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## NEWS RELEASE

**Date/Time of Release:** January 19, 2017, 11:45 a.m.

**From:** Erik Hasselman, Chief Deputy District Attorney

**Details:** Two-deer Poaching case in the Wolf Creek area of Lane County

On October 26, 2016, Lane County Sheriff Deputy Richard Glessner stopped a pickup truck being operated by Hunter Dillen Johnson, age 19, of Noti. Deputy Glessner quickly discovered the carcasses of a Black-tailed deer doe and a Black-tailed deer spike in the bed of the pickup. Mr. Johnson produced a hunting license and tag issued to another person. Deputy Glessner called the Oregon State Police to investigate.

Trooper Todd Cutsforth, Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife, responded to investigate. The investigation revealed that Mr. Johnson had shot and killed both deer that date, one with a .22 caliber rimfire rifle. Mr. Johnson had already filled his valid tag earlier in the season and had no right to be hunting deer further.

The Lane County District Attorney filed five misdemeanor criminal charges against Mr. Johnson in Lane County Circuit Court.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr. Johnson plead guilty to all charges: Unlawful Borrowing of Deer Tag, Unlawful Taking of Black-tailed Deer Doe without Valid Tag, Unlawful Taking of Black-tailed Deer Doe (Exceeding Bag Limit), Unlawful Taking of Black-tailed Deer Spike without Valid Tag, and Unlawful Taking of Black-tailed Deer Spike (Prohibited Method-Rimfire Rifle).

Lane County Circuit Judge R. Curtis Conover sentenced Mr. Johnson to 3 years court probation, a 3-year suspension of all hunting privileges, 4 days in the Lane County Jail with a recommendation it be served on the Road Crew, \$2000 restitution to the State of Oregon for the taking of the deer, and a special condition of probation that he not participate in any hunting excursions during the period of probation.

Oregon State Police seized, butchered, and salvaged both deer, with the meat being donated to a local church in the Florence area for dispersal to families in need. Additionally, the State Police seized two rifles in Mr. Johnson's possession which Judge Conover ordered forfeited to the Oregon State Police.

By law, wildlife is the property of the State of Oregon. No person shall angle for, take, hunt, trap or possess, or assist another in angling for, taking, hunting, trapping or possessing any wildlife in violation of the wildlife laws and established rules.