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Arizona Game and Fish Department

NEWS RELEASE

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\$2,500 rewards offered in elk and deer poachings near Pinetop

PINETOP, Ariz. — The Arizona Game and Fish Department is asking for the public's help in finding the individual or individuals responsible for the illegal killing of a mature bull elk on or before Sunday, Oct. 14, and a mule deer doe on or before Saturday, Oct. 20. The elk was killed east of Pinetop in Game Management Unit 3B near Forest Roads (FR) 7 and 283. The deer was shot from FR 6 near the junction with FR 96 in Unit 1.

"Some meat was taken from the elk, but nothing was taken from the doe," says Bob Birkeland, wildlife manager supervisor in the department's Pinetop Region. "The deer meat was left to waste. In addition, the doe was lactating, so there's a strong chance its fawn or fawns will not survive now."

Birkeland adds, "Apprehending those responsible will be difficult without help from the public. I encourage anyone with information to call. The rewards are good incentive, but folks should call because it's the right thing to do. Our citizens should have zero tolerance when it comes to poaching and wasting game meat. These aren't the actions of a hunter. They're criminal acts of stealing wildlife assets and resources from the people of Arizona."

The department's Operation Game Thief (OGT) Program is offering a reward of up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest of the subject or subjects who committed either crime. To report information on either incident, or any wildlife law violation, call the OGT hotline toll-free at (800) 352-0700, or report online at www.azgfd.gov/thief, and reference case number 12-002316 for the elk and 12-002388 for the deer. Caller identities may remain confidential upon request.

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www.azgfd.gov/thief

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