salmon that was seized by an ODFW Fish Checker at the Garibaldi Marina. The fish was reportedly caught inside Tillamook Bay. This occurred two days before the non-selective Coho season was set to begin on Tillamook Bay. When the Sergeant arrived at the marina, the subjects were already gone, but he was able to locate them in a nearby campground. The anglers were contacted and stated they misread the rules for the non-selective Coho season, and they thought it was open that day. The angler who caught the fish was cited for **Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin-Clipped Coho Salmon**.

## Subject Attempts to Disguise Wild Salmon

A Portland Fish and Wildlife Trooper was conducting angler checks at the Cedar Creek Fish Hatchery in Sandy. During a fish check, the Trooper noticed the adipose fin on a Coho Salmon appeared to be recently severed. During the investigation, the subject admitted to removing the adipose fin with his knife. The subject further explained he hadn't noticed it was a wild fish until it was already dead. The subject told the Trooper he did not want it to go to waste, nor did he want to get in trouble for keeping the wrong fish. The subject was cited criminally for **Possession of Mutilated Fish and Take/Possession of Non-Adipose Fin Clipped Coho Salmon**.

## Mayer State Park Boat Patrol

Fish and Wildlife Troopers from The Dalles conducted a boat patrol out of Mayer State Park checking some of the 50-60 boats angling for Salmon on the Columbia River in front of the Klickitat River confluence. During the patrol 75 anglers were checked resulting in 16 citations and 10 warnings issued for various angling violations to include **Angling Prohibited Method: Barbed Hooks, No Columbia River Basin Endorsement, Failing to Immediately Validate Harvest Card** and other licensing violations that were corrected on the river.



# TURN IN POACHERS

## PREFERENCE POINTS -OR- CASH REWARDS

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

\$1,000 Bighorn Sheep  
\$1,000 Rocky Mountain Goat  
\$1,000 Moose  
\$500 Elk, Deer & Antelope  
\$300 Bear, Cougar & Wolf  
\$300 Habitat Destruction  
\$200 Illegally Obtaining License/Tags  
\$200 Unlawful Lend/Borrow Big Game Tag(s)  
\$100 Game Fish & Shellfish  
\$100 Upland Birds, Waterfowl & Fur Bearers

The TIP program offers preference point rewards or cash rewards for information leading to an arrest or issuance of a citation for the unlawful take/possession or waste of big game mammals.

## WHAT SHOULD I REPORT?

- Nature of violation or activity observed or advised about
- Location of activity (Road, Milepost, GPS, etc.)
- Date and time of violation/activity
- Description of any vehicle involved
- Name and/or description of violator

[Click here to access the TIP form](#)



1-800-452-7888 or \*OSP(677)

[TIP@OSP.oregon.gov](mailto:TIP@OSP.oregon.gov)

Oregon State Police work hand-in-hand with the Oregon Hunters Association and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure the preservation of wildlife resources.



## A collage of 18 photographs showing various law enforcement activities, including hunting, boating, and vehicle stops, with a black silhouette border. The images depict officers in different settings: on a boat, in a field, near a vehicle, and with wildlife. One photo shows an officer holding a large fish, another shows an officer with a dog, and several show officers in tactical gear. The collage is set against a light green background.

The seal of the Oregon State Police is a five-pointed star. The points of the star are silver with black outlines. The center of the star is a black circle containing a silver seal of the State of Oregon. The seal of the State of Oregon features a landscape with a ship, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat, surrounded by the words "SEAL OF THE STATE OF OREGON" and the year "1859". The words "OREGON STATE POLICE" are written in gold around the top half of the black circle, and the year "1931" is written in gold at the bottom. The star is set against a light green background. A circular banner with the words "HONOR", "LOYALTY", "DEDICATION", "INTEGRITY", and "COMPASSION" in black capital letters, separated by black stars, surrounds the star.

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