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Arizona Game and Fish Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Reward offered for information on wildlife poachings near Heber

PINETOP, Ariz. — The Arizona Game and Fish Department is asking for the public's help in finding the person or people responsible for the illegal killing of two black bear cubs, an owl and a beaver. Department wildlife managers estimate the animals were killed in late September or early October, then dumped near each other and left to waste at the end of a two-track road stemming off of Forest Road 504 outside of Heber.

"Apprehending those responsible will be difficult without help from the public," says Bruce Sitko, spokesman in the department's Pinetop regional office. "I encourage anyone with information to call. The reward is a 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 two 35-pound cubs or wasting any 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 \$1,250 per bear and \$150 each for the owl and beaver for information leading to the arrest of the individual(s) who committed this crime. To report information on this 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 13-003072. Caller identities may remain confidential upon request.

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www.azgfd.gov/thief

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