

TV host cited for illegal deer kill



This is the first deer Bob Beck shot in the hunt for his television show. He killed a second deer, (which is legal in Idaho) without buying a second tag - which is not legal. - Submitted

By Mary Orr

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Note to hunters: If you plan to poach, don't do it on national television.

Bob Beck, Oregon resident and host of the television show, "Extreme Outer Limits," pleaded guilty to several game infractions last month.

Choice of locations for filming the show, which airs on the Sportsman Channel, could be impacted. As part of the penalty for poaching, Mr. Beck's hunting license is effectively suspended in 37 states. All his hunts for the next year will have to take place outside of those states or on private property, where a license is not required. On this week's episode Mr. Beck heads back to the Diamond K in Brady, Texas to take some long-range whitetails.

His own television broadcast from 2010 was used as evidence against him.

Mr. Beck filmed the incriminating episode while hunting whitetail deer on Mutch Creek near St. Maries in the fall of 2010. In the video, he killed two deer and explained Idaho's hunting regulations allow hunters to take two deer with the purchase of an additional tag.

However well Mr. Beck understood the requirements, he did not follow them.

A year after the program aired, Idaho Fish and Game received a tip. An investigation revealed that Mr. Beck had in fact killed two deer, but purchased only one tag.

He was charged and pleaded guilty in February.

Deer tags cost \$301 for non-residents in 2010.

Mr. Beck was required to pay \$2,600, which included a \$400 fine, restitution of \$2,000 to Fish and Game and costs of \$145. He also lost hunting privileges in Idaho and 37 other states for one year.

Benewah County Prosecutor Doug Payne said the case puzzled him. He is unsure why Mr. Beck didn't buy two tags to begin with.

"What is somewhat mystifying about the case is that he could have done it legally, but he didn't," he said. "He says in the video he has hunted here for years, and in the video he schools the audience on how you can hunt in Idaho with two tags. So it is clear that he understood the rules."

Mr. Beck never offered an explanation for his actions.

IFG Regional Investigator Dave Overman said this is not the first time Fish and Game has prosecuted a hunting show personality for violating regulations.

In 2004, they caught Keith "Doc" Ainsley, who killed a sow black bear accompanied by her cubs. In 2005, Glenn Berry, owner of Big Bull Productions, a company that specializes in producing videos of big game hunts all around the globe, filmed himself killing a bull elk in Idaho with a Montana tag.

"This, like many types of violations, probably happen more often than I could imagine," Mr. Overman said. "I only caught up with this case because an alert sportsman took the time to report what he thought might be a potential violation."

He also said it is his belief that the pressure or need to attain sufficient film footage for their television programs may be the factor that leads these hosts to commit game violations.

Idaho requires that every person hunting big game have a valid tag for that particular game in their possession at the time they are hunting.

Mr. Beck shot his first deer while in possession of a valid tag, but he failed to validate and attach that tag to the deer he killed; making possession of the first deer illegal. He then took his invalid (un-validated) deer tag into the field to kill his second deer; nothing about the second kill was legal except that season was open, according to Mr. Overman.

He said Doug Payne did a good job prosecuting the case.

"Mr. Beck was sentenced with no less, nor more, than the standard fine and court costs which any other person would have received with similar violations," he said. "Mr. Payne

was persistent in seeking, and ultimately receiving, a trophy civil restitution of \$2,000 sentence for the illegal deer.”