

FILED

10-13-2022

Clerk of Circuit Court
For Official Use
La Crosse County WI
2022CM000753

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	LA CROSSE COUNTY
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STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

vs.

Douglas D Meyers

Coon Valley, WI 54623

Defendant.

DA Case No.: 2022LC002865
Assigned DA/ADA: Nick Passe
Agency Case No.: 91-C155-013-AMG
Court Case No.:
ATN:

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Sergeant Brandon Penzkover, La Crosse County Sheriff's Department, being first duly sworn on oath says that on information and belief:

Count 1: HUNT DEER DURING CLOSED SEASON

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, November 21, 2021, at [REDACTED] Coon Valley WI 54623, La Crosse County, Wisconsin, did hunt deer during a closed season, contrary to sec. NR10.01(3)(e), 29.971(11) Wis. Stats., a Misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) nor more than Two Thousand Dollars (\$2,000) or imprisoned in the county jail for not more than six (6) months or both. In addition, the Court shall order the revocation of all approvals issued to the defendant under Chapter 29, Wis. Stats., and shall prohibit the issuance of any new approval under Chapter 29, Wis. Stats., for three (3) years.

and prays that the defendant be dealt with according to law; that the basis for complainant's charge of such offense is:

FACTUAL BASIS:

Your complainant is informed of the following by DNR Warden Matthew Groppi:

I am a Conservation Warden with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and base this complaint upon my investigation into the illegal hunting of deer during the closed firearm season by Douglas D. Meyers, hereinafter referred to as Meyers.

The Department of Natural Resources received an anonymous complaint through the DNR's Violation TIP LINE on November 4th, 2021 which stated that they heard gun shots coming from the Meyers' property and observed a hole in the whitetail buck deer which appeared to be a gun shot and not a crossbow hole.

On November 10th, 2021, at approximately 5:12pm, Conservation Wardens Shawna McDowell and Matthew Groppi went to the Meyers residence located at the address listed above and were greeted by Joan Meyers (Douglas Meyers' wife). Joan Meyers invited the wardens inside the residence and said that she does not hunt and introduced the wardens to Douglas Meyers. Douglas Meyers invited the wardens downstairs to look at the whitetail buck deer rack from his recent harvest. Meyers said that he was in his house on Monday, November 1st in the morning and observed the whitetail buck which he identified as the "17 pointer". Meyers said that he went outside with his crossbow and walked towards the creek that runs through his property towards the buck. Meyers said that he was able to get within 25 yards of the buck which was also accompanied by an antlerless deer (doe) and he shot it three times with his crossbow. Meyers said he had to cock his crossbow after each time he shot the buck.

During the interview with Meyers, he revealed that in 2019 and 2016 he used harvest authorizations belonging to his wife, to harvest an additional buck in each of those years since he did not want to stop hunting after using his harvest authorization. Meyers also revealed that he placed out illegal bait on his property to attract the deer.

Meyers denied that he shot the buck with a firearm numerous times and insisted that he was using his crossbow. After approximately 1 hour and 13 minutes of questioning, Meyers admitted that he used his .243 caliber Browning rifle with a scope and discharged the rifle at the buck from behind his garage and towards the creek that runs through his property. Meyers stated that he shot it with his rifle when it was approximately 70 yards away and then walked up to it with his crossbow and shot a bolt (arrow) into the body. Meyers stated that he then pulled out the bolt and stabbed the buck where the bullet hole was (in the neck) to cover up that he shot it with the rifle. Meyers provided a summary of his actions to the wardens in a written statement.

Meyers said he registered the buck using his harvest authorization from his archery license which DNR records list the deer as a "crossbow" harvest. Furthermore, Meyers admitted that he entered the buck in three different contests in the area. Meyers later told the wardens that he has since withdrawn from the contests because his buck was killed illegally.

The wardens seized Meyers' rifle, crossbow, the deer cape, the venison, the illegal bait, trail cameras, the rack from the buck referred to as the "17 pointer", and the two deer racks from the bucks killed by Meyers in 2019 and 2016 in which he admitted using his wife's harvest authorizations.

[end of Agent Groppi narrative]

Image from Agent Groppi report, for reference:

Image of whitetail buck rack shot with a rifle during archery season (2021)



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Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10/13/22

Electronically Signed By:

Susan C Donskey

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1094301

Electronically Signed By:

Deputy Megan Hartman

Complainant