



*The photo that started the investigation by Dayton Game Warden Dustin Shorma.*

## **Montanan Crosses the Line**

**October 2016** – Dayton Game Warden Dustin Shorma recently wrapped up an elk poaching case from 2014 that involved an individual from Montana who poached a large bull elk in the West Fork of the Little Bighorn River. The case started in April of 2014, when Warden Shorma was provided a photograph with the suspect posing with a 6x6 bull elk.

Recognizing the topography in the background, Shorma believed the

bull had been poached in Wyoming and searched an area known to winter large bull elk. The ridgeline that matched the one from the photo and the kill site were found, as well as the headless carcass of the bull elk.

After further investigation, the suspect admitted to killing the bull elk and pled guilty to WS §23-3-102(d) for illegally taking an antlered big game animal out of season. He was fined \$5,000.00, sentenced to a year of supervised probation and will lose his hunting and fishing privileges for two years. The antlers were never recovered as the suspect sold the bull's head to an antler buyer.