OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION
WEEKLY REPORT

Southwest Region
May 18, 2026, through May 24, 2026

WILDLIFE:

On Tuesday, May 19, Trooper Gray assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by conducting a deceased wolf investigation. ODFW contacted OSP to investigate a mortality signal for a wolf in the area. Trooper Gray was able to locate the deceased wolf in an area open to foot traffic only on Green Diamond land. ODFW biologists accompanied Trooper Gray to the location, and Trooper Gray transported the wolf to the US Fish and Wildlife Lab, in Ashland, for testing.

ANGLING:

On May 25, Trooper Jamison responded to the report of an angler at Gold Nugget wayside who had failed to validate his harvest card after catching two salmon. The suspect left his phone in his truck, landed the two fish, processed one in the field, and brought the fish back to his truck, without tagging out on the salmon for over 2 hours. The fish were seized, and the subject was cited for failing to tag the fish immediately.

On May 20, Senior Trooper Rice conducted a 5-hour boat patrol of the Upper Klamath Lake, Williamson River, Crystal Creek and Recreation Creek. This resulted in 13 contacts, 5 boat inspections, 5 warnings and 1 citation. While on the Williamson River, two young kids were angling from the bank (closed stream). No parents were home. They were advised of the regulations and warned. Another subject was contacted angling from the Modoc Point bridge. He did not have a license. He was cited for No Resident Angling License and warned for Angling Closed Stream. At Malone Springs, two subjects were observed getting ready to launch non-motorized watercraft and fish Crystal Creek (closed stream). They were educated on the regulations and warned.

On May 22, Senior Trooper Rice conducted shore patrol operations of Lost Creek Lake and the Rogue River near Cole Rivers for Army Corp contract hours. Compliance was unusually low. In total, over 25 recreators were contacted during the 4-hour patrol. This resulted in 10 non-compliant contacts for violations including, no resident angling license, angling prohibited hours, trespass (illegal campfire), no angling license in possession and numerous boating violations. One watercraft was contacted near the dam over-look well after sunset. The small Jon boat was occupied by three individuals. It did not have any required lights or current registration. The captain was informed his voyage was terminated and he was instructed to return to the boat launch immediately. Shortly after, a campfire was observed on the opposite side of the lake. Two juveniles were contacted at Medco A fishing access. They admitted trying to start a fire to cook some fish. Army Corp does not permit campfires, and the day use areas are well posted. One subject was holding several heavily mutilated fish that he advised were going to be cooked. They were warned and trespassed for the night.

On May 19, Senior Trooper Bachmeier contacted two anglers on the North Umpqua River near the Narrows. Both anglers were targeting trout and had retained one trout each. The North Umpqua River is closed to trout angling until May 22 and is a catch and release only fishery for trout. The anglers were both cited for angling closed season. They were issued warnings for unlawful take/possession of a game fish. The two trout were seized. The anglers were shown how to navigate the Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations for future reference.

On May 20, Senior Trooper Stone contacted a boater with expired registration stickers displayed while angling at Ben Irving Reservoir. During the contact the Trooper observed 6 trout on a stringer and that the angler had still been angling on the way in. The man was cited for exceeding the daily bag limit and warned for continuing to angle. Later that afternoon another angler was warned for angling closed stream, as he was attempting to catch bass on the South Umpqua River while it was closed to all angling.

On May 24, Senior Troopers Stone and Baimbridge teamed up for a Memorial Weekend angling patrol. While contacting anglers at the "Shad Hole" angling location on the Umpqua River, a wide variety of recreators were contacted. One of those anglers did not have a resident angling license and was issued a citation. On the same day, the Troopers received an in-progress report of people angling on the North Umpqua River. When the Troopers arrived, 3 of the 4 subjects were still angling. The first indication of a potential violation that was observed was that the subjects were using spinning rods in the designated fly fishing only area of the North Umpqua River. The second indication was one of the females seeing the Troopers pull in, quickly putting her pole down, and relocating to a nearby chair. During the Troopers' investigation, they learned that none of the subjects had current angling licenses. Several citations and warnings were issued, and the subjects were educated on how to find angling regulations, including calling the Oregon State Police if they had any questions.

HABITAT & ENVIRONMENTAL:

On May 23, Senior Trooper Rice observed a vehicle being operated on a closed GDRC road near Oatman Lake. He turned to contact the operator for the violation and recognized the subject from numerous prior contacts and he is usually suspended. The subject admitted he saw the sign but desperately needed to use the restroom. He was cited for DWS-violation, warned for the TMA violation and trespassed from GDRC land for 90 days.

On May 23, Senior Trooper Rice was patrolling GDRC land near Spencer Creek. He located a Ram truck that had attempted to drive over a tank trap and around a large, yellow locked GDRC gate. The trucks rear tires were in the air and the vehicle high centered. The occupants were contacted and the operator admitted trying to drive around the gate, wanting to take her dogs and friend down to the river. Sr. Trp. Rice was able to pull the vehicle out of the tank trap. The driver was issued a violation citation for the TMA violation, and the passenger was warned. Both subjects were trespassed from GDRC land for 90 days.

On May 18, Senior Trooper Stone met with a landowner to locate/evaluate the possibilities of recovering a sunk drift boat from the North Umpqua River. The boat is in a difficult location for recovery; options and planning will be discussed with Douglas County Marine Patrol and the boat's owner.

On May 23, Senior Trooper Gosse conducted an early morning flight in Douglas County. During the flight, Senior Trooper Stone, Senior Trooper Baimbridge, and Sergeant Jewell contacted numerous hunting and recreational camps. They contacted anglers, boaters, bear hunters, campers, and ATV riders. Most subjects contacted were in compliance, and a few warnings were issued for minor violations.

SHELLFISH:

COMMERCIAL FISH:

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

On May 21, Senior Trooper Rice and Trp. Gosse attended the Lake County SAR meeting in Lakeview. The purpose of the meeting was to network with SAR and offer OSP assistance with several upcoming events.

GENERAL LAW:

On May 22, Sergeant Hanigan assisted Medford Patrol by handling a motor vehicle crash near milepost 39 on I-5. A black BMW was reported to be driving aggressively prior to losing control, nearly crashing into two citizens and a disabled vehicle, and rolling several times over approximately 300 feet. The driver of the BMW was a juvenile who was transported to the hospital for injuries, and the BMW was towed. The citizens the BMW almost hit were uninjured.

On May 20, Senior Trooper Rice responded to a welfare check on Highway 97. A subject was reported to be driving slow on the shoulder, mouth open and shaking. He was located sitting in the ditch near Modoc Point Rd and Hwy 97. The vehicle was nearby with the passenger door open. He was suffering from an altered mental state, sweating profusely, had blood on his face and was delusional. An ambulance was requested, and the subject was transported, suffering from a significant diabetic emergency.

On May 22, Senior Trooper Rice responded with multiple patrol resources to a rollover crash with partial ejection. Sr. Trp. Rice provided first aid and patient assessment until EMS arrived. The subject was extracted and transported to SLMC for injuries. He was also determined to be

felony suspended and suspected of DUII. Klamath patrol troops took primary on the investigation.

GOV TO GOV:

MISC.: