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**Northwest Snowplows Owner Pleads Guilty to Felony Theft of Sales Tax**

**TWISP, Washington** – Dec. 8, 2011 – The owner of Northwest Snowplows and Methow Valley Enterprises in Twisp pled guilty today to felony theft of sales tax.

Larry Dewayne Smith, 60, admitted in Okanogan County Superior Court that he failed to remit to the state at least \$13,681 in sales tax he collected from customers between January 2008 and June 2010.

The charges were filed in Okanogan County Superior Court by the Economic Crime Unit of the Attorney General's Office at the request of the Washington State Department of Revenue.

The Department uncovered the scheme during an audit of the business, which the Department discovered had been operating for several years without a business license in violation of state law.

Sales taxes are trust funds collected by businesses from customers on behalf of state and local government.

Judge Christopher Culp set sentencing for March 19, 2012. Felony theft of sales tax is subject to a maximum penalty of a \$20,000 fine and 10 years in prison.

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