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Arizona Game and Fish Department

NEWS RELEASE

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Suspected serial poacher sought by Game and Fish

Reward offer escalates for information

KINGMAN, Ariz. – Arizona Game and Fish Department officers believe a serial poacher is prowling the Hualapai Mountain range following the discovery of a mule deer gut pile.

Officers believe the poaching to involve the same individuals responsible in a suspected poaching of a doe on Sept. 10. While little evidence was found in the first case due to heavy rains, a gut pile of a mule deer buck was discovered on Sept. 19. Officer Lainie Antolik examined the gut pile and believes the animal was killed within the previous two days.

Both cases took place to the east of the first cattle guard heading south on Hualapai Mountain Road.

Reward amounts in the case have skyrocketed to up to \$3,750 for information. The Game and Fish Operation Game Thief program is offering up to \$2,500 for information leading to an arrest. The Mule Deer Foundation and Mohave County Silent Witness are each offering up to \$500, and the Mohave Sportsman Club up to \$250, all upon conviction.

“If, as suspected, this involves the same poachers, it was pretty bold,” said Zen Mocarski, public information officer for the Game and Fish Region 3 office in Kingman. “Both deer were taken from the same location. It would be nice to catch those responsible.

“There was no season on mule deer at the time this buck was killed. It was definitely a poaching.”

A witness in the first case reported seeing three suspects at a clearing while one suspect remained in the vehicle. The suspects, believed to be local and in their 20’s, left in a maroon-colored, Chevy single-cab pickup truck. It is believed to be a late 1990’s or early 2000’s model.

“It is important to remember this is not the act of lawful hunters,” Mocarski said. “Poaching is the act of a criminal.”

Mocarski said any information would be helpful, such as a name or license plates.

Mocarski said the OGT program has helped solve many cases in the past and is hopeful someone with information will come forward.

In 2011 OGT received 1,070 calls and 65 web submissions that led to 39 arrests. The program paid out \$12,000 in rewards in 2011 and in excess of \$300,000 since its inception 30 years ago.

Anyone with information regarding this case, or any wildlife violation, should call the OGT hotline at (800) 352-0700. Web submissions can be reported via the Internet by going to www.azgfd.gov/thief. Identities will remain confidential. Anyone calling should reference case number 12-001968.

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