

# Annual Report FY 2011

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



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# Program Overview

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

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

- Breaking up international and domestic smuggling rings that target imperiled species;
- Preventing the unlawful commercial exploitation of U.S. resources;
- Protecting wildlife from environmental hazards and safeguarding wildlife habitat;
- Enforcing Federal migratory game bird hunting regulations and working with States to protect other game species and preserve legitimate hunting opportunities;
- Inspecting wildlife shipments to ensure regulatory compliance and detect illegal trade;
- Working with international counterparts to combat illegal trafficking in protected species;
- Training other Federal, State, Tribal, and foreign law enforcement officers;
- 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 eight 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 2011 Accomplishments**

### ***Illegal Commercialization***

- Two Virginia commercial fishermen were sentenced for trafficking in over 65,000 pounds of illegal striped bass taken from the Potomac River and sold to fish dealers in Washington, D.C. The pair received prison terms of 8 and 10 months; they must pay \$39,998 in fines and restitution for their offenses and spend three years on supervised release when they get out of prison. One of the fishery jurisdictions involved banned both men for life from ever commercially fishing, while another jurisdiction suspended their commercial fishing licenses for two years each.
- In a related sentencing, a major D.C. fish wholesaler was fined \$875,000. The company's owner was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment and \$60,000 in fines, while a buyer was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and \$7,500 in fines.
- A Kentucky couple and their caviar companies were indicted for their role in illegally harvesting, mislabeling, and exporting paddlefish eggs in violation of Ohio, Kentucky, and Federal laws.
- Two subjects found guilty of conspiracy and wildlife violations involving eagle trafficking were sentenced in Washington. Penalties included forfeiture of illegally possessed eagle parts, several firearms, and a Suburban vehicle.
- A Southern New Jersey reptile dealer was sentenced after he pleaded guilty to two Lacey Act violations for unlawfully purchasing protected wood turtles from an undercover officer. The subject was sentenced to one year of probation and was ordered to pay a fine of \$5,000, perform community service by making a \$1,500 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and complete an educational video in which he will explain wildlife laws and regulations applicable to reptile collectors.

- A man and his wife were sentenced in Denver for Lacey Act and firearms violations involving the illegal take and interstate commerce of bobcats. The husband was charged with multiple felony counts and was sentenced to 27 months in Federal prison and three years of supervised release. The wife pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act count and was sentenced to five years of probation.
- An international ginseng dealer paid a \$25,000 civil penalty for illegally purchasing 130 pounds of wild American ginseng and subsequently transporting it in interstate and foreign commerce. The dealer, who lives in California, is one of the country's largest ginseng exporters.
- An outfitter from Texas was sentenced to 41 months in prison in a felony Lacey Act case, Operation Cimarron, involving the unlawful take of more than 100 trophy whitetail and mule deer in Kansas. In addition to the prison sentence, he was ordered to pay \$50,000 in fines and restitution and must serve three years supervised release after the prison sentence. He is also prohibited from hunting or guiding hunters while on supervised release. His brother was sentenced to 27 months in prison for his role in the illegal take of trophy deer. In addition, he was ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine and an additional \$10,000 in restitution and must serve three years of supervised release, during which time he cannot hunt, guide, or outfit.
- A Colorado resident caught guiding illegal hunts in Alaska was sentenced for two felony counts of violating the Lacey Act, and 11 misdemeanor counts of violating the National Wildlife Refuge Act. The defendant was sentenced to five years of probation, a \$60,000 fine, and, as a convicted felon, may not possess a firearm. He is also prohibited from hunting, guiding, or outfitting in Alaska during the term of his probation.
- A Mount Ayr, Iowa, man was sentenced in Federal court to serve 21 months in prison after pleading guilty to one felony mail fraud count, one felony Lacey Act count, and four counts of failure to pay income tax. The plea followed a covert investigation of the defendant's illegal commercial deer guiding and outfitter business. In addition to the prison term, the outfitter was ordered to pay \$14,081 in restitution.
- Three Texas hunters knowingly paid an outfitter to hunt doves on a baited field. The hunters forfeited \$3,400 while the outfitter forfeited \$4,425 for placing bait.
- A hunting guide from New York signed a settlement agreement for his role in aiding and abetting the use of a motorboat to take migratory game birds on the Niagara River. The guide will pay a \$5,000 fine and surrender his Coast Guard license for a period of three years. Three clients were issued violation notices.
- In Louisiana, an undercover investigation resulted in two guides pleading guilty to violating the Lacey Act in connection with the interstate sale and transport of illegally taken waterfowl. Fines for the three totaled \$9,000; all were placed on probation and barred from hunting for up to 5 years.

- An Alaska guide who was found guilty of 23 State misdemeanor violations was fined \$45,000, sent to prison for 350 days, and ordered to forfeit a Cessna 206 and a super cub airplane. The man, who had a long documented history of Federal wildlife violations, also permanently lost his guiding and transporting license and will spend 10 years on probation during which he cannot hunt, fish, or accompany anyone involved in this activity anywhere in the world.
- Two Louisiana men each pleaded guilty to two violations of the Lacey Act for leading sport hunters to unauthorized areas to hunt American alligators in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Louisiana State law. The plea agreement calls for the pair, both long-time licensed guides, to spend three years on probation while barred from hunting or guiding.

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

- A civil settlement was negotiated with a business whose development activities affected the federally endangered bone cave harvestman. Under the agreement, the business will pay \$365,445 in mitigation for impacts on habitat and the species. It must also obtain ESA incidental take coverage by participating in a planned county-wide Habitat Conservation Plan.
- The Regional Solicitor's Office issued a final order and \$5,000 civil penalty collection notice to a western North Carolina sand and gravel company for ESA violations. The penalty stems from the owner's unauthorized dredging/mining activity in the Tuckasegee River and its impacts on designated critical habitat for the federally endangered Appalachian elktoe mussel.
- A Louisiana business that illegally transported tilapia out of Florida, introducing that invasive species into the marshes of southeast Louisiana, pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act and agreed to pay \$543,722 to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fish (LDWF), \$50,000 to the Lacey Act Reward Account, and \$50,000 to the LDWF Foundation for future wildlife enforcement efforts. In addition, the Louisiana business paid for all clean-up and eradication efforts associated with the incident, totaling over \$1.1 million.
- The owners of an Illinois fish hatchery that transferred potentially diseased fish stocks into Indiana paid \$75,000 in penalties, including \$35,000 for a State program to monitor watersheds for whirling disease.
- A defendant in Florida who was convicted for the boat strike death of a manatee, an ESA violation, was ordered to forfeit his boat to the government, pay \$600 to a wildlife protection fund, and complete one year probation. The case secured the first criminal conviction for such a violation in 20 years.
- A Michigan man forfeited \$3,525 for killing an endangered gray wolf while coyote hunting in the Upper Peninsula. This investigation represented the first Federal gray wolf enforcement action in Michigan in recent history.

- A Utah resident was fined \$3,000 and ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution after pleading guilty to the unlawful shooting of a wolf in Sublette County in Wyoming.
- A Service investigation resulted in a Wyoming man pleading guilty in Federal court to the illegal take of a threatened species for having knowingly shot a wolf. He was fined \$3,000, ordered to pay \$1,000 in restitution, and was sentenced to one year of probation.
- A Minnesota man who shot and killed a grey wolf was fined \$2,000.
- A Blackfeet Tribal member pleaded guilty in Montana to one count of failing to report the taking of a threatened grizzly bear and one count of illegal possession of parts of a threatened species. The defendant was fined \$500 and sentenced to three years of probation without hunting.
- Three Missouri men were sentenced for convictions stemming from a Service investigation that documented their involvement in pole trapping raptors and shooting a bald eagle. The judge sentenced the owner of the property to pay a \$10,000 fine, spend one year on probation, and perform 40 hours of community service. Also in the case, one subject was convicted of witness tampering and was fined \$20,000 and ordered to serve one year probation. The 19-year old subject who shot the bald eagle was sentenced to a \$500 fine and one year probation.
- A South Dakota man charged with killing Canada geese and unlawful use of a pesticide was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine and \$1,653 in restitution.
- The owner of pheasant shooting preserves and a \$1.7 million hunting lodge in central South Dakota admitted killing some 23 to 25 hawks since 2008 to protect his commercial interests in captive-raised pheasants. He also acknowledged shooting a golden eagle, which was among 20 dead birds recovered near his property. As part of a plea agreement, the defendant will pay a \$1,250 fine and \$10,000 in restitution and forfeit the rifle used in the offenses.
- Seven hunters from Oxford, Mississippi, who killed gross overlimits of ducks, were sentenced to more than \$51,000 in fines and more than 15 years of probation with no hunting anything anywhere in the world.
- Two South Carolina men each paid \$3,500 for baiting dove fields in that State.

### ***Industrial Hazards***

- Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) entered into a plea agreement to resolve longstanding ESA and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) violations. KIUC pleaded guilty to two counts of a 19-count indictment. One count charged a violation of ESA for the take of at least 14 Newell's shearwaters, a federally protected threatened species, at or near Kelia Beach. A second count charged a violation of MBTA for taking at least 18 Newell's shearwaters, also protected as a migratory species, at KIUC's Port Allen facility. KIUC was

sentenced to the maximum statutory fine of \$40,000 for the two counts and 18 months of probation with special conditions. To limit future take, KIUC agreed to modify and reconfigure power lines; monitor two stretches of inland power lines to determine the number of bird collisions; and apply for an incidental take permit that would authorize, as required by law, the take of threatened species under certain conditions. The plea agreement also requires KIUC to contribute \$225,000 to an account established by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to benefit protected seabirds on Kaua'i.

- A Wyoming oil refinery that committed Federal MBTA and State environmental violations was fined \$850,000 and agreed to spend more than \$4.5 million dollars to upgrade the equipment and facilities at its refinery.
- A power company that pleaded guilty in 2009 to the large-scale take of golden eagles reported that it spent \$3.26 million to survey and retrofit powerlines – \$1.3 million over the required amount. They surveyed 2,800 new poles, re-surveyed 3,720 poles, proactively retrofitted 2,949 poles, and performed additional retrofitting on 1,197 poles. They also installed bird protective measures at eight substations.
- An agent in Texas closed two investigations involving the inspection of 43 oil production facilities. Operators completed some \$60,000 worth of modifications to make the facilities safer for migratory birds. Two violation notices were issued.
- A Service special agent closed out a contaminants investigation that probed the take of migratory birds by the petroleum industry in Texas. The final violation notice in the amount of \$15,025 was paid by the last oil company, bringing the total collateral forfeited in this case to \$48,525.
- In Wyoming, the Service issued a \$7,775 violation notice to an oil production company for the take of 31 migratory birds.
- A Houston Service special agent issued three violation notices totaling \$5,275 to oil production companies for the take of migratory birds. Service inspection operations also prompted 20 companies to spend more than \$23,000 to fully remediate 44 non-compliant oil production sites.
- A Texas oil company forfeited \$2,025 in collateral for unlawful take of migratory birds, closing out an investigation launched after an oil contaminants detail in and around Fayette County. Service special agents inspected 271 sites, of which 44 were deemed non-compliant. In addition to paying over \$5,200 in penalties, companies spent over \$28,000 for remediation efforts.
- A Service special agent in Victoria, Texas, closed an investigation into the powerline collision death of a bald eagle after the utility developed and implemented an Avian Protection Plan, retrofitted the hazardous circuit line at a cost of \$3,056, and agreed to report future bird fatalities.



# **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), the Endangered Species Act, and other 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 2011 Accomplishments**

- A Philadelphia businessman was indicted on Federal felony charges for trafficking in freshly obtained African elephant ivory that was smuggled into the United States after being carved to order and "antiqued" by paid craftsmen. Service investigators seized one ton of elephant ivory from this individual – probably the largest seizure ever of this material in the United States.
- A man was sentenced in Brooklyn to 33 months in prison and a \$25,000 fine for smuggling elephant ivory into the United States. The defendant (one of six successfully prosecuted in connection with this trafficking scheme) was convicted after a jury trial in June 2010 for importing two air cargo shipments containing 71 concealed elephant ivory carvings, one shipment from Nigeria and one from Uganda. The carvings, which had an estimated market value of \$73,300, were hidden inside the hollow cavities of wooden and metal handicrafts.
- Other Service investigations of ivory trafficking secured the convictions of a Florida pool cue manufacturer and an Atlanta piano import company.
- A Massachusetts antique dealer found guilty of trafficking in sperm whale teeth was sentenced to serve 33 months in prison. In this same case, a Ukrainian national was sentenced in Boston to time served (9 months) and ordered deported for his involvement in a conspiracy to smuggle sperm whale ivory into the United States. In a plea agreement, the man admitted smuggling large amounts of sperm whale ivory to supply a well-known Nantucket scrimshaw artist. The latter was convicted of six felony counts of smuggling, wildlife trafficking, conspiracy, and false statements.
- Two Irish nationals who were arrested by Service undercover agents for trafficking in rhino horn were sentenced to prison terms.

- In Memphis, Service special agents completed a 10-month investigation of three subjects involved in the illegal sale and transportation of a pair of endangered black rhino horns. The horns, which were offered for sale as non-endangered white rhino horns at an auction business in Missouri, sold for \$24,000 and were abandoned to the Service.
- A Texas couple pleaded guilty to smuggling and selling jaguar skins from Mexico.
- The main subject of Operation Spiderman – an investigation of tarantula trafficking – was sentenced to six months in prison, three years' probation, and a \$4,000 fine. He also forfeited \$13,000 in connection with the case, which documented his smuggling of live Appendix II tarantulas to Los Angeles via international mail.
- A Japanese national who smuggled 42 turtles in his luggage at the Honolulu International Airport was sentenced in Federal court to time served (six months) and was immediately deported. The wildlife smuggled included 20 CITES-listed Burmese star tortoises and two species banned as injurious under Hawaii State law: Fly River turtles and flowerback turtles.
- A subject pleaded guilty to smuggling four endangered fruit bats from the Philippines to Guam in his carry-on luggage and was fined \$6,000 for violating the ESA.
- A Montana corporation pleaded guilty and was fined \$10,000 for its role in the illegal exportation of live gray wolves.
- An Alabama man charged with a Lacey Act violation for attempting to smuggle a black bear hide and coyote hide into the United States from Canada pleaded guilty and was fined \$2,000. He also forfeited the hides.
- A Louisiana physician who imported an illegally taken African elephant trophy in violation of the Lacey Act pleaded guilty under that law. He was placed on probation for a year while banned from hunting and ordered to pay \$9,000 in fines, perform 140 hours of community service, and forfeit all items seized by the government.
- A Texas man who was caught in Detroit trying to smuggle a live endangered Asian arowana and a CITES-protected Fly River turtle in from Canada by truck paid \$3,500 in penalties.
- In Newark, New Jersey, a Service wildlife inspector's detection of an overage in a frozen queen conch meat shipment from Honduras resulted in the assessment of \$6,000 in civil penalties for CITES and ESA violations.
- A New York importer of wildlife fashion products was charged in Tennessee for altering the dates on a Service import/export license. The importer changed the dates to reflect a valid license and submitted the document for wildlife clearance. The wildlife products were seized, and the importer forfeited \$525 in collateral.
- A Michigan taxidermist was fined \$10,000 and ordered to pay \$900 in restitution for repeated violations involving bear imports and the export of a lion to Finland. The company,

which had an import/export license, admitted that it deliberately circumvented Service requirements.

- The New York operator of a business called “Aquapets” agreed to pay \$10,230 in restitution and complete 240 hours of community service in exchange for the dismissal of pending criminal charges related to its routine importation of tropical fish without complying with Service wildlife import/export requirements.
- Inspectors in Florida stopped a commercial shipment of live marine fish and invertebrates destined for Canada because they discovered that the invoiced 305 *Ricordea floridiana* were attached to CITES-listed live rock for which no CITES permit had been obtained.
- A Houston wildlife inspector seized four cases of Asian medicinals imported from India in a commercial cargo shipment of herbal supplements. The undeclared medicinals, valued at \$7,400, contained powdered coral and cuttlefish and were imported without a Service import/export license.
- A Miami tropical fish wholesaler imported 21 boxes of live tropical fish and invertebrates from the Philippines. When Service inspectors checked the shipment, they discovered 111 pieces of CITES Appendix II stony coral (*Scleractinia spp*) with attached invertebrates (*Ricordia spp*). This wildlife was removed from the shipment and seized for violation of both CITES and the Lacey Act.
- A Miami reptile dealer imported a shipment of live reptiles from Tanzania containing 21 undeclared chameleons that lacked permits required under that country’s laws. The animals were seized by Service officers on inspection.
- A Houston Service wildlife inspector secured the forfeiture of an unlawfully imported endangered CITES Appendix II bontebok hunting trophy from South Africa. The trophy was falsely declared as a non-endangered blesbok, and the shipment was not accompanied by an ESA or CITES permit.
- Service wildlife inspectors in Anchorage seized 1,247 pieces of white clam shell jewelry for violations of the Lacey Act and the ESA.
- An Indiana Service special agent and Service wildlife inspectors from Michigan conducted a joint enforcement blitz with Customs officers at an Indianapolis FedEx facility. The facility processes over 6,000 packages per night, and Service officers targeted 117 arriving from “high risk” countries over two nights. Intercepted wildlife included unlawful imports of bird feathers, seal oil caplets, and elephant ivory.
- Smuggling interceptions at the passenger terminal at Miami International Airport included an ocelot skin brought in illegally from Ecuador and 24 crocodilian and python leather products retrieved from the luggage of a traveler returning from South Africa.

- Seizures in Anchorage included a watchband export going out without a CITES permit or declaration for which the importer was assessed a \$1,100 penalty and five shipments containing six Japanese hanging scrolls with elephant ivory knobs.
- In New York, a repeat offender was caught smuggling live finches into the United States hidden in paper tubes with mesh end coverings.
- Service wildlife inspectors intercepted a shipment of piranhas (a State-regulated injurious species) at JFK International Airport in New York.
- Two Houston Service wildlife inspectors and a Houston Service special agent intercepted and seized approximately 500 cichlids from five international passengers, claiming to be researchers, who returned from Guatemala without appropriate paperwork.
- An undeclared 20-foot ocean container of CITES-listed *Arapaima sp.* frozen fish fillets was unlawfully imported into Jacksonville, Florida, from Brazil without the required CITES permits.

# **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 2011 Accomplishments**

- In FY 2011, Service wildlife inspectors processed more than 183,000 wildlife shipments with a declared value of more than \$2.8 billion.
- Use of "e-Decs" (the Service's electronic system for speeding the declaration of wildlife imports and exports) increased, with nearly 85 percent of all declarations being submitted electronically.
- The Service inspected wildlife shipments at 18 designated port locations. (The designated port system funnels wildlife traffic through a limited number of locations to facilitate trade monitoring and maintain the efficiency of inspection operations.)
- The Service staffed 19 other ports of entry, including locations along the Nation's northern and southern borders that handle North American wildlife trade moving by land.
- The designated port of New York, which received 29,547 shipments, remained the Nation's busiest port of entry for wildlife trade.
- Los Angeles was the second busiest port of entry for wildlife, handling 24,269 shipments, while third-ranked Newark processed 13,782 shipments.

- Efforts continued to ensure full Service participation in the International Trade Data System (ITDS) – an interagency “e-Government” initiative that will link all importers/exporters and all Federal agencies involved in regulating international trade.
- A Service wildlife inspector in Nogales, Arizona, worked with members of the Pascua-Yaqui Tribe to facilitate the importation and exportation of wildlife items used for religious purposes.
- The Dunseith Service wildlife inspector contacted other Service staff and Customs officers to ensure that procedures were in place for processing eagle item transport by First Nation band members and Native Americans traveling across the border for religious ceremonies and cultural events.
- The Branch of Investigations worked with international airlines and cruise lines that carry caviar onboard to sell or serve to passengers to ensure legal transport and provided detailed information about Service regulation of wildlife materials used in the knife industry to an industry publication.
- A Houston Service wildlife inspector met with airline officials to discuss standard operating procedures for refrigerated coolers. The discussion focused on cooler use to facilitate the processing of large international perishable shipments.
- Service wildlife inspectors in Tampa inspected and cleared threatened Puerto Rican crested toads that were being exported by Lowry Park Zoo to Canada for cooperative breeding initiatives.
- Other unique live animal trade transactions facilitated by Service inspectors included the export of 15 live endangered black-footed ferrets to support species reintroduction efforts in Canada and the importation at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York of a live African elephant being transferred from Germany to the Pittsburgh Zoo.
- Service wildlife inspectors in Tampa accommodated requests from the trade to utilize the Orlando Airport, which offers direct flights to Canada that are not available from Tampa.
- Inspection staff at Dallas/Fort Worth worked to promote greater use of the corporate account and “e-scan” features in LEMIS by frequent importers and exporters – features that save both user and inspector time and paperwork.
- The port of New Orleans helped importers and exporters improve utilization of eDecs.
- Dallas/Ft. Worth inspectors conducted warehouse walkthroughs as part of an ongoing initiative to promote compliance with wildlife trade laws and regulations, including licensing requirements.
- Special agents in Wyoming worked with One Shot Antelope staff to inspect and clear 100 pounds of antelope jerky being shipped to U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

# **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 both its human and financial 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 (LEMIS) as well as work to integrate the program's IT infrastructure with new Departmental (IMARS) 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 2011 Accomplishments**

### ***Strategic Planning and Performance Monitoring***

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

### ***Workforce Management***

- The Office of Law Enforcement added wildlife inspector staffing at high-risk portsof entry, bring the total number of wildlife inspectors from 124 the previous year to a record-high 143.
- A new class of Service special agents completed Special Agent Basic School and reported to their duty stations for on-the-job training.
- A class of new wildlife inspectors completed Wildlife Inspector Basic School at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.
- National in-service training programs for agents and inspectors were held at the National Conservation Training Center.
- All wildlife inspectors received turtle identification training to better prepare them to respond to growing concerns about unsustainable trade in native (often State-protected) turtle species.

### ***Leveraging Technology***

- Improvements to the declarations and electronic declarations systems made both more efficient and secure for wildlife inspectors, brokers, and general filers. Document imaging capabilities were expanded and new features were added to the eScan and corporate payments modules.
- Enhancements to the Law Enforcement Management Information System (LEMIS) included implementation of a second phase of electronic Report of Investigation (eROI) functionality and expansion of the “SuperCase” module to cover many different investigations.
- A Cooperating Private Individual module was added to LEMIS to centrally manage relevant data on these resources.
- An up-to-date functional requirements and gap analysis was completed to help the Office of Law Enforcement address issues related to the Department’s IMARS program.

### ***Professional Responsibility***

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

### ***Other Accomplishments***

- The Headquarters Branch of Investigations (INV) remained actively engaged in interagency efforts to address issues related to implementation and enforcement of the 2008 Lacey Act plant amendments.
- INV served as a technical expert on legal and enforcement issues for a Federal advisory committee on windpower and contributed to the development of committee recommendations for wind industry guidelines.
- INV staff worked closely with Service biologists on issues involving new listings of injurious wildlife and potential revision of the injurious species provisions of the Lacey Act.
- INV issued new or updated Chief’s Directives to provide policy guidance to officers in the field on matters that ranged from the use of soft body armor to buying hunting and fishing licenses for “undercover” hunts.
- The program began using the International Trade Data System to access and review Customs entry information. This research has helped identify non-compliant importers, develop import histories for companies, and target shipments.



# **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 2011 Accomplishments**

### ***Federal Partnerships***

- Service officers participated as instructors for training programs for enforcement staff with other Federal agencies. Examples include providing presentations at the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section yearly in-service for Federal prosecutors and presenting training to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents at a Cultural Property Conference, where they discussed ivory and rhino horn trade and other wildlife-related issues.
- Wildlife inspectors throughout the country provided wildlife import/export training to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) staff.
- As in the past, investigative partners in cases involving wildlife trafficking included ICE and CBP.
- Service agents also worked investigations in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency. In one such case, two Tennessee construction companies pleaded guilty to violations of the Clean Water Act in connection with a construction project that resulted in the illegal take of several endangered Nashville crayfish. The corporations were fined \$40,000.
- A Service/NOAA joint investigation of illegal lobstering in Florida supported the prosecution of a wholesale seafood dealer in Key West. Other investigations completed in partnership with NOAA secured successful prosecutions for international trafficking in sperm whale teeth.

### ***State Partnerships***

- Service agents worked with State partners on cooperative investigations throughout the country, including many involving violations of the wildlife trafficking provisions of the Lacey Act. State officers also provided assistance with investigations involving endangered species, migratory birds, and federally protected raptors.

- Cooperative migratory game bird hunting enforcement work included joint Federal/State enforcement operations in multiple States.
- Service special agents routinely conducted training on Federal wildlife laws for State conservation officers, participating in basic training and other instructional programs.

### ***Tribal Partnerships***

- A Service special agent assisted the Mescalero Apache Conservation Department in investigating several non-tribal members who were unlawfully hunting elk on the reservation.
- Service special agents in South Dakota assisted tribal partners with wildlife crime investigations on the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, the Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Reservation, and the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.
- The Brigham City Service special agent concluded the last of three investigations of bull elk being killed on Ute Indian Reservation lands by non-tribal members.

### ***International Partnerships***

- A team of Service special agents provided wildlife crime investigation training to game rangers from eight sub-Saharan African countries at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Gaborone, Botswana. Instruction topics included surveillance techniques, undercover operations, interviewing, report writing, operational plans, and crime scene investigations.
- A Service special agent from Missouri completed a three-week assignment in Tanzania where he trained village game scouts who are responsible for wildlife enforcement on Wildlife Management Areas connected to the Ugalla Game Reserve. Training covered GPS and compass use, patrol reports, incident reports, information reports, first aid, and officer safety tactics. These 12 game scouts then taught the course to 10 additional officers.
- The supervisory intelligence analyst provided instruction on basic intelligence analysis to 26 Mexican officials from various Mexican Federal agencies and the National Prosecutor's office along with instructors from Environment Canada.
- A senior Service special agent provided instruction on wildlife crime investigations at a capacity building workshop for the investigation and prosecution of environmental and forest crimes in Chiclayo, Peru. The training program was sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development under the U.S.-Peru Environmental Cooperation Agreement.
- A senior wildlife inspector provided the first ever CITES training programs in Morocco under the sponsorship of the Interior Department's International Training Assistance Program.

# **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 2011 Accomplishments**

### ***Endangered and Threatened Species Outreach***

- Service staff met with sand and gravel companies in Nebraska to ensure that they understand their responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to protect least terns and piping plovers at their operations.
- A Service special agent helped train individuals who conduct threatened Utah prairie dog surveys for ESA permitting, Section 10 projects, and Federal lands management.
- The Service Special Agent in Charge of the Branch of Investigations (INV) met with the president of the American Herbal Products Association and provided information on ESA and CITES enforcement related to this trade.
- INV staff met with representatives of the National Bison Association and Endangered Species staff to discuss the petition to list the wild plains bison as threatened and the proposal to downlist the woods bison from endangered to threatened.
- The Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) developed detailed written guidance on all aspects of how to import and export bison for distribution to members of the National Bison Association and posting on that organization's website.
- Law Enforcement conducted a news conference outside of Philadelphia to announce a major indictment in an African elephant ivory smuggling investigation, spotlighting the effects of such trafficking on this threatened species.
- Service officers conducted outreach on CITES permits and wildlife import/export requirements for big game hunters, guides, outfitters, and other attendees at the 2011 annual meeting of Safari Club International in Nevada.

### ***Migratory Bird Issues***

- After outreach contacts from special agents, a Missouri company voluntarily took steps to prevent trumpeter swans protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) from colliding with its powerlines near the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary north of St Louis. Media coverage of the company's efforts helped spotlight MBTA protections for the general public.
- A Service special agent worked with the owners of electrical transmission equipment throughout northern, central, and western Illinois to design and complete retrofit measures aimed at making transmission lines and equipment more avian safe. The companies spent nearly \$150,000 completing retrofit measures on over 250 poles and 12 miles of lines.
- Agents throughout the country met with representatives from electric utilities to promote the development and implementation of avian protection plans and use of the Service's voluntary online bird fatality/injury reporting program.
- A Wyoming Service special agent worked with an oil company to close open pits containing liquid and convert mining operations to a closed-cell system in order to protect migratory birds.
- As a result of agent outreach contacts, 13 oil companies in Fayette County, Texas, invested \$17,288 in remediation efforts at 31 oil production sites that represented a threat to migratory birds.

### ***Public Outreach***

- Service wildlife inspectors staffed an exhibit at the Wildlife Conservation Network Expo in San Francisco to field questions about wildlife trade from the public and representatives from such NGOs as the Saiga Conservation Alliance, Animals Asia, the San Francisco and Oakland Zoos, the Small Cat Conservation Alliance, the Snow Leopard Conservation Fund, and the Coyote Point Museum.
- Service special agents and wildlife inspectors attended career events and gave presentations on wildlife law enforcement at the University of Arkansas, University of Hawaii, California State University, other undergraduate institutions, and secondary schools in multiple States.
- San Diego Service wildlife inspectors and a San Diego Service special agent participated in the Earth Day Celebration at Balboa Park in San Diego – an event that attracts an estimated audience of over 70,000 people each year.
- Service law enforcement staff manned a public outreach exhibit promoting wildlife conservation at the 2011 Kentucky and Florida State Fairs.

- Law Enforcement worked with Service External Affairs to produce a special issue of *Fish and Wildlife News* (a publication distributed to Service employees, retirees, and proponents) focused on the role and contributions of Service special agents and wildlife inspectors.
- OLE developed outreach materials to help owners of musical instruments understand how Federal conservation laws apply to them when they travel overseas with or buy instruments made from protected woods or wildlife materials.
- Profiles of a special agent and wildlife inspector were prepared for the book *Legally Green: Careers in Environmental Law*.
- OLE worked with the Kerulos Center (a non-profit wildlife advocacy group) to develop a curriculum package and case-centered educational program for use in teaching middle school students about wildlife law enforcement and conservation.
- Agents in south Florida worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop a series of airport billboard public service announcements on wildlife conservation targeting travelers to the Caribbean.
- A Service wildlife inspector staffed an endangered species display at an Earth Day event at California State University at Long Beach.
- Service wildlife inspectors conducted public outreach on wildlife conservation and the threat of wildlife trafficking at schools in North Carolina, North Dakota, New Mexico, Texas, and other States.

# **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 2011 Accomplishments**

- Laboratory scientists worked on hundreds of cases involving the analysis of thousands of pieces of evidence collected during investigations of wildlife crime.
- Forensic analyses were provided primarily in support of Federal investigations with some assistance provided to State cases and international investigations.
- The Laboratory's Morphology Team conducted thousands of species identifications based on photographs submitted by email (primarily from Service wildlife inspectors at the Nation's ports of entry). This service helped facilitate release of legal shipments and provide probable cause for the detention and seizure of some specimens.
- The Laboratory acquired a video spectral comparator to enhance the Office of Law Enforcement's ability to analyze documents and detect alterations. This equipment uses alternative light sources and filtering techniques to differentiate inks and identify changes made to original documents.

## **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 2011 Accomplishments**

- Multiple Service investigations were substantially supported by a variety of Unit services, including background, criminal history and financial checks; border crossing, airline and license checks; wildlife valuations; document analysis; trade research; toll record analysis; link chart creation; prior case research; and website mirroring.
- Progress continued in building cooperative relationships with other national and international agencies to support the development of wildlife trade intelligence information.
- During the reporting period, the Unit shared intelligence information with enforcement authorities in countries around the world and with Interpol and other international networks.
- The Unit provided a briefing and served as “host” for the 3rd meeting of the U.S. Environmental Crimes Inter-agency Working Group, facilitated by the INTERPOL-U.S. National Central Bureau. Participating agencies included the Service, DOI OLES, EPA, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, U.S. Park Police, Dept. of State, Dept. of Justice, U.S. Forest Service, and a representative from NAWEG/CEC.

# Appendix A. Statistical Summary

## Law Enforcement Program Facts and Figures

FY 2011 enacted budget	\$62.9 million
FY 2011 end-of-year special agent force	219
FY 2011 end-of-year wildlife inspector force	143
FY 2011 investigative case load *	13,565
<i>* This number reflects the work of both special agents and wildlife inspectors.</i>	
FY 2011 wildlife imports/exports	183,063
FY 2011 value of U.S. wildlife trade	\$2.8 billion
Number of designated ports	18
Number of other staffed ports	19

## FY 2011 staffed port locations

### Designated Ports

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

### Border, Special & Other Ports

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



## FY 2011 Investigative Caseload \*

<b>Statute</b>	<b>Cases</b>
African Elephant	46
Airborne Hunting	5
Archeological Resources	7
Conspiracy	49
Eagle Protection	246
Endangered Species	8156
False Statements	30
FIFRA	19
Foreign Laws	11
Hunting on Indian Lands	9
Lacey	2645
Marine Mammal	225
Migratory Bird Stamp	212
Migratory Bird Treaty	1422
National Wildlife Refuge	26
Obstruction of Justice	10
Other Federal Laws	84
Permit/License	9
Rhino Tiger Labeling	55
Smuggling	79
State Laws	176
Wild Bird Conservation	44
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>13,565</b>

*\* This table reflects investigative cases worked by Service special agents and wildlife inspectors during FY 2011.*

## Annual Penalty Statistics, FY 2009 – FY 2011 \*

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Fines</b>	\$8,469,209	\$4,135,089.	\$8,102,058
<b>Prison (Years)</b>	54	78	87
<b>Probation (Years)</b>	607	330	402
<b>Civil Penalties</b>	\$839,969	\$700,924	\$1,290,893

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

## FY 2010 – FY 2011 Wildlife Inspection Activity

Port of Entry	FY 2010 Shipments	FY 2011 Shipments
<b>Designated Ports</b>		
Anchorage, AK	9,973	8,306
Atlanta, GA	3,465	3,542
Baltimore, MD	2,732	3,442
Boston, MA	3,650	3,071
Chicago, IL	5,842	5,973
Dallas/Fort Worth, TX	9,036	8,493
Honolulu, HI	4,667	4,873
Houston, TX	1,902	1,961
Los Angeles, CA	23,717	24,269
Louisville, KY	12,969	13,457
Memphis, TN	9,487	11,468
Miami, FL	10,102	10,112
New Orleans, LA	821	876
Newark, NJ	10,946	13,782
New York, NY	28,878	29,547
Portland, OR	863	947
San Francisco, CA	3,623	3,269
Seattle, WA	6,288	6,278
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>148,961</b>	<b>153,666</b>
<b>Non-Designated Ports</b>		
Agana, GU	1,217	1,340
Blaine, WA	1,482	1,198
Brownsville, TX	322	247
Buffalo, NY	1,385	1,659
Calais, ME	Not Staffed	405
Champlain, NY	2,136	1,929
Detroit, MI	1,011	1,054
Denver, CO	868	942
Dulles, VA	548	437
Dunseith, ND	781	908
El Paso, TX	818	879
Laredo, TX	603	529
Minneapolis, Minnesota	257	358
Nogales, AZ	404	356
Pembina, ND	2,915	3,091
San Diego, CA	1,065	1,050
San Juan, PR	103	99
Sweetgrass, MT	2,493	2,126
Tampa, FL	567	612
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>18,975</b>	<b>19,219</b>
<b>Non-Staffed Ports</b>	<b>10,405</b>	<b>10,178</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>178,341</b>	<b>183,063</b>

## **Appendix B. Laws Enforced**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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