



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 11, 2008

Florissant Fossil Beds  
National Monument

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## Florissant Fossil Beds News Release [Updated 2/11/08](#)

### Information Sought In Elk Poaching at the Florissant Fossil Beds

An elk was illegally shot and killed in Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument during the early morning hours of Sunday January 20<sup>th</sup>. The elk was shot on the east side of Teller County Rd#1 approximately one mile south of the town of Florissant, 1/3 mile south of Upper Twin Rock Road, on the east side of County Rd#1.

Hunting is not permitted at any time within the boundaries of Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument. Shooting and taking of wildlife inside any national park area is a criminal offense. Poachers are prosecuted to the full extent of the law and potentially face heavy fines, restitution costs, jail time, forfeiture of crime-associated personal property including weapons and vehicles, and loss of hunting privileges throughout most western states.

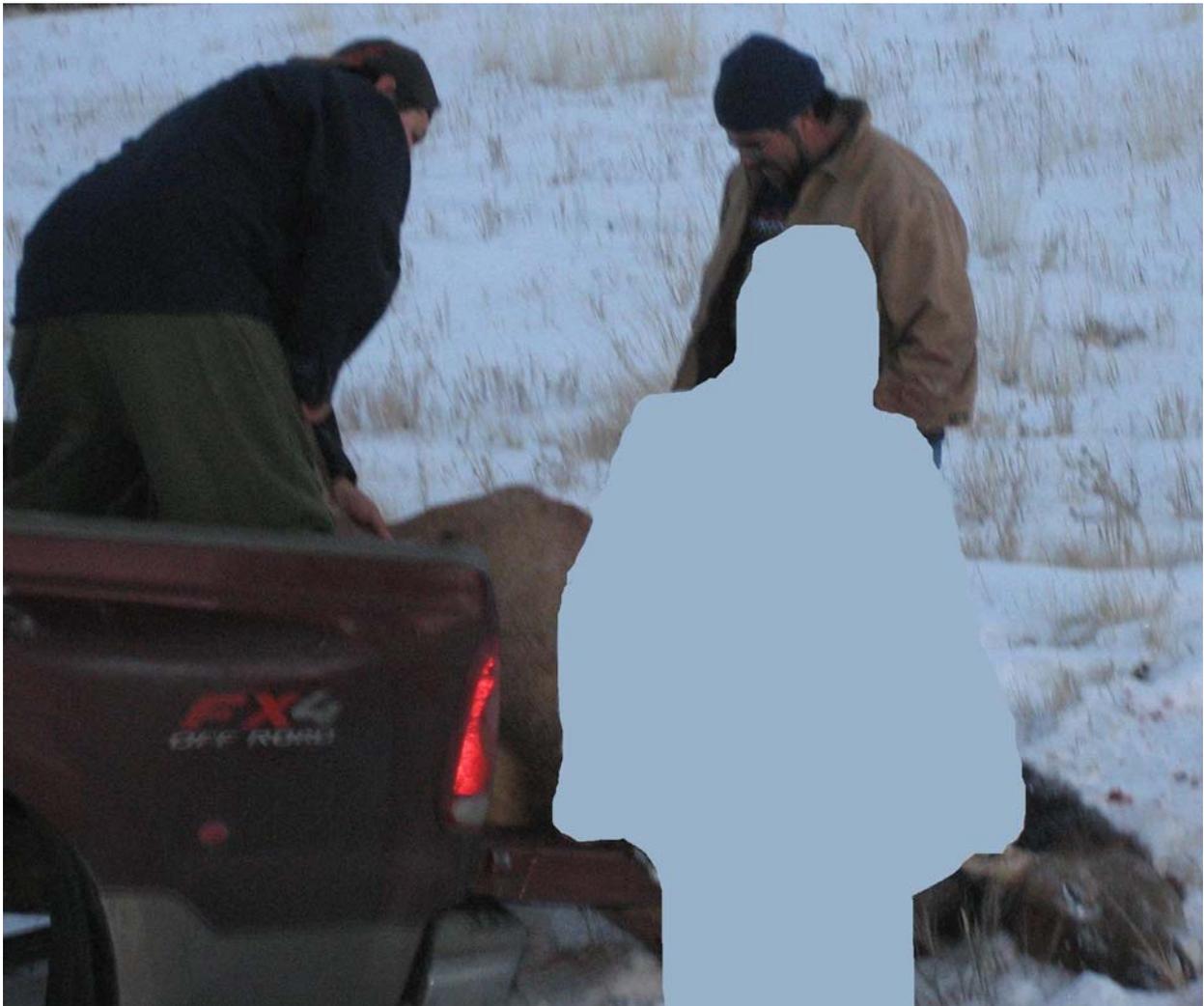
Persons convicted of a violation of the federal anti-poaching statute known as the Lacey Act can be fined up to \$10,000 and sentenced to up to one year in jail. Carrying a weapon in a national park area such as the Fossil Beds can result in a \$5,000 fine and 6 months in jail.

Law Enforcement Rangers are working with Division of Wildlife Officers and the Teller County Sheriff's office on the continuing investigation.

**Authorities are currently looking to find and question three males in their late 30s to early 40s, with a 14-16 year old boy who were seen Sunday morning, at approximately 7:00 AM, at the scene with a dark red, extended cab Ford F-350, dual rear wheeled FX4 with Colorado plates. The vehicle is approximately a 2003-2006 model with damage to the driver's side over the front wheel well and ahead of the rear fender. The main suspect has dark hair, including a dark beard and thin wire-rimmed glasses. The individuals were seen loading the dead cow elk into the bed of the truck.**

If you have any information about this incident please contact the Monument's Chief Park Ranger, Rick Wilson at (719) 748-3253 or Operation Game Thief 1-877-COLO-OGT. A \$500.00 reward from Operation Game Thief may be offered for information about this crime.

*PHOTO ON FOLLOWING PAGE*



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