

HEFTY NEW POACHING PENALTIES SIGNED INTO LAW IN COLORADO - EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Call it Samson's revenge. Under a bill Governor Roy Romer signed into law on April 22, poachers will be hit with heavy cash penalties when they take trophy-size big game.

"Colorado's precious, majestic resource is part of our Western heritage," Romer said as he signed the bill into law. "It symbolizes the beauty of our state."

"This law will help us preserve our wildlife resources for legitimate recreational activities and tourism and it will safeguard our ecology by clamping down on the illegal activities of poachers. It's a good law, and I'm proud to sign it."

Sponsored by Rep. Mark Udall, D-Boulder, and Sen. Tillie Bishop, R-Grand Junction, the law applies to the illegal killing of animals like Samson, a 1,000 pound elk from Estes Park. Samson's death sparked public outrage in 1995 and brought new attention to the problem of poaching.

Written in response to that killing, the new measure places mandatory fines on top of existing penalties. The added amounts range from \$4,000 for an antelope up to \$25,000 for a bighorn sheep.

"Nothing would please us more than never needing to write a ticket because people realize poaching is wrong," said Dave Croonquist, assistant chief of law enforcement for the Colorado Division of Wildlife. "But for those who are willing to take the risk and poach, we're going to hit them in the pocketbook."

The penalty hike will be significant, too, Croonquist added. A hunter who poaches a bull moose, for example, now pays a \$1,000

fine. With the added charge, that sum will jump to more than \$11,000.

Although the state will collect the fines, the money will go to the city or county where the ticket is issued or the killing occurs. The funds may be used for law enforcement or wildlife-related programs within that local area.

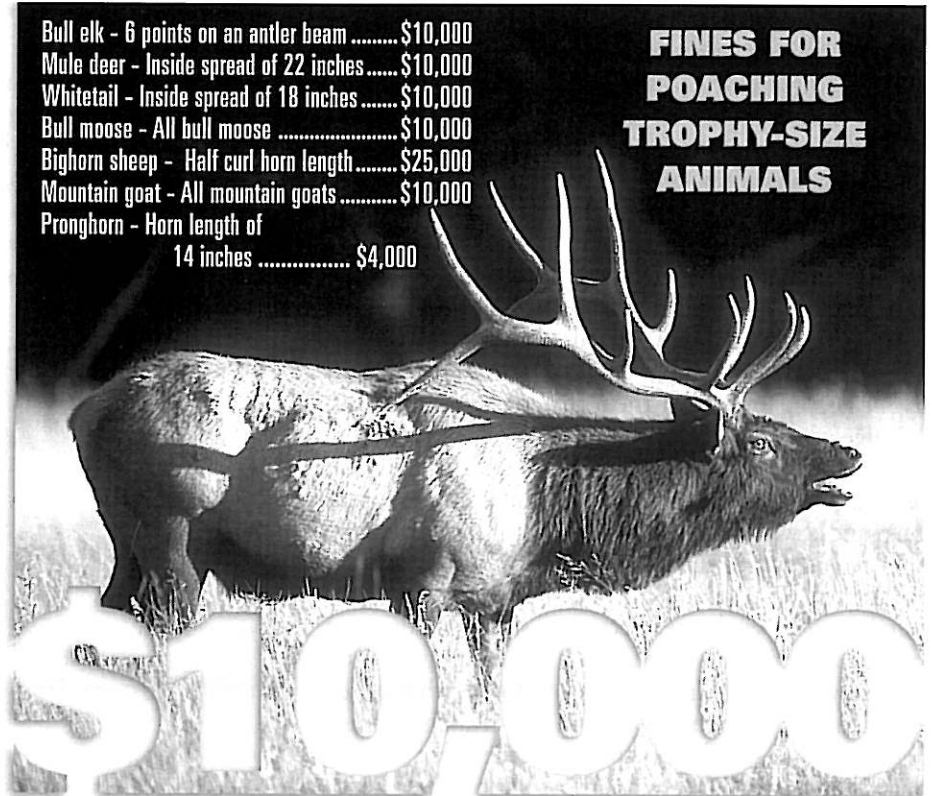
value, so they don't profit," Udall told the House of Representatives before a vote on the measure.

Based roughly on the market value of each species, the new fines should reduce the incentive to poach by cutting deeply into profits, Croonquist said.

The surcharges will be levied only when a trophy-sized

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| Bull elk - 6 points on an antler beam | \$10,000 |
| Mule deer - Inside spread of 22 inches | \$10,000 |
| Whitetail - Inside spread of 18 inches | \$10,000 |
| Bull moose - All bull moose | \$10,000 |
| Bighorn sheep - Half curl horn length | \$25,000 |
| Mountain goat - All mountain goats | \$10,000 |
| Pronghorn - Horn length of 14 inches | \$4,000 |

FINES FOR POACHING TROPHY-SIZE ANIMALS



The measure, which goes into effect immediately, passed with widespread support from hunting, environmental and law-enforcement groups. Among the organizations backing the proposal were the Colorado Bowhunters Association, the Colorado Wildlife Federation, Colorado Counties Inc. and Colorado County Sheriffs.

No one knows exactly how much poaching occurs each year, but anecdotal evidence suggests the practice is on the rise. Because poachers have sold mounted animals for as much as \$100,000, many are willing to risk being ticketed for illegal kills.

"The whole point of this legislation is to punish those people who are taking trophy-sized animals, which have tremendous resale

animal is taken. Based on current rates, Croonquist estimated that roughly 35 trophy animals are killed illegally each year.

The new law defines trophy animals by their horn or antler measurements. People caught poaching bull moose and mountain goats of any size will be subject to the higher fines.

Although added penalties should help deter poaching, the Division also urges people to call Operation Game Thief at (800) 332-4155 if they have any information about illegal kills. Callers may remain anonymous, and Operation Game Thief offers rewards if information leads to issuing a ticket.

— COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE
APRIL 22, 1998

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB'S LIFETIME ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

Following is a complete list of Boone and Crockett Club
Lifetime Associates up through May 1998.

1. George P. Mann - Opelika, AL
2. James J. Shinnars - Saginaw, MI
3. Leonard H. Wurman - Wausau, WI
4. Jeff VanHuyning - Portland, OR
5. Gary C. Grant - Sachse, TX
6. George E. Mann - Opelika, AL
7. C. Martin Wood III - Monticello, FL
8. Jon A. Walgren - Birmingham, MI
9. Stephen C. Walker - Santa Barbara, CA
10. Ben Cerven - Northumberland, PA
11. Hanspeter Giger - Charlotte, NC
12. Remo Pizzagalli - Charlotte, VT
13. Alan Hamberlin - Phoenix, AZ
14. Gary E. Hansen - Denver, CO
15. Ronald D. Kelso - Hamilton, MT
16. Stephen Suchowolec - Belmont, MI
17. D.J. Kuchta - Jamesburg, NJ
18. Paul T. Entekin - Pensacola, FL
19. Richard H. Manly - Augusta, GA
20. Daniel E. Crook - Shreveport, LA
21. Kenneth G. McNeil - Grosse Pointe Farms, MI
22. Lonnie Ritchey - Moreno Valley, CA
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24. James G. Brooks Jr. M.D. - Dallas, TX
25. S. David Leidesdorf - Jackson, WY
26. Carl L. Absher - Quarryville, PA
27. Embry C. Rucker Jr - Prospect, KY
28. Peeler G. Lacey - Laurel, MS
29. Mark W. Streissguth - Snoqualmie, WA
30. John L. Hendrix - Anchorage, AK
31. Vernon D. Holleman - Temple, TX
32. Wayne Sheets - Wheaton, MD
33. David W. Shaffer - Vandergrift, PA
34. Jay T. Gunter - Hawthorne, NV
35. N. Eric Johanson - Camarillo, CA
36. Frederick G. Smith - Lutherville, MD
37. M.C. Harris - Antioch, TN
38. John B. Reynolds M.D. - Bainbridge, GA
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44. Gary L. Noble - Corvallis, OR
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46. James R. Adams, Jr. - Fort Worth, TX
47. C. Richard Stasney M.D. - Houston, TX
48. Matt Conlee - San Antonio, TX
49. Bruce Willyard - Carrington, ND
50. Robert J. Seeds - Fairview, NM
51. Michael E. Mathews - West Springfield, MA
52. Ren B. Bennett - Morris, IL
53. Nate Hostetter - Ames, IA
54. Stephen H. Pauli - FPO, AP
56. Darryl E. Barker - Siletz, OR
57. Robert P. O'Connor - Old Forge, NY
58. Glenn Napierskie - San Diego, CA
59. Robert Nichols - Dallas, TX
60. J.A. Tyburczy - Elko, NV
61. Gregory S. Williamson - Fort Worth, TX

Lifetime Associates receive
the following benefits:

- ▲ Lifetime Subscription to Fair Chase magazine
- ▲ Bob Allen long-sleeve shooting shirt
- ▲ Brown duck-cloth hat with leather bill
- ▲ Lifetime Associates Plaque
- ▲ 20% discount on Club books and merchandise
- ▲ Tax deduction
- ▲ Invitation to special events.

If you're interested in the Boone and Crockett Club's Lifetime Associates Program, please contact our headquarters toll-free at (888) 840-HUNT or (406) 542-1888

The cost for the Lifetime Associates Program is \$1,000.

We do offer the following payment plans:

- 1) one payment, check or credit card, for \$1,000;
- 2) four quarterly charges to your credit card of \$250; or
- 3) twelve monthly charges to your credit card of \$83.34.

See order form in the center of this issue for more details.

B&C MEMBER RECOGNIZED BY NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Association announces that Congressman and Boone and Crockett Club member, Don Young, of Alaska has been awarded a Special Recognition Award for his dedication and hard work to ensure passage of the Sikes Act Improvement Amendments of 1997.

The National Military Fish and Wildlife Associate is the professional association of biologists and natural resources managers who work on Department of Defense installations around the world. They manage the forests, fish and wildlife resources, and outdoor recreation opportunities found on the more than 25 million acres of military lands in the United States.

The Sikes Act is the primary Congressional authorization for the conduct of natural resources management on military lands. Among other things, it establishes sustainable hunting and fishing programs on military installations and promotes public access for that purpose.

Congressman Young was also the sponsor of the last major revision of the Sikes Act, in 1986. He has led the other members of Congress to pass the 1997 amendment which requires the preparation and implementation of Integrated Natural Resources Management plans on nearly all military installations.

— NATIONAL MILITARY FISH AND
WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION

TRACK ELK WITH YOUR COMPUTER

If you have a computer with Internet access, you can keep tabs on Kentucky's elk through a global positioning system. Several of the recently released elk are wearing collars that allow them to be tracked by satellite. One elk's position is updated daily on Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources web page. The address is www.kfwis.state.ky.us

(you must have a Java-enabled browser in order to see the movements).

There have been several elk releases in Kentucky. A total of nearly 200 elk have been reintroduced on the Cyprus Amax Wildlife Management Area in Breathitt and Perry counties and wildlife biologists say we have had great success.

According to Wildlife Division Director Roy Grimes, the

elk haven't moved very far from the release sight. "They are grazing on the reclaimed grasslands," says Grimes. "We've been able to see them all over the wildlife management area."

Get an elk update by phone by calling (800) 858-1549, ext. 476. The recorded message you will hear is updated every couple of days.

— KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH
AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES