

## Law Enforcement At a Glance



Forensics Laboratory Scientist



Special Agent in the Field



Wildlife Inspector with Canine Partner



FWS-led International Training

### Headquarters

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### Website

[www.fws.gov/le](http://www.fws.gov/le)

### Mission:

Our mission is to protect wildlife and plant resources through the effective enforcement of federal laws. By working with federal, state, tribal, and foreign enforcement agencies, and other conservation partners, we fight wildlife trafficking, help recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote international wildlife conservation.

### Focus:

Our focus is to investigate wildlife crimes; regulate wildlife trade; help Americans understand and comply with federal conservation laws; work in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and international counterparts to conserve wildlife and plant resources; and protect our nation's border and natural resources by interdicting illegal wildlife products and injurious species before entering or leaving the country.

### Strategic Plan Goals:

- Combat Global Wildlife Trafficking
- Protect the Nation's Fish, Wildlife, and Plants from Unlawful Exploitation, Industrial Hazards, and Habitat Loss
- Facilitate and Expedite Legal Trade
- Enhance Management Accountability

### Staffed Wildlife Ports of Entry

Anchorage, AK	Agana, GU	Atlanta, GA
Baltimore, MD	Blaine, WA	Boston, MA
Brownsville, TX	Buffalo, NY	Calais, ME
Champlain, NY	Chicago, IL	Dallas/Fort Worth, TX
Denver, CO	Detroit, MI	Dulles, VA
Eastport, ID	El Paso, TX	Erlanger, KY
Ft. Lauderdale, FL	Honolulu, HI	Houston, TX
Laredo, TX	Los Angeles, CA	Louisville, KY
Memphis, TN	Miami, FL	Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
New Orleans, LA	New York, NY	Newark, NJ
Nogales, AZ	Pembina, ND	Philadelphia, PA
Port Everglades, FL	Portland, OR	San Diego, CA
San Juan, PR	San Francisco, CA	Savannah, GA
Seattle, WA	Sweetgrass, MT	Tampa, FL

During FY 2020, Service wildlife inspectors processed 151,143 declared shipments of wildlife and wildlife products worth more than \$3.3 billion. The Nation's top 10 busiest ports of entry for wildlife trade are show below:

Port of Entry	Shipments
New York, NY	22,960
Los Angeles, CA	21,357
Newark, NJ	16,253
Louisville, KY	13,029
Miami, FL	9,747
Chicago, IL	7,738
Memphis, TN	7,125
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	6,784
San Francisco, CA	4,702
Honolulu, HI	3,652

### Reward Information:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is authorized to pay rewards for information or assistance that leads to an arrest, a criminal conviction, civil penalty assessment, or forfeiture of seized property. Payment of rewards is the discretion of the Service and is linked to specific federal wildlife laws. The amount of the reward we may pay is commensurate with the information or assistance received. Please discuss the possibility of a reward with the Service personnel receiving your information or assistance.

### To Report a Wildlife Crime:

Email: [fws\\_tips@fws.gov](mailto:fws_tips@fws.gov)  
Call: 1-844-397-8477 (1-844-FWS-TIPS)

### Budget (\$000)

Fiscal Year	Operations	Equipment Replacement	Total
2012	\$61,168	\$975	\$62,143
2013*	\$56,932	\$910	\$57,842
2014	\$63,365	\$910	\$57,842
2015	\$65,827	\$910	\$66,737
2016	\$73,815	\$910	\$74,725
2017	\$74,413	\$910	\$75,053
2018	\$76,413	\$910	\$77,053
2019	\$78,143	\$910	\$79,053
2020	\$80,943	\$910	\$81,853

\*FY 2013 Sequestered Level

### Agent and Inspector Staffing (as of October 1<sup>st</sup> of each fiscal year)

Fiscal Year	Number of Special Agents on Board	Number of Wildlife Inspectors on Board
2012	219	143
2013	222	140
2014	213	130
2015	211	124
2016	205	124
2017	229	126
2018	213	122
2019	215	113
2020	212	129



Educational Display at the Repository



A Special Agent at DERTSU



Wildlife Inspector with Seized Coral



A Geneticist at the Forensics Lab

**Special Agent Attachés**

- Stationed at U.S. embassies in strategic regions that are rich in both wildlife and wildlife crime, they strengthen international partnerships in order to protect the world's wildlife from poaching and illegal trade.
- Gather intelligence and coordinate international investigations focusing on crimes that have a U.S. nexus.
- Provide training to build capacity with international law enforcement partners and leverage U.S. Government assets to enhance law enforcement efforts.
- Provide access to USFWS scientific resources such as the National Fish and Wildlife Forensic Lab and the Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Surveillance Unit.

**Special Agents**

- Break up international and domestic wildlife trafficking rings that target protected animals and plants here and around the world.
- Protect wildlife from environmental contaminants and industrial hazards.
- Safeguard habitats for threatened and endangered species and support landscape conservation.
- Enforce federal migratory game bird hunting regulations, work with states to protect other game species, and preserve legitimate hunting opportunities.
- Work with federal, state, and tribal law enforcement officers to safeguard U.S. species and their habitats, and with international counterparts to combat global wildlife trafficking and transnational organized crime.
- Train federal, state, tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers.
- Conduct outreach to industry, trade groups, and others to promote wildlife conservation and secure voluntary compliance with wildlife laws.

**Wildlife Inspectors**

- Are stationed at major international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings.
- Serve as the Nation's front-line defense against illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products.
- Inspect wildlife shipments to ensure compliance with laws and treaties and detect illegal trade.
- Prevent the introduction and interstate spread of injurious species.
- Work closely with counterparts from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture to maintain import/export controls and interdict smuggled wildlife.
- Conduct inspections at international mail facilities, express carrier facilities, and passenger terminals at airports.
- Use canines to detect greater numbers of illegal wildlife and wildlife products creating additional investigations leading to arrests and prosecution.

**National Eagle and Wildlife Property Repositories**

- Provide a central location for the receipt, storage, and distribution of bald and golden eagles (that are found dead) and their parts.
- Ship eagles and parts to enrolled Native Americans for use in religious and cultural ceremonies.
- Receive wildlife items that have been forfeited or abandoned.
- Donate wildlife items for scientific or educational purposes.

**Wildlife Intelligence Unit**

- Provide Service investigators access to a multitude of law enforcement tools and resources, which assist them to identify and disrupt wildlife trafficking networks and transnational organized criminal syndicates.
- Collect and analyze information on all aspects of wildlife trafficking to support Service investigations, inspections, and smuggling interdiction efforts.
- Coordinate information sharing with other law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and around the world.
- Maintain a broad network of domestic and international contacts with conservation groups, trade associations, and other entities involved in, or concerned with, wildlife trade.

**National Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory**

- Identify the species or subspecies of pieces, parts, or products of an animal.
- Determine the cause of death of an animal.
- Help wildlife officers determine if a violation of law has occurred.
- Identify and compare physical evidence in an attempt to link suspect, victim, and crime scene.
- Work at the only lab in the world dedicated to crimes against wildlife.

**Digital Evidence Recovery and Technical Support Unit**

- Consists of two programs, a digital forensic laboratory and a covert electronic surveillance equipment unit.
- Provide multi-layered expertise (both technical and investigative) to assist field officers with large-scale and complex investigations of wildlife crime by retrieving and analyzing computer based records and advanced surveillance techniques.

**Investigative Cases (by fiscal year)**

Act Description	2017	2018	2019	2020
African Elephant Conservation Act	41	36	30	16
Eagle Protection Act	203	165	150	139
Endangered Species Act	7,279	6,727	6,256	5,631
Lacey Act	1,774	1,657	1,656	1,746
Marine Mammal Protection Act	230	208	177	108
Migratory Bird Acts	488	444	408	352
Other Federal/Foreign Law	482	567	558	904
Rhino Tiger Act	18	23	42	26
Wild Bird Conservation Act	47	42	58	58
Total of all acts	10,562	9,869	9,344	8,980

**Annual Penalty Statistics (by fiscal year)**

Category	2017	2018	2018	2020
Criminal Fines	\$2.2M	\$6.7M	\$7.7M	\$8.9M
Civil Penalties	\$3.6M	\$3.8M	\$608K	\$7.2M
Prison (years)	31	57	58	18
Probation (years)	308	364	289	299