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Delta Junction Men Sentenced in Illegal Hunt

(GLENNALLEN, Alaska) – Three Delta Junction men were sentenced earlier this month in connection with an illegal hunt off of the Denali Highway in December of 2009. The three men were convicted in a Glennallen court of killing nine bull caribou and one cow outside a federal subsistence area they had hunting permits for. The three men, Vladimir Doroshuk, 31, Grigoriy Rybak, 43, and Andrey Medyanikov, 29, parked a truck and trailer along the Denali Highway and snowmachined through the federal subsistence area and onto state land when they shot the caribou. The caribou were killed between a half a mile and a mile and a half outside the legal area. The three were given maps of the federal subsistence hunting area when they received their permits. However, they did not have hunting permits for the state game management area they crossed into and were charged accordingly. The investigation began after Alaska Wildlife Troopers received an anonymous phone call from someone reporting seeing the three with a trailer full of caribou on the Denali Highway. A wildlife trooper from Delta Junction contacted them later that day on the Richardson Highway outside Delta Junction. There were nine caribou on the back of the trailer – two reportedly shot by Doroshuk, two shot by Medyanikov and five shot by Rybak. Rangers with the Bureau of Land Management assisted AWT with investigating the case.

Doroshuk was also charged with wasting a cow caribou on the hunt, which is illegal anywhere in Alaska. The cow, which was illegal to hunt in both federal and state hunting areas, was dragged to a place with deeper snow and buried. Doroshuk also faces charges he poached a moose when, during the course of the investigation, troopers discovered a moose was illegally killed and butchered in his yard earlier that winter. That case against Doroshuk is still pending in the Delta Junction court.

The three pleaded guilty to the following charges and were handed the following sentences on May 4:

- Doroshuk pleaded guilty to wanton waste of big game animal, taking a cow caribou in a closed season and taking a bull caribou without a permit. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail with 23 days suspended, was fined \$15,000 with \$9,500 suspended. The rifle and snowmachine he used in the hunt were forfeited to the state. Doroshuk's hunting privileges are revoked for five years and he must complete a hunters' education course before applying for a hunting license in the future. He was also placed on probation for five years and was ordered to pay \$850 in restitution for the value of the cow caribou.
- Rybak pleaded guilty to one consolidated count of taking a bull caribou without a permit. He was fined \$8,000 with \$3,000 suspended. The rifle, snowmachine and snowmachine sled he used in the hunt were forfeited to the state. Rybak was placed on probation for five years and his hunting privileges in Alaska were revoked for three years with the stipulation he must take a hunters education class prior to applying for a hunting license.
- Medyanikov pleaded guilty to one consolidated count of taking a bull caribou without a permit. He was fined \$5,000 with \$3,000 suspended and placed on probation for five years. The snowmachine he used in the hunt was forfeited to the state. His hunting privileges were revoked for three years with the stipulation he must attend a hunters education class prior to applying for a hunting license.