

# Annual Report FY 2009

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement



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# Program Overview

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement is to protect wildlife resources. Through the effective enforcement of Federal laws, we contribute to Service efforts to recover endangered species, conserve migratory birds, preserve wildlife habitat, safeguard fisheries, combat invasive species, and promote global wildlife conservation.

Service Law Enforcement focuses on potentially devastating threats to wildlife resources – illegal trade, unlawful commercial exploitation, habitat destruction, and environmental hazards. The Office investigates wildlife crimes; regulates wildlife trade; helps Americans understand and comply with wildlife protection laws; and teams with international, Federal, State, and Tribal counterparts to conserve wildlife resources. This work includes:

- Breaking up international and domestic smuggling rings that target imperiled species;
- Preventing the unlawful commercial exploitation of U.S. resources;
- Protecting wildlife from environmental hazards and safeguarding wildlife habitat;
- Enforcing Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations and working with States to protect other game species and preserve legitimate hunting opportunities;
- Inspecting wildlife shipments to ensure regulatory compliance and detect illegal trade;
- Working with international counterparts to combat illegal trafficking in protected species;
- Training other Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers; and
- Conducting outreach to increase compliance with wildlife protection laws.

The Office of Law Enforcement fields a force of special agents (criminal investigators who can enforce wildlife laws anywhere in the United States) and wildlife inspectors (uniformed import/export control officers stationed at ports of entry and border crossings). Most are “officers on the beat” who report through seven regional law enforcement offices.

A headquarters office provides national policy and direction for law enforcement operations; trains law enforcement personnel; fields a special investigations unit; provides intelligence support; oversees professional integrity; manages budgetary resources; and provides technical and administrative support for the organization.

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory analyzes evidence to help solve wildlife crimes. The Office also operates the National Wildlife Property Repository, which supplies confiscated wildlife items to outside groups for educational use, and the National Eagle Repository, which provides Native Americans with eagle parts for religious purposes.

The Office of Law Enforcement’s accomplishments in protecting U.S. and global resources are presented in the pages that follow. This report also documents progress in facilitating legal wildlife trade, maintaining effective partnerships with other enforcement agencies, and conducting outreach to promote compliance. In addition, it looks at managerial improvements and contributions in the areas of forensic and intelligence support.

# Protecting America's Wildlife

The Office of Law Enforcement investigates crimes that involve the unlawful exploitation of federally protected resources, including endangered and threatened animals and plants native to the United States, migratory birds, and marine mammals. We work in partnership with industries to reduce the effect of their activities and facilities on wildlife resources. We team with State, Tribal, and other Federal enforcement agencies to improve protections for fish, wildlife, and plants nationwide, including resources under State and Tribal stewardship. We also work to promote compliance with wildlife laws through outreach to hunters, landowners, industry, and others.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

### *Illegal Commercialization*

- A Florida man and his Fort Lauderdale caviar company were convicted of multiple felony charges in connection with the illegal export of CITES-protected American paddlefish caviar. The dealer was sentenced to 18 months in prison and fined \$100,000. The company was fined \$200,000 and ordered to forfeit \$122,000 worth of paddlefish roe.
- Two key defendants in a cooperative Federal investigation of illegal spiny lobster harvest in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary were sentenced to 30 and seven months in prison. They will also be barred from commercial fishing for five years; forfeit three vehicles and three vessels; and must sell two properties and donate up to \$1.1 million of the proceeds as compensation for damage to the sanctuary.
- An Alaska man was sent to prison for 37 months and fined \$5,000 for his involvement in the illegal take and sale of federally protected sea otters.
- A Service undercover investigation that documented illegal take and trafficking of eagles and their parts culminated with the execution of four arrest warrants and eight search warrants nationwide. The investigation, which spanned 10 States, exposed a group of individuals believed responsible for killing several hundred eagles in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.
- The last of seven defendants prosecuted for their involvement in illegal take and trafficking of juvenile leopard sharks from California waters was fined \$10,000.
- A five-year Service/State investigation of the illegal freshwater mussel trade in Tennessee and Alabama concluded with the sentencing of three final defendants. Two were sent to prison for two years while the third was sentenced to a one-year prison term; collectively, the three will pay \$65,000 in restitution. Investigators in this case documented the unlawful export to Japan of over 75,000 pounds of illegally harvested undersized washboard mussels valued at over \$230,000.

- The owners of a fish market in Illinois who pleaded guilty to Lacey Act felonies for mislabeling fish sold in interstate commerce were ordered to pay \$83,000 in fines and restitution.
- An investigation of a Florida man and his company for exporting illegally harvested shark fins resulted in criminal fines totaling \$10,000.
- Prosecutions continued in a Service/State investigation of illegal harvest and sale of striped bass from the Potomac River; those sentenced in FY 2009 included a southern Maryland commercial fisherman who was ordered to pay \$4,840 in fines and restitution, spend three months in prison, and forfeit 11,785 unused striped bass tags.
- A Georgia ginseng dealer who was running an extensive ginseng buying operation in several southern Appalachian States paid \$5,000 in fines.
- A Utah man trafficking in State-protected reptiles was fined \$7,500.
- In Texas, a man was sent to prison for 18 months and fined \$50,000 while his partner was sentenced to 33 months in prison as the result of a Service/State investigation of their role in the illegal interstate commerce of potentially diseased deer.
- A South Dakota bait dealer was fined \$30,000 under the Lacey Act for bringing a State-banned invasive species (rusty crayfish) into Nebraska.
- Four Wisconsin bait companies pleaded guilty to Lacey Act charges for bringing baitfish into the State without required testing for disease.
- A Texas man was fined \$20,000 under the Lacey Act for transporting live elk that had not been tested for disease from Wisconsin to an Illinois game farm.
- An Alaska guide was sentenced to three months in prison, fined \$41,000, and ordered to pay \$30,000 in restitution for arranging and conducting illegal brown bear hunts in the Tongass National Forest. His two business partners were fined a total of \$50,000.
- A Service/State investigation of an outfitter providing illegal deer hunts to nonresident hunters in South Dakota secured more than \$73,000 in fines and restitution.
- A Service/State investigation of a hunting guide service in Nebraska secured guilty pleas from the owners of a hunting lodge; fines and restitution totaled \$120,000.
- An investigation of commercial outfitting operations on the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservations resulted in a 37-month prison sentence and \$12,582 restitution payment for the main defendant and the collection of \$76,000 in back taxes, penalties, and interest for the State of South Dakota.

- A Kentucky hunting business and its lodge manager pleaded guilty to Lacey Act violations and making false statements in connection with illegal deer hunts; the business was fined \$35,000 and the manager must pay a \$15,000 fine.
- An Iowa hunting guide who conducted illegal big game hunts in Iowa and Alaska was ordered to pay \$33,500 in fines and restitution and serve one year in prison.
- The owner of an Illinois outfitting business and a deer hunting guide pleaded guilty to Lacey Act charges and were fined \$20,000.
- A Colorado outfitter who sold illegal big game hunts to out-of-state clients was sentenced to one year in prison for conspiring to violate the Lacey Act. In total, this Service/State investigation secured over \$40,000 in fines and penalties.
- A Montana ranch couple and their son were fined \$45,000 for running an illegal big game hunting business on their property.
- A North Carolina waterfowl hunting club was fined \$50,000 for baiting its property.

### ***Illegal Take and Habitat Destruction***

- A railroad company investigated by the Service for destroying habitat of the valley elderberry longhorn beetle in California agreed to settle the case by buying \$680,400 worth of conservation bank credits.
- A settlement agreement in northern California requires a defendant who destroyed habitat for the endangered Point Arena mountain beaver to permanently preserve eight acres of habitat for the species.
- A bog turtle surveyor who falsified species survey reports was sent to prison for 60 days and ordered to pay \$130,435 in restitution and a \$1,500 fine.
- A Service/State investigation of a toxic sludge release that killed at least 38 endangered Appalachian elktoe mussels in the Cane River (which is designated as critical habitat for the species) secured more than \$13,000 in civil penalties from the Burnsville, North Carolina, wastewater treatment plant.
- A commercial tomato grower in North Carolina whose activities killed aquatic species in endangered mussel habitat paid \$14,334 in fines and restitution.
- A developer in North Carolina paid a \$150,000 civil penalty to Jackson County for flooding habitat occupied by the endangered Appalachian elktoe mussel.
- A Texas ranch conveyed 48 acres to the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve and paid \$220,260 for the maintenance and management of the property in compensation for clearing habitat occupied by the protected golden cheeked warbler.

- Two Georgia construction companies that destroyed a bald eagle nest tree were fined \$75,000 and ordered to implement an environmental compliance plan.
- The owner of a Kentucky logging company paid \$15,000 in fines and restitution for the destruction of a bald eagle nest and the take of two eagle chicks.
- A Montana rancher who killed a threatened grizzly bear was fined \$2,000.
- A man who killed a Louisiana black bear was ordered to pay \$15,000 in fines and restitution.
- A Utah developer paid a \$9,500 penalty for attempting to take threatened Utah prairie dogs.
- A Wyoming man who killed a golden eagle was ordered to pay \$6,000 in restitution.
- A Mississippi hunting club that killed migratory birds when it used poison-laced carcasses to bait predators was ordered to pay \$15,000 in fines and restitution.
- A Tennessee man paid a \$5,000 fine for killing migratory birds and misusing a pesticide.
- A Service/State investigation of illegal hunting, drug trafficking, and firearms sales in Mississippi wrapped up with the prosecution of a State conservation officer and his brother. Penalties in the case totaled more than 10 years in prison and fines exceeding \$24,000.
- A Colorado man poaching trophy animals in Utah was sentenced to three years in prison.

### ***Industrial Hazards***

- One of the largest electric utilities in the West pleaded guilty to killing golden eagles and other migratory birds in Wyoming and was ordered to pay over \$10.5 million in fines and restitution. It must also spend another \$9.1 million to repair or replace equipment.
- The Nation's largest oil and gas company pleaded guilty to wildlife charges for the electrocution deaths of 85 migratory birds in Colorado, Wyoming, and three other States. The company agreed to pay a \$400,000 fine and \$200,000 in community service payments.
- A power company in South Dakota agreed to spend \$60,000 to retrofit poles in an area where the Service had documented an eagle electrocution.
- A California utility investigated by the Service for electrocuting white pelicans on its transmission lines spent \$10,303 in retrofits to reduce threats to birds.
- An investigation of migratory bird deaths linked to oil production near Lubbock Texas resulted in companies paying over \$22,000 in penalties.

# Combating Global Wildlife Trafficking

The United States is one of the world's largest markets for wildlife and wildlife products. Illegal trafficking remains a significant threat to species around the world.

The Office of Law Enforcement upholds U.S. responsibilities to police wildlife trade and shut down U.S. markets for species that are off limits under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and U.S. laws and regulations. The Office also helps protect U.S. wildlife resources and wildlife habitat by preventing the importation and interstate transport of injurious species.

Both Service special agents and wildlife inspectors contribute to global protections for wildlife by helping other nations around the world improve their wildlife law enforcement infrastructure. Accomplishments involving global liaison and international training programs are presented in the "Building Enforcement Partnerships" section of this report.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

### *Interceptions of Illegal Wildlife Trade*

The Office of Law Enforcement's wildlife inspection program provides the Nation's frontline defense against illegal wildlife trade. Inspectors are stationed at the Nation's major international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings, where they maintain import/export controls and interdict smuggled wildlife and wildlife products. A representative sampling of seizures and penalties secured in FY 2009 appears below.

- Inspectors at John F. Kennedy (JFK) International Airport in New York seized two shipments of endangered high-fin catfish destined for the same U.S. importer; 16 live Asian arowanas discovered in "lost" luggage; and live CITES Appendix III turtles from China.
- Inspection blitzes at the JFK mail facility resulted in the seizure of commercial shipments containing dried sea horses; tiger medicinals; CITES reptilian leather products; iguana meat; and raw CITES bird and primate skins.
- Inspection operations at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport resulted in the seizures of pangolin and monitor lizard meat; a \$56,000 shipment of caiman shoes from Brazil; a 21-piece shipment of African elephant ivory; and 42 dried shark fins from Hong Kong.
- A Chicago importer of live primates for medical research forfeited \$25,050 for humane transport violations with a shipment of live crab-eating macaques from Mauritius.
- Inspectors in Detroit caught a U.S. resident trying to smuggle coral into Canada and secured \$2,775 in penalties from a business that tried to smuggle a stuffed sea turtle.

- Seizures in Miami included a Peruvian shipment containing ocelot and other spotted cat skins, jaguar teeth bracelets, and other wildlife items; live reptiles from Mali, Madagascar, and Ethiopia; and reptile skin products from Guyana, Nicaragua, and South Africa.
- Miami inspectors seized a shipment of live marine fish and Appendix II corals imported from Indonesia; a shipment from the Marshall Islands containing 1,227 live giant clams and stony coral; a commercial shipment of Appendix II clam shells imported from the Philippines; and a shipment of 12,000 pounds of queen conch meat from the Bahamas.
- Inspectors in Miami also diverted a shipment of 89 primates bound for South Africa from Guyana after discovering dead animals and others in distress and seized a shipment of over \$45,000 worth of venomous snakes for inhumane transport and marking violations.
- A commercial importer in Miami was assessed a civil penalty of \$49,400 for unlawfully importing seven shipments of live coral from Indonesia in violation of CITES.
- Inspectors in Atlanta discovered a shipment of tropical fish in which a false bottom had been used to conceal 10 endangered Asian arowanas and secured a \$1,600 criminal penalty from a fish store owner who tried to smuggle live beluga sturgeon and these protected Asian fish.
- Inspectors caught passengers arriving in Atlanta with smuggled beluga caviar; Asian medicinals, including 400 dead seahorses; 35 conch shells; over 200 pieces of stony coral; and two live snakes in a guitar case.
- Seizures at the DHL international express mail hub in Louisville included a commercial shipment containing 42 pieces of CITES-protected coral; sperm whale teeth; 103 pangolin scales; 104 carved pieces of hippo ivory; multiple shipments of python skin shoes imported without permits; seal skin sporrans; and red coral jewelry from Thailand.
- Inspectors in Houston seized a 1,200-pound stony coral statue imported from Vietnam; a live pygmy marmoset smuggled by an air passenger; and a variety of hunting trophies imported without CITES permits from such countries as Mozambique, South Africa, and Canada.
- Other Houston interceptions included a commercial shipment of coral, butterfly wings, and parrot feathers from Peru and a second Peruvian shipment containing 43 pieces of elephant ivory carvings and jewelry, 159 black coral items, and other wildlife products.
- A large-scale medicinal shipment intercepted in Dallas contained 3,120 products made from pangolin; 420 walrus medicinals; 600 musk deer products; and four vials of bear bile. Other medicinal seizures at this port included another 2,040 pangolin products, 480 musk deer products, and 420 seahorse products.
- Three individuals caught smuggling live parrots across the Mexican border into the United States each paid \$1,000 in penalties.

- Service inspectors in Los Angeles seized 250 live snakehead fish imported from the Democratic Republic of Congo for injurious species violations.
- Los Angeles staff also intercepted a shipment of live Peruvian aplomado falcons and multiple shipments of coral jewelry destined for a Las Vegas trade show.
- Honolulu inspectors intercepted a commercial-scale shipment of sea turtle meat and eggs from Micronesia.
- Anchorage seizures included a \$2,993 shipment of reptile skin jewelry; multiple commercial shipments of coral jewelry; two sperm whale teeth necklaces valued at over \$12,000; medicinals from Vietnam; and two shipments of mounted butterfly and bat specimens imported from Thailand in violation of CITES, the Lacey Act, and public health regulations.

### *Investigative Efforts*

Service special agents and wildlife inspectors team to disrupt global wildlife trafficking. Seizures at ports of entry often lead to investigations that document large-scale smuggling operations. Service efforts to protect global species include investigations of illegal interstate commerce in foreign fish, wildlife, and plants. The Office also works to stem the importation and interstate transport of injurious species.

- A Cayman Islands corporation that unlawfully imported more than two dozen items made from protected wildlife aboard a luxury yacht pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay a \$50,000 fine and \$100,000 in restitution.
- A Minnesota man and his company pleaded guilty in connection with the illegal importation of caviar and were fined \$30,000.
- A business and its chief executive officer pleaded guilty to smuggling 350 CITES-protected orchids and were ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine and \$5,424 in restitution.
- A Michigan man who pleaded guilty to illegally buying thousands of CITES-protected butterflies was ordered to pay \$20,000 in fines and restitution and forfeit \$18,000 worth of insect specimens.
- A Virginia man was fined \$10,000 for smuggling and selling endangered Asian arowanas.
- A Spokane, Washington woman who faked pregnancy to smuggle a rhesus macaque monkey from Thailand was sent to prison for 60 days and ordered to pay \$4,507 in restitution.
- A mother and daughter who pleaded guilty to smuggling protected wildlife parts to sell at an international market in St. Paul, Minnesota, were sentenced to home confinement, community service, and a \$9,000 fine.
- Two women in Minnesota paid \$7,000 in penalties for smuggling endangered leopard furs.

- The last defendant in Operation Shell Game – a cooperative U.S./Canada investigation that exposed large-scale illegal trafficking in CITES-protected queen conch meat – pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy charges after admitting that he had illegally harvested some 115,000 pounds of queen conch in Honduran waters for smuggling to a Miami seafood business.
- A Federal jury convicted a South Dakota man on smuggling and wildlife charges in a Service case that exposed illegal hunting in South Africa and the laundering of smuggled leopard trophies through Zimbabwe. Seven others, including two South African guides, previously pled guilty in the case.
- A California man was convicted for engaging in an international conspiracy to smuggle more than 35 wild-caught protected tortoises from Singapore.
- A New York woman pleaded guilty to smuggling primate parts from Guinea via JFK International Airport; similar “bush meat” was seized from her Staten Island home and African food business.
- A cooperative investigation with British authorities secured the prosecution of a man in the United Kingdom who was using the internet to trade elephant ivory and sperm whale teeth.
- Six defendants were arrested in New York, New Jersey, Virginia, and Texas for conspiring to smuggle African elephant ivory from Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and Uganda into the United States; the group smuggled at least eight shipments through New York, falsely declared as wooden statues or handicrafts.
- A German national indicted for smuggling coral from the Philippines to the United States was arrested by Service special agents when he arrived in the country to attend a Global Pet Expo in Orlando.
- A Federal grand jury in Los Angeles indicted two men for smuggling protected songbirds into the United States from Vietnam. One was caught at the Los Angeles International Airport with 14 live birds strapped to his legs; an additional 51 birds were discovered at the other’s residence.
- A U.S. citizen living in Brazil was arrested at the airport in Atlanta in connection with the smuggling of finished Brazilian rosewood pistol grips from Brazil.
- A subject who smuggled Asian arowanas into the United States over a multiyear period was arrested in San Francisco; a North Carolina tropical fish importer was charged with felony Lacey Act and smuggling violations for illegally importing these endangered fish and protected corals; and a Los Angeles company was indicted on 10 counts for arowana smuggling and invasive species violations.
- The Service worked with the government of Cameroon to investigate a wildlife dealer who was using forged CITES documents to sell and ship monkey skulls to U.S. clients; the suspect was arrested by Cameroonian authorities.

# Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade

The Office of Law Enforcement's mandate to enforce wildlife trade laws encompasses a concomitant responsibility to deal fairly and efficiently with the businesses, organizations, and individuals that import and export wildlife. By law, virtually all wildlife imports and exports must be declared to the Service and cleared by Service wildlife inspectors.

The speed and efficiency of wildlife inspection operations affect the ability of businesses to engage profitably in legal wildlife trade as well as the international movement of wildlife for purposes that range from scientific research to public entertainment. The Service's trade monitoring efforts also determine the ease with which individual Americans can travel internationally with wildlife or wildlife items, move hunting trophies across U.S. borders, or ship household goods made from wildlife overseas and back again.

Service officers provide guidance to individuals and businesses to help them obey wildlife laws and expedite their legal import/export transactions. "Customer service" efforts focus on using technology to facilitate trade, streamline the import/export community's interactions with the Service, and improve public access to information about wildlife trade laws and regulations.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

- In FY 2009, Service wildlife inspectors processed more than 176,000 wildlife shipments with a declared value of more than \$2.7 billion.
- Use of "e-Decs" (the Service's electronic system for speeding the declaration of wildlife imports and exports) increased, with nearly 81 percent of all declarations being submitted electronically.
- The Service inspected wildlife shipments at 18 designated port locations. (The designated port system funnels wildlife traffic through a limited number of locations to facilitate trade monitoring and maintain the efficiency of inspection operations.)
- The Service staffed 19 other ports of entry, including locations along the Nation's northern and southern borders that handle North American wildlife trade moving by land.
- The designated port of New York, which received 28,282 shipments, remained the Nation's busiest port of entry for wildlife trade.
- Los Angeles was the second busiest port of entry for wildlife, handling 22,259 shipments, while third-ranked Anchorage processed 13,258 shipments.
- Efforts continued to ensure full Service participation in the International Trade Data System (ITDS) – an interagency "e-Government" initiative that will link all importers/exporters and all Federal agencies involved in regulating international trade.

- The Office of Law Enforcement used public bulletins to communicate with commercial import/export “customers.” In FY 2009, bulletins alerted the wildlife trade community about various CITES trade suspensions and reinstatements; requirements for trade in European eel; changes to CITES Appendix III; increases in wildlife import/export fees; and the availability of updated declaration forms.
- The Service inspection office in Miami (which handles a significant volume of live wildlife trade) began accepting 48-hour advance notifications via email for live and perishable shipments, making the notification process quicker and less complicated for the trade.
- At the port of New York, inspectors worked with brokers to introduce a paperless entry process to expedite the declaration and clearance of shipments of ranch-raised furs.
- Inspectors at the UPS hub in Louisville helped the company implement operational procedures to facilitate clearance of wildlife exports; they also provided consultation on UPS plans to handle live wildlife trade in Louisville.
- Service inspectors in Miami participated in regular meetings of the Miami Chamber of Commerce. Other proactive contacts with trade organizations included training for brokers in Pembina, North Dakota, and San Juan, Puerto Rico, and presentations for the Los Angeles Customs Brokers Association, the John F. Kennedy International Airport Customs Brokers Association, the Boston Customs Brokers Association, and the Long Island Import/Export Association.
- Trade facilitation efforts also included proactive communications with a research laboratory importing live monkey shipments from Canada via Champlain, New York; training for the staff of a Michigan art gallery; presentations for curators, collection managers, researchers, and compliance registrars at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City; and a successful effort in Miami to notify the import/export community about the applicability of Service requirements to squid shipments.
- Service inspectors assisted the Disney Corporation with multiple live wildlife importations in Tampa while staff in New York handled the export of more than \$1.3 million worth of live juvenile eels within a 6-week period.
- Inspectors helped facilitate a number of shipments involving protected species. Examples include: the export of four western lowland gorillas by the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York; transactions involving koala bears being moved in and out of the United States for the San Diego Zoo via Newark; importation at that port of live sturgeon eggs for NOAA Fisheries; the export from Dallas of an endangered Indian rhino for the Oklahoma Zoo that was headed for Singapore to participate in a captive-breeding program; the export of 55 endangered Orinoco crocodiles to Venezuela from a breeding program at the Dallas Aquarium; and the importation of an endangered jaguar from Mexico for the Jaguar Management Program in Arizona.

# Managing for Excellence

The Office of Law Enforcement's success in protecting wildlife depends on the quality of its staff and how well it uses its "human capital" and other resources. Effective management requires ongoing strategic planning and performance monitoring as well as a sustained commitment to building and maintaining a highly skilled, appropriately deployed workforce.

The Office of Law Enforcement leverages technology to better support investigative and inspection efforts and program management. Such efforts include ongoing improvements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System as well as work to integrate the program's IT infrastructure with new Departmental and interagency systems.

Service Law Enforcement also works to improve professional accountability. A Professional Responsibility Unit responds to public concerns and identifies and resolves systemic issues involving the conduct and integrity of law enforcement operations.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

### *Strategic Planning and Performance Monitoring*

- The program managed enforcement activities to address its strategic goals and investigative priorities.

### *Workforce Management*

- Regional Law Enforcement offices continued implementing regional workforce plans that were prepared as part of the Office of Law Enforcement's workforce planning effort.
- A class of entry-level wildlife inspectors completed the seven-week Wildlife Inspector Basic School.
- National in-service training programs for agents and inspectors were held at the National Conservation Training Center.

### *Leveraging Technology*

- Enhancements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) included development of a national system for tracking and numbering confidential informants.
- Work continued on the interagency International Trade Data System (ITDS), which promises improvements for trade enforcement and trade facilitation. Activities in FY 2009 included efforts to resolve issues concerning Service enforcement authorities and access to information and completion of a final concept of operation document.

- The Office of Law Enforcement supported the development and implementation of a new version of the Service's permit issuance and tracking system.

### ***Professional Responsibility***

- The Professional Responsibility Unit addressed allegations of possible misconduct by Service law enforcement officers and employees in both the Office of Law Enforcement and the National Wildlife Refuge System.

### ***Other Accomplishments***

- The Branch of Investigations (INV) in the headquarters Office of Law Enforcement prepared and published new Service Manual chapters dealing with undercover operations, undercover businesses, use of special funds, and payment of rewards.
- Chief's Directives were prepared and posted providing guidance on processing in-transit shipments; obtaining covert credit cards; and handling certain CITES re-export certificates.
- INV completed and published a final rule to clarify import/export license and fee requirements, adjust the inspection fee schedule, and eliminate some license and fee exemptions.
- INV worked with other Service programs on issues that included the proposed listing of the Ozark hellbender under the Endangered Species Act; new rules on raptor propagation permits; the resolution of issues involving crop manipulation and baiting; eagle permitting proposals; and the Service's draft of the Native American Consultation Guide.
- Legislative activities included providing input on proposed legislation to revise Lacey Act requirements on injurious species; working with Hill staff on bills amending the MBTA to address hunting over damaged crops and to add felony take provisions; teaming with the Branch of Invasive Species to review proposed legislation listing all pythons as injurious; contributing to Departmental testimony in support of reauthorization of the Coral Reef Conservation Act; and developing detailed critiques of proposed legislation for coordinating Federal international conservation activities.
- INV represented the Office of Law Enforcement in completing U.S. preparations for the CITES Conference of Parties (CoP 15), which was held in Qatar in March 2009.
- INV staff represented Service Law Enforcement on Interior Department, or interagency working groups, addressing such issues as conservation guidelines for the wind power industry; implementation of the 2008 plant protections amendments to the Lacey Act; threat assessments for swine and avian influenza; and the spread of disease via wildlife imports.

# **Building Enforcement Partnerships**

Strong and effective partnerships with other law enforcement agencies are essential to the success of wildlife law enforcement. Service officers work closely with other Federal, State, and tribal officers to safeguard the Nation's wildlife resources. These efforts include joint investigations, compliance inspections and task force operations, and cross-training programs.

Cooperation is also vital to Service efforts to promote global wildlife conservation. Service Law Enforcement maintains liaison with the CITES Secretariat and wildlife law enforcement counterparts around the world. Service special agents and wildlife inspectors are often the instructors of choice when other nations seek to improve their wildlife enforcement capabilities.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

### ***Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation***

- The Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and local agencies in Florida joined forces to enforce boat speed laws that protect manatees.
- The Service is among the Federal, State, and local agencies participating in a regional working group to share information and address enforcement issues in or near the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in California.
- As a member of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Law Enforcement Committee, the Service is working with State, Federal, and Canadian enforcement agencies to identify and address mutual enforcement concerns.
- Service Law Enforcement helped launch a Federal/State task force to investigate the illegal take and sale of striped bass in New England; participating agencies include NOAA-Fisheries as well as Massachusetts and Connecticut State environmental agencies.
- A Federal/State partnership involving the Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, and Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is working to decrease oil field hazards to migratory birds.
- Service Law Enforcement in Utah teamed with the Bureau of Land Management and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to address threats to the threatened desert tortoise and several fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

### ***Federal Partnerships***

- Cooperative case work in FY 2009 included joint investigations with such Federal agencies as NOAA Fisheries, EPA, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and Immigration and

Customs Enforcement (ICE). Many of these investigations are featured in the “Protecting America’s Wildlife” and “Combating Global Wildlife Trafficking” sections of this report.

- The Service is one of more than 20 Federal trade regulating agencies working with CBP to design and develop a new automated system for processing international trade.
- Service officers from Blaine to Maine conducted joint enforcement blitzes with CBP along the U.S./Canada border.
- Service wildlife inspectors and special agents worked with CBP and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance teams to conduct proactive inspections along the U.S./Mexico border in Texas.
- Inspectors and agents partnered with CBP, USDA, Food and Drug Administration, and other Federal counterparts to conduct inspection operations at major airports and ocean ports.
- Special agents provided conservation enforcement training to officers with the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Marine Corps.
- Service Law Enforcement used cross-training to expand its enforcement reach, particularly with respect to policing wildlife trade. During the reporting year, all new CBP officers received instruction in wildlife import/export requirements during their basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- Import/export cross-training was provided to new CBP agriculture inspectors and U.S. military customs clearance agents.
- Wildlife inspectors throughout the country also provided wildlife import/export training to CBP staff. Inspection offices conducting such training included those located in Atlanta, Anchorage, Champlain, Dunseith, El Paso, Miami, Pembina, San Diego, San Francisco, Sweetgrass, and Tampa.

### ***State Partnerships***

- Service special agents worked numerous joint investigations with State counterparts. Many of these cases are highlighted in the “Protecting America’s Wildlife” section of this report.
- Agents served as instructors for State conservation officer training programs in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and other States.
- Service staff helped teach a week-long Midwest Investigators Advanced Covert School for State conservation officers.

- A Service agent helped the North Dakota Game and Fish Department draft new falconry regulations for the State.
- The Service teamed with State agencies in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana, and Iowa to form a task force to address the illegal interstate transport of bait fish – a trade linked to disease and invasive species concerns.

### ***Tribal Partnerships***

- The Service helped officials of the Northern Cheyenne tribe develop a tribal code for protecting natural resources and worked with the Crow tribe to revise its existing code for fish and game enforcement.
- Law Enforcement met with the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Fish and Wildlife Commission
- Service special agents worked with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Agency in Michigan; the Miccosukee Tribe in Florida; and the confederated Salish and Kootenai tribes in Montana to address mutual law enforcement concerns.
- The National Eagle Repository filled 3,270 requests from Native Americans for eagles and eagle parts for religious use.

### ***International Partnerships***

- For the second consecutive year, the Service detailed an experienced special agent to serve as a liaison officer to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-Wildlife Enforcement Network. This officer conducted on-the-job training and formal courses for officers in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia.
- The Office of Law Enforcement hosted the second meeting of the CITES enforcement experts group.
- The Service presented a two-week course on investigating wildlife crime as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana; 30 officers from seven sub-Saharan African nations completed the training.
- A Service senior special agent and two National Park Service rangers provided resource protection training to 43 ranger supervisors in the nation of Georgia.
- A Service wildlife inspector provided training on humane transport of CITES-listed live wildlife at a Humane Society International conference in San Jose, Costa Rica, for enforcement and industry representatives from Central America and the Caribbean.
- International liaison included meeting with the European Union Enforcement Group on Trade in Wildlife in Brussels and serving on a U.S. CITES delegation to China as part of an official exchange program under the U.S.-China Nature Conservation Protocol.

## Promoting Compliance

The Office of Law Enforcement works to help Americans understand and obey laws that protect wildlife and wildlife habitat. Outreach efforts that promote compliance focus on such groups as industries whose activities affect wildlife; landowners and developers; guides, outfitters, and hunters; importers and exporters dealing in wildlife and wildlife products; and travelers who buy wildlife products overseas.

Service Law Enforcement works closely with groups whose activities are affected by wildlife laws to secure compliance. The Office often teams with other enforcement agencies and non-governmental partners to produce and distribute educational materials and conduct outreach campaigns. Compliance-focused outreach supports Service efforts to protect U.S. wildlife resources, stem global wildlife trafficking, and facilitate legal wildlife trade.

### **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

- Service special agents and refuge officers conducted compliance outreach patrols on the North Slope of Alaska from late May through July, alerting hunters to protections for the threatened Steller's eider and migratory game bird subsistence hunting regulations.
- Agents worked with Service biologists to secure changes in a multimillion-dollar flood control project at Nellis Air Force base in Nevada that were needed to protect active nests of burrowing owls – a Federal species of concern. Other outreach on behalf of this species included contacts with home owners associations and developers in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Agents and wildlife inspectors in San Francisco participated in the annual eBay/PayPal law enforcement conference to promote vendor compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other laws regulating the sale of wildlife parts and products.
- Efforts to improve safeguards for ESA-listed piping plovers included work with an Iowa utility to remove hazards; outreach to a New York town on nesting issues; and piping plover protection and education patrols along the Missouri River.
- Service enforcement officers in Florida participated in the Tampa Bay Manatee Awareness coalition, joining local and State agencies and private groups in efforts to protect this endangered species from boat strikes and other hazards.
- Service special agents in Nevada reached out to desert tortoise rescue groups in the State to address compliance issues involving this threatened species.
- Office of Law Enforcement staff served as technical advisors to the legal subcommittee of a federal advisory committee convened to propose guidelines for helping the rapidly expanding wind power industry reduce its impact on migratory birds and bats.

- Agents in California, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, and other States worked with electric utilities and industry groups (such as the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee) to reduce electrocution risks to raptors and other protected species.
- Work to protect migratory birds from hazards at oil production sites and other industrial facilities included a presentation at the North Dakota Oil and Petroleum Council; training for employees and officials of Wyoming oil companies; contacts with oil producers in Colorado, Texas, and Utah that secured corrective action; work with a potash mine in New Mexico, a gold mine in Nevada, and a trona mine in Wyoming to address environmental problems; and meetings with wind industry personnel in Texas and other States.
- Other outreach to protect migratory birds included briefing wildlife rehabilitators in Hawaii; a training program for 95 agricultural pesticide applicators in Maryland; efforts to limit beach driving in Jacksonville, Florida, during breeding season; work with the International Boundary and Water Commission to improve protections for migratory birds along the Rio Grande in New Mexico and Texas; and successful efforts to address threats to birds at an Arizona airport, a Colorado heron rookery, a Massachusetts landfill, and a Montana golf course.
- Agents in the Dakotas worked to notify hunters about baiting issues created by a pipeline construction project while officers in north Florida met with landowners in Florida and south Georgia to review migratory bird hunting regulations.
- Outreach to Native American communities included a presentation on cultural resource protection laws to tribal representatives in South Dakota; participation in a Mountain/Prairie Region listening session with tribes; and conducting an open forum session at the southwest regional conference of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society.
- Service enforcement staff provided presentations to scientists and representatives of the aquarium industry at an international trade in coral reef species workshop in Washington D.C. and at an international coral trade workshop in Naples, Italy.
- Outreach to the international big game hunting community included staffing an outreach booth at the Safari Club International convention in Reno, Nevada; presenting a seminar on trophy import/export requirements for hunters, outfitters, and Mexican sportsmen associations in Laredo; and providing a presentation on import/export requirements at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association in Canada.
- Service officers provided presentations on various wildlife law enforcement topics at Cleveland Marshall Law School in Ohio, Lewis and Clark Law School in Oregon, Kennesaw State University in Georgia, the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point, University of Tennessee in Knoxville and Martin; Murray State University in Kentucky; and the University of Texas at Brownsville.

- Broad-based public outreach included exhibiting at the North Carolina State Fair, an airport outreach event at the Raleigh Durham International Airport in North Carolina, and the Red River Valley Trade Show in Fargo, North Dakota and participating in Earth Day celebrations in San Diego and at McCord Air Force Base in Washington State.
- Office of Law Enforcement headquarters staff responded to a record-setting 2,012 requests from the public for information about wildlife laws and law enforcement matters.
- The National Wildlife Property Repository responded to 127 requests for wildlife items from schools, zoos, and other organizations seeking materials for use in teaching the public about wildlife trade; 4,511 items were supplied for such use in FY 2009.

# Supporting Officers in the Field

## Forensics

The National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory, located in Ashland, Oregon, is the world's only full-service crime laboratory devoted exclusively to supporting wildlife law enforcement. Scientists at the Laboratory identify the species of wildlife parts and products seized as evidence. They link suspect, "victim," and crime scene through the examination and comparison of physical evidence; determine the cause of death of wildlife crime victims; and help analyze crime scenes and recover evidence from seized computers.

Laboratory scientists also conduct research to develop new analytical techniques needed in wildlife forensics. They provide training to wildlife law enforcement officers and work with such organizations as the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors. The Service Laboratory holds accreditation from that group – a professional status attained by only half the crime laboratories in the United States.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

- Laboratory scientists worked on hundreds of cases involving the analysis of thousands of pieces of evidence collected during investigations of wildlife crime.
- Forensic analyses were provided primarily in support of Federal investigations with some assistance provided to State cases and international investigations.
- The Laboratory's Morphology Team conducted thousands of species identifications based on photographs submitted by email (primarily from Service wildlife inspectors at the Nation's ports of entry). This service helped facilitate release of legal shipments and provide probable cause for the detention and seizure of some specimens.
- Lab scientists developed a new technique for revealing and documenting dorsal skin patterns on dyed snake leather products. The method, which combines near-infrared imaging with an alternate light source and special-purpose digital photography, makes it possible to identify the species used in highly modified wildlife leather products.
- Another Laboratory innovation utilized a special type of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy to determine the species origin of animal hair used in such products as bracelets, earrings, and finger rings imported from Africa.
- The Laboratory launched a new web-based Feather Atlas of North American Birds as an online tool for identifying feathers. The Atlas contains high-resolution scanned images of wing and tail feathers, along with age, sex, and measurement data for 141 species, including all North American raptors, owls, waterfowl, woodpeckers, pigeons, and doves.

# Intelligence

The Office of Law Enforcement's Intelligence Unit collects and analyzes information on all aspects of wildlife trafficking to support Service investigations, inspections, and smuggling interdiction efforts. The Unit also coordinates intelligence sharing with other law enforcement agencies in the United States and other countries. It establishes and maintains a broad network of domestic and international contacts with conservation groups, trade associations, and other entities involved in, or concerned with, wildlife trade.

Intelligence support is vital to Service efforts to identify and disrupt wildlife trafficking networks. Access to comprehensive, well-analyzed intelligence data also helps law enforcement managers identify threats to species and plan and prioritize investigative efforts and smuggling interdiction operations at ports of entry.

## **FY 2009 Accomplishments**

- Multiple Service investigations were substantially supported by a variety of Unit services, including background, criminal history and financial checks; border crossing, airline and license checks; wildlife valuations; document analysis; trade research; toll record analysis; link chart creation; prior case research; and website mirroring.
- Progress continued in building cooperative relationships with other national and international agencies to support the development of wildlife trade intelligence information.
- During the reporting period, the Unit shared intelligence information with enforcement authorities in countries around the world and with Interpol and other international networks.
- Intelligence analysts began using a "test version" of the International Trade Data System to proactively target shipments and provide leads to Service staff at various ports of entry with respect to possible wildlife trafficking.
- The Unit completed assessments of U.S./Mexico and U.S./Canada wildlife trade for the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group.
- A checklist of interview questions and investigative "reminders" was prepared for use by the Interpol Wildlife Crime Working Group in developing wildlife trafficking investigative guidelines for enforcement agencies worldwide.
- A Service intelligence analyst provided a presentation and represented the Office of Law Enforcement at a CITES workshop on internet wildlife trade, which was held in Vancouver, Canada.

# Appendix A. Statistical Summary

## Law Enforcement Program Facts and Figures

FY 2009 enacted budget	\$62.7 million
FY 2009 end-of-year special agent force	195
FY 2009 end-of-year wildlife inspector force	116
FY 2009 investigative case load *	13,585
<i>* This number reflects the work of both special agents and wildlife inspectors.</i>	
FY 2009 wildlife imports/exports	176,798
FY 2009 value of U.S. wildlife trade	\$2.8 billion
Number of designated ports	17 *
Number of other staffed ports	19

### **FY 2009 staffed port locations \***

#### **Designated Ports**

Anchorage, Alaska  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Boston, Massachusetts  
Chicago, Illinois  
Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
Houston, Texas  
Los Angeles, California  
Louisville, Kentucky  
Memphis, Tennessee  
Miami, Florida  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
New York, New York  
Newark, New Jersey  
Portland, Oregon  
San Francisco, California  
Seattle, Washington

#### **Border, Special & Other Ports**

Agana, Guam  
Blaine, Washington  
Brownsville, Texas  
Buffalo, New York  
Champlain, New York  
Denver, Colorado  
Detroit, Michigan  
Dulles, Virginia  
Dunseith, North Dakota  
El Paso, Texas  
Laredo, Texas  
McAllen, Texas  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Nogales, Arizona  
Pembina, North Dakota  
San Diego, California  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
Sweetgrass, Montana  
Tampa, Florida

## FY 2009 Investigative Caseload \*

<b>Statute</b>	<b>Cases</b>
African Elephant	51
Airborne Hunting	6
Archeological Resources	13
Conspiracy	61
Document Smuggling	0
Eagle Protection	259
Endangered Species	8,216
False Statements	36
FIFRA	19
Lacey	2,353
Marine Mammal	215
Migratory Bird Stamp	237
Migratory Bird Treaty	1,541
National Wildlife Refuge	32
Other Federal Laws	137
Permit/License	15
Rhino Tiger Labeling	61
Smuggling	75
State Laws	219
Wild Bird Conservation	39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,585</b>

\* This table reflects investigative cases worked by Service special agents and wildlife inspectors during FY 2009.

## Annual Penalty Statistics, FY 2007 – FY 2009 \*

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Fines</b>	\$14,216,270	\$4,457,221	\$8,469,209
<b>Prison (Years)</b>	31	85	54
<b>Probation (Years)</b>	536	551	607
<b>Civil Penalties</b>	\$5,295,158	\$1,635,931	\$839,969

\* This table summarizes the results of criminal and civil prosecutions undertaken based on the enforcement efforts of Service special agents and wildlife inspectors.

## FY 2008 – FY 2009 Wildlife Inspection Activity

<b>Port of Entry</b>	<b>FY 2008 Shipments</b>	<b>FY 2009 Shipments</b>
<b>Designated Ports</b>		
Anchorage, AK	13,489	13,258
Atlanta, GA	3,976	3,552
Baltimore, MD	2,476	2,648
Boston, MA	3,270	3,479
Chicago, IL	5,595	5,522
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	9,448	9,595
Honolulu, HI	4,753	4,512
Houston, TX	2,283	2,269
Los Angeles, CA	23,467	22,259
Louisville, KY	12,102	10,766
Memphis, TN	6,354	6,518
Miami, FL	10,802	10,184
New Orleans, LA	814	844
Newark, NJ	7,719	9,168
New York, NY	32,585	28,282
Portland, OR	1,147	969
San Francisco, CA	6,315	3,792
Seattle, WA	4,058	5,926
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>150,652</b>	<b>143,543</b>
<b>Non-Designated Ports</b>		
Agana, GU	1,079	1,076
Blaine, WA	1,788	1,563
Brownsville, TX	318	342
Buffalo, NY	1,861	1,450
Champlain, NY	2,570	2,138
Detroit, MI	901	911
Denver, CO	667	857
Dulles, VA	364	345
Dunseith, ND	1,349	1,217
El Paso, TX	668	709
Laredo, TX	664	587
McAllen, TX	58	60
Minneapolis, Minnesota	800	438
Nogales, AZ	352	365
Pembina, ND	5,794	5,004
San Diego, CA	1,118	1,238
San Juan, PR	115	87
Sweetgrass, MT	1,849	2,341
Tampa, FL	736	514
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>23,051</b>	<b>21,242</b>
<b>Non-Staffed Ports</b>	<b>13,256</b>	<b>12,013</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>186,959</b>	<b>176,798</b>

## Appendix B. Laws Enforced

The Office of Law Enforcement upholds the Nation's wildlife protection laws. Brief summaries of these statutes appear below.

***Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act*** (16 U.S.C. 668-668C). This Act makes it illegal to import, export, or take bald or golden eagles, or to sell, purchase, or barter their parts or products made from them, including nests or eggs.

***Migratory Bird Treaty Act*** (16 U.S.C. 703-712). Except as allowed by implementing regulations, this Act makes it unlawful to pursue, hunt, kill, capture, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any migratory bird, including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or migratory bird products.

***Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act*** (16 U.S.C. 718). Commonly referred to as the "Duck Stamp Act," this law requires waterfowl hunters 16 years of age or older to purchase and possess a valid Federal waterfowl hunting stamp before they take migratory waterfowl.

***Lacey Act*** (18 U.S.C. 42; 16 U.S.C. 3371-3378). This Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate injurious wildlife and ensure the humane treatment of wildlife shipped to the United States. It prohibits the importation, exportation, transportation, sale, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants taken or possessed in violation of State, Federal, tribal, and foreign laws. The 1981 amendments strengthened the enforcement of Federal wildlife laws and improved Federal assistance to the States and foreign governments in the enforcement of their wildlife laws. The Act also provides an important tool in the effort to deter smuggling and illegal trade.

***Marine Mammal Protection Act*** (16 U.S.C. 1361-1407). This Act establishes a moratorium on the take and importation of marine mammals, including parts and products, and defines Federal responsibilities for the conservation of marine mammals. It assigns management authority for the sea otter, walrus, polar bear, dugong, and manatee to the Department of the Interior.

***Airborne Hunting Act*** (16 U.S.C. 742j-1). Section 13 of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 is commonly referred to as the Airborne Hunting Act. It prohibits taking or harassing wildlife from aircraft, except when protecting wildlife, livestock, and human health or safety as authorized by a Federal or State license or permit.

***National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act*** (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee). This 1966 Act constitutes an "Organic Act" for the National Wildlife Refuge System. It provides guidelines for administration and management of all areas in the system including "wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, or waterfowl production areas."

***Endangered Species Act*** (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543). This Act prohibits the importation, exportation, taking, and commercialization in interstate or foreign commerce of fish, wildlife,

and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered species. The Act also implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

***Antarctic Conservation Act*** (16 U.S.C. 2401). This Act provides for the conservation and protection of the fauna and flora of Antarctica. The Act makes it unlawful for any U.S. citizen to take any native bird or mammal in Antarctica or to collect any native plant from any specially protected area on that continent. In addition, the Act makes it unlawful for anyone in the United States to possess, sell, offer for sale, deliver, receive, carry, transport, import, export, or attempt to import or export from the United States any native mammal or bird taken in Antarctica or any plant collected in any specially protected area.

***Archeological Resources Protection Act*** (16 U.S.C. 470aa). This Act protects archeological resources and sites on public and Indian lands and fosters increased cooperation among governmental authorities, the professional archeological community, and individuals who own collections of archeological resources obtained before October 31, 1979. The Act makes it illegal for any person to excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archeological resource located on public or Indian lands without a permit. In addition, the Act makes it illegal for any person to sell, purchase, exchange, transport, receive, or offer to sell, purchase, or exchange any archeological resource taken from public or Indian lands in violation of Federal, State, or local law.

***African Elephant Conservation Act*** (16 U.S.C. 4201-4245). This Act provides additional protection for the African elephant. It establishes an assistance program for elephant-producing countries of Africa and provides for the creation of an African Elephant Conservation Fund. In addition, the Act places a moratorium on the importation of raw or worked ivory from African elephant-producing countries that do not meet certain criteria.

***Wild Bird Conservation Act*** (16 U.S.C. 4901). This 1992 Act promotes the conservation of exotic birds by encouraging wild bird conservation and management programs in countries of origin; by ensuring that all U.S. trade in such species is biologically sustainable and of benefit to the species; and by limiting or prohibiting imports of exotic birds when necessary.

***Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act*** (16 U.S.C. 5301-5306). The 1998 reauthorization of this Act prohibits the import, export, or sale of any product, item, or substance containing, or labeled or advertised as containing, any substance derived from tiger or rhinoceros.