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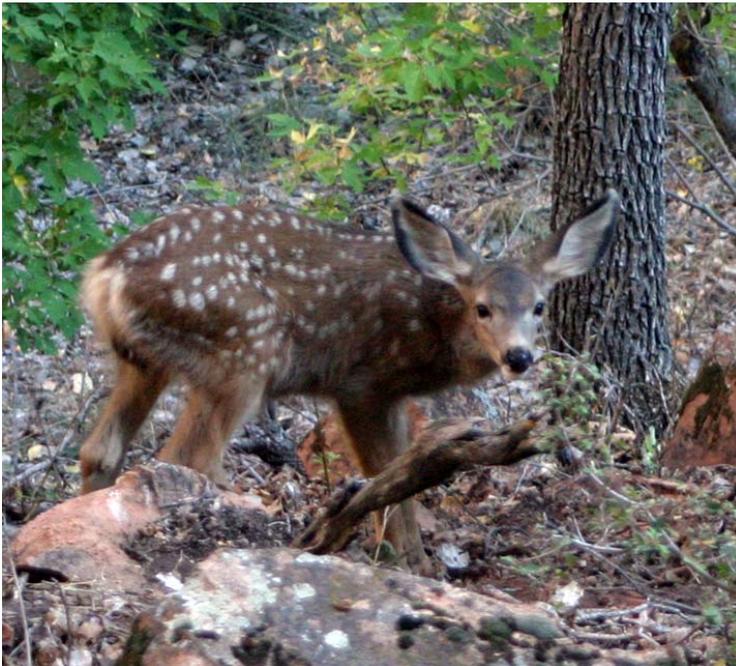
NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release Oct. 25, 2010

Reward upwards to \$1,750 offered for mule deer poaching near Crescent Lake

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 mule deer doe near Crescent Lake in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona, adjacent to State Highway 261. Officials believe the doe was shot on or around Sunday, Oct. 16.

"The deer was needlessly killed and left to waste with nothing removed from the carcass," says Alen Forney, department law enforcement specialist. "We need the public's help in catching those responsible for this poaching. Due to high recreational use of the area, we believe someone may have some information that can be helpful to our investigation."



"This crime is further compounded by the fact that the doe was lactating; thus still nursing a new-born fawn," says Forney. "The fawn is now left to fend for itself, and without its mother to watch over it, it will likely soon starve to death or be taken by a predator. This senseless, illegal shooting has probably caused the death of two animals."

"This isn't the action of a hunter," adds Forney. "This is a criminal act of stealing wildlife assets and resources from the people of Arizona."

The department's Operation Game Thief Program is offering a reward of up to \$1,250 for

information leading to the arrest of the individual or individuals who committed this crime. The Mule Deer Foundation is offering an additional reward of up to \$500 for a criminal conviction in this case. To report information on this incident, or any wildlife law violation, call the department's Operation Game Thief hotline toll-free at (800) 352-0700, or make a report online at www.azgfd.gov/thief. Caller identities may remain confidential upon request.