

## Troopers seek Hermiston-area deer poacher

*by Bend\_Weekly\_News\_Sources*

In what is described by the lead investigating Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division trooper as the most serious type of wildlife crimes he investigates, OSP is seeking the public's help to solve the poaching of four mule deer near Hermiston two nights ago. photos provided by OSP On November 7, OSP Fish and Wildlife troopers responded to a poaching complaint at the Royal Columbia Farms near Hermiston, Oregon, after farm employees discovered signs of illegal hunting when they arrived at work.

Investigating troopers found four mule deer that had been killed and left to waste sometime between 6 p.m., November 6th, and 2 a.m., November 7th. A nearby resident reported hearing shots at about 1 a.m. The four deer including two mature four-point bucks, one forked horn buck, and a yearling doe, were found adjacent to Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge. In addition to the illegal hunting activity, the suspect or suspects also drove off-road on the farm's private property damaging several agricultural fields. Troopers believe at least one vehicle was involved. "This is the type of random killing and senseless waste of several animals and is an example of the most serious type of wildlife crimes that we investigate," said OSP Fish and Wildlife Senior Trooper Tim Gallaher. Anyone with information regarding this illegal deer hunting case is asked to contact OSP Senior Trooper Gallaher at 541-278-4090.

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