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International Wildlife Crimestoppers and Guidefitter Honor 2026 Game Warden of the Year

Idaho conservation officer recognized for groundbreaking wildlife investigations, exceptional leadership, and unwavering commitment to protecting North America's natural resources

VASSALBORO, Maine (July 30, 2026) – International Wildlife Crimestoppers (IWC), in partnership with Guidefitter, proudly announces Senior Conservation Officer Meghan Roos of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game as the recipient of the 2026 IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year Award.

Officer Roos received the award during International Wildlife Crimestoppers' annual conference, where conservation law enforcement professionals from across North America gathered to celebrate excellence in wildlife protection and anti-poaching efforts.

Established in 2021, the IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year Award recognizes an active conservation law enforcement officer whose service, leadership, investigative accomplishments, and dedication to protecting fish and wildlife set the highest standard for the profession. Nominations are submitted by wildlife agencies throughout the United States and Canada and evaluated by IWC's Awards Committee through a competitive selection process.

"Senior Conservation Officer Roos exemplifies everything this award represents," said **Patrick Walsh, President of International Wildlife Crimestoppers**. "Her relentless pursuit of justice, remarkable investigative abilities, commitment to mentoring fellow officers, and genuine compassion for both wildlife and the public make her one of the finest conservation officers in North America. Her work has protected Idaho's wildlife resources today while strengthening conservation law enforcement for generations to come."

As part of the award, Guidefitter presented Officer Roos with a **\$1,000 gear voucher**, continuing its commitment as the exclusive sponsor of the IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year Award. Over the past several years, Officer Roos has led some of Idaho's most significant wildlife crime investigations. Her work on a complex multi-year poaching investigation involved **27 search warrants**, uncovered widespread wildlife violations across multiple jurisdictions, and ultimately resulted in lifetime hunting revocations and more than **\$180,000 in fines, fees, and restitution** against the primary offender. Her professionalism and investigative expertise earned praise from prosecutors throughout Idaho for successfully managing one of the state's most intricate wildlife crime cases.

Rather than slowing down after that landmark case concluded, Officer Roos immediately launched another investigation that began with three illegally killed deer and expanded into the exposure of a massive poaching operation involving **more than 15 suspects, over 200 illegally taken animals, and 165 documented wildlife violations**. The investigation revealed widespread illegal harvests of elk, deer, bears, mountain lions, turkeys, raptors, waterfowl, and other wildlife, many taken illegally at night using thermal optics. Her determination transformed what initially appeared to be an isolated incident into one of

Idaho's most significant wildlife crime investigations in recent history.

Officer Roos' commitment to public service extends well beyond wildlife enforcement. While returning home after patrol, she responded to a severely injured hunter following a motorcycle accident, becoming the first responder on scene. She hiked into the remote location, stabilized the victim by splinting his broken leg, coordinated rescue efforts, and remained with him until he could be safely evacuated. Her calm professionalism and compassion left a lasting impression on the hunter and his family.

Her leadership is equally evident through public outreach and professional development. Officer Roos has organized targeted enforcement operations in high-violation areas, taught hunter education courses throughout Idaho, trained fellow conservation officers in firearms, boat operations, and emergency response, and mentored new officers entering the profession. She also developed innovative tools to improve field operations and officer effectiveness, demonstrating a commitment to strengthening conservation law enforcement beyond her own patrol area.

In his nomination, Idaho Department of Fish and Game District Conservation Officer Randy Sullivan wrote: "Senior Conservation Officer Roos consistently demonstrates courage, compassion, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation and public service. Her investigative accomplishments, mentorship, community engagement, and personal integrity make her an outstanding representative of the conservation law enforcement profession."

The IWC Guidefitter Game Warden of the Year Award is presented annually to recognize commissioned conservation officers who demonstrate exceptional leadership, investigative excellence, public service, and dedication to protecting North America's fish, wildlife, and natural resources.

Congratulations to Senior Conservation Officer Meghan Roos. Your professionalism, perseverance, and unwavering commitment to conservation law enforcement continue to inspire officers across the United States and Canada.

About International Wildlife Crimestoppers

International Wildlife Crimestoppers (IWC) is North America's leading anti-poaching organization, dedicated to protecting fish and wildlife resources through conservation law enforcement, public education, youth outreach, and partnerships with wildlife agencies throughout the United States and Canada.

IWC supports member agencies by funding specialized enforcement equipment, administering a cash reward program for major wildlife crime investigations, and promoting ethical stewardship of natural resources through education and community engagement.

Headquartered in Vassalboro, Maine, International Wildlife Crimestoppers remains committed to preserving North America's wildlife heritage for future generations.

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About Guidefitter

Guidefitter is an emerging leader in outdoor recreation technology, powering the industry's most comprehensive pro graph—a verified, data-rich network of licensed guides, outfitters, conservation advocates, educators, military service members, and first responders. Our platform converges community, commerce, and software to transform pro purchase programs into full-funnel marketing engines, driving authentic content, education, and commerce at scale.

We are the indispensable network connecting brands, pros, enthusiasts, associations, and agencies in a single, high-trust network. More than 330 brands—including Swarovski Optik, Crispi Boots, Weatherby, Jetboil, and Garmin—use Guidefitter's platform.

Guidefitter is headquartered in Bozeman, Montana. Learn more at www.guidefitter.com or follow @guidefitter on Instagram.

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