

## Tipster awarded \$500 for helping nab Bend elk poacher

*by Cheryl McDermott*

A man responsible for providing information to authorities that led to the citation of a Bend, Oregon man for allegedly poaching an elk was awarded \$500 from the Oregon Hunter's Association TIP (Turn in Poachers) program.

OSP Sr. Trooper Hayes presents a \$500 TIP reward to Eric Perry — OSP photo According to an Oregon State Police (OSP) news release, Eric Perry was looking for a buck in the Upper Deschutes Unit during the Eastern Oregon controlled rifle buck season on September 30 when he found a dead cow elk in brush.

Perry, a licensed hunter, called OSP and Senior Trooper James Hayes responded to the scene and began an investigation. Perry helped the trooper salvage the elk meat from the poached animal, OSP reported.

Perry gave troopers information that led to the identification and subsequent citation of two suspects: Anthony Howden of Bend, and Michael Thompson of Hines. Troopers said Howden was cited for taking a cow elk during closed season, and Thompson was cited for aiding in a wildlife violation.

Perry was presented a \$500 check from TIP. Anyone with information related to hunting violations or poachers are urged to call 800-452-7888. Callers may remain anonymous if they choose.

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