



Dec. 18, 2009
PR#09-091

Wildlife Troopers see Successful Conclusion in Case against Two Hunters

(ANCHORAGE, Alaska) – This month the Alaska Wildlife troopers witnessed a successful conclusion to a lengthy multi-agency investigation. The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Alaska Wildlife Troopers, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management in both Alaska and Montana. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service in the State of Arizona and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks assisted Alaska Wildlife Troopers in their investigation to include seizing two Dall sheep rams.

On Nov. 27, 2009, Ward M. Scanson, a 29 year old BLM employee from Montana working seasonally in Alaska, pled guilty in Glennallen District Court to unlawfully taking a Dall sheep ram in game management unit 12 without a registered guide and falsifying his Alaska resident hunting license application. This incident occurred in September of 2008 while hunting with companion Chad J. Rice near Nebesna. The court imposed an \$11,000.00 fine with \$5,500.00 suspended, forfeiture of the Dall sheep horns and cape to the State of Alaska, revocation of hunting license for one year, probation for four years and a payment of an additional \$1,100.00 in restitution for the unlawful taking of the sheep.

On Dec. 8, 2009, Chad J. Rice, a 25 year old BLM employee from Arizona working seasonally in Alaska, also pled guilty in Glennallen District Court for the same two wildlife offenses as Scanson. He was sentenced to a \$10,000.00 fine with \$5000.00 suspended. The court also ordered the same forfeiture of the Dall sheep, revocation of hunting license, probation, and ordered restitution of \$1,100.00 to the State of Alaska.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers also looked into related cases with other BLM employees at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, for unlawfully purchasing resident sport fishing licenses. Troopers cited five additional offenders for falsifying their license applications. Idaho resident Michael B. McMillan, Colorado residents Christopher J. Wennogle and Charles Brown, Utah resident Dawson J. Kelsey and California resident Ezra N. Butterfield all pled no contest in Fairbanks District Court and were ordered to pay a \$300.00 fine to the State of Alaska.