



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rewards Offered in Poaching Incidents on Whidbey Island

(Feb. 9, 2010) — The Humane Society of the United States and The Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust are offering two rewards of up to \$2,500 each for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for two separate incidents of poaching on Whidbey Island, north of Seattle, in January and February.

The Case:

According to a published media report, two separate shootings of red-tailed hawks on Whidbey Island have taken place in the past few weeks. In both cases, the wounds were so severe that the birds had to be euthanized. The first wounded hawk was found off Deer Run Road near Coles Road on Jan. 25. The second wounded bird was reported on Feb. 2 after being found along East Harbor Road near Goodell Road.

“These cases illustrate the callous nature of poachers and their often flippant participation in serious crimes,” said Dan Paul, Washington state director for The HSUS. “The Humane Society of the United States applauds the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for strongly enforcing anti-poaching laws.”

Red-tailed hawks are federally protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Hunting the birds is not allowed. If convicted, the poacher may face state charges and federal penalties.

Poaching:

Every year, thousands of poachers are arrested nationwide; however, it is estimated that only 1 percent to 5 percent of poachers are caught. Poachers kill wildlife anytime, anywhere and sometimes do so in particularly cruel ways.

The Investigators:

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the WDFW TIP Hotline at 1-877-WDFW-TIP (933-9847), Monday-Friday during the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Anyone calling outside of normal business hours is asked to call the Washington State Patrol at 509-227-6560.

The HSUS Media Contact:

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The HSUS works to stop wildlife abuse across the country. Visit humanesociety.org/wildlifeabuse for more information.

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The Humane Society of the United States is the nation's largest animal protection organization — backed by 11 million Americans, or one of every 28. For more than a half-century, The HSUS has been fighting for the protection of all animals through advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty — On the web at humanesociety.org.

Since 1993 the Humane Society Wildlife Land Trust, alone or in partnership with other conservation groups, has participated in the protection of more than 1.8 million acres of wildlife habitat in 37 states and seven foreign countries. On all properties owned by the Trust or protected by the Trust's conservation easement, both here and abroad, we prohibit recreational and commercial hunting and trapping and restrict logging and development. The Trust's commitment to these principles will never change as we continue to assist caring landowners to make their property permanent, safe homes for wildlife. Join our online community at wildlifelandtrust.org.