



WGFD

Conserving Wildlife, Serving People

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News Release

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PUBLIC ASKED FOR HELP IN SOLVING PRONGHORN ANTELOPE POACHING

GREEN RIVER--The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) is seeking your help in solving a recent pronghorn antelope poaching case.

According to Green River Game Warden Duane Kerr, sometime on August 28, 2011 a two-year-old buck pronghorn antelope was shot and left to rot in Telephone Canyon, just west of Green River. A concerned citizen who walks regularly in the area reported the carcass to Game and Fish officials on August 29. The carcass was not there on the morning of the August 28th.

“My investigation showed that the pronghorn had been shot and died in its tracks,” Kerr said. “A search for evidence in the carcass and in the surrounding area turned up little useful information.”

The area where this occurred is heavily used by hikers and off-road vehicle users. Kerr noted that a four-wheel ATV had driven on the two-track road where this pronghorn had died and had to drive around the carcass. Tracks also indicated that a dirt-bike type motorcycle had stopped across a small canyon from where the carcass was located, but there was nothing to indicate that either of these vehicles was involved in the crime.

“This type of crime happens more often than it should,” Kerr said. “During my 35+ year career I’ve investigated many of these cases in which someone apparently decides to just use our wildlife for target practice. There are no firearms hunting seasons open in this area at this time, and it appeared that whoever shot the antelope never made any attempt to walk to the carcass or care for it in order to take the meat. And as usual, there is little evidence left behind to indicate who committed the crime.”

Shooting a buck pronghorn during a closed season is a serious wildlife offense, and a person convicted of this violation can face a fine of from \$5,000 to \$10,000, up to one year in

jail, and loss of Game & Fish license privileges for at least five years. Anyone with information on this crime or other wildlife violations can contact the Green River Game & Fish office at 307-875-3223, the Stop Poaching hotline at 1-877-WGFD-TIP, or game Warden Duane Kerr at 307-875-3325. Tips may also be reported on line at <http://gf.state.wy.us/stoppoaching>. Tips may result in a reward up to \$5,000.00 and informants can chose to remain anonymous.

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