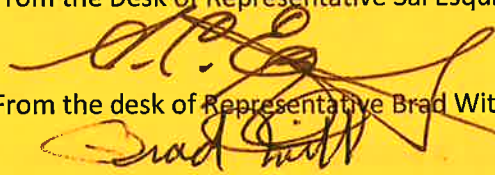


From the Desk of Representative Sal Esquivel

From the desk of Representative Brad Witt



Support HB 4046

As lawful hunters and anglers we support increasing damages and penalties for the **intentional unlawful taking of wildlife with the intent to sell, barter, trade, import or export the wildlife, or parts thereof, or selling, bartering, trading, importing or exporting unlawfully taken wildlife, or parts thereof**

HB 4046 **Increases damages** for intentional, unlawful taking of wildlife

HB 4046 **clarifies the civil penalties** and revocation of licenses permits and tags.

Activities that are considered poaching include killing an animal out of season, without a license, with a prohibited weapon, or in a prohibited manner. Killing a protected species, exceeding one's bag limit or killing an animal while trespassing may also be considered poaching.

The fish and wildlife of the state belong to the people of Oregon. We each share the responsibility for stewardship of these resources and we are each harmed by poaching.

In sharing habitats, we have an ethical obligation to protect and treasure the fish and game of our state. It is up to us to ensure that future Oregonians know the thrill of the chase and the excitement of landing that fish.

Support HB 4046

Reported Poaching Incidents and Cases (from ODF&W):

Certainly, all species in Oregon are vulnerable to some level of poaching. The examples below serve as an indicator for the extent and gravity of the issue, as well as confirmation that there is a high likelihood a poacher who will commit one offense is likely to commit others:

- In 2016, OSP started an investigation in Baker County to try to determine who killed four bucks and a doe adjacent to a park. While the four bucks each had their heads removed, all animals were left to waste. Trophy mounts can be sold for thousands of dollars on the black market, mainly for decoration.
- A 2011 conviction of a father and son on more than 130 poaching related charges, resulted in the forfeiture of 19 rifles, 1,600 pounds of processed and frozen game meat, and 106 sets of trophy antlers. Potentially the two killed over 300 deer, elk, black bear and pronghorn antelope.
- In the 1990's a sturgeon poaching group was caught having harvested 1.65 tons of caviar from an estimated 2,000 white sturgeon. The value of the caviar at the time was estimated at \$2 million.
- The report, *Fishing, Hunting, Wildlife Viewing, and Shellfishing in Oregon; 2008 State and County Expenditure Estimates*, compiled in 2009 by Dean Runyan Associates determined 2.8 million Oregon residents and nonresidents participated in fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing and shellfish harvesting in Oregon. When travel-generated expenditures, equipment expenditures, and direct expenditure on the recreational activity at a location were totaled, over 2.5 billion dollars were spent on these four activities.

Poaching has a significant impact on fish and wildlife resources in Oregon. Recent studies on some big game populations have shown poaching can be greater than legal hunter harvest. Additionally, while Oregon is fortunate to have many healthy populations of wildlife, specific species and members of a species can be more sensitive to poaching, and therefore their removal more impactful.