



## **Lincoln County District Attorney**

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# **News Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **King Salvage operators sentenced for environmental crimes**

On August 25, 2011, following a three day court trial before Lincoln County Circuit Court Judge Thomas O. Branford, King Salvage co-owner and operator Lanetta Mobley was found guilty of 89 environmental crimes, and King Salvage operator Richard Inocencio was found guilty of 91 environmental crimes. The convictions included Air Pollution, Water Pollution, Unlawful Operation of a Disposal Site (for solid waste), and Unlawful Conducting of a Dismantling Business.

The case resulted from years of investigation and collaboration among the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon State Police (OSP), Lincoln County District Attorney's Office, and other agencies. Efforts to obtain compliance and a cleanup of the property through means other than criminal charges were not successful.

Testimony at trial revealed that the business had an estimated 22,500 waste tires beyond what is legally allowed, leaking 55 gallon oil and diesel containers, and toxic materials that had been unlawfully burned on numerous occasions. A creek runs through the property, which carries toxic pollutants into Beaver Creek, and from there into Depot Slough, waters known to be essential salmon habitat.

"DEQ appreciates Lincoln County taking this case forward, as the conviction and sentencing sends a strong message to salvagers and other waste management facilities that failure to comply with the laws that protect Oregon's land, air and water is not tolerated," said Brian Fuller, Solid and Hazardous Waste Manager for DEQ's Western Region.

Sentencing took place on Thursday, September 15, 2011. The sentences imposed by Judge Branford included a variety of probation conditions designed to ensure that no further environmental damage is done at the property. The Judge also imposed 30 days in jail for each defendant.

"The verdict and sentence imposed reflects the importance of this case and the devastation that King Salvage has inflicted on our community's valued natural resources," said Deputy District Attorney Drew Moore, who handled the case. "What happens next, and whether we take the responsibility to ensure this property is clean and no longer poses an environmental threat, will be the real answer as to whether this was a successful prosecution," Moore added.

For more information, contact Rob Bovett at [rbovett@co.lincoln.or.us](mailto:rbovett@co.lincoln.or.us) or 541-265-4145.