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Arizona Game and Fish Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Wounded bull elk found in Tusayan neighborhood

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. -- The Arizona Game and Fish Department is asking for the public's help in gathering information about a large bull elk that was shot and wounded by bow and arrow near the town of Tusayan. The animal was wounded during the weekend of Aug. 21.

Game and Fish was contacted after the wounded bull appeared in the front yard of a residence in Tusayan. A department law enforcement officer and a biologist responded to the call and were able to tranquilize the bull and remove the arrow, which was embedded in the rump area of the animal. The bull was closely monitored until it ran off on its own.

Department officials suspect that the bull was shot near Tusayan in Game Management Unit 9 and then travelled into town. The wounding of this bull is a game law violation since the legal archery elk season does not begin for several more weeks. This shooting most likely occurred during the opening weekend of the archery deer season.

"This is an example of irresponsible individuals and their disrespect for wildlife and the laws and seasons that are established to protect our wildlife resources. This case is also frustrating due to the fact that the elk hunting season hasn't started yet, and we don't know where in Unit 9 the animal was originally shot," says Game and Fish Wildlife Manager, Mike Rice. "We need the public's help finding the individual(s) involved in the shooting. If you were in the area recently, please try to remember anything you might have seen or heard or any conversations you might have had. Someone may not realize he or she has the key to solving this case."

Anyone with information about this incident can call the department's Operation Game Thief toll-free hotline at (800) 352-0700. Callers may be eligible for a reward of up to \$2,500, and all calls may remain confidential upon request.

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