

Reward for poaching tips increases

The Oregon State Police Fish & Wildlife Division is asking for the public’s help to identify the person or people responsible for the unlawful killing of a cow moose in Wallowa County late last year.

The Oregon Hunter’s Association has increased the reward to \$6,250 for information leading to an arrest or citation in this case.

The reward is offered by the Oregon Hunters Association Turn-In-Poacher program.

On Dec. 2, 2016, OSP was notified of a dead cow moose about 20 yards off of Coal Docks Road, which is located northwest of Wallowa in Wallowa County.

OSP Fish and Wildlife Troopers responded and found a cow moose had been shot and some of the meat left to waste. The subsequent investigation revealed the moose was most likely shot in the late evening hours of Dec. 1, or early morning hours of

Dec. 2. Evidence was collected at the scene.

There are no lawful hunts that allow the harvesting of moose in Oregon.

Anyone with information regarding this case is asked to contact OSP Senior Trooper Brian Miller through the TIP hotline at 1-800-452-7888 or email at Brian.Miller@state.or.us.

The T.I.P. Reward Program is paid for by the Oregon Hunter’s Association. It provides rewards for information leading to the citation or an arrest of a person for illegal possession, killing, or taking of bighorn sheep, mountain goat, moose, elk, deer, antelope, bear, cougar, wolf, furbearers and/or upland game birds and water fowl.

Rewards can also be paid for the illegal taking, netting, snagging, and/or dynamiting of game fish, and/or shellfish, and for the destruction of habitat.



Contributed photo

The remains of a dead cow moose were found Dec. 2, 2016, near Coal Docks Road northwest of Wallowa. A reward for information about the poaching incident has been increased.

Stronger mussel defenses considered

SALEM — Oregon lawmakers are considering whether to strengthen the state’s defenses against invasive aquatic mussels that threaten both irrigation systems and ecosystems.

The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee has introduced legislation creating a new penalty for people who refuse to subject their boats to inspection for quagga and zebra mussels at checkpoints, among other measures.

The mussels threaten to clog irrigation intakes and disrupt habitats for native fish species.

Wildlife officials in Washington have already confirmed an outbreak of avian cholera around the Tri-Cities, where more than 1,200 dead ducks were reported.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife is still awaiting test results from the state veterinary diagnostic lab in Corvallis, though Brandon Reishus, ODFW waterfowl coordinator, said the deaths were likely caused by avian cholera.

“To my understanding,

Dead ducks trigger avian cholera investigation

By George Plaven
EO Media Group

they all showed the classic cholera symptoms,” Reishus said.

Birds infected with avian cholera often appear lethargic and display a mucous discharge from the mouth and nose.

Reishus said the birds may also lose control of their motor functions, convulsing and swimming in circles.

Death usually follows quickly, sometimes in as few as six to 12 hours, according to the U.S. Geologic Survey National Wildlife Health Center.

“It gets people’s attention, because it has the potential to

kill a lot of birds in a short period of time,” Reishus said.

Avian cholera is a bacterial disease that spreads through bird-to-bird contact, ingestion of food or water containing the bacteria or by scavenging infected carcasses. The bacteria can survive in soil and water for up to four months, according to the USGS.

Humans are not at high risk of infection, though Reishus said people should avoid handling dead birds.

Because the disease kills waterfowl so quickly, Reishus said it is unlikely hunters have killed any sick birds.

However, as a precaution, hunters should wear gloves when cleaning harvested ducks or geese and disinfect their waders and decoys to avoid spreading the bacteria.

Harvested birds can still be eaten, but should be cooked thoroughly, Reishus said.

Hunting season for ducks and geese closed across the region on Jan. 29.

Reishus said avian cholera tends to hit areas where ducks and geese are heavily concentrated. The Columbia Basin has always been a major wintering area for mallards, he said, and this year’s colder-than-usual winter may be clustering birds even closer together than in years past.

ODFW is asking the public to report sick or dead birds by calling 1-866-968-2600 or email wildlife.health@state.or.us.

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