



**COUNTY OF YOLO**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
**JEFF W. REISIG, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Contact: Jonathan Raven, Assistant Chief Deputy DA  
(530) 666-8092

**Sacramento Man Sentenced for Poaching Wildlife  
and Illegally Possessing a Firearm**

**(Woodland, CA)** – November 20, 2009 - Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reisig announced that on November 19, 2009 Yolo County Judge Thomas Warriner sentenced 45 year old Sacramento man Ernest Lytell to two years state prison for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm. In addition to the lone felony count, a Yolo County jury had convicted Lytell of Unlawful Taking of a Mammal, Unlawful Possession of a Mammal, and Resisting Arrest. The crimes stemmed from a November, 2007 incident in which sheriff's deputies found two illegally taken buck deer in the possession of Lytell and Andrew Thao.

On November 7, 2007 a truck driven by Sacramento man Andrew Thao led Yolo County Sheriff's deputies on a high speed chase from County Road 117 to West Sacramento. Ernest Lytell was one of three passengers. The chase reached speeds of up to 115 mph, and endangered numerous cars in oncoming traffic.

When the truck reached West Sacramento, the truck ran over some police "Stop Sticks" and veered off the road. As soon as the truck came to a stop, all four occupants immediately fled from the truck. Sheriff's deputies searched the truck and found two large buck deer in the truck bed. Two rifles, ammunition, and a spotlight were also found.

With the help of a K-9 officer, deputies quickly apprehended three of the four passengers. On October 1, 2009, the jury convicted Thao of felony reckless evading, two Fish and Game violations, and resisting arrest. The jury convicted Lytell of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm, the two Fish and Game violations and resisting arrest. Another passenger was a juvenile and the fourth is still at large.

On October 29, 2009, Judge Warriner sentenced Thao to three years felony probation with 180 days of local jail time. Lytell's sentence was delayed for Judge Warriner to hear additional evidence.

On November 19, 2009 the prosecution presented evidence that that Lytell has been previously convicted of four felonies, including two prior convictions for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm, a Second Degree Burglary and a Vehicle Theft. The most recent conviction for Felon in Possession of a Firearm also involved Lytell hunting for deer at night in Placer County.

Deputy District Attorney Clinton Parish, who prosecuted the case, stated "the District Attorney takes crimes against wildlife very seriously. And, a felon possessing a gun is a recipe for disaster. We will vigorously enforce these laws that are on the books to protect the public."

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