

## Two dogs chase, kill elk; owner cited

by Cheryl McDermott

A Lincoln County dog-owner was cited Thursday for allegedly allowing her two large dogs to chase and kill a cow elk.

An Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish & Wildlife Division trooper responded to a private field off Slick Rock Creek Road about 3:30 p.m. February 22, authorities reported, and saw an elk lying in the field struggling to survive.

Fish & Wildlife Division troopers believe the elk, stressed from being chased by the two large dogs, ran into a tree and broke its back. OSP photos.

The ground near the scene clearly shows tracks from the altercation. By the time the trooper had obtained permission from the landowner to enter the property, another trooper had arrived on scene and together they found the elk had died after being chased by the dogs and hitting a tree, possibly breaking the animal's back.

Troopers contacted the dog's owner, Diana J. Smith of Otis, Oregon, who resides on property immediately east of the field. Smith was cited and released on two counts of unlawfully permitting a dog to run a game mammal. Each charge is a Class A misdemeanor with bail of \$7,500 per charge, troopers said.

Dog owners are reminded that under Oregon law (ORS 498.102), "No person shall permit any dog the person owns to unlawfully hunt, run, or track any game mammal or game bird."

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