

Annual Report FY 2007

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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;
- Using forensic science to analyze evidence and solve wildlife crimes; and
- Conducting outreach to increase compliance with wildlife protection laws.

The Office of Law Enforcement fields a force of special agents (criminal investigators with the authority to 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 conducts scientific analyses 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 2007 Accomplishments

Illegal Commercialization

- Prosecutions wrapped up in an investigation that exposed the interstate sale of live endangered ocelots. A non-profit religious group that played a central role in the trafficking scheme pleaded guilty to conspiracy and was ordered to contribute \$60,000 to a newly created Endangered Species Justice Fund managed by the Oregon Zoo. In FY 2007, an Oregon wildlife park that disguised a sale as a “donation” was ordered to pay \$10,000 to this fund, and a New York company that purchased four ocelots pleaded guilty to violating the Endangered Species Act. Five other defendants had previously pleaded guilty in this case. Total monetary penalties exceeded \$121,000.
- An investigation of a poaching operation that removed thousands of undersized leopard sharks from California waters for sale in interstate and international commerce resulted in the creation of a \$1.5 million fund to restore leopard shark habitat in San Francisco Bay. Defendants linked to the trafficking scheme contributed \$910,000 of this amount.
- Prosecutions got underway in a Service/State investigation of the unlawful harvest and interstate sale of ginseng in Kentucky. Nineteen defendants paid over \$112,000 in fines; two also forfeited more than \$37,000 worth of wild ginseng.
- A Florida man who stole *Ricordia florida* (a coral-like invertebrate) from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for export and sale went to prison for 10 months and forfeited the sailboat used to commit the crime. The case began after two German nationals were caught trying to smuggle 500 *Recordia* polyps acquired from the defendant out of Miami; more than \$100,000 worth of sales were documented.
- A South Dakota animal park and its owners paid \$56,918 in fines and restitution for illegal interstate trafficking in bear gall bladders and the unlawful sale and purchase of two threatened grizzly bears.

- An undercover investigation of unlawful trafficking in undersized blue crabs taken from the Chesapeake Bay resulted in the successful prosecution of two Maryland seafood companies for Lacey Act violations. One company was sentenced to pay a \$50,000 fine and forfeit more than 39,000 crabs worth an estimated \$26,194; the owner of the second business was fined \$10,000 and must forfeit more than 7,700 crabs valued at \$3,888.
- Eight defendants prosecuted as the result of a Service/State investigation into the unlawful interstate sale of protected reptiles from Arizona paid \$37,325 in Federal fines and restitution.
- An Alaska man was fined \$20,000 and sent to prison for six months for unlawfully collecting and selling walrus ivory and bone; a co-defendant was sentenced to eight months in prison.
- The owner of an Anchorage business dealing in traditional medicinals pleaded guilty to two felonies and was fined \$15,000 in connection with the unlawful purchase and sale of 100 raw seal oosiks (penis bones).
- A Utah man was fined \$7,500 and forced to forfeit 106 bobcat skins unlawfully taken in Nevada for export to European fur markets; the skins were valued at \$38,000.
- A four-year Service/State investigation that culminated with a series of searches in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. in August 2007 revealed large-scale illegal take and sale of striped bass from the Potomac River. Multiple prosecutions are expected in the case, which showed that fishermen were routinely targeting breeding stock during closed seasons.
- Prosecutions wrapped up in a three-year Service/State investigation of illegal guiding and hunting on Federal lands in New Mexico. The case secured the successful prosecution of 22 defendants (including nine with felony convictions) and the collection of \$113,100 in fines and restitution.
- A South Dakota outfitter and guide charged with Lacey Act violations was ordered to pay \$32,527 in fines and restitution; 12 other subjects pleaded guilty to State charges and paid a total of \$17,155 in State fines and restitution.
- The owner of a hunting lodge in Alaska who arranged guided black bear hunts for out-of-state clients in violation of State law pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act and was ordered to pay \$20,000 in fines and restitution.
- Two out-of-state residents who illegally guided hunters for black bear in the Tongass National Forest in southeast Alaska were fined a total of \$24,000. Both lost their hunting privileges for three years and must pay \$6,000 in restitution to the State of Alaska.
- A guide in Montana who pleaded guilty to felony conspiracy and Lacey Act charges was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay \$5,750 in restitution to the State; he was also barred from hunting, fishing, trapping, or guiding for five years anywhere in the world.

- A covert investigation that targeted the unlawful take of sea ducks on the Niagara River and Lake Ontario secured \$15,000 in penalties from commercial guides.
- A Service/State investigation of a commercial dove baiting operation in Highland County, Florida, resulted in a \$55,000 fine for the owner of the hunting lodge involved.
- In another Florida case, a Levy County landowner was fined \$30,000 for baiting a field for an opening day commercial hunt.
- In North Carolina, a commercial hunting club was fined \$25,000 for placing bait.
- A South Carolina plantation was fined \$10,000 for baiting its property for a commercial dove hunt.
- A commercial waterfowl guide who conducted illegal hunts on Maryland's Eastern Shore was fined \$5,000 and ordered to forfeit his guide license.

Illegal Take and Habitat Destruction

- A cooperative Federal investigation of a 2004 spill of fuel oil and soybeans offshore of an Aleutian Island in Alaska that killed more than 1,700 migratory birds secured a plea agreement from the Singapore corporation that owned the ship involved. The company must pay a \$10 million criminal penalty; of that amount, \$7 million is slated for conservation use.
- An oil company whose pipeline system caused three oil spills in California in 2004 and 2005 agreed to pay \$5.3 million to resolve its liability under the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and other statutes. The spills, which occurred in the Suisun Marsh, the Oakland Inner Harbor, and the Donner Lake watershed in the Sierra Nevadas, affected sensitive ecosystems and habitat for such endangered species as the salt marsh harvest mouse.
- A chemical company responsible for four separate discharges in Ohio that killed migratory birds pleaded guilty to Federal charges and was ordered to pay a \$215,000 fine and contribute \$210,000 to two environmental groups.
- In a civil settlement agreement, the Sacramento County Airport System agreed to restore habitat for the threatened giant garter snake to compensate for destroying the species' last pristine habitat. Mitigation/restoration values exceed \$10 million.
- An energy company in Louisiana responsible for killing 33 endangered brown pelicans agreed to pay \$250,000 to the Service and Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for use in preserving and restoring pelican habitat.
- Service efforts to protect endangered manatees in Florida included 76 one-to-three day patrols; 27 joint enforcement operations with a partner agency; and 7 large-scale multiagency enforcement details. Violations totaled 579, and more than \$64,700 in fines were collected during the reporting period.

- The owner of a Florida-based consulting company that falsified records to obstruct a Service investigation involving the disturbance of nesting eagles was fined \$30,000 and ordered to perform 300 hours of community service.
- A company that killed a threatened gopher tortoise while conducting an environmental survey on a pipeline in Mississippi was fined \$10,000.
- Two individuals responsible for shooting a brown pelican in Galveston County, Texas, paid \$5,050 in penalties.
- A Wyoming resident who pleaded guilty to a firearms charge and to violating the Endangered Species Act in connection with the collection and possession of grizzly bear parts was sent to prison for 27 months and ordered to pay \$5,000 in fines and restitution.
- A ranch in Montana paid \$2,300 in penalties for killing an adult wolf and pup.
- A Kentucky man who shot a bald eagle was fined \$2,000; a Maryland man who killed an immature bald eagle paid a \$2,500 fine.
- The owner of a Massachusetts trout hatchery who killed a bald eagle and hundreds of great blue herons and ospreys was convicted of violating Federal wildlife laws and fined \$65,000.
- The manager of a county farmers cooperative in Kentucky who provided carbofuran to a local cattle rancher for predator control pleaded guilty to Federal charges in connection with the poisonings of migratory birds; penalties included a \$5,000 restitution payment.
- A Rhode Island beagle club and its president both pleaded guilty to violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act in connection with poisoning migratory birds. The club was fined \$20,000; the president was ordered to pay \$10,000 in fines.
- A North Dakota resident who pole-trapped migratory birds paid \$20,000 in restitution and lost his hunting privileges for 18 months.
- A Texas man who trapped hawks to protect his racing pigeons was fined \$5,000 and ordered to submit a letter of apology to a national publication for pigeon racers.
- Federal and State prosecutions of a Maine man for killing migratory birds and harbor seals (a protected marine mammal) included a year's worth of prison time, \$7,290 in fines, and an eight-year suspension of his hunting privileges in Maine.
- A Service/State investigation of illegal big game hunting in Colorado and Wyoming secured \$56,456 in fines and restitution from multiple defendants. The main subject, who was prosecuted on State felony charges in both States, was sent to prison for four years, ordered to pay \$46,007 in fines and restitution, and lost his hunting privileges for life.

- An Oklahoma resident whose illegal hunting activities in Kansas resulted in Lacey Act charges pleaded guilty and was ordered to pay \$15,000 in fines and restitution.
- Two out-of-state hunters paid \$12,000 in fines and restitution for Lacey Act violations committed in connection with big game hunts in South Dakota.
- Six hunters who killed 52 wood ducks during a Louisiana hunt paid \$18,300 in Federal fines.
- Five Florida men who pleaded guilty to killing over the legal limit and wanton waste of waterfowl paid \$24,000 in fines; each was also ordered to serve 42 months probation during which they are banned from hunting in the United States.

Industrial Hazards

- A utility in Portland, Oregon, plans to spend \$100,000 a year for the next three years to retrofit powerlines that represent a threat to raptors and other protected birds.
- A utility in Texas conducted remediation efforts at 13 sites in the Texas Panhandle where it voluntarily reported avian collisions or electrocutions.
- A Wyoming oil company responsible for the deaths of at least 28 migratory birds pleaded guilty to wildlife charges and paid \$15,000 in fines and restitution.
- Another Wyoming oil and gas company whose powerlines electrocuted protected birds was ordered to pay \$10,000 in fines and restitution and develop and implement an avian protection plan at its holdings in Wyoming and New Mexico.
- A New Mexico oil company responsible for the take of 34 migratory birds in an open oil sludge pit must pay \$11,158 in fines and develop a program to detect problems with oil operating machinery that might endanger wildlife.
- A Federal/State investigation in Texas secured the conviction of a petroleum company and its subsidiary for violating the Clean Air Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; the latter charges were related to bird deaths in two large open tanks at a company refinery in Corpus Christi.
- A Dallas oil company agreed to pay \$10,000 in restitution to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory in connection with the unlawful take of migratory birds in an improperly netted oil sludge pit at a facility in Titus County, Texas.
- Fourteen oil production companies paid \$30,525 in fines and penalties for Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations detected during Service inspections of facilities in the Lubbock/Post areas of the Texas Panhandle in July 2006. Another four companies in the Texas/Oklahoma panhandle paid \$6,700 in penalties after inspections were conducted in October 2006.

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 2007 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. Seizures at ports of entry are often the starting point for full-scale criminal investigations of smuggling activity. A representative sampling of seizures and penalties secured in FY 2007 appears below.

- In New York, a company acting as broker for a major fashion retailer paid \$68,000 in civil penalties for four unlawfully imported shipments of blue coral jewelry.
- Penalties of \$4,000 and \$2,000 were collected from two companies for the import of alligator watchstraps and Chinese weasel fur products without CITES permits.
- Officers in New York seized two large suitcases containing CITES-protected wildlife from a traveler from Zimbabwe; the contents included 15 African elephant ivory carvings, one leopard rug, two bushbuck skulls with horns, antelope wall hangings, five zebra rugs, three tanned crocodile skins, two tanned monitor skins, and one anoa horn.
- Two companies involved in the import of coral from Vietnam without required permits paid \$10,000 in penalties.
- A U.S. airline paid an \$8,000 penalty for the inhumane transport of a shipment of tropical fish and marine invertebrates from Belize; all wildlife died before reaching New York.

- Two European cargo carriers each paid \$6,000 in penalties for inhumane transport violations.
- A New York resident paid \$1,625 in penalties for violations related to the import of CITES-protected finches.
- A company paid a \$5,000 civil penalty for importing a shipment of caiman belts with an altered CITES permit at the border crossing in Champlain, New York.
- Staff in Baltimore seized two full-mount leopard trophies that were imported without valid CITES permits.
- Staff in Atlanta foiled the illegal importation of a leopard skin imported as a personal sport-hunted trophy using a false CITES permit. Inspectors at this port also seized five leopard trophies that either lacked tags or were improperly tagged.
- An inspection blitz of passenger flights arriving in Atlanta from the Caribbean and Central America during peak sea turtle nesting season resulted in the seizure of 69 sea turtle eggs, two pounds of sea turtle meat, two shells, and nine pieces of sea turtle jewelry.
- Other seizures in Atlanta included beluga caviar; traditional Asian medicinals made from seahorse, tiger, whale and other protected species; and 75 pieces of CITES-listed black coral products declared as “sea weed.”
- An inspection blitz in Miami resulted in the seizure of over 200 sea turtle eggs and the interception of a commercial shipment of queen conch shells and caiman products that lacked CITES permits.
- Inspectors at this port stopped a passenger on two occasions trying to bring in commercial quantities of iguana eggs and products from Honduras without CITES permits; 168 eggs and 16 iguana bodies were seized along with 10 pounds of queen conch meat.
- A proactive inspection effort in Miami targeting commercial watch shipments resulted in the seizure of 259 illegally imported watches made from CITES-protected species such as alligator, crocodile and tegu; the watches were worth an estimated \$77,700.
- Miami inspectors intercepted a shipment of 83 live royal pythons that had been collected in Benin and Toga and shipped via Ghana without CITES permits.
- Seizures in Miami included an ocelot skin recovered from a passenger arriving from Guyana; 67 crocodile teeth illegally imported from Peru in violation of CITES; 101 live CITES-protected Mantella frogs from Madagascar; and 2,350 pairs of arapaima earrings with no CITES permit in a commercial shipment of Peruvian handicrafts.
- Other interceptions of CITES-protected species imported without permits included live reptiles from Central and South America and multiple shipments of reptilian leather products from Italy.

- Service inspectors intercepted an ocean cargo shipment containing 100 pounds of CITES-listed staghorn coral that entered the country at Fort Lauderdale, Florida.
- The Service inspector in Tampa stopped a commercial shipment from Vietnam declared as shell products that actually contained CITES-protected giant clams.
- A weekend inspection blitz of international passengers arriving in Charlotte, North Carolina, resulted in the seizure of 109 pieces of CITES-protected coral as well as queen conch shells and meat.
- Seizures in Puerto Rico included shipments of sea turtle meat, pilot whale meat, and queen conch meat.
- In Louisville, a leather company paid a \$1,025 civil penalty for importing a shipment of caiman shoes from Brazil without a CITES permit. An art gallery forfeited items made from elephant ivory and sea turtle shell while another importer forfeited a shipment of wildlife skulls and dried bats and lizards that included 67 monkey skulls.
- Other commercial shipments seized in Louisville included one from Thailand containing jewelry made from Appendix II seahorses; a shipment containing six python-trimmed pool cues, 46 crocodile belts, 10 crocodile wallets, 15 Eastern grey kangaroo pouches and one kangaroo hat; and two commercial shipments from an Italian company that falsely declared jackets trimmed with crocodilian leather as having calf leather trim.
- In Memphis, a student from Kazakhstan whose family runs a Caspian Sea caviar processing plant was fined \$2,150 for unlawfully importing a commercial quantity of sturgeon caviar (including beluga caviar) in his baggage.
- Other seizures in Memphis included commercial shell shipments exported in violation of Philippine law; crab-eating macaques; and leather goods made from CITES species.
- Defendants in Dallas who smuggled a walrus trophy in from Canada paid \$10,050 in fines.
- Inspectors in Dallas stopped a passenger bringing in commercial quantities of Asian medicinals; items seized included 58 dried seahorses, 30 dried Tokay geckos, 17 dried sea moths, 10 dried starfish, and 8 dried pipefish.
- Seizures in Dallas also included a commercial shipment of 150 mirror frames and 250 picture frames made from coral imported from China without a CITES permit; a black-faced impala trophy from Namibia; a Hartmann's mountain zebra skin from Namibia that had no CITES permit; a stuffed green sea turtle and 16 bottles of tonic made from seahorses smuggled in by a passenger arriving from Vietnam; a cargo shipment of live coral; and a mail shipment of 3,600 Canadian harp seal oil pills.
- A businessman in Houston paid a \$15,000 penalty and forfeited three unlawfully imported shipments from China containing 1,881 pounds of coral and mother-of-pearl products.

- An individual who imported a leopard trophy that had actually been taken by his adult son paid a \$15,000 civil penalty.
- Other seizures in Houston included a commercial shipment containing 156 pieces of jewelry and handicrafts made from Nile crocodile and other CITES species unlawfully imported from Zimbabwe; an undeclared import of 312 pounds of sea bamboo coral valued at \$3,000; 125 sea turtle eggs hidden in the baggage of travelers; 40 smuggled iguana eggs; a leopard trophy imported without a CITES permit; Hartmann's zebra trophies from Namibia that arrived with CITES permits authorizing export to Mexico; and a large sea turtle mount imported without CITES pre-Convention documentation.
- Illegal wildlife products intercepted at Denver International Airport included caviar, elephant skins, a leopard skull from Zimbabwe, 2,500 butterflies unlawfully imported from China, and an \$18,000 shipment of alligator watch bands imported in violation of CITES.
- Seizures at the border in Pembina, North Dakota, included a barbary sheep trophy; black bear, wolf and lynx hides; and a wolf skull imported without required CITES permits.
- In Dunseith, the Service inspector stopped an individual attempting to import 84 freshly plucked eagle feathers and seized black bear paws and river otter and bobcat hides that lacked CITES permits.
- Seizures in Sweetgrass, Montana, included migratory bird feathers; bighorn sheep and wolf skulls that lacked CITES permits; unlawfully harvested salmon; whale baleen; and black bear meat imported without CITES permits.
- In Anchorage, a watch company that racked up 16 violations in a six-month period paid \$10,750 in penalties and forfeited \$19,000 worth of merchandise.
- Inspectors in Anchorage intercepted a falsely declared shipment from Bali that actually contained walrus bones and whalebone carvings; the importer paid \$5,025 in penalties.

Investigative Efforts

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

- A three-year undercover investigation of large-scale trafficking in sea turtle skin, shell, and products from Mexico and China resulted in multiple arrests and searches in the United States and Mexico. Ten individuals indicted in the United States included three Mexican skin dealers and two shell traffickers from China; cooperation with Mexican authorities secured five arrests in that country.

- An investigation of U.S.-Mexico cross-border trafficking in exotic leather products made from CITES Appendix I and II species identified 51 individuals and 24 businesses participating in smuggling activities (including some of the same subjects investigated in the case cited above). Prosecutions began with guilty pleas from the owners of one business and the issuance of violation notices to two other defendants.
- U.S. and Canadian investigators broke up a major smuggling organization trafficking in CITES Appendix II queen conch meat. The individuals and companies involved are believed to have illegally imported the equivalent of nearly seven fully loaded semi-trailers of conch meat from several Caribbean and South American countries to the United States and Canada. Defendants face charges in both countries.
- Two defendants charged in an investigation involving the smuggling of over \$540,000 worth of sperm whale teeth were sentenced in Federal court; one was fined \$100,000 while the other must pay a \$150,000 fine. Sentencing of a third defendant was postponed until after he testifies against a British whale tooth/ivory supplier in the United Kingdom.
- A Japanese butterfly smuggler who tried to sell a Service undercover agent more than \$294,000 worth of rare and endangered butterflies was sent to prison for 21 months and fined \$30,000.
- An Ontario resident charged in both the United States and Canada for wildlife smuggling via the internet was fined \$10,000 on this side of the border after pleading guilty to one felony count; his transactions involved items made from protected species.
- A California man who smuggled live eagle owl eggs from Austria pleaded guilty to two counts of smuggling and two counts of making false statements. He was sentenced to 21 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine.
- A West Philadelphia storeowner charged for smuggling and selling items made from endangered species (including ivory tusks and a gorilla skull) pleaded guilty to all counts of a 10-count indictment; she was sent to prison for five months followed by three years supervised release and was fined \$1,000.
- Two South African big game guides involved in an illegal leopard hunting and smuggling scheme both pleaded guilty to Federal charges after being arrested at a sports show in Pennsylvania where both were advertising their businesses. The men tried to import five hides and three skulls of leopards illegally killed in South Africa, smuggled to Zimbabwe, then shipped to the United States with false CITES permits. One defendant was sent to prison for 18 months while the other was fined \$5,000.
- A joint Service/Environment Canada investigation of the unlawful importation of walrus trophies taken in Canada resulted in the collection of more than \$13,000 in fines and the recovery of walrus parts from hunters in California, Texas, and Montana.

- A man suspected of selling protected cats to breeders in the United States pleaded guilty to illegally importing an endangered Asian leopard cat via Miami for sale in this country. He was ordered to spend six months in home confinement, serve five years probation, pay a \$1,500 fine, and forfeit the cat, which he had sold for more than \$4,000.
- An Arizona man who smuggled 14 CITES Appendix I orchids into the United States from Indonesia by mail was ordered to pay \$10,000 in fines and restitution.
- A Los Angeles resident pleaded guilty to three felony counts in connection with illegal trafficking in CITES-protected cycads. The man, who smuggled 51 Appendix I plants and 500 seeds into the United States from Zimbabwe between 1998 and 2001, was fined \$7,500 and placed on probation for three years.
- A Los Angeles man caught smuggling five Asian arowanas into the United States from Vietnam was sentenced to two years probation and four months home detention.
- Two defendants caught smuggling unlawfully collected desert pupfish from Mexico were each fined \$7,000 and placed on probation for two years.

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 2007 Accomplishments

- In FY 2007, Service wildlife inspectors processed more than 187,000 wildlife shipments with a declared value of more than \$2.8 billion.
- Use of "e-Decs" (the Service's electronic system for declaring wildlife imports and exports) increased, with 70 percent of all declarations being submitted electronically. The system speeds the declaration process and facilitates communication between wildlife trade customers and Service wildlife inspectors.
- 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 20 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 32,176 shipments, remained the Nation's busiest port of entry for wildlife trade.
- Los Angeles was the second busiest port of entry for wildlife imports and exports. The 24,416 shipments processed at this location included many containing live wildlife. On the East Coast, inspectors in Miami also handled a significant volume of live wildlife trade.

- Inspectors in Anchorage processed 14,162 shipments, making that city the Nation’s third busiest designated port.
- Improvements to e-Decs included the expansion of corporate payment capabilities and improvements in document imaging.
- 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. From a “customer service” perspective, ITDS promises to streamline import/export procedures and reduce shipment processing times.
- Law Enforcement staff worked with Service International Affairs to publish new regulations for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the United States. The revised regulations incorporate changes made by the CITES member nations over the past 30 years and provide a comprehensive easy-to-use guide that will help importers and exporters conduct international trade in CITES species.
- The Office of Law Enforcement continued to use public bulletins to communicate with import/export customers and help businesses comply with wildlife import/export laws. In FY 2007, bulletins alerted the wildlife trade community about:
 - Revisions of U.S. regulations implementing CITES
 - Implementation of the Captive Wildlife Safety Act
 - Ban on imports of live silver and largescale silver carp
 - Changes in CITES listings
 - Changes in the Service declaration form and eDecs
 - Trade suspensions
 - Service requirements for processing consolidated freight
- Use of scanning technology allowed UPS to increase “paperless” declaration entries at the port of Louisville to almost 95 percent. The company also decided to pilot use of the Service’s corporate fee payment process at this location, with the goal of expanding its use at other UPS locations nationwide.
- Inspectors in Louisville participated in a trade compliance fair at UPS Headquarters that reached some 430 employees; additional outreach targeted some 120 nightshift employees.
- Ongoing consultation with FedEx in Memphis has helped streamline the clearance process; goals include achieving a near 100 percent rate of eDec usage; reducing the rate of unauthorized releases prior to clearance; decreasing the amount of time that packages are delayed for clearance; and providing 24-hour inspection services.
- Memphis inspectors provided wildlife import/export training to FedEx Trade Networks employees who act as brokers for FedEx.

- Inspector participation in meetings of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce helped improve communication with the Miami Broker's Association and other groups.
- Miami inspection staff presented import/export training at a general membership meeting of the Florida Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association.
- By the end of the reporting period, 80 percent of all declarations filed in Miami were submitted via eDecs thanks to sustained promotional efforts that included one-on-one outreach and followup with corporate officers. eDecs users at this location now include a major broker dealing with the bulk of the live wildlife trade in Miami.
- Outreach to the import/export community in Tampa sent e-Decs usage there up to nearly 99 percent of all entries; nearly 50 percent of all fee payments are also being made via e-Decs.
- The Service inspector in Tampa provided training sessions to brokers, importers, and exporters including express mail company representatives whose firms hope to increase their share of the aquaculture export market formerly handled by Air Canada.
- Inspectors from Atlanta provided training on securing shipment clearance and other wildlife import/export requirements to customs brokers working with cargo imports at the non-designated, non-staffed port of Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Inspectors in Boston provided training on e-Decs and Service import/export requirements to staff at a local customs brokerage.
- Wildlife inspectors in Newark providing training on preparing declaration forms to representatives from two international express shipping companies.
- The Newark inspection office participated in the Maritime Port Group – a trade facilitation forum for Federal agencies, terminal operators, warehouse operators, shipping lines, broker associations, trucker groups, and others with a stake in port operations.
- The inspector in Sweetgrass, Montana, met with brokers to explain the declaration process and point out common problems that delay clearance.
- Inspectors in El Paso met with members of the El Paso International Brokers Association to explain import/export regulations and identify ways to expedite shipment clearance.
- Service staff met with the Laredo Broker's Association to conduct e-Decs training and a Q&A session on wildlife import/export requirements.
- Service inspectors conducted other outreach activities targeting brokers, commercial importers and exporters, and international travelers to improve understanding of wildlife laws and regulations (see section on "Promoting Compliance").

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 is also working to improve professional accountability. A Professional Responsibility Unit has been established to respond to public concerns and identify and resolve systemic issues involving the conduct and integrity of law enforcement operations.

FY 2007 Accomplishments

Strategic Planning and Performance Monitoring

- The Office of Law Enforcement compiled baseline data documenting program performance under its Strategic Plan for FY 2006-2010. Reporting procedures were implemented for measures involving enforcement partnerships and compliance outreach.
- The program completed its second year of managing 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.
- Nine new agents recruited to work at locations where vacancies are difficult to fill completed Special Agent Basic School; most were experienced investigators from other Federal law enforcement agencies.
- A class of 13 entry-level wildlife inspectors completed the seven-week Wildlife Inspector Basic School.
- National in-service training programs for agents and inspectors, which had been suspended in FY 2006 due to budget constraints, were held at the National Conservation Training Center.

Leveraging Technology

- Enhancements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) included upgrades to hardware and software components to provide users with seamless and stable systems; improvements in system security; resolution of authentication issues; enhancements to reduce system downtime in event of failure; and improvements in query capabilities and overall efficiency of applications.
- Efforts to improve the program's electronic declarations system (eDecs) included enhancements involving document imaging and expansion of corporate payment capabilities to streamline the payment process.
- Work continued on the interagency International Trade Data System (ITDS), which promises improvements for trade enforcement and trade facilitation. Activities in FY 2007 included efforts to resolve issues concerning Service enforcement authorities; work to support the design phase of the system's core import processing functionality; and efforts to obtain necessary background checks and security clearances for Service inspectors.
- The Office of Law Enforcement continued to support the development of the Incident Management, Analysis and Reporting System (a Departmental law enforcement records system).

Professional Responsibility

- The Professional Responsibility Unit issued Service policy outlining responsibilities and procedures for addressing complaints about the professional conduct of Service special agents, wildlife inspectors, and refuge officers and their non-law enforcement supervisors.
- The Unit dealt with 47 cases involving allegations of possible misconduct by Service law enforcement officers and employees in both the Office of Law Enforcement and the National Wildlife Refuge System. Unit staff conducted 17 investigations while 30 complaints were handled through administrative inquiries.
- The Unit conducted 13 training sessions. These programs included overviews of Unit functions for agent and inspector in-service and basic training programs as well as instruction on conducting administrative inquiries for Service law enforcement supervisors.

Other Accomplishments

- The Branch of Investigations (INV) in the headquarters Office of Law Enforcement prepared and published new Service Manual chapters dealing with licenses, permits and certificates and uniform requirements for wildlife inspectors.
- INV policy issuances included new LE Memos on the deployment of law enforcement officers under ESF-13 and defensive and control tactics training. A previously issued LE Memo on consensual monitoring was updated.

- Chief's Directives were prepared and posted providing guidance on premium pay and related allowances for special agents; creation of an Assistant Special Agent in Charge Team; U.S./Canada cross-border law enforcement assistance; field guidance for testing approved non-toxic shot; enforcing the Captive Wildlife Safety Act; and enforcing CITES permit validation requirements.
- INV completed and published a final rule implementing the Captive Wildlife Safety Act.
- International Affairs and the Office of Law Enforcement completed and published a final rule updating Service regulations that implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the United States.
- Legislative activities included providing input on proposed amendments adding protections for foreign timber and plants to the Lacey Act and working with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Justice Department to address concerns related to proposed amendments to the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- INV staff represented Service Law Enforcement on bureau, Interior Department, and interagency working groups addressing such issues as the delisting of the bald eagle, illegal logging, injurious species, emergency response, avian influenza, and ITDS implementation and development.

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 2007 Accomplishments

Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation

- The Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, U.S. Coast Guard, and local law enforcement agencies teamed to enforce boat speed laws that protect manatees.
- A coordinated plan for responding to wildlife crimes in south Florida was developed by enforcement supervisors from the Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Big Cypress National Preserve, and Everglades National Park.
- Service agents in New Mexico are participating in a multi-agency Federal/State task force aimed at identifying outfitters and hunting guides involved in unlawful commercialization of wildlife.
- Service Law Enforcement worked with South Dakota Fish and Game, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the National Park Service to increase compliance with regulations that protect least terns and piping plovers along the Missouri River.
- A Service agent is working with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Washington County Sheriff's Department, Bureau of Land Management, Snow Canyon State Park, and other Washington County offices to address enforcement issues related to that county's desert tortoise reserve.
- Agents planned and participated in the 2007 North of 60 Conference in Homer, Alaska; attendees represented Federal, State, and Canadian law enforcement agencies.

Federal Partnerships

- Cooperative case work in FY 2007 included joint investigations with such Federal agencies as NOAA Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Agency, Customs and Border Protection,

and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. 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 drawn from 10 Cabinet departments that are working directly with Customs and Border Protection to design and develop the International Trade Data System. This multi-year “e-Government” initiative promises to expedite legal commerce, support smuggling interdiction, and improve coordination within the trade enforcement community.
- Service Law Enforcement teamed with other Federal entities to implement the White House’s “National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza.” Efforts involved developing a framework for improving bird smuggling interdiction; assisting other countries in controlling the illegal movement of potentially diseased wildlife; and producing a U.S. government avian flu brochure for distribution to the import/export community.
- A new cooperative enforcement agreement with Everglades National Park will allow rangers there to enforce boat speed restrictions that protect endangered manatees.
- Service agents are participating in the New Mexico Borderland Management Task Force, an interagency effort to strengthen border security and protect natural resources.
- Inspectors in Miami teamed with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to conduct a two-week inspection blitz of tropical fish shipments; efforts focused on intercepting prohibited plant material and enforcing wildlife laws.
- The Service inspector in Tampa teamed with Customs counterparts to conduct inspections for passenger cruise ships during the “high season.”
- Service officers along the Canadian border participated in enforcement blitzes with Customs and Border Protection in Sweetgrass, Montana; Raymond, Montana; Pembina, North Dakota; and Portal, North Dakota.
- Service Law Enforcement used cross-training to expand its enforcement reach, particularly with respect to policing wildlife trade. During the reporting year, 1,776 new Customs and Border Protection officers received instruction in wildlife import/export requirements during their basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- Import/export cross-training was also provided to 378 new Customs and Border Protection agriculture inspectors and 197 new U.S. military customs clearance agents.
- Wildlife inspectors throughout the country also provided wildlife import/export training to Customs and Border Protection staff. Inspection offices conducting such training included those located in Atlanta, Dallas, El Paso, Miami, Newark, Nogales, Phoenix, Sweetgrass, and Tampa.

- Service inspectors provided import/export training to military customs inspectors at the Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in California, the San Diego Naval Station, and via remote broadcast to naval stations in Everett, Washington, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- Import/export and CITES training was provided to U.S. Air Force staff at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota and at Carswell Air Force Base in Texas.
- Service staff in Atlanta provided training to Transportation Safety Administration employees assigned to the international baggage facility at Hartsfield International Airport.

State Partnerships

- The Service renewed or entered new cooperative law enforcement agreements with State agencies in Idaho, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming.
- Service special agents worked numerous joint investigations with State counterparts that exposed illegal commercialization of wildlife resources, unlawful hunting and guiding, and other wildlife crimes. Many of these investigations are highlighted in the “Protecting America’s Wildlife” section of this report.
- Cooperative migratory game bird hunting enforcement work included joint Federal/State enforcement operations in Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Carolina, Utah, Virginia, and other States.
- Service staff teamed with State counterparts in New Jersey, Montana, North Dakota, and other States to conduct game check stations.
- Service and State officers in Montana teamed to conduct back-country grizzly bear patrols during the opening of Montana’s general big game season.
- Service special agents served as instructors for State conservation officer training programs in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and other States.
- Agents helped teach an undercover operations program at the Western Wildlife Investigators Academy in Helena, Montana.
- A Service agent provided training on wildlife poisoning and contaminants investigations at the Texas Environmental Law Enforcement Officers Association conference.
- A Service special agent helped the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency develop a curriculum for an “undercover school” for officers from Tennessee and Kentucky.
- Service presentations at the Tri-State Game Warden Meeting were attended by law enforcement chiefs and staff from Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

- An agent in Arizona provided a presentation on Endangered Species Act enforcement at a symposium conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.

Tribal Partnerships

- The Service and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society presented a basic wildlife enforcement training program for Native American conservation officers at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Thirty-two officers from 13 tribes completed the course.
- The National Eagle Repository filled 2,369 requests from Native Americans for eagles and eagle parts for religious use.

International Partnerships

- Two Office of Law Enforcement representatives served as members of the U.S. delegation to the 14th Conference of Parties of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which met in The Hague, The Netherlands, in June 2007.
- The Service continued working with the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking – a global initiative launched by the State Department to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- Special agents conducted validation studies of wildlife crime investigation courses that were conducted in the Philippines and Thailand in 2006.
- 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; 32 officers from nine sub-Saharan African nations completed the training.
- Service agents provided criminal investigative training to 30 officers from Indonesian police, customs, and forestry agencies.
- Agents conducted a two-week criminal investigators course for 30 members of the Philippine National Anti-Environment Crime Task Force.
- The Service provided wildlife trade training to customs and inspection agents in Mongolia.
- The Service presented a wildlife crime investigators course to members of the Brazilian Federal Police Environmental Crimes Division.
- The Service Forensics Laboratory helped plan and teach an international workshop on crime scene investigative techniques for coral reefs.

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 2007 Accomplishments

- The Office of Law Enforcement teamed with the Service's Migratory Bird program and the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee to issue an updated edition of *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines*.
- Agents throughout the country worked with utilities to reduce electrocution risks to protected birds. Examples include liaison with the New Mexico Avian Protection Work Group; outreach that secured remedial action from companies in North Dakota and Wyoming; assistance in helping companies develop avian protection plans in Utah and Nebraska; presentations at meetings sponsored by the Northwest Public Power Association and the Maryland and District of Columbia Utilities Association; and work with utility and conservation groups in Nebraska to reduce electrocution threats to whooping cranes.
- An electronic bird mortality reporting system was made available for use by electric utilities nationwide. The system makes it easier for companies to work with the Service in tracking bird mortality and identifying and correcting problematic power distribution structures.
- Outreach to prevent migratory bird deaths linked to heating devices ("heater/treaters") used at oil fields included a presentation to the executive board of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Producers Association; the mailing of compliance information to some 2,100 Kansas oil producers; and liaison with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission that secured changes in their regulations.
- Agents in New Mexico are working with the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Navajo Nation Conservation Department to develop protocols for capping old oil well sites that will limit damage to endangered milkweed plants.

- An agent in Colorado worked with officials at an air force base to limit the impact of construction activities on burrowing owls and other protected species.
- In South Carolina, Service Law Enforcement worked with property owners and townships on coastal islands to address lighting that disorients sea turtles during nesting season.
- Service agents conducted patrols along the Missouri River in South Dakota and Nebraska to alert individuals pursuing leisure activities about the need to avoid disturbing piping plover and least tern nests. Agents also worked with landowners in Colorado to enhance protections for these birds.
- A Service agent presented training on Federal migratory bird rehabilitation regulations at the Arizona Wildlife Rehabilitators Symposium.
- An agent in Alaska presented information on the export and sale of Alaska Native artwork at the first Alaska Native Artists Summit.
- Service Law Enforcement provided a presentation on wildlife laws at a Museums Alaska conference; attendees included professionals from museums and native cultural centers.
- Agents met with hunters and community leaders from villages throughout the North Slope of Alaska to promote compliance with subsistence hunting requirements for marine mammals and migratory birds. Agents also worked as part of Service outreach teams to address this issue via mailings, radio announcements, newspaper articles, posters, and public presentations.
- An agent in Florida met with the Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors to negotiate protective measures for the endangered Harper's beauty (a federally listed plant).
- Outreach to the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (which sponsors over 800 rodeos each year) secured new efforts from the group to ban contestants from wearing or displaying protected bird feathers; the group achieved 100 percent compliance from all contestants during the National Rodeo Finals.
- A Service agent in Nebraska worked to educate the staff of a large outdoor sporting goods company's taxidermy purchasing department about Federal laws governing the purchase and transport of wildlife between States and between the United States and Canada.
- Outreach to the hunting community included staffing an outreach booth at the Safari Club International convention in Reno, Nevada; participation in the New Mexico Game and Fish "Outdoor Expo"; conducting a public seminar in Texas on dove hunting and agricultural practices; and presentations to such groups as Legacy Outfitters (an association of hunters, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts) in Fort Worth, Texas.
- Inspectors in Texas distributed information on Service import/export requirements to help hunters returning from Mexico comply with U.S. regulations.

- An inspector in North Dakota compiled information on Canadian hunting regulations and related import/export requirements for distribution to U.S. hunters pursuing their sport in that country.
- The Service provided informational handouts about migratory bird tagging and possession limits to guides and bird processors in South Dakota for distribution to hunting clients.
- Inspectors in southern California presented a workshop on CITES and humane transport at the international conference of the Animal Transport Association (ATA) and provided a presentation at a conference sponsored by the Independent Pet and Animal Transportation Association International.
- Service wildlife inspectors explained import/export rules at a foreign press “Know Before You Go” media event at Baltimore Washington International (BWI) Airport that reached an estimated 100 million people worldwide.
- Inspectors in Baltimore also manned an outreach exhibit at the BWI Air Cargo Expo.
- The Service teamed with the City of Atlanta to develop and install a new wildlife trade exhibit at Hartsfield International Airport.
- The inspector in Dunseith updated a guide to provincial fishing regulations for distribution at all North Dakota border crossings to help anglers pursuing their sport in Canada.
- Information was also provided to ports and to the Saskatchewan and Manitoba Lodges and Outfitters Association on black bear imports, paw/claw removal, and CITES permit requirements.
- Broad-based public outreach included a law enforcement booth at the Kentucky State Fair and participation in such events as the Baltimore Port Festival, the annual aviation symposium in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, the Whale Watch Weekend Festival at Cabrillo National Monument near San Diego, and Earth Day celebrations at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific and at Balboa Park in San Diego.
- Office of Law Enforcement headquarters staff responded to 1,625 requests from the public for information about wildlife laws and law enforcement matters.
- The National Wildlife Property Repository responded to 92 requests for wildlife items from schools, zoos, and other organizations seeking materials for use in teaching the public about wildlife trade; 3,055 items were supplied for such use in FY 2007.

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 2007 Accomplishments

Forensics Support

- Laboratory scientists worked on 483 cases involving the analysis of over 2,000 pieces of evidence collected during investigations of wildlife crime.
- Forensic analyses were provided in support of 474 Federal investigations, 8 State cases, and one international investigation.
- The Laboratory's Morphology Team conducted more than 1,200 species identifications based on photographs submitted by email (primarily from Service wildlife inspectors at the Nation's ports of entry). The Laboratory's assistance helped facilitate release of legal shipments and provided probable cause for seizure of specimens in 56 percent of the ornithological identifications, 49 percent of the identifications involving mammals, and 75 percent of those submitted for reptiles.
- Laboratory analysts testified in court in wildlife crime cases on 11 different occasions.
- Analysts from the Digital Evidence Unit provided crime scene analysis for four computer search warrants; lab morphologists responded to a crime scene in Colorado.
- The Laboratory's website (its primary outreach tool) received more than 2.6 million hits in FY 2007 – an average of over 7,200 hits per day.

- Work was completed on a 17,000-square-foot addition to the Laboratory, which includes a biological containment area (so that staff can safely handle potentially hazardous materials, such as blood pathogens and other substances that carry disease); a state-of-the-art genetics lab; and a modern necropsy unit.

Research and Analysis

- The Chemistry Unit implemented screening techniques for anticoagulant rodenticides, sodium fluoroacetate (Compound 1080), and zinc phosphide, expanding its capabilities to identify environmental toxins involved in wildlife crime cases.
- The Criminalistics Unit developed a method for identifying and characterizing sea turtle keratin using Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy.
- The Laboratory's fingerprint specialists developed a biochemical method for recovering latent prints from porous surfaces.
- Genetics researchers developed a protocol for use in determining whether an ivory tusk comes from an African or Asian elephant.
- Another new protocol allows scientists to extract DNA from tanned sea turtle leather and hides for use in identifying source species.
- The Morphology Section expanded the on-line feather atlas so that it now covers 64 bird species.
- Lab morphologists developed a cross-section method for differentiating elephant and giraffe tail hairs, making it easier to identify the species used in bracelets, earrings, and other items.
- Standards added to the morphology "catalogs" included 49 mammal specimens, 146 bird specimens, and 10 reptile specimens.
- The Digital Evidence Unit developed protocols for seizing cell phones, smart phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs); acquiring cell phones and PDAs; taking digital photographs of evidence items; and archiving digital evidence images.

Training

- A team of six lab scientists provided crime scene processing training to law enforcement officers with the National Park Service.
- A lab scientist provided forensic and crime scene investigation training at the CITES Masters course in Baeza, Spain. The course is an intensive three-months masters program on management, access, and conservation of species in trade sponsored by the CITES member nations.

- Lab scientists helped conduct wildlife crime investigation training for the Brazilian Federal Police in Brazil and at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana.
- The Laboratory director helped plan and teach “CSI for Coral Reefs: Investigative and Enforcement Forensics Field Training Workshop” in Cozumel, Mexico.
- Lab scientists provided training at both Special Agent and Wildlife Inspector Basic Schools.

Other Staff Presentations

Laboratory staff provided presentations at the following meetings:

- North American Ornithology Conference, Veracruz, Mexico, October 2006
- Department of Justice Science and Environmental Crimes Seminar, Columbia, South Carolina, May 2007
- Assessing Skin Leather Symposium, Winterthur, Delaware, June 2007
- Animal Ethology Symposium, Denton, Texas, June 2007
- North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, St. Paul, Minnesota, July 2007
- Wildlife Forensic Pathology workshop (presented by lab scientists), Wildlife Disease Association Annual Meeting, Estes Park, Colorado, August 2007
- Fisheries Forensics Symposium (organized by lab scientist), Annual Meeting of the American Fisheries Society, September 2007

Publications

Laboratory staff published the following papers or publications:

- Baker, B.W. 2006. Forensic Implications of Dorsal Scale Row Counts on Puff-faced Water Snakes (Colubridae: Homalopsinae: *Homalopsis buccata*). *Herpetological Review* 37(2):171-173.
- Espinoza, E.O., B.W. Baker, and C.A. Berry. 2007. The Analysis of Sea Turtle and Bovid Keratin Artifacts using DRIFT Spectroscopy and Discriminant Analysis. *Archaeometry* 49, (4): 685-698.
- Koler-Matznick, J., B.C. Yates, S. Bulmer, and I.L. Brisbin, Jr. 2007. The New Guinea Singing Dog: Its Status and Scientific Importance. *Australian Mammalogy* 29(1):47-56.
- Sims, M.E. 2007. Comparison of Black Bear Paws to Human Hands and Feet. Identification Guides for Wildlife Law Enforcement No. 11. USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory.
- Sims, M.E. and B.W. Baker. 2006. Tusk Or Bone?: An Example Of Fake Walrus Ivory In The Wildlife Trade. Identification Guides for Wildlife Law Enforcement No. 10. USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory..
- Stroud, R. K. 2007. Arrow Verses Gunshot - Tips for Field Investigators. *International Game Warden Magazine*. Spring 2007: 20-23.

- Trail, P.W. 2006. Recognizing Decorative Body Feathers of Pheasants and Related Birds. Identification Guides for Wildlife Law Enforcement No. 9. USFWS, National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory.

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 2007 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 Australia, Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, the Philippines, the United Kingdom, and other countries.
- Intelligence Unit staff compiled, analyzed, and presented data on reptile trade in the Northeast at a multi-agency meeting.
- The Unit analyzed information on trade in native sturgeon and paddlefish for Service presentation at a meeting of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Research Association – an organization of State and Federal natural resource agencies working to improve resource management in the Mississippi River Basin.
- The Unit hosted a representative of the United Kingdom's National Wildlife Crime Unit for a week-long visit involving information exchange and training.
- Intelligence Unit staff presented training at the FY 2007 Agent in Service Training program.

- The Unit participated in the annual meeting of the Interpol Wildlife Working Group held in Tanzania. The Unit agreed to co-direct a Reptile Project Team involving 22 countries interested in pursuing cooperative investigations of international reptile trade.
- The Unit acquired additional software to mirror websites and capture video material from the Internet for use as evidence.
- The Unit updated its list of State contacts for driver's license information and its report on State restitution values. Copies of the latter were provided to State agencies in all 50 States.

Appendix A. Statistical Summary

Law Enforcement Program Facts and Figures

FY 2007 enacted budget	\$57.3 million
FY 2007 end-of-year special agent force	199
FY 2007 end-of-year wildlife inspector force	114
FY 2007 investigative case load *	12,177
<i>* This number reflects the work of both special agents and wildlife inspectors.</i>	
FY 2007 wildlife imports/exports	187,670
FY 2007 value of U.S. wildlife trade	\$2.8 billion
Number of designated ports	17 *
Number of other staffed ports	20

FY 2007 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
Newark, New Jersey *
New York, New York *
New Orleans, LA
Portland, OR
San Francisco, CA
Seattle, WA

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
Nogales, Arizona
Pembina, North Dakota
Port Huron, Michigan
St. Paul, Minnesota
San Diego, California
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sweetgrass, Montana
Tampa, Florida

** New York and Newark operate together as one "designated" port with two locations.*

FY 2007 Investigative Caseload *

Statute	Cases
African Elephant	67
Airborne Hunting	5
Archeological Resources	7
Conspiracy	58
Eagle Protection	211
Endangered Species	6,420
False Statements	36
Hunting on Indian Lands	6
Lacey	2,341
Marine Mammal Protection	217
Migratory Bird Stamp	350
Migratory Bird Treaty	1,850
National Wildlife Refuge	57
Other Federal Laws	131
Permit/License	9
Recreational	1
Rhino Tiger Labeling	70
Smuggling	79
State Laws	211
Wild Bird Conservation	51
Total	12,177

* This table reflects investigative cases worked by Service special agents and wildlife inspectors during FY 2007.

Annual Penalty Statistics, FY 2005 – 2007 *

	2005	2006	2007
Fines	\$22,233,949	\$2,343,638	\$14,216,270
Prison (years)	63	70	31
Probation (years)	685	473	536
Civil Penalties	\$1,451,796	\$4,671,254	\$5,295,158

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

FY 2006 – 2007 Wildlife Inspection Activity

Port of Entry	FY 2006 Shipments	FY 2007 Shipments
Designated Ports		
Anchorage, AK	13,722	14,162
Atlanta, GA	3,279	3,656
Baltimore, MD	2,916	2,493
Boston, MA	2,608	2,752
Chicago, IL	7,350	6,396
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	7,889	8,903
Honolulu, HI	4,295	4,900
Houston, TX	1,610	1,887
Los Angeles, CA	23,916	24,416
Louisville, KY	10,255	11,706
Memphis, TN	5,141	5,552
Miami, FL	11,413	10,825
New Orleans, LA	757	965
Newark, NJ	7,445	7,620
New York, NY	32,520	32,176
Portland, OR	1,116	1,204
San Francisco, CA	6,038	6,814
Seattle, WA	4,301	4,390
Subtotal	146,571	150,817
Non-Designated Ports		
Agana, GU	1,046	1,114
Blaine, WA	2,408	2,531
Brownsville, TX	195	303
Buffalo, NY	2,069	2,383
Champlain, NY	3,089	3,171
Detroit, MI	1,222	867
Denver, CO	565	627
Dulles, VA	Not staffed	177
Dunseith, ND	767	1,285
El Paso, TX	726	800
Laredo, TX	599	562
McAllen, TX	51	76
Nogales, AZ	1,002	443
Pembina, ND	5,275	6,447
Port Huron, MI	321	237
San Diego, CA	851	1,114
San Juan, PR	173	157
St. Paul, MN	1,314	770
Sweetgrass, MT	1,749	1,590
Tampa, FL	318	734
Subtotal	23,740	25,388
Non-Staffed Ports	12,936	11,465
Total	183,247	187,670

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 and wildlife 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.