

Annual Report FY 2006

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
August 2007



Table of Contents

Program Overview.....	2
Protecting America’s Wildlife.....	3
Combating Global Wildlife Trafficking.....	8
Facilitating Legal Wildlife Trade.....	14
Managing for Excellence.....	17
Building Enforcement Partnerships.....	20
Promoting Compliance.....	24
Supporting Officers in the Field.....	27
Appendix A. Statistical Summary.....	31
Appendix B. Laws Enforced.....	34

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 2006 Accomplishments

Illegal Commercialization

- An investigation of illegal interstate trafficking in live endangered ocelots resulted in Federal criminal charges against six individuals in four States and secured civil penalties from three others. One criminal defendant was sentenced to serve 10 months in prison and pay \$25,000 in restitution to the World Wildlife Fund. Four others negotiated plea agreements calling for the payment of \$95,000 in fines.
- Six individuals who were arrested for illegal interstate trafficking of juvenile leopard sharks in violation of California State law and the Lacey Act will pay over \$800,000 in restitution and penalties. The group, which dealt with companies in Florida, Illinois, Texas, Michigan, and Connecticut as well as in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, unlawfully collected and sold more than 10,000 specimens with a retail value of as much as \$2 million.
- In a related investigation, a Chicago couple involved in the unlawful purchase and sale of 101 leopard sharks in the pet trade paid \$10,000 to the Lacey Act Reward Account.
- Prosecutions were completed in a multiyear investigation of the illegal harvest and sale of U.S. paddlefish in the black market caviar trade. Defendants paid \$470,941 in fines and restitution and were sentenced to serve a total of 93 months in Federal prison.
- Prosecutions wrapped up in an investigation of the theft and illegal interstate sale of more than 140 tons of coral and live rock from Hawaiian waters. The investigation secured the successful prosecution of six individuals who collectively paid more than \$135,000 in restitution to support marine conservation efforts in Hawaii.
- A 21-month undercover investigation into illegal ginseng trade in Kentucky resulted in the seizure of some 430 pounds of ginseng (worth approximately \$132,000).

- As the result of another Federal/State undercover investigation into ginseng trafficking in the Southeast, two dealers were charged with 13 felony counts for exporting illegally harvested ginseng to Asia.
- Later in the year in Georgia, this same investigation resulted in the execution of 24 State arrest warrants involving individuals and medicinal herb stores in the Atlanta area that were unlawfully selling wild American ginseng and black bear parts.
- Federal felony indictments for conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act were filed in Tennessee against 11 individuals involved in the illegal harvest and export of freshwater mussels to Japan; additional indictments are expected.
- A Federal grand jury in Arizona indicted nine individuals based on a Service/State investigation of the unlawful interstate sale of live Gila monsters and other State-protected reptiles. Two other defendants were indicted in California in connection with this case.
- A Pennsylvania man who unlawfully collected and sold Pennsylvania wood turtles in interstate commerce and who was also involved in smuggling Appendix II Indian star tortoises was sentenced to serve one year in prison and pay \$25,000 in restitution.
- A Mississippi seafood company involved in the illegal harvest and interstate sale of oysters paid \$20,554 in fines, restitution, and special assessments for felony Lacey Act violations.
- Three southeast Missouri men paid more than \$18,000 in fines for illegal commercial fishing; species involved included paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and endangered pallid sturgeon. Two of the men ran a fish market that sold more than \$250,000 in fish meat and eggs in 2004 and 2005.
- A cooperative Federal/State covert investigation of seafood businesses dealing in undersized soft shell blue crabs culminated in the execution of search warrants at three Maryland seafood companies and the seizure of more than 45,000 crabs.
- Nine individuals involved in the unlawful collection and sale of migratory birds in the Miami area were convicted on Federal charges. The defendants paid over \$24,000 in fines and restitution.
- An 18-month undercover investigation snared an Arizona man who was killing and selling eagles. The man was fined \$10,000 and placed on probation for three years.
- In Alaska, two non-Native men investigated for making and selling handicrafts using marine mammal parts were fined \$9,000 and forfeited some \$50,000 worth of wildlife items. The latter included over 2,500 pieces of baleen and other marine mammal parts.
- A two-year Service/State investigation of illegal commercial guiding secured charges against 46 hunters from 11 States and the prosecution of two men who arranged and conducted illegal white-tailed deer hunts in Wisconsin. The owner of the outfitting business was

sentenced to serve two years in prison and pay \$73,534 in restitution, while a guide must pay \$76,625 in fines and restitution. Total penalties assessed by the end of the reporting period included 190 months of Federal prison terms; \$224,989 in Federal fines and restitution; 39,051 in State fines; and 79 years worth of revoked hunting privileges.

- After pleading guilty to Lacey Act charges related to unlawful guiding, a Montana outfitter was sent to prison for one year, ordered to pay \$50,000 in fines and restitution, and banned from hunting, trapping, fishing, and guiding for life in the more than 25 States that participate in the Wildlife Violators Compact. The investigation resulted in the conviction of 17 defendants, 16 trophy forfeitures, and the payment of over \$107,000 in fines and restitution.
- A Service/State investigation of an unlawful guiding operation that involved hunting by out-of-state clients on public lands in New Mexico led to the conviction of 21 individuals, including the owner of a New Mexico outfitting company, several professional guides, and a Virginia taxidermist. Penalties totaled \$110,850 in fines and restitution; 36 months imprisonment; 42 years probation; and 24 years worth of lost hunting privileges. Forfeitures included 80 wildlife trophies (which ranged from full-body cougar mounts to elk and mule deer antlers), a pickup truck, and 11 firearms.
- Prosecutions wrapped up in a multiyear investigation that exposed the illegal activities of sea duck guides and their clients in western Alaska. Sixteen guides and hunters charged in the case, which documented 599 violations, were ordered to pay \$76,210 in fines, serve 12 years probation, and forfeit some 245 mounted or raw ducks.
- A professional guide from Idaho, who served on that State's licensing board, pleaded guilty to Lacey Act charges for conducting an illegal Dall sheep hunt in Alaska. He was fined \$35,000; ordered to perform 300 hours of community service; and has been banned from hunting or guiding in Alaska during his three-year probation.
- A Juneau man conducting unlawful guiding operations was fined \$15,000 and ordered to pay more than \$7,000 in restitution; he also lost his guide license.

Illegal Take and Habitat Destruction

- Three metals companies operating in Ohio agreed to pay \$3.25 million to settle allegations that wastewater discharges from their Marietta, Ohio, facility violated the Clean Water Act and killed freshwater mussel fauna (including federally endangered species) inhabiting a four-mile stretch of the Ohio River. More than \$2 million of this payment will be used to restore mussels and other Ohio River resources.
- An Ohio corporation that manufactures specialty chemicals agreed to pay \$434,994 in penalties for a chemical discharge that killed migratory birds and thousands of fish.
- A man in Idaho who killed a grizzly bear cub while attempting to conceal the shooting of its mother by another man was sent to prison for three months, fined \$1,000, and ordered to pay \$19,300 in restitution. A second man, who destroyed the sow's radio collar, must spend two

months in prison and pay \$1,000 in fines and restitution. Both defendants lost their hunting privileges for two years.

- A commercial fishing boat captain and his employer pleaded guilty to shooting protected California sea lions. The captain was fined \$5,050 while the company was ordered to pay fines totaling \$50,375.
- Service officers in Florida conducted 29 on-the-water enforcement details to uphold boating speed limits and protect endangered manatees from boat strikes. Officers cited 687 boaters for ignoring posted speed limits and made numerous “educational stops” to advise boaters about protections for manatees.
- A Service investigation into the clearing of some 45 acres of occupied Florida scrub jay habitat at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Base secured an agreement under which the military will fund a \$600,000 five-year research project aimed at improving scrub jay habitat in designated areas.
- An employee of a land development company in Fort Myers, Florida, pleaded guilty to destroying an eagle’s nest and was fined \$5,000 and placed on probation for three years. The company itself was sentenced in September 2005 to pay \$356,125 in fines and restitution – one of the largest penalties ever assessed for a violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- Seven individuals in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas were indicted for the illegal destruction of nesting habitat for the nightingale reed warbler, an endangered species.
- A developer in Cedar City, Utah, who built a housing subdivision in the midst of a known colony of threatened Utah prairie dogs agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$10,000.
- Two men in Texas who shot and killed an endangered brown pelican were fined \$5,100.
- A Utah fish farmer paid \$7,000 in restitution for shooting 20 white pelicans.
- An Oregon berry farm that hired college students to shoot robins, cedar waxwings, and other protected songbirds paid a \$5,000 fine.
- A North Dakota outfitter who killed a golden eagle and five hawks was fined \$6,000.
- A commercial wildlife park in Texas that misused a restricted pesticide for predator control was fined \$5,425.
- Four North Carolina hunters who used false documents to circumvent Alaska big game hunting regulations paid \$19,100 in fines for violating the Lacey Act.
- Eight North Carolina residents who illegally hunted deer in Kansas were fined \$8,000, ordered to pay \$28,000 in restitution, and lost their U.S. hunting privileges for three years.

- An investigation of illegal dove hunting in Arizona secured \$12,000 in restitution that will be used to restore waterfowl habitat at the Lake Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.
- A Texas landowner who baited his property to improve dove hunting opportunities for his clients paid \$11,417 in Federal and State penalties.
- A Texas man who was found guilty of stealing timber from the Little River National Wildlife Refuge was ordered to pay \$21,000 in restitution to the refuge.
- Two Californians who pleaded guilty to Lacey Act charges connected with illegal big game hunts in Montana paid penalties totaling over \$29,000; they also forfeited trophies and lost their hunting, fishing, and trapping privileges in Compact States for five years.
- Four out-of-state hunters paid \$103,000 in Federal and State fines and restitution related to illegal deer hunts in Iowa and Kansas over a three-year period. The four also “lost” a total of 56 years worth of hunting privileges.
- A Minnesota man who was shooting great grey owls on his property was ordered to pay a \$6,800 fine and spend two years on probation while banned from hunting.

Industrial Hazards

- Efforts to reduce bird mortality at a California wind power project secured restrictions in wind turbine operating permits that should reduce the number of birds killed each year.
- A Service investigation prompted a rural utility service in North Dakota to retrofit powerlines in two areas where eagle electrocutions had been documented.
- A utility company serving customers in southern New Mexico and west Texas modified power transmission structures linked to avian electrocutions as did a company operating in eastern New Mexico.
- Work with a major West Coast utility secured the investment of \$17,000 to prevent avian mortality in the Portland area.
- Liaison with a Denver area power company secured the retrofitting of several miles of powerlines that had been linked to raptor electrocutions.
- Service agents in Florida worked with an electric utility to address electrocution threats to eagles and endangered woodstorks.
- An oil company paid a \$10,025 penalty for allowing migratory birds to die at its oil production facilities in south Texas.
- Five oil producers in Oklahoma and one in Texas paid \$14,250 in penalties for the deaths of migratory birds at their facilities.

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 2006 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 2006 appears below.

- An express mail company paid \$28,000 in civil penalties for shipping wildlife products into New York without declaring importations or securing Service clearance. This same company was fined an additional \$76,000 after it continued failing to declare shipments.
- In New York, an upscale women's clothing company paid \$11,000 in civil penalties for importing 19 shipments of blue coral jewelry in violation of CITES; the company also forfeited 18,800 pieces of jewelry valued at \$21,763.
- In New York cases involving reptilian leather goods, a high end fashion retailer paid a \$12,500 penalty for illegally importing alligator and python goods; a watch company paid an \$8,000 penalty for importing products made from tegu lizard without a CITES permit; and a leather goods firm paid \$5,500 for the illegal importation of 80 alligator and lizard products.
- Other civil penalties collected in New York included \$7,000 from a company that unlawfully imported 21 pieces of African elephant ivory and \$8,000 from an air cargo company that delivered \$27,000 worth of wildlife products without Service clearance.

- Inspectors in New York secured a \$6,000 civil penalty from a U.S. airline for the inhumane transport of a shipment containing 942 tropical fish and invertebrates – all wildlife died after the shipment was left outside for over 18 hours.
- A New York wildlife importer paid a \$4,000 civil penalty for CITES violations, including inhumane transport, associated with a shipment from Madagascar containing 307 mantella frogs, 304 geckos, 17 day geckos, and 34 chameleons (all CITES Appendix II species).
- Crew members on a flight from Moscow to New York were caught smuggling \$5,100 worth of beluga caviar one week after the United States banned imports under the Endangered Species Act.
- In Newark, New Jersey, inspectors intercepted a shipment of 1,152 tridacna shells imported from China without a CITES permit. Other seizures included Asian medicinals made from seal, seahorse, antelope, and tortoise that were mailed from China; a shipment of 72 monitor lizard shoes imported from Italy without a CITES permit; and two shipments of varanus and python shoes shipped from Switzerland that did not match up with the quantities cited on the CITES export permit.
- Illegal imports intercepted in Boston included 24 sea turtle eggs taken from a passenger arriving from El Salvador; elephant ivory tusks; caviar; and a musical instrument made from sea turtle shell.
- Seizures in Louisville, Kentucky, included shipments of macaw feathers; African elephant leather products and ivory carvings; crocodilian leather goods; multiple shell jewelry shipments; protected butterflies; sperm whale teeth; 4,800 fine art paintbrushes made from Siberian weasel; and a shipment of monkey skulls, insects, lizards, and bats from Indonesia.
- In Memphis, Tennessee, a Service inspector seized a shipment of stuffed migratory birds; the importer paid a \$4,625 fine. Staff in Memphis also stopped unlawful importations of leopard claws, seal skin, caiman skins and watches, elephant leather goods, and caviar extract.
- Seizures in Atlanta, Georgia, included a commercial shipment containing 350 pieces of live coral imported from Vietnam with an invalid CITES permit; a full mount brown hyena; wood-stained elephant ivory hidden in a handicraft shipment from Africa; 44 vials of CITES Appendix I rhino serum; shipments containing bushmeat and primate parts; and an undeclared commercial shipment of over 1,200 reptile skins and products, some made from CITES species.
- A four-day blitz of passenger flights arriving in Atlanta from Central and South America resulted in three seizures of smuggled sea turtle meat, shell and shell products and the interception of a commercial shipment of over 100 unlawfully imported caiman skin purses, belts, and wallets. Other seized items included products decorated with endangered harpy eagle feathers.

- Service inspection of shipments of live reptiles and mammals arriving in Miami from Guyana raised questions about the validity of CITES permits and helped alert that country to the fact that the permit process and wildlife management quotas were being circumvented.
- During late summer/early fall, inspectors confiscated over 200 sea turtle eggs from airline passengers arriving in Miami from the Caribbean and Central America.
- Other seizures in Miami included 320 dried seahorses smuggled in personal baggage from Peru; six Cuban grassquits concealed in the would-be smuggler's underwear; two shipments of venomous reptiles from Belize and Bolivia shipped by mail; two injurious brown tree snakes discovered in a commercial shipment of reptiles from Indonesia; live endangered South American river turtles; a commercial shipment of stuffed reptiles, mammals, and amphibians from Nicaragua that contained protected species; an unlawfully imported shipment of venomous snakes and prohibited insects from Tanzania; 10 live endangered catfish hidden in a shipment of tropical fish being imported from Thailand; live CITES-protected caimans imported without permits in a shipment from Trinidad and Tobago; and eight elephant footstools with Hartmann's zebra tops in a trophy shipment from Namibia.
- In Tampa, Florida, teamwork with other inspection agencies facilitated the seizure of two containers of queen conch meat valued at \$660,000 that had been imported from Honduras in violation of CITES.
- The Service inspector in Tampa stopped two different airline passengers arriving from the Cayman Islands who were bringing in commercial quantities of undeclared coral without CITES permits.
- Other interceptions at this port included hunting trophies concealed in the false bottom of a container shipment arriving at the Tampa seaport from Thailand; a commercial shipment of Queen conch shells imported without CITES permits; and a shipment of 154 tridachna clam shells that lacked permits.
- The inspector in San Juan routinely seized queen conch shells and sea turtle eggs and products (including shipments of beauty cream from the Dominican Republic citing sea turtle oil as an ingredient). Seizures in Puerto Rico also included pilot whale meat from St. Vincent imported in violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Inspectors at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport in Texas intercepted a shipment of CITES protected birdwing butterflies from China; the importer paid a \$10,000 civil penalty.
- In other Dallas cases, an importer was fined \$2,475 for the inhuman transport of two live lynx from Belgium and a South African big game outfitter paid \$3,000 for the illegal importation of an endangered bontebok while his client forfeited the trophy valued at \$1,200.
- The unlawful importation of four CITES Appendix II black buck antelope trophies via Laredo, Texas, saw the importer abandon the wildlife and pay \$2,025 in fines.

- Big game outfitters in Phoenix, Arizona, paid more than \$1,200 in penalties for importation violations involving bighorn sheep trophies.
- A border blitz in Arizona resulted in the seizure of 50 deer antlers and game trophies, seven live parrots, and four migratory birds.
- A 3-day border blitz in Pembina, North Dakota, resulted in 22 seizures and the collection of \$3,575 in penalties; items confiscated included fish overlimits and eagle feathers.
- Common seizures at the border crossing in Dunseith, North Dakota, included wildlife meats, frozen sport-caught fish, and migratory bird parts and feathers.
- An interagency border blitz at the San Ysidro border crossing in California intercepted smuggled CITES-protected cacti as well as drug paraphernalia and undeclared weapons.
- Inspectors in San Diego seized two kilos of dried sea horses that were being smuggled into the country. They also stopped smugglers bringing in iguana carcasses and iguana meat.
- Inspectors in Los Angeles intercepted a tropical fish shipment in which the importer had hidden five endangered Asian arowanas. The man was charged with three felony counts.
- During the last quarter of the fiscal year, Service staff in Los Angeles fielded a “strike team” to conduct daily pro-active inspections at air cargo facilities, the international mail facility, ocean cargo areas, and passenger terminals. Seizures included Asian medicinals made from protected species, live corals, live chameleons, live mitten crabs, and sea turtle eggs.
- Service officers conducting an inspection blitz at the international mail facility in Seattle, Washington, examined 500 shipments, discovering undeclared wildlife, marijuana, and child pornography.
- Inspection staff in Anchorage, Alaska, intercepted a shipment of live fish from Malaysia that contained two endangered Asian arowanas; the shipment had been declared as novelty gifts, pewter, books, and accessories.
- Seizures in Anchorage included undeclared black bear and timber wolf rugs and hides being imported from Canada; nine undeclared pool cues made from elephant ivory; and walrus parts unlawfully imported from Indonesia. Inspectors also intercepted \$400,000 worth of counterfeit silver dollars and 100 counterfeit New Jersey police badges.

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.

Smuggling Investigations

- A cooperative investigation by the Service, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the U.S. Coast Guard documented the smuggling of illegal aliens and live Clarion angel fish from Mexico. A Los Angeles man was sentenced to 46 months in Federal prison and ordered to pay a \$60,000 fine.
- Service investigators teamed with NOAA-Fisheries to uncover large-scale smuggling and unlawful interstate commerce in sperm whale teeth. Plea agreements with three subjects will net \$270,000 in fines and the forfeiture of assets valued at \$540,000.
- A three-year undercover investigation culminated in the arrest of a Japanese butterfly dealer when he arrived in Los Angeles. The defendant sold nearly \$30,000 worth of protected butterflies during the investigation and offered another \$300,000 worth to undercover agents.
- The owners of a Chicago art gallery who were indicted for smuggling and selling more than \$250,000 in elephant ivory carvings and other items made from protected species pleaded guilty to Federal charges.
- Two Philadelphia women who operated a business and web site selling African artifacts and decorative items were indicted by a Federal grand jury for smuggling, possessing, and selling products made from endangered and threatened species.
- A reptile smuggler based in Washington State was sent to prison for two years for the unlawful importation of more than 230 reptiles from Thailand; the shipments, valued at over \$30,000, entered the United States in falsely labeled express mail packages.
- A Virginia man pleaded guilty to illegally importing and possessing CITES-listed tortoises, including Appendix I Madagascar radiated tortoises and Appendix II Indian Star tortoises; he was fined \$15,000 and was placed on probation for four years.
- A smuggler who was caught with 95 live conures in his vehicle after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border pleaded guilty to smuggling charges and was sentenced to six months in prison followed by three years probation.
- A Wisconsin man who pleaded guilty to conspiracy in connection with the smuggling of mounted CITES-protected hawks and parrots was fined \$2,500 and placed on two years probation.
- A man in Florida pleaded guilty to possessing over 48 protected cycads that he knew had been imported in violation of CITES.
- An investigation that began when a Service inspector in Miami was tipped off about an undeclared container of coral arriving from Haiti revealed that a Florida company had been illegally importing large quantities of dried coral from that country over the last three years. Agents seized 45,000 pounds of dried coral when they searched the business in June 2006.

- In San Francisco, a meat company pleaded guilty to Lacey Act violations and was fined \$75,000 for illegally importing and selling snake, eel, kangaroo, and bear meat.

Interstate Trafficking in Global Species

- A Florida businessman who sold protected species items through his website and retail store in Port St. Lucie, Florida, was sent to prison for 25 months. Sales documented in the case involved more than \$200,000 worth of federally protected wildlife, including tiger, snow leopard, and jaguar skins as well as a gorilla skull and baby tiger mounts.
- A man in New York who was keeping unlawfully acquired live leopards at his residence was sentenced to serve two years in prison for Lacey Act wildlife trafficking violations. The man also forfeited three live leopards, several tiger and jaguar skins and full mounts, a snow leopard hide, and a clouded leopard hide.
- Two New York residents involved in the unlawful interstate sale of endangered ring-tailed lemurs paid \$6,350 for wildlife violations.
- Three California residents were arrested and charged with Lacey Act violations for interstate trafficking in endangered Asian arowanas; the subjects bought smuggled arowanas from local fish distributors and sold them online.
- Service agents and inspectors seized over 1,700 packages of traditional Asian medicinals made from protected species as part of an interagency inspection blitz of markets and stores in the Chicago and Milwaukee metropolitan areas.

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 expedite their legal import/export transactions. "Customer service" efforts also 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 2006 Accomplishments

- In FY 2006, Service wildlife inspectors processed more than 183,000 wildlife shipments with a declared value of more than \$2.1 billion.
- Use of "e-Decs" (the Service's electronic system for declaring wildlife imports and exports) increased, with 63 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 21 other ports of entry, including locations along the Nation's northern and southern borders that handle North American wildlife trade moving by land. During FY 2006, inspection services were added at Calexico, California, and Port Huron, Michigan.
- The designated port of New York, which received 32,520 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 23,916 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 13,722 shipments, making that city the Nation’s third busiest designated port.
- The volume of trade processed in Louisville, Kentucky, more than doubled, making it one of the top five wildlife ports.
- The addition of a new e-Decs module for processing corporate payments allows brokers to consolidate payments for multiple shipments, reduces paperwork, and expedites shipment processing.
- Other improvements to e-Decs included upgrades to the filer and search modules, and work to strengthen the security of the system.
- The Office of Law Enforcement continued working with other Service programs to develop an on-line permit application and issuance capability for the agency. The pilot phase, which will consist of “in-agency” cross-program testing, is slated for FY 2007.
- Ports began exploring the use of document scanning technology, which was successfully introduced last year in Memphis. In Louisville, for example, the introduction of document scanning options allowed UPS to expand its use of eDecs and speed shipment processing.
- 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 will give the trade community a “single window” internet-based filing interface for dealing with all regulatory agencies simultaneously; the system promises to streamline import/export procedures and reduce shipment processing times.
- Law Enforcement staff worked with Service International Affairs to draft new regulations for implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in the United States. The revised regulations, which were published for public comment in 2006, incorporate changes made by the CITES member nations over the past 30 years. The final regulations will 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 2006, bulletins alerted the wildlife trade community about:
 - Suspension of trade of beluga sturgeon caviar from the Black Sea basin
 - Update on trade restrictions for queen conch
 - Import restrictions on birds from countries where avian flu had been confirmed
 - Guidelines for importing shellfish, fish and fishery products
- Service wildlife inspectors at airports, ocean ports, and border ports nationwide helped individual businesses identify and resolve problems that were impeding trade.

- Inspectors worked with FedEx officials in Oakland, California, to find ways to expedite the processing of wildlife shipments.
- Inspectors in San Francisco provided training to a local brokers association on import/export requirements, problems with declaration packages, and use of e-Decs.
- Trade facilitation outreach to West Coast customs brokers also included presentations in Los Angeles and San Diego.
- Inspectors in El Paso met with brokers there to encourage greater utilization of e-Decs for declaring wildlife shipments; this outreach effort prompted the majority to create e-Decs accounts.
- The Service inspector in McAllen, Texas, provided training on using e-Decs to staff at several customhouse brokerage companies that were unfamiliar with electronic filing options.
- A service presentation at the New York Broker's Association focused on the broker's role in expediting shipment clearance and the availability of e-Decs.
- The Service inspector in Tampa provided e-Decs and wildlife import/export training presentations at brokers association meetings.
- Service wildlife 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 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 2006 Accomplishments

Strategic Planning and Performance Monitoring

- The Office of Law Enforcement finalized its Strategic Plan for 2006-2010. The plan documents the program's goals and objectives and explains how it will measure its progress in accomplishing them.
- The program managed enforcement activities to address its strategic goals, collecting baseline performance data for FY 2006.
- Procedures for documenting inspections and investigations were refined to ensure the capture of appropriate performance data.

Workforce Management

- Regional Law Enforcement offices developed regional workforce plans based on the prototype staffing models that were prepared as part of the Office of Law Enforcement's National Workforce Plan. These regional plans provide a foundation for the evolution of the Law Enforcement workforce as the program restructures and refines its operations for improved efficiency and effectiveness.
- A class of 14 entry-level wildlife inspectors completed the seven-week Wildlife Inspector Basic School, which was held at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC).

- A formal curriculum review was conducted for Wildlife Inspector Basic School (the first ever for an Office of Law Enforcement training program). The review team identified a number of ways to improve the program.
- A formal field training and evaluation program for new wildlife inspectors was introduced to provide new inspectors more frequent performance feedback during their initial period on the job.

Leveraging Technology

- The Office of Law Enforcement’s data systems specialists worked to strengthen security and eliminate vulnerabilities in the program’s IT infrastructure, including the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS), Electronic Declarations system (e-Decs), and bird mortality reporting system.
- Enhancements to LEMIS capabilities included the development of an “electronic” template for retrieving data from investigative reports to complete notifications required under the Civil Asset Forfeiture Reform Act.
- Significant changes were also made to the violation notice module; the investigations, property and violation modules; the law enforcement training tracking system; and all strategic planning aspects of LEMIS.
- A new corporate payments module was added to e-Decs (the program’s online import/export declaration system); this module allows brokers to consolidate payments for multiple shipments, eliminates payment paperwork, and reduces Service processing time.
- Enhancements also included upgrades to the filer and search modules and development of a stand-alone e-Decs module to allow inspectors to create electronic declarations within LEMIS.
- The LEMIS help desk responded to more than 2,400 calls for assistance and processed more than 3,300 requests for LEMIS data.
- The Office of Law Enforcement continued supporting the creation of the interagency International Trade Data System (ITDS), which promises improvements for trade enforcement and trade facilitation. Efforts in FY 2006 included preparation of a draft “Concept of Operations” document detailing the Service’s current import/export program and procedures and identifying how the agency will utilize ITDS for trade processing.
- Work continued on ITDS data harmonization; screening, targeting, and cargo control processes; and development of a Memorandum of Understanding for exchanging data.
- 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 drafted 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 developed an administrative investigation training program for supervisors and managers who will be asked to address allegations of misconduct by Service law enforcement personnel.
- An additional criminal investigator was hired, bringing the Unit up to its target staffing level.
- The Unit opened 37 cases involving allegations of possible misconduct by Service law enforcement officers.
- A compliance review conducted by the Interior Department's Office of Law Enforcement, Security and Emergency Management yielded a positive assessment.

Other Accomplishments

- The Branch of Investigations (INV) in headquarters published new Service Manual chapters dealing with the following areas: Availability of Agents; Firearms; Use of Force Policy; Detention and Arrest; Evidence; Coordination and Cooperation; Contaminant Investigations; Submission of Evidence to the National Fish and Wildlife Forensics Laboratory; Submission of Eagles to the National Eagle Repository; Submission of Property to the National Wildlife Property Repository; Special Funds; Settlement Monies from Criminal Cases; Public Affairs and Release of Information for the Office of Law Enforcement; and Compulsory Process and Testimony.
- INV policy issuances to assist officers in the field included LE Memos on cooperating private individuals; the execution of search and arrest warrants; and reporting drug discoveries. LE Memos on the import and export of shellfish and fishery products and on enforcing immigration law were updated.
- Chief Directives were prepared and posted providing guidance on wood packaging materials requirements; radio programming protocol; reward accounts; processing Giglio/Henthorn requests; and providing Native American inmates with eagle parts. Existing directives on Washington Office monitor cases and mail cover requests were updated.
- INV completed and published a proposed rule implementing the Captive Wildlife Safety Act. Staff reviewed the more than 1,600 public comments on this proposal and prepared a final rule for publication in FY 2007.
- INV staff represented Service Law Enforcement on bureau and Interior Department working groups involving emergency response.

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 their enforcement counterparts in the National Wildlife Refuge System and team 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 2006 Accomplishments

Multi-jurisdictional Cooperation

- In October 2005, a team of 22 Service special agents completed an 18-day security detail assisting Red Cross recovery operations in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.
- 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.
- Service agents in Washington State are part of a new environmental crimes task force spearheaded by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Washington. Participating agencies include the Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Ecology, King County Sheriff's Office, and Seattle Police Department.
- Service agents teamed with officers from the U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Police to conduct surveillance and enforcement operations along the Oregon coast to protect threatened western snowy plovers during their nesting season.
- Service Law Enforcement and Ecological Services staff participated in the Adaptive Management Working Group reviewing recovery efforts for the Mexican grey wolf. Other agencies involved included the U.S. Forest Service, the Agriculture Department's Wildlife Services, Arizona Game and Fish, New Mexico Game and Fish, and the White Mountain Apache.
- Service officers in Arizona teamed with Customs and Border Protection, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Agriculture Department, and the Arizona Department of

Environmental Quality to conduct an environmental task force to inspect trucks crossing the border at San Luis.

- Officers from the Service, Customs and Border Protection, Montana Fish and Game, Environment Canada, and the province of Alberta conducted a border inspection blitz in Sweetgrass, Montana, in conjunction with Canada's waterfowl season.
- Service agents and inspectors in the Midwest teamed with officers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Illinois Department of Agriculture to conduct three days of compliance inspections at Asian markets and stores in the Chicago and Milwaukee metropolitan areas.
- A Service wildlife inspector conducted CITES training at a black coral workshop sponsored by the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council – a group of Federal, State, and territorial fisheries management officials and industry and community representatives.

Federal Partnerships

- Cooperative case work in FY 2006 included joint investigations with officers from Federal agencies that ranged from NOAA Fisheries and the Environmental Protection Agency to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the Department of Homeland Security (including 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 multiyear "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 and assisting other countries in controlling the illegal movement of potentially diseased wildlife.
- A senior wildlife inspector represented the Service at a two-day public meeting on the public health implications of exotic animal importation that was convened by the Centers for Disease Control. The Service continued to coordinate with that agency as it weighed possible regulatory options to address the threat of wildlife-borne disease.
- Service Law Enforcement used cross-training to expand its enforcement reach, particularly with respect to policing wildlife trade. During FY 2006, some 1,194 new Customs and Border Protection officers received instruction in wildlife import/export requirements from Service staff during their basic training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

- Import/export cross training was also provided to 452 new Customs and Border Protection agriculture inspectors and 180 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 Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, McAllen, Miami, Mesa, Nogales, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Tampa.
- Service inspectors provided import/export training to Air Force military customs inspectors in Minot, North Dakota, and military customs inspectors stationed at Navy facilities in San Diego, California, and Everett, Washington.
- Inspectors in Los Angeles teamed with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Food and Drug Administration to inspect ocean cargo at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in a two-month inspection effort to intercept unlawfully imported Asian medicinals.
- Inspectors in Houston worked with Customs and Border Protection, Agriculture, and the U.S. Public Health Service on a pest interdiction committee charged with identifying and interdicting cargo that may pose a threat to U.S. resources.
- Service inspectors participated in the Port of Atlanta Risk Assessment Committee, teaming with staff from Customs and Border Protection, Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control to prevent the importation of plant and animal pests and disease vectors.

State Partnerships

- The Service signed a new cooperative law enforcement agreement with Idaho Fish and Game. Work also began on a first-ever agreement with the Oregon State Police.
- 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.
- Service Law Enforcement managers in the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains region met with their State counterparts to plan cooperative investigations and review issues of mutual concern.
- Cooperative migratory game bird hunting enforcement work included task force operations in Florida, Nebraska, Kansas, and other States.
- Service staff teamed with State counterparts in Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and other States to conduct big game check stations.

- Service special agents served as instructors for State conservation officer training programs in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and other States.

Tribal Partnerships

- The Service and the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society teamed to present two 40-hour basic wildlife law enforcement training programs for Native American conservation officers, offering the training to about twice as many officers as in previous years. A session in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was attended by 41 officers representing 18 tribal agencies; another 32 officers from 11 different tribes completed the course presented in Wisconsin with assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- The National Eagle Repository filled 2,237 requests from Native Americans for eagles and eagle parts for religious use.

International Partnerships

- Nearly 100 wildlife enforcement officers from the United States, Canada, and Mexico participated in a three-day joint “video seminar” on combating Internet-based wildlife trafficking.
- The Service is supporting the Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking – a global initiative launched by the State Department to mobilize world governments and non-profit conservation groups in combating illegal wildlife trade.
- Wildlife authorities in the Czech Republic were able to arrest a notorious wildlife dealer in that country thanks to Service assistance in linking the man to an illegal shipment of 10,000 red-eared slider turtles.
- A senior wildlife inspector represented the United States and presented a briefing on U.S. efforts to combat illegal caviar trafficking at a CITES caviar trade conference in Brussels.
- Service officers presented a two-week course on investigating wildlife crime as part of the core curriculum at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. Twenty-nine officers representing eight sub-Saharan African nations (Botswana, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia) completed the course.
- Service special agents provided a two-week wildlife investigation training course to 30 Thai officers and two observers from the Philippine National Bureau of Investigations in Hua Hin, Thailand. Participating Thai agencies included the Thai Royal Police, Thai Customs, and the Thai Department of National Parks, Wildlife, and Plant Conservation.
- A Service special agent participated in a high-level Natural Resources Law Enforcement Summit in the Philippines as a technical expert representing the Interior Department.

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 partnerships and outreach support Service efforts to protect U.S. wildlife resources, stem global wildlife trafficking, and facilitate legal wildlife trade.

FY 2006 Accomplishments

- The Office of Law Enforcement worked with the Service's Migratory Bird program and the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) to prepare an updated edition of *Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines*.
- Agents throughout the country worked with utilities to reduce electrocution risks to raptors. Examples include liaison with the New Mexico Avian Protection Work Group, the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, and Maryland and District of Columbia Utilities Association.
- Law Enforcement staff provided a presentation on the program's electronic bird mortality reporting system at the Northwest Power Utilities Conference in Anchorage, Alaska, introducing some 200 utility representatives to this tool for analyzing electrocution data.
- Outreach to the growing wind power industry included work on avian protection issues with the developers of wind farm projects in Colorado and Montana.
- Service Law Enforcement launched an outreach effort in partnership with the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association to prevent migratory bird deaths linked to heating devices used in separating oil, gas, and saltwater pumped from oil wells.
- Agents also worked with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission and the North Dakota Oil and Gas Commission to address the "heater-treater" hazard.
- Service Law Enforcement representatives met with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials in Colorado and Utah to review compliance problems related to oil and gas production on Federal lands in those States.

- Service outreach to the Nebraska Department of Roads and Nebraska Association of General Contractors helped raise awareness of the potential impact of highway construction projects on protected migratory birds.
- A Law Enforcement presentation at the 2006 Hawaii Seabird Conservation Workshop focused on artificial lights and other threats to protected seabirds.
- Service agents worked with Federal, State, and local officials, including representatives of the South Lake Tahoe Airport and a helicopter tour company, on wildlife compliance issues raised by aircraft flight paths near a bald eagle nesting area.
- Outreach to sand and gravel pit developers in Nebraska secured voluntary efforts to safeguard nesting terns and plovers – birds protected under the Endangered Species Act.
- Agents in the Dakotas conducted weekend patrols along the Missouri River during the summer months to protect piping plover and least tern nesting areas from human disturbance.
- The Service worked with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Park Service to help residents co-exist with endangered Florida panthers.
- Service agents teamed with Ecological Services to promote compliance with Habitat Conservation Plans developed for such species as the Utah prairie dog and desert tortoise.
- Agents in Arizona, New Mexico, Idaho, and Montana conducted proactive wolf patrols during hunting seasons to remind the public about the presence of these protected animals.
- Service offices in Alaska conducted outreach on subsistence hunting regulations using printed information and radio and TV public service announcements.
- Outreach to the hunting community included Service participation in the New Mexico Outdoor Expo and Utah International Sportsmen’s Exposition; the development and distribution of information for hunters pursuing their sport in Canada; and presentations to such groups as the Kansas Bow Hunters Association and North Dakota Delta Waterfowl.
- Service special agents and wildlife inspectors staffed an outreach booth at the Safari Club International annual convention in Reno, Nevada, to help international big game hunters and related businesses understand wildlife import/export requirements.
- Service officers manned an exhibit booth at the Dallas Safari Club convention and conducted a “Q&A” seminar on import/export issues for brokers and hunters.
- Service and State officers in Michigan visited over 30 retail food businesses in the Detroit metropolitan area to alert owners and managers to regulations prohibiting the importation and sale of such injurious species as snakehead fish and Asian carp species.

- Inspectors in Baltimore represented the Service at the 2006 BWI Cargo Expo, explaining wildlife trade regulations to company officials and other attendees.
- Outreach to aquaculture businesses using the port of Tampa has improved compliance with wildlife trade laws and regulations.
- An outreach booth at the International Air Cargo Convention in Houston, Texas, spotlighted the Service's role in regulating the import and export of wildlife and wildlife products.
- Import/export training seminars were presented for staff of a major U.S. department store chain that is consolidating its wildlife trade transactions at the Dallas/Fort Worth airport.
- Service staff provided a presentation on Federal wildlife laws and import/export regulations for commercial brokers working out of Phoenix.
- Inspectors from Los Angeles gave a presentation on import/export requirements to the South Bay Bird Society – a group that includes commercial breeders and pet bird hobbyists.
- The Service developed and posted new factsheets explaining the exemptions for shellfish and fishery products and requirements for importing salmonids.
- The Office of Law Enforcement posted updated guidance on its website on transporting wildlife from Alaska to the lower 48 through Canada.
- The new Georgia Aquarium, which opened in November 2005, features an educational display and learning center that spotlights Service efforts to combat illegal wildlife trade.
- Service inspection staff teamed with the Memphis Zoo to assemble a permanent exhibit there focused on illegal wildlife trade.
- Broad-based public outreach included law enforcement booths at State fairs in North Carolina, Kentucky, and Washington.
- Los Angeles inspectors staffed an outreach display at the Long Beach Aquarium's 2006 Earth Day celebration while staff in San Diego participated in that city's Earth Day events.
- Office of Law Enforcement headquarters staff responded to 1,644 requests from the public for information about wildlife laws and law enforcement matters.
- The National Wildlife Property Repository responded to 143 requests for wildlife items from schools, zoos, and other organizations seeking materials for use in teaching the public about wildlife trade; 8,053 items were supplied for such use in FY 2006.

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 facility holds accreditation from that group – a professional status attained by only half the crime laboratories in the United States.

FY 2006 Accomplishments

Forensics Support

- Laboratory scientists worked on 519 cases involving the analysis of 2,680 pieces of evidence collected during investigations of wildlife crime.
- Forensic analyses were provided in support of 509 Federal investigations, nine State cases, and one international investigation.
- Two new forensic computer scientists joined the Laboratory's staff, significantly expanding the facility's capacity in this area of forensic analysis.
- The Laboratory's website (its primary outreach tool) received more than 1.9 million hits in FY 2006 – an average of over 5,000 hits per day.
- Construction of the Laboratory's new biological containment facility continued on schedule; the facility will be operational by summer 2007.

Research and Analysis

- Laboratory scientists have developed a new technique that uses the chemical signature of keratin (a substance found in horn, hoofs, nails, claws, etc.) to identify the species source of material submitted as possible evidence. This non-destructive process has been used to differentiate sea turtle scute from casein-based plastics and to distinguish rhino horn and baleen from bovid horn.

- Acquisition of a mass spectrometer has made it possible for the Chemistry Unit to characterize different classes of hydrocarbon contaminants found on or in birds that have been exposed to petroleum products.
- Genetics capabilities now cover a greater variety of species as well as the ability to infer geographic location for certain taxa.
- Work began on a long-term project to compile an on-line “Feather Atlas” featuring high-quality color scans of the wing and tail feathers of North American birds. The Atlas will provide a readily accessible feather identification resource for Federal and State wildlife enforcement officers, researchers, and the public.
- New identification guides were published to help Service officers recognize decorative body feathers of pheasants and related birds and distinguish feather material of the protected marabou stork from chicken and turkey feathers marketed as “marabou.”
- A study of Laboratory records and field data showed that oil pits remain a significant cause of mortality for birds in the United States. Such deaths have accounted for over a quarter of the Laboratory’s bird-related cases and have involved 172 different species, representing 44 avian families.
- A review of the literature on identification of puff-faced water snakes (which are used extensively in the leather trade) showed that a range of 32 to 47 dorsal scale rows at mid-body can best be used as a basis for recognizing the species and enforcing protections for it.
- The Laboratory developed new protocols for use in seizing and analyzing information from cell phones and PDAs (personal digital assistants).
- The Laboratory helped develop crime scene investigation protocols for use underwater in investigating damage to coral reefs and plan a 5-day “CSI for Coral Reefs” training workshop for resource managers, environmental assessment specialists, criminal investigators, and litigators.

Presentations and Publications

Laboratory staff completed the following papers or publications:

- Baker, B.W. 2006. Forensic implications of dorsal scale row counts on puff-faced water snakes. *Herpetological Review* 37(2):171-173.
- Espinoza, E., Przybyla, J., and Cox, R. 2006. Analysis of fiber blend using horizontal attenuated total reflection Fourier transform infrared and discriminant analysis. *Applied Spectroscopy* 60(4):386-391.
- Espinoza, E.O., Baker, B.W., and Berry, C.A. (in press) The Analysis of Sea Turtle and Bovid Keratin Artifacts using DRIFT Spectroscopy and Discriminant Analysis. *Archaeometry*.

- Firehammer, J.A., Scarnecchia, D.L., and Fain, S.R. 2006. Modification of a Passive Gear to Sample Paddlefish Eggs in Sandbed Spawning Reaches of the Lower Yellowstone River. *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* 26:63–72.
- Guinand, B., Scribner, K.T., Page, K.S., Filcek, K., Main, L. and Burnham-Curtis, M.K. 2006. Effects of coancestry on accuracy of individual assignments to population of origin: examples using Great Lakes lake trout. *Genetica* 127(1-3):329-40.
- Stroud, R.K. and Kuncir, F. 2005. Investigating Wildlife Poisoning Cases. *International Game Warden Magazine* (Winter):8-13.
- Trail, P.W. 2006. Avian mortality at oil pits in the United States: a review of the problem and efforts for its solution. *Environmental Management* 38: 532-544.
- Yates, B.C. and Koler-Matznick, J. 2006. The Evidentiary Dog: A Review of Anthrozoological Cases and Archaeological Studies. *Dogs and People in Social, Working, Economic or Symbolic Interaction*, ed. L.M. Snyder and E.A. Moore, 137-149. Proceedings of the 9th Conference of the International Council of Archaeozoology, Durham, August 2002, Oxbow Books, London.

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 2006 Accomplishments

- The Intelligence Unit completed a comprehensive assessment of five years of data regarding illegal wildlife trade. The Unit analyzed that data by species, port, trader, mode of transport, commodity, and time of year and developed a simplified risk assessment system for use in targeting and interdicting illegal wildlife trade.
- The findings of this report were presented to numerous law enforcement audiences, including Service personnel, the Interpol Wildlife Working Group, the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association, and participants in an Interpol wildlife enforcement training effort in Kenya.
- Several major investigations were substantially supported by a variety of Unit services, including background checks, wildlife valuations, document analysis, trade research, toll record analysis, link chart creation, and other support. Among these investigations were

multiple cases involving illegal commerce in protected wildlife via the internet, eagle parts trade, migratory bird poisoning, marine mammal and endangered species trade cases, and Lacey Act and foreign law international trade investigations.

- Intelligence Unit staff and other OLE personnel played a prominent role in organizing and hosting the North American Wildlife Enforcement Group's Workshop on Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade via the Internet. Over 100 enforcement officers from Canada, Mexico, and the United States participated in this three-day training program.
- Progress continued in building cooperative relationships with other national and international agencies to support the development of wildlife trade intelligence information.

Appendix A. Statistical Summary

Law Enforcement Program Facts and Figures

FY 2006 enacted budget	\$56.1 million
FY 2006 end-of-year special agent force	202
FY 2006 end-of-year wildlife inspector force	112
FY 2006 investigative case load *	15,128

* This number reflects the work of both special agents and wildlife inspectors.

FY 2006 wildlife imports/exports	183,247
FY 2006 value of U.S. wildlife trade	\$ 2.1 billion
One-year increase in volume of trade	6.3 percent

Number of designated ports	17
Number of other staffed ports	21

FY 2006 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
Calexico, California
Champlain, New York
Denver, Colorado
Detroit, Michigan
Dunseith, North Dakota
El Paso, Texas
Laredo, Texas
McAllen, Texas
Nogales, Arizona
Pembina, North Dakota
Phoenix, Arizona
Port Huron, Michigan
St. Paul, Minnesota
San Diego, California
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Sweetgrass, Montana
Tampa, Florida

* Operate together as one "designated" port

FY 2006 Investigative Caseload *

Statute	Cases
African Elephant	102
Airborne Hunting	12
Archeological Resources	7
Conspiracy	54
Eagle Protection	316
Endangered Species	7,831
False Statements	40
Hunting on Indian Lands	5
Lacey	2,430
Marine Mammal Protection	284
Migratory Bird Stamp	299
Migratory Bird Treaty	1,933
National Wildlife Refuge	1,005
Other Federal Laws	211
Permit/License	13
Recreational	4
Rhino Tiger Labeling	69
Smuggling	77
State Laws	326
Wild Bird Conservation	110
Total	15,128

* This table reflects investigative cases worked by Service special agents and wildlife inspectors during FY 2006.

Annual Penalty Statistics, FY 2004 – 2006 *

	2004	2005	2006
Fines	\$3,641,357	\$22,233,949	\$2,343,638
Prison (years)	55	63	70
Probation (years)	526	685	473
Civil Penalties	\$960,230	\$1,451,796	\$4,671,254

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

FY 2005 – 2006 Wildlife Inspection Activity

Port of Entry	FY 2005 Shipments	FY 2006 Shipments
Designated Ports		
Anchorage, AK	14,534	13,722
Atlanta, GA	2,963	3,279
Baltimore, MD	3,243	2,916
Boston, MA	2,650	2,608
Chicago, IL	7,088	7,350
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	6,734	7,889
Honolulu, HI	4,214	4,295
Houston, TX	1,495	1,610
Los Angeles, CA	23,121	23,916
Louisville, KY	4,478	10,255
Memphis, TN	2,610	5,141
Miami, FL	10,684	11,413
New Orleans, LA	734	757
Newark, NJ	8,992	7,445
New York, NY	33,749	32,520
Portland, OR	1,013	1,116
San Francisco, CA	6,293	6,038
Seattle, WA	4,335	4,301
Subtotal	138,930	146,571
Non-Designated Ports		
Agana, GU	948	1,046
Blaine, WA	2,372	2,408
Brownsville, TX	312	195
Buffalo, NY	2,343	2,069
Calexico, CA *	Not staffed	41
Champlain, NY	3,313	3,089
Detroit, MI	1,123	1,222
Denver, CO	579	565
Dunseith, ND	573	767
El Paso, TX	698	726
Laredo, TX	567	599
McAllen, TX	15	51
Nogales, AZ	630	1,002
Pembina, ND	2,831	5,275
Phoenix, AZ **	88	689
Port Huron, MI *	Not staffed	321
San Diego, CA	808	851
San Juan, PR	197	173
St. Paul, MN	1,234	1,314
Sweetgrass, MT	1,251	1,749
Tampa, FL	244	318
Subtotal	20,106	24,470
Non-Staffed Ports	13,368	12,206
Total	172,404	183,247

* Staffed for only part of FY 2006

** Staffed for only part of FY 2005

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.