

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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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 the Legal Trade
- Enhance Management Accountability

Staffed Wildlife Ports of Entry

Agana, GU	Anchorage, AK	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
El Paso, TX	Erlanger, KY	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Guaynabo, PR	Honolulu, HI	Houston, TX
International Falls, MN	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	Norfolk, VA
Pembina, ND	Philadelphia, PA	Port Everglades, FL
Portal, ND	Portland, OR	San Diego, CA
San Francisco, CA	San Juan, PR	Savanna, GA
Seattle, WA	Sweetgrass, MT	Tampa, FL

During FY 2022, Service wildlife inspectors processed 167,067 declared shipments of wildlife and wildlife products worth more than \$5.4 billion. The Nation's top 10 busiest ports of entry for wildlife trade are show below:

Port of Entry	Shipments
Los Angeles, CA	24,214
Newark, NJ	22,835
New York, NY	22,164
Louisville, KY	17,747
Miami, FL	9,916
Memphis, TN	8,636
Chicago, IL	7,696
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	7,402
San Francisco, CA	4,982
Houston, TX	3,518

Reward Information:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, is authorized to pay rewards for information or assistance relating to investigations. This authority is linked to specific federal wildlife laws and the amount of the reward is commensurate with the information or assistance received. Please discuss the possibility of a reward with the special agent receiving your information and your identity can be kept confidential.

To Report a Wildlife Crime:

Website: <https://www.fws.gov/wildlife-crime-tips>
Call: 1-844-397-8477 (1-844-FWS-TIPS)

Budget (\$000)

Fiscal Year	Operations	Equipment Replacement	Total
2014	\$63,365	\$910	\$64,275
2015	\$65,827	\$910	\$66,737
2016	\$73,815	\$910	\$74,725
2017	\$74,413	\$910	\$75,053
2018	\$76,413	\$910	\$77,323
2019	\$78,413	\$910	\$79,053
2020	\$80,943	\$910	\$81,853
2021	\$85,950	\$910	\$86,860
2022	\$94,072	\$910	\$94,982

Agent and Inspector Staffing (as of October 1st of each fiscal year)

Fiscal Year	Number of Special Agents on Board	Number of Wildlife Inspectors on Board
2014	213	130
2015	211	124
2016	205	124
2017	229	126
2018	213	122
2019	215	113
2020	212	129
2021	222	123
2022	208	135



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.

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, the wildlife trade.

Special Agents

- Break up international and domestic wildlife trafficking networks 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 and train federal, state, and tribal law enforcement officers to safeguard U.S. species and their habitats and with international counterparts to combat global wildlife trafficking.
- Protect American Indians and Alaska Natives artists, and consumers, by investigating Indian Arts and Crafts Act violations. Dismantle and stop international criminal syndicates that create and sell fake Indian arts and crafts as authentic products.

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.

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 of wildlife and wildlife products.
- Inspect wildlife shipments to ensure compliance with laws and treaties and interdict illegal wildlife and wildlife products.
- Prevent the introduction and interstate spread of injurious species.
- Work closely with federal partners, at the U.S. ports of entry, 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.
- Perform educational outreach to the trade community, travelers, hunters, students, the general public, and others.

Investigative Cases (by fiscal year)

Act Description	2019	2020	2021	2022
African Elephant Conservation Act	30	16	12	16
Eagle Protection Act	150	139	117	128
Endangered Species Act	6,256	5,631	6,049	6,622
Lacey Act	1,656	1,746	2,059	2,275
Marine Mammal Protection Act	177	108	73	117
Migratory Bird Acts	408	352	335	350
Other Federal/Foreign Law	558	904	585	554
Rhino Tiger Act	42	26	18	10
Wild Bird Conservation Act	58	58	74	149
Total of all acts	9,344	8,980	9,322	10,221

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.

Annual Penalty Statistics (by fiscal year)

Category	2019	2020	2021	2022
Criminal Fines	\$6.0M	\$8.9M	\$2.6M	\$11.5M
Civil Penalties	\$609K	\$723K	\$633K	\$873K
Prison (years)	58	89	14	57
Probation (years)	289	299	233	200