OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION
WEEKLY REPORT

Southwest Region
August 26, 2024 through September 01, 2024

WILDLIFE:

On August 29, 2024, The Rogue Valley Fish and Wildlife Team conducted a decoy operation in Sunny Valley. It was an eventful evening without any takers. First, a white hatchback drove by 9 times, slowed, and stopped to observe the elk. A phone call was fielded that came in to SCC Dispatch regarding a lone bull elk at the decoy location. A concerned citizen wanted to report there had been recent poaching at the property and wanted a welfare check conducted on the animal. Then came two females who stopped to yell at the decoy "do you want some porridge" in an Australian accent while throwing unknown objects. Troopers contacted the females, provided a verbal warning and asked them to leave the area. Finally, the team decided to reposition the elk. As they began walking toward the decoy, multiple cow calls were heard from a vehicle that had stopped out of view. A total of 5 vehicles observed the elk decoy.

On August 31st, 2024 Senior Trooper Neville responded to a dead 4 point bull elk in the Ashland area on private property. The animal had been dead for approximately one day and there were no signs of foul play. The animal was taken back to the Central Point office where Trooper Jamison assisted in skinning the animal for the WED program. After removing the cape and head of the elk to later be used for a future decoy it was determined there was no evidence of a crime associated with the dead bull elk.

On August 30, 2024, the South-Central Team conducted a focused enforcement saturation in the Keno and Interstate Units to address early take of deer/elk archery season. Decoys were deployed with no violators. An evening flight was conducted with numerous contacts. One subject was cited for an illegal campfire on GDRC lands. Seven ATV's were stopped for operating on paved roads, passengers without helmets and no ATV permits. A Central Point Trooper also assisted with the patrol. The patrol was for the South-Central Mule Deer Action Plan.

On August 31, 2024 Trooper Gordon observed a parked, unoccupied truck in the Keno Unit. Trooper Gordon suspected the owner of the truck was hunting and followed his boot prints to a tree stand where the hunter was sitting with a bow and arrow. Trooper Gordon suspected the hunter was not a resident of Oregon, but hunting the Keno Unit with a resident deer, elk, bear and cougar tag. Trooper Gordon followed up the next morning with the subject's listed Oregon residence and the current owner of the home did not recognize the hunter's name and stated the hunter did not live at the location. Trooper Gordon contacted a California Fish and Game Warden and was able to build probable cause that the subject was a California resident. On September 1st 2024, Trooper Gordon recontacted the hunter at his hunting camp and interviewed him. The subject was criminally cited and released for Hunting with no Non-Resident License/Tag.

On August 29, 2024, Senior Trooper Bachmeier concluded an investigation of a hunter that purportedly trespassed on private timber lands. During the investigation it was determined that the area was poorly marked as being private property in and among the BLM parcels and the young hunter was completely unaware he had trespassed. The victim was adamant on prosecution and a report was completed and forwarded to the DA's office for consideration.

During the time period of August 27th to August 30th Senior Trooper Baimbridge and Trooper Kercher assisted in patrolling Beatty's Butte, Warner and Juniper Units during Antelope season. Many contacts were made and compliance was good. The Troopers located one buck antelope and told a hunter about it and how to get to it. The hunter happily harvested the buck.

ANGLING:

On August 26, 2024, Senior Trooper Koell responded to Gold Beach on a report that a pair of anglers had returned to port with 16 rockfish, six over their collective limits. The pair could not provide a reasonable answer regarding how they came to the conclusion that the limit was 8 fish. One of the subjects took responsibility for determining the regulations and was cited for Exceeding Daily Limit of Fish, and the other subject was warned for the same. The extra rockfish were seized and donated to charity.

On August 30, 2024, Sgt. Harris and Senior Troopers Evans and Koell conducted a boat patrol on the Coos River checking salmon anglers. Angler participation was high, but catch rates were low. One subject was cited for Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag, after it was determined he retained a Wild Chinook salmon approximately 30 minutes prior, and did not attempt to tag it until he was contacted. Additionally, a vessel was contacted on the South Fork Coos River which was having engine trouble. The elderly couple broke down as the Troopers approached them, and were grateful for a tow back to the boat ramp. (Picture)

On August 31, 2024, throughout the day, Sgt. Harris and Senior Troopers Evans and Koell conducted a boat patrol on the Umpqua River. Close to 120 anglers were contacted, the following warnings were issued: Possession of More than One Angling Tag (x1), Aiding/Counseling in a Wildlife Offense – Youth Violation (x1), No Paper Tag in Possession (x1), Fail to Immediately Validate Harvest Tag (x1), No Combined Angling Tag (x2), Inadequate Number of PFDs (x2), No Electronic Tag in Possession (x5), and Take/Possession of Undersized Coho Salmon (x1); the undersized hatchery Coho was still alive and was released.

On August 31st and September 1st, 2024, OSP – Springfield Troopers Mathews and Wolcott-Petersen patrolled the lower Rogue River. They checked 141 anglers and issued five warnings and two citations. Thanks to the Springfield Troopers for assisting with patrolling the south coast!

On September 1, 2024 Trooper Gordon received a trespass complaint regarding subject's trespassing on private property to fish near the Wood River. A suspect was developed and the investigation is ongoing.

On August 29, 2024, Senior Trooper Stone checked the local lake and main Umpqua River anglers. Compliance was not good, with one warning for No 2024 Angling License in Possession and one citation for No 2024 Angling License out of three angler contacts.

HABITAT & ENVIRONMENTAL:

SHELLFISH:

COMMERCIAL FISH:

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

GENERAL LAW:

On August 31, 2024, off-duty Senior Trooper Niehus, Lakeview Worksite, was awoken early to unusual roadway traffic and noise. He contacted hunters who had an ATV stolen from the back of their parked truck. Senior Trooper Niehus put them into contact with responding Lake County Deputies and located other witnesses and another crime location where there was an attempt to steal fuel from vehicles. On September 1, 2024, while on-duty, Senior Trooper Niehus located the stolen ATV in the back of another pickup at Ana Reservoir. The pickup was stopped and the occupants were interviewed. They had been requested to respond and get the ATV where it was stashed “out of fuel” in sage bushes on the Summer Lake Wildlife Area. A suspect in the initial theft was developed and the investigation is continuing. The ATV was secured by the Lake County SO for return to the owner.

GOV TO GOV:

MISC.:

On August 31, 2024, Senior Trooper Rice responded to a medical call in rural eastern Klamath County near Bly. A 4-year-old had fallen in a creek. He had a significant arm injury and appeared to be going into shock. The volunteer ambulance crew requested additional assistance. Senior Trooper Rice rode with the ambulance until they could meet with an ALS crew from Klamath Falls. The juvenile is expected to make a full recovery.