



Department of Justice

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REDDING, CALIFORNIA MAN SENTENCED FOR POACHING TROPHY BULL ELK

Sentenced to \$50,000 Penalty and Probation; Faces Lifetime Ban on Hunting and Fishing

Portland, Ore. - U.S. District Judge Ancer L. Haggerty today sentenced Ronald Ray Jurin, of Redding, California, to serve three years on federal probation and pay a \$50,000 penalty for illegally poaching a trophy bull elk in the Wenaha Hunt Unit in Eastern Oregon. Jurin has also been banned for life from hunting and fishing in the state of Oregon. Oregon is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violators Compact, a group of 26 states which have agreed to honor hunting restrictions imposed on hunters in member states. Member states include Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Jurin, 38, was convicted of a felony violation of the federal Lacey Act. The charge stems from the September 23, 2006, illegal killing of a branch-antlered elk in the Wenaha Hunt Unit in eastern Oregon and the subsequent interstate transport of the elk to Jurin's home in California. Jurin pleaded guilty before the Honorable Ancer L. Haggerty. Jurin killed the elk without a tag authorizing him to hunt in the Wenaha Unit. The Lacey Act prohibits the import, export, sale or transport in interstate or foreign commerce when the wildlife was taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of any state or foreign law.

"Poaching is cowardly, disrupts wildlife management, and is unfair to real hunters – who work hard and play by Oregon's hunting rules. We mean business when it comes to enforcing wildlife statutes," said United States Attorney Karin J. Immergut.

The Wenaha Hunt Unit is among the most sought-after trophy bull elk hunts in the state of Oregon, with less than 1 percent of the applicants receiving a tag. Law-abiding hunters wait as long as 13 years to earn enough points to draw a tag for bull elk in the Wenaha Hunt Unit, or they can participate in an auction for a tag, which can cost up to \$25,000. In 2006, only five tags were auctioned state-wide, with two being used in the Wenaha Hunt Unit.

Half of the monetary penalty -- \$25,000 -- will be paid to the Oregon Endangered Species Justice Fund, a fund administered by the Oregon Zoo to provide grants to projects supporting endangered and threatened species.

Jurin also admitted in federal court that he

- illegally hunted three bears before the season began and used bait to attract the bears;
- illegally killed a cow elk without a tag, and then used a falsified tag to make the kill appear legal;
- illegally killed a white-tailed deer using a cross bow and by aid of an artificial light; all in 2006.

In addition to the monetary penalty and lifetime hunting and fishing ban, Jurin must pay \$4,700 in restitution to the state of Oregon to compensate the state for the illegally taken wildlife and publish a public apology in Eastern Oregon newspapers and *Oregon Hunter* magazine.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dwight C. Holton and investigated by agents of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon State Police.

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