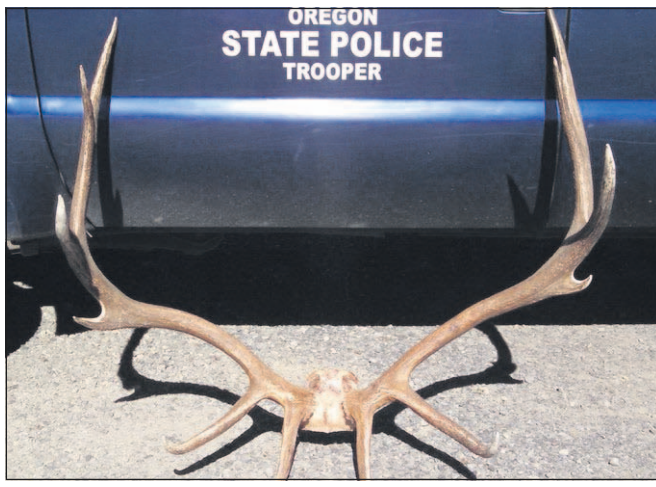


Sentence handed down in poaching case

An Enterprise man's hunting privileges have been suspended for three years as part of his sentence for taking an elk without a valid elk tag and second-degree criminal trespass.

Skyler Willis, 23, was sentenced Aug. 5 by Wallowa County Circuit Court Judge Russell West. Willis was convicted of the charges on July 23.

According to a statement from Oregon State Police (OSP), Willis shot a trophy 6-point bull elk with his bow Sept. 7, 2014, on the Zumwalt Prairie, which is located in the Chesnimnus Wildlife Management Unit. Willis did not have a valid Chesnimnus Unit Tag and was also trespassing on The Nature Conservancy



Courtesy photo/Oregon State Police

Investigators seized elk antlers scoring 319 Boone and Crockett. They say the bull elk was taken illegally on Sept. 7, 2014.

property when he retrieved his bull elk.

OSP Fish and Wildlife

Division Troopers from Enterprise conducted a three-month-long investigation into

the crime, OSP stated. As a result, the elk antlers, which scored 319 Boone and Crockett, the elk meat as well as the bow that Willis used to unlawfully kill the bull elk were subsequently seized. The investigation included the use of DNA evidence, and Willis was cited in February 2015.

In addition to the suspension of hunting privileges, Willis' sentence includes 24 months of supervised probation, during which time Willis is prohibited from possessing any firearms or archery equipment and is not to accompany anyone who is hunting. Willis also had a one-year suspended jail sentence and received eight days of work crew and seven days of community service. The elk antlers, elk meat

and bow are forfeited to the state.

Additionally, Willis is to write letters of apology to the hunters of Oregon and to The Nature Conservancy. He was further ordered to pay \$5,000 in restitution for the trophy bull elk and \$200 in fines.

On Monday, Willis issued the following statement about the case:

"Last bow season I shot a bull elk on property owned by my family. Once shot, the elk jumped the fence and died on the neighboring property owned by The Nature Conservancy where I retrieved the elk. At the time the elk was shot, I was entitled to take one bull elk from the property through the land owner preference program, and I believed

the tag I had purchased to be valid for that property. The elk was not taken outside a valid season, and if I had filled out the correct forms for the land owner preference program the taking of this elk would have been completely legal.

"I told the Oregon State Police that I had shot the elk on our property a week after having shot the elk. The Oregon State Police later cited me for knowingly taking an elk without a valid tag and for trespass. I was not guilty of those charges and defended myself at trial, but the jury disagreed. While I do not agree that the verdict was the correct one, I do accept the verdict of the jury, and am committed to complying with the order of the Court."

Hay bale fire; stalking arrest; hit-and-run

Dispatch Log

FOR THE RECORD

Aug. 3
5:30 a.m. Medical alarm in city of Enterprise, ambulance responded.
8:29 a.m. Public assist in rural Enterprise.
9:20 a.m. Rural Enterprise traffic stop.
11:19 a.m. Dog as public nuisance in Joseph.
12:29 p.m. Follow-up investigation, rural Joseph.
12:43 p.m. Follow up investigation in Lostine.
2:31 p.m. Two dogs found in Wallowa. Owners located.
3:35 p.m. Reports of black Lab seen running loose near Buckhorn Campground.
3:49 p.m. Shepherd type dog found, rural Enterprise. Owner located.
5:06 p.m. Report of hay bale on fire, rural Joseph.
5:49 p.m. 911 reporting domestic dispute in Wallowa.
6:02 p.m. Trespass complaint in Joseph.
8 p.m. 911 request for welfare check on a male walking in the middle of Enterprise street.
Aug. 4
8:45 a.m. Welfare check in rural Enterprise.
9:59 a.m. 911 for ambulance in Wallowa.
10:42 a.m. Donie Innes Merrifield, 54, Enterprise, arrested on Community Corrections detainer for probation violation. Original charges of criminal mischief-1 and disorderly conduct-2. Transported to Union County Jail.
11:56 a.m. Theft reported in Joseph.
12:58 p.m. Citation for trespassing at Wallowa Lake Dam.
1:10 p.m. Hit-and-run reported in Joseph.

1:21 p.m. Subject cited in Enterprise for driving while suspended.
2:05 p.m. Rural Enterprise traffic stop.
2:14 p.m. Joseph traffic complaint.
2:36 p.m. Found wallet. Located owner and returned.
2:38 p.m. Contact with disabled vehicle in Enterprise. Vehicle towed.
3:36 p.m. Rural Wallowa public assist.
4:41 p.m. Complaint of four-wheeler driving in the city of Joseph.
5:07 p.m. Lost dog in Enterprise. Reunited with owner.
5:11 p.m. Investigation of stalking protective order in Enterprise.
5:20 p.m. Follow-up investigation.
5:28 p.m. Criminal trespass-2 citation issued to Ryan S. Rumelhart, 35, Enterprise.
6:00 p.m. Cody Adams, 33, Wallowa, arrested on charges of violation of stalking order. Transported to Union County Jail.
Aug. 5
10:04 a.m. Dog as public nuisance in Wallowa.
1:25 p.m. Enterprise 911 call re: criminal mischief.
1:31 p.m. 911 for ambulance in rural Joseph.
4:09 p.m. 911 transfer from Union County requesting assistance with flat tire, location rural Wallowa.
4:52 p.m. Border Collie found in rural Joseph.
5:03 p.m. Report of rural Wallowa theft.
8:14 p.m. Entered probation violation warrant on Brandon Matthews, 27, Enterprise.

8:16 p.m. E911 re: noise complaint in rural Enterprise.
Aug. 6
8:17 a.m. Report of audible alarm at Wallowa Lake.
11:16 a.m. Joseph traffic complaint.
1:26 p.m. 911 report of Enterprise disturbance.
2:24 p.m. Complaint of theft of services, Wallowa.
3:14 p.m. Report of yellow manx bobtail cat missing in Joseph.
4:01 p.m. Agency assist.
4:31 p.m. Information case issued for EPD.
4:48 p.m. 911 report of non-injury motor vehicle crash in Joseph.
7:56 p.m. Ian Nicholas Parks, 22, Joseph, arrested on Union County warrant. Charges: burglary-1, assault-4, criminal mischief-2, criminal trespass-1, harassment. Transported to Union County.
10:27 p.m. 911 call for welfare check in Enterprise.
10:43 p.m. Enterprise traffic stop.
Aug. 7
7:34 a.m. Report of audible alarm at Wallowa Lake.
1:03 p.m. 911 for ambulance in Lostine.
3:24 p.m. Misuse of 911. Parents warned.
4:20 p.m. Found California driver's license.
4:22 p.m. Missing dog in Enterprise.
4:26 p.m. Missing juvenile reported. Located by parents.
4:48 p.m. Wallowa barking dog complaint.
6:35 p.m. 911 in Enterprise reporting disturbance, handled by civil compromise.
10:07 p.m. Deer struck in rural Lostine.
11:59 p.m. 911 call about vehicle parked at rodeo grounds with engine running

for hours. Vehicle left while report was being taken.
Aug. 8
7:20 a.m. 911 report of Enterprise burglary.
9:05 a.m. 911 for ambulance in Enterprise.
10:58 a.m. Report of deer hit by vehicle on Hwy 3, rural Enterprise.
12:09 p.m. Found property at Wallowa Lake.
3:24 p.m. Motorist assist, rural Joseph.
4:10 p.m. Rural Joseph traffic stop.
5:37 p.m. Ambulance request in Enterprise.
7:10 p.m. Report of threatening phone call in Joseph.
7:45 p.m. Lost ID driver's license in Enterprise at the fairgrounds.
8:15 p.m. 911 call for traffic complaint, rural Joseph.
8:44 p.m. 911 call for vehicle that hit a deer on Hwy 3. OSP is handling.
9:17 p.m. Joseph traffic stop.
9:46 p.m. Joseph traffic stop.
10:56 p.m. 911 call for Enterprise disturbance.
11:11 p.m. Wallowa Lake noise complaint.
Aug. 9
8:58 a.m. 911 reporting two small dogs impeding traffic, rural Joseph.
9:15 a.m. 911 call reporting loose cow, rural Joseph,

possibly impaired driver in Joseph.
5:28 p.m. Ambulance requested in Enterprise.
6:43 p.m. Joseph public assist.
8:49 p.m. Barking dog in Enterprise.
9:51 p.m. Rural Wallowa public assist.
10:18 p.m. 911 call for possible fire near Cricket Flat in the canyon. NED notified.
Aug. 10
1:46 a.m. Fires reported from medical helicopter. Information to NED.
4 a.m. Suspicious vehicle in rural Enterprise.
6:25 a.m. Forest fire reported in rural Wallowa.

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