

Wrong Area Deer... and Then Some...

October 2016, Farson – South Pinedale Game Warden Jordan Kraft received a tip about a yearling buck deer that had been shot and left in Farson. With a lead on a suspect's vehicle, a quick investigation identified two California suspects who were hunting doe mule deer on several ranches in the Farson area. One suspect had already left the state after the poaching incident, but the other suspect was located and interviewed.



When confronted with the evidence, the man readily admitted to accidentally shooting a yearling buck mule deer on a doe/fawn license. The suspect stated they were both troubled by the situation and decided to hide and abandon the deer instead of caring for the meat or notifying a game warden.

It is likely the suspects fled from the area after the incident because the man had shot the deer from a county road and in a wrong hunt area. Each had already harvested a deer in the wrong area. Both men were intentionally hunting in a wrong area after they were unsuccessful with their first choice hunt area. Further investigation revealed one suspect had also harvested an antelope on his wife's license and the man eventually admitted that his wife never even came to the state and does not hunt.

One suspect was charged in Sweetwater County with two counts of taking a deer in the wrong area, failure to wear fluorescent orange clothing, shooting a deer from a public roadway, taking the wrong gender of deer and waste/abandonment of big game. The man was fined nearly \$600, ordered to pay \$4,000 restitution for the deer, lost his hunting privileges for three years and was sentenced to two years of suspended jail time while placed on probation. The same man was also charged for the illegal antelope out of Uinta County and was fined over \$1,200 and lost his hunting privileges for five years on those offenses. The other suspect was interviewed in California and charged with taking a deer in the wrong area and for aiding in the abandonment and waste of a deer. The man was fined nearly \$700. Two harvested deer and one harvested antelope were seized from the men and the meat was donated to families in need.