

## ?Poaching spree comes to an end

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? Indiana Conservation Officers have put an end to an illegal poaching spree that has so far extended to three counties, Washington, Scott and Harrison.

“This is disgusting, shooting a deer and letting it rot,” said Mac Spainhour, Indiana Conservation Officer.

A complaint was received from the Turn In a Poacher (TIP) hotline (1-800-TIP-IDNR) and the investigation began and became larger that first suspected.

ICO have done several interviews and have confirmed at least 28 deer being killed since July with currently 12 people being involved, ranging in ages from 14 to 20 years old and as far away as Indianapolis, with more interviews being done.

“I have talked to several landowners who heard shots but did not call. The public is our biggest key,” said Spainhour.

According to Spainhour a few of the shootings did occur in residential areas, with one of the violators saying they were not aware people were living there

“They saw a deer and they would shoot. It was just an adrenaline rush for them and if it wasn't a big deer, they would leave it and let it rot. It is one of the worst cases of poaching ever. In some cases they would kill a buck and cut its head off and leave the body. In one case, one was mounted.” stated Spainhour

The violators would allegedly start at sunset, drive the three counties spot lighting deer and shooting them with a .17 caliber rifle from their moving vehicles.

The ICO have found dead deer in the fields and woods where one of the violators said they shot some of the deers.

To date 28 deer carcasses have been taken in along with the .17 caliber rifle.

The investigation is continuing and will not stop until all violators are caught.

ICO encourages the public to report any suspicious activity by calling the TIP line or your local sheriff's department.