



## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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*News*

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### **Colorado Resident Sentenced for Illegal Guiding Activities in Alaska**

United States Attorney Karen Loeffler announced that on June 3, 2011, Colorado resident Christopher Cassidy was sentenced in federal court in Fairbanks on two felony counts of violating the Lacey Act and eleven misdemeanor counts of violating the National Wildlife Refuge Act. The sentencing was a result of Cassidy's earlier pleas of guilty to the charges of unlawful guiding activities from 2005 through 2009, following an ongoing investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Refuge Law Enforcement, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Christopher Cassidy was sentenced to five years of probation, a \$60,000 fine, and, as a convicted felon, may not possess a firearm. Cassidy is also prohibited from hunting, guiding, or outfitting in Alaska during the term of his probation. Christopher Cassidy, age 51, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Beistline.

Assistant United States Attorney Stephen Cooper advised the court that Cassidy, a registered guide, provided illegal guiding services for a Dall sheep hunting client within Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Cassidy guided the hunting client outside Cassidy's federal special use permit area, and did not salvage all the edible meat as required by law. Cassidy also submitted a false record to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to conceal the fact that an aircraft was used during the Dall sheep hunt. Cassidy's federal special use permit allowed the use of certain aircraft for transporting supplies, equipment, and personnel into base camp, but prohibited the use of aircraft during the hunt.

Cassidy also provided unlawful guiding and outfitting services in violation of his federal special use permit on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in eleven additional hunts for Dall sheep and caribou, resulting in the take of six Dall sheep outside Cassidy's assigned guiding area. Special use permits for big game guiding on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are competitively issued, and provide the guide-outfitter exclusive commercial guiding use within an assigned area. Cassidy, in cooperation with a neighboring guide-outfitter, used the neighboring guide-outfitter's permit area to conduct the illegal hunts.

Charging documents detail two additional felony Lacey Act violations involving an unlawful hunt and associated false record for a grizzly bear taken by a client prior to purchasing and possessing a valid big game tag. Cassidy guided the hunter, who purchased the grizzly bear tag from Cassidy after killing the bear on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Under the terms of a plea agreement, the court dismissed the two counts involving the bear, although Cassidy admitted providing guiding services and transporting the bear before the client purchased a grizzly bear tag.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). Connect with our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/usfws](http://www.facebook.com/usfws), follow our tweets at [www.twitter.com/usfwshq](http://www.twitter.com/usfwshq), watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>.*