OREGON STATE POLICE FISH & WILDLIFE DIVISION
WEEKLY REPORT

Southwest REGION
October 30, 2023 through November 5, 2023

WILDLIFE:

Follow up case –

On **October 28th**, 2023, Senior Trooper Hillyer and Senior Trooper Neville conducted a pre-light decoy on Anderson Cr. Road. Five vehicles in total observed the decoy in a three-hour period. One truck stopped, pulled forward and reversed backwards to get a better look at the decoy, it was not contacted. Another set of vehicles stopped in the roadway and positioned their vehicles side by side. A shot from a 30-06 rifle was heard and both vehicles left the scene. The take down OSP vehicle managed to stop one of those two vehicles and it was determined the other vehicle was the shooter. OSP attempted to locate the shooting suspect but was unsuccessful. A spent 30-06 rifle cartridge was located in the roadway of the incident. On **October 31st**, 2023, Senior Trooper Hillyer received a phone call from the shooting suspect. A full confession was given. The suspect observed the decoy and could not resist the temptation to shoot it. Using his 30-06, he confessed to shooting at the decoy and then driving away. On **November 1st, 2023**, the suspect was charged with hunting prohibited method and hunting with aid of lighting and his rifle was seized.

On October 30, 2023, Sergeant Harris responded to Weyerhauser's Millicoma Tree Farm for a report of a doe having been shot and left to waste. The doe was confirmed to have been shot. No suspects have been identified at this time.

From November 1-5, 2023, Sergeant Tague contacted several hunters for the first controlled elk bull season. Compliance was extremely poor with a large number of E-Tags failing to have the tag uploaded onto their phone but had the tags purchased. Three hunters driving around were contacted with wrong unit tags that claimed to be "lost". One hunter failed to purchase his tag but had not started to hunt yet. No animals were checked and several warnings were issued. In total 25 elk tags were attempted to be checked with 10 receiving warnings or citation for various issues.

On November 1, 2023, Trooper Gordon and Trooper Gray responded to a report of a dead cow elk on the Sevenmile Ranch. The carcass was already partly eaten by scavengers. A necropsy was performed and no evidence was recovered that the elk was shot. The information and photographs were turned over to ODFW.

On November 1, 2023, Trooper Gordon and Trooper Gray conducted an elk WED in the dark prior to the SE Cascade Elk Season opener. The WED was placed in the Keno Unit. Multiple vehicles drove by and compliance was high with zero shooters.
On November 4, 2023, Trooper Gosse responded to a hunting trespass call outside of Brookings. It was found a youth, assisted by his mother, had trespassed onto posted private

property and discharged firearms in close proximity of residences to kill an injured buck deer. The youth was warned for criminal trespass and allowed to keep the deer. The mother was cited and released for Aiding in a Wildlife Violation. Two warnings for Fail To Validate Big Game Tag were also issued. Earlier on the 4th, Trooper Gosse also contacted an angler with an untagged Wild Chinook Salmon. The male angler was issued a citation for Fail to Validate.

On November 4, 2023, Sergeant Bowersox, Senior Trooper Bachmeier and SIU Detective Jewell conducted an early morning decoy operation. Three vehicles drove through the set and reacted to the sight of the decoys. No enforcement actions were taken, but one of the hunters was stopped and educated.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier responded to night hunting/ trespassing complaint that occurred the previous night. The reporting party (RP) heard a gunshot after dark on a road that runs through his property. He located a pickup parked in the road and two subjects up on the adjacent bank, presumably looking for what they had shot. The RP took photographs of the vehicle and subjects but was unable to get a license plate. The subjects left the area. The RP searched the area that night and again in the morning but no signs of an animal being shot were located. A 30-06 shell casing was recovered from the road. This is an ongoing investigation into trying to identify the involved individuals.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Clark and Trooper Wakem conducted a WED operation on Siuslaw River Road near MP 5 in the early morning hours. At approximately 6:30 am (55 minutes before legal shooting hours) a truck approached the decoy. The passenger leaned out the window and shot the decoy with a 12 gauge shotgun. The vehicle then sped away but Senior Trooper Clark was able to conduct a traffic stop approximately a mile up the road. The driver admitted knowing it was a decoy after shooting it and drove until he saw lights behind him. The passenger was issued violation citations for hunting prohibited hours, shooting from a public roadway and unlawful take of buck deer-decoy. The driver was issued a violation citation for aiding in a wildlife offense. The shotgun used was seized as evidence. Scruffy was hit by buckshot during the event but is expected to make a full recovery. Trooper Wakem also had a poor balance mishap on a slight incline but was able to maintain his bearing and produce a successful outcome.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier responded to hunting complaint in the Roseburg area. The reporting party (RP) heard a gunshot just down the road from his residence. He then saw a vehicle slowing driving through the area. The RP went to investigate and found the subject loading a buck deer into his SUV. The area is a public two-lane road with private property on both sides. The subject loaded the deer and left the area. The RP was able to provide OSP with a license plate. Senior Trooper Bachmeier contacted the subject by phone, but he was evasive and eventually hung up on the Trooper. Additional attempts to contact the subject have been unsuccessful. This is an ongoing investigation.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier received multiple trespassing complaints. The information was obtained for future follow up, due to being on other priority calls.

On November 5, 2023, Sr. Trooper Cordes and Trooper Cooper investigated a report of a dead cow elk in the Bone Mountain area. The elk was confirmed to have been shot and left. No suspects have been identified at this time.

On November 5th, 2023, Trooper Gray recovered an injured Red-Tailed Hawk that appeared to have been hit by a vehicle in the city of Klamath Falls. Trooper Gray was able to get the hawk safely to the Badger Run Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. (Photo)

On November 5th, 2023, Trooper Gray assisted the Klamath County Sheriffs Office with a rescue of a Doe Mule Deer that was stuck between two fences. The fence was dismantled, and the deer was able to walk away. (Photo)

ANGLING:

On November 5, 2023 Trooper Ellis was working follow up on a case regarding the sale and possession of blue tilapia which is a species on the prohibited species list. Trooper Ellis was finally able to get ahold of the subject. The subject was unaware that the species was prohibited and advised that all the fish had died due to a tank filtration problem. The subject was very organized and had paperwork and pictures confirming the fish had died. The subject had not made any sales of fish yet. The subject was warned for possession of the prohibited species.

HABITAT & ENVIRONMENTAL:

SHELLFISH:

COMMERCIAL FISH:

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

GENERAL LAW:

On October 30, 2023, OSP pilot Senior Trooper Gosse conducted a night flight operation in Douglas County through the night into early the morning hours. He was supported on the ground by Sergeant Bowersox and Senior Trooper Baimbridge. Several contacts were made out in the hinterlands, some warnings were issued and one male subject was arrested for a misdemeanor warrant and lodged at the Douglas County Jail.

On November 1, 2023, Senior Trooper Rice conducted an enforcement flight with the SW region aircraft. Numerous elk hunting contacts were conducted. The pilot located a suspicious bright blue object in the trees south of the Mt. Lakes Wilderness area. Sr. Trp. Rice located the object from the ground. It was a new 1000 gallon, tandem axle fuel trailer. The trailer was clearly stolen and hidden at the location. There was no plate and no VIN on the vehicle. The serial number was checked through LEDS and was UTL. Local dispatch centers where checked and no similar vehicles were reported stolen. There was a sticker on the trailer indicating it was recently sold at auction. Sr. Trp. Rice reached out to a local logger with connections to Ritchie Bros auctions. On November 2, an owner was identified and contacted. The trailer had been reported stolen on October 31st but had not been entered into LEDS as the owner was still getting the info to the county sheriff's department. The owner responded to recover the vehicle. The vehicle was wedged between multiple trees, well off the road. Sr. Trp. Rice removed a tree and a large quantity of brush with his chainsaw so that the owner could recover the trailer. Great team effort.

On November 2, 2023 Sergeant Hanigan was observing the vehicles in a common problem area along the Rogue River. A silver Toyota Forerunner came through the parking lot but decided not to stick around. The plate on the vehicle was ran and a similar hit/AKA for an individual came back on the return. Sergeant Hanigan quickly compared the ODL's listed and determined the driver was the male with the warrant. Sergeant Hanigan made a traffic stop near the subjects residence and the subject attempted to distance himself from the vehicle likely due to the firearm that was later located. A Patrol trooper and recruit assisted with the arrest. The subject was lodged on the warrant and cited violation for driving suspended and fail to install an Ignition Interlock Device.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Rice contacted two hunters near Bly. The hunters reported that their friend was camped at Sandhill Crossing and that he needed to go to the hospital because he couldn't care for himself. Sr. Trp. Rice and Sr. Trp. Niehus responded to the campground and contacted the 85-year-old man that was the subject of the welfare check. He was found to be cognizant and not experiencing any kind of medical emergency. His trailer was wrecked in a collision two days prior and was not movable. The gentlemen was not very mobile (stroke survivor) and needed assistance moving his belongings from the damaged trailer to his truck. The troopers assisted him load the truck and escorted him back to a paved road so that he did not get lost. He was provided several tow company names and phone numbers to facilitate removing the damaged trailer. He was very grateful for the assistance.

On November 4, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier handled a single vehicle non-injury crash on Interstate 5. The operator of the vehicle lost control and struck the concrete barrier. There was no state damage. The lone patrol Trooper was on another crash with more crashes coming in due to heavy rain fall.

On November 5, Trooper Gosse responded to a hunter trespass call, east of Gold Beach, in the Saunders Creek area. It was found two deer hunters trespassed onto private timber company, after going past numerous no trespassing signs. The hunters claimed confusion on the signage. Both hunters were cited for Criminal Trespass With a Firearm and released.

On November 5, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier responded to a hunting in violation of criminal trespass complaint. The reporting party (RP) was hunting on his property with his young daughter. A male subject shot a deer within close proximity of the RP. The RP confronted the subject about trespassing. The subject left the property without the deer. Senior Trooper Bachmeier located the associated subject in a vehicle leaving the area and a traffic stop was conducted. The male subject was cited and released for Unlawful Take of Buck Deer- Hunting in Violation of Criminal Trespass. Additional charges will be forwarded to the Douglas County District Attorney for consideration. The 4x4 buck deer was salvaged and donated to the local VFW.

On November 5, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier responded to the report of a dead deer in a subject's field. The deer had been shot one time, most likely the night before. The deer was removed from the property. There are no suspects at this time.

GOV TO GOV:

On November 1, 2023, Senior Trooper Bachmeier attended and represented The Oregon State Police at an emergency action plan round table exercise (EAP) at 7 feather resort. The EAP was regarding potential issues if the Dam's at Cow Creek Reservoirs became compromised or failed. Federal, State, Local and Tribal agencies all participated in the exercise.

MISC.: