

2009



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



APR 14 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$5000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

for

99000-9-0096
99000-4900

Org. No. - FY - Suborg. No.	99000-9-0096
Final Pmt	Partial Pmt
Pay (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)	
Sign	
Title	admin officer
Grd/Sup Rec'd	
Log/Inv Rec'd	
Invoice to FC	4/14/09

99000-4900



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009



In Reply Refer to:
INV 2008100089

March 25, 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: (h) Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Office of Law Enforcement, Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV: 2008100089

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Title of Investigation: et al

Case Officer:

SA

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reward Recommended for:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Statutory Authority for Reward: Lacey Act

Amount Requested: \$5,000

Concurrence:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Date

Approval:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Date

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date

Justification for Reward Payment to

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On December 26, 2007, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was working as a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) in Spokane, WA. She overheard a strange noise and approached two customers who were talking with another store clerk. The customers were displaying a small rhesus macaque monkey and bragging how they smuggled the animal into the United States from Thailand after taking it from the wild.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) listened to the conversation, made mental notes of the suspect descriptions and contacted SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Spokane, WA. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) told SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) about the conversation she overheard. After further investigation, she willingly identified the subjects from a photo lineup and agreed to testify if necessary against the suspects.

Three subjects were indicted by a federal Grand Jury in Spokane on smuggling and felony Lacey Act charges as a result of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) initial information and the subsequent investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) should be rewarded for her willingness to promptly report this incident and her willingness to see the matter to completion.

On December 8, 2008, two subjects were convicted in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Washington on one count of smuggling and one count of conspiracy each. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) testimony in this matter was paramount to the resulting convictions. The third subject pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act in exchange for his testimony against the co-defendants.

The primate is listed as CITES II and is unlawful to import into the United States without proper documentation. Further, no primates may be imported into the United States except by registered importers approved by the Center for Disease Control who follow strict quarantine and testing requirements to protect the public from human health hazards.

SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) developed the information received from Ms. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with the assistance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, the Natural Resources and Environmental Crimes Division in Bangkok, Thailand, and the States of California and Washington. The Center for Disease Control provided assistance with locating a licensed quarantine facility and provided funding to assist with significant quarantine costs. The smuggling and subsequent seizure of the monkey generated widespread concern for the public exposed to serious potential human health risks as well as concerns for the welfare of the monkey itself.

The monkey required extensively health testing upon admission into quarantine and upon its release to temporary custody. It also required extensive psychological rehabilitation that required companionship from other healthy captive monkeys both during and after quarantine.

M. [REDACTED] assistance in this case was crucial to SA [REDACTED] ability to identify and contain a potential human health risk to airline passengers and employees, and all people exposed to the monkey during its transit from Thailand through Los Angeles airport and subsequent travel to Washington State. It also led directly to the conviction of the three subjects responsible. Subsequent press coverage highlighted the risks and penalties associated with the smuggling of this monkey and the state, federal and international cooperation that was required to protect public welfare and the welfare of this protected species.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2008100089
Case Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) et al
Region: Region 1

Summary: This reward request is for \$5,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) regarding the illegal smuggling of a rhesus macaque monkey. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided both time and testimony during the investigation and subsequent prosecution. To date (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has not received any compensation for her part in this investigation.

On December 26, 2007, while working in a clothing store, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) observed two customers with a small monkey. She overheard the customers bragging about how they smuggled the monkey from Thailand into the United States.

A ~~flaw~~ contacting law enforcement, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) willingly identified (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in a photo line up as the individuals involved with the smuggling of the rhesus monkey. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) also volunteered to testify should the case reach prosecution.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not know the defendants or agents involved in the investigation. She came forward only out of concern for the wildlife resources and the health and safety of others who may have been exposed to potential diseases transmitted by wild primates. As a result of her involvement, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has been harassed by other hostile witnesses in this investigation who are friends of the defendants. She has bravely refused to alter her story or her willingness to testify in this matter. During the trial she was called upon to testify as the first witness.

On December 8, 2008, two subjects were convicted in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Washington on one count of smuggling and one count of conspiracy each. A third subject pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act in exchange for his testimony against the co-defendants.

The request for this reward is in advance of the sentencing, which is scheduled for April 28, 2009. It is the case agent's request to have the reward available to present to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) at the sentencing hearing.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Law Enforcement Reward Account on a Lacey Act conviction. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under LE Memo 35.

Reviewer:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SSA

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

ACTING SAC/DIV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Deputy Chief/OLE

Concur:

Chief/OLE

4/9/09
Date

4/9/09
Date

4-9-09
Date

4-9-09
Date

Date

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION
REPORT#: 2008100089R014**

Note: This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the Office of Law Enforcement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is the property of this office and is loaned to your agency. It, and its contents are not to be distributed outside of your agency.

CASE TITLE (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)	REPORT DATE 12/15/2008	CASE NUMBER 2008100089
	REPORTING OFFICER (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)	REPORT STATUS FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROSECUTION PENDING
APPROVED BY		
SUBJECTS OF REPORT (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)		

SYNOPSIS

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Defendants and were tried in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Washington in Judge Van Sickle's court from December 2 - 8, 2008. A jury returned guilty verdicts against both defendants for one count of smuggling and one count of conspiracy as charged in the indictment. Sentencing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on March 9,, 2008. (Attachment 1)

Attachments

1) Sentencing schedule (1 page)

DISTRIBUTION

Internal List

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009



In Reply Refer to:
INV 2008100089

March 25, 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: (h) Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Office of Law Enforcement, Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV:

Title of Investigation:

Case Officer:

Reward Recommended for:

Statuary Authority for Reward:

Amount Requested:

Concurrence: [Redacted]
SAC, Branch of Investigations

4/9/09
Date

Approval: [Redacted]

4/10/2009
Date

Processed: [Redacted]
Budget Officer

4/13/09
Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Justification for Reward Payment to [REDACTED]

On December 26, 2007, [REDACTED] was working as a [REDACTED] in Spokane, WA. She overheard a strange noise and approached two customers who were talking with another store clerk. The customers were displaying a small rhesus macaque monkey and bragging how they smuggled the animal into the United States from Thailand after taking it from the wild.

[REDACTED] listened to the conversation, made mental notes of the suspect descriptions and contacted SA [REDACTED] with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office in Spokane, WA. [REDACTED] told SA [REDACTED] about the conversation she overheard. After further investigation, she willingly identified the subjects from a photo lineup and agreed to testify if necessary against the suspects.

[REDACTED] does not have a criminal history and is not a paid informant in this or any other investigation. She did not know the defendants or agents involved and did not report this out of animosity or favor toward any party involved in the investigation. She came forward only out of concern for the wildlife resources and the health and safety of others who may have been exposed to the potential diseases transmitted by wild primates. [REDACTED] has been harassed by other hostile witnesses in this investigation who are friends of the defendants. She has bravely refused to alter her story or her willingness to testify in this matter.

Three subjects were indicted by a federal Grand Jury in Spokane on smuggling and felony Lacey Act charges as a result of [REDACTED] initial information and the subsequent investigation. [REDACTED] should be rewarded for her willingness to promptly report this incident and her willingness to see the matter to completion.

On December 8, 2008, two subjects were convicted in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Washington on one count of smuggling and one count of conspiracy each. [REDACTED] testimony in this matter was paramount to the resulting convictions. The third subject pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Lacey Act in exchange for his testimony against the co-defendants.

The primate is listed as CITES II and is unlawful to import into the United States without proper documentation. Further, no primates may be imported into the United States except by registered importers approved by the Center for Disease Control who follow strict quarantine and testing requirements to protect the public from human health hazards.

SA [REDACTED] developed the information received from [REDACTED] with the assistance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, the Natural Resources and Environmental Crimes Division in Bangkok, Thailand, and the States of California and Washington. The Center for Disease Control provided assistance with locating a licensed quarantine facility and provided funding to assist with significant quarantine costs. The smuggling and subsequent seizure of the monkey generated widespread concern for the public exposed to serious potential human health risks as well as concerns for the welfare of the monkey itself.

The monkey required extensively health testing upon admission into quarantine and upon its release to temporary custody. It also required extensive psychological rehabilitation that required companionship from other healthy captive monkeys both during and after quarantine.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] assistance in this case was crucial to SA [REDACTED] ability to identify and contain a potential human health risk to airline passengers and employees, and all people exposed to the monkey during its transit from Thailand through Los Angeles airport and subsequent travel to Washington State. It also led directly to the conviction of the three subjects responsible. Subsequent press coverage highlighted the risks and penalties associated with the smuggling of this monkey and the state, federal and international cooperation that was required to protect public welfare and the welfare of this protected species.

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

APR 22 2009

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$3,500.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Surname (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
FWS/LE: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 04/22/2009:Inv

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/OLE/INV 2008401305

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: *Acting* Special Agent-In-Charge, Southeast Region
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV Number: 2008401305

Title of Investigation: [REDACTED]

Case Officer: Special Agent [REDACTED] USFWS/OLE

Reward Recommended for: [REDACTED]

Statutory Authority for Reward: ESA

Amount Requested: \$3,500.00

Concurrence [REDACTED]

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

Approved: [REDACTED]

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Date

Processed: [REDACTED]

Date

I, Special Agent [REDACTED], am requesting a reward in the amount of \$3,500.00 be paid to [REDACTED] for information he provided which led to the arrest and conviction of [REDACTED]

On 12/22/08, [REDACTED] appeared in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi (Hattiesburg) before U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett. [REDACTED] pled guilty to the following charges:

1. (Misdemeanor) violation Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1538 (a)(1)(B) and 1540(b)(1)
2. (Misdemeanor) violation of Lacey Act, 16 USC 3372(A)(1)

[REDACTED] was sentenced as follows: 30 days imprisonment as to Counts 1& 2, ordered to surrender to U.S. Marshals on 1/6/09. Upon release from imprisonment, [REDACTED] shall be on supervised release for a term of one year, during which time [REDACTED] is not to hunt or possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device or any other dangerous weapon. In addition, [REDACTED] was ordered to complete 50 hours of community service work at the Hattiesburg Zoo or a similar wildlife Refuge within the first six months of supervision. [REDACTED] was fined a total of \$15,000 due immediately. [REDACTED] was given the option of paying the fine of \$125.00 per month to begin upon his release. A portion of the fine (\$10,000) shall be paid to the bear Education and Restoration Group (BEAR). [REDACTED] was also ordered to pay a special assessment fee of \$25.00 per count.

Attachment to narrative for reward request for [REDACTED] as per LE 35 dated June 19, 2003:

2. [REDACTED]

3. INV#: 2008401305

4. Amount of Reward Requested: \$3,500.00. This amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from the requested reward recipient. Without the information provided by the individual above, the investigation would not have come to a successful conclusion. The individual above had an extremely close tie with the subject and assisted us by providing the crucial information needed to further the completion of the investigation. Additionally, the protection of the Louisiana Black Bear is of significant importance in our investigation prioritization.

5. Statutory Authority for Reward: ESA

6. Justification Statement:

(i) Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) received information from two deer hunters stating that the remains of what appeared to be a bear had been found by the hunters. The hunters informed that the bear remains were found along Florida Gas Road in Perry County, Ms. This information was provided to USFWS/OLE and the investigation was initiated. The Louisiana Black Bear is a Threatened Species (Listed – January 7, 1992).

Additional information received from reward request recipient that led to interviews with witnesses who provided crucial statements leading to the eventual arrest and conviction of [REDACTED]. As stated above, the informant was extremely knowledgeable in regards to the subject, his involvement and actions as they pertain to the investigation. These violations occurred in a rural area of Mississippi, equating to the possibility of investigating agents obtaining information without lead being minimal. Without the information provided by the informant, the defendant in the investigation would not have been apprehended for violation of Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act. As stated above, The Louisiana Black Bear is a Threatened Species (Listed – January 7, 1992).

(ii) Only one subject, [REDACTED] involved in the investigation.

(iii) Charges:

1. (Misdemeanor) violation of Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1538 (a)(1)(B) and 1540 (b)(1).
2. (Misdemeanor) violation of Lacey Act, 16 USC 3372 (A)(1)

(iv) Defendant, [REDACTED] pled guilty to above charges and was sentenced as follows:

30 days imprisonment as to Counts 1 & 2, ordered to surrender to U.S. Marshals on 1/6/2009. Upon release from imprisonment, [REDACTED] shall be on supervised release for a term of one year, during which time [REDACTED] is not to hunt or possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device or any other dangerous weapon. In addition, [REDACTED] was ordered to complete 50 hours of community service work at the Hattiesburg Zoo or a similar wildlife Refuge within the first six months of supervision. [REDACTED] was fined a total of \$15,000.00 due immediately. [REDACTED] was given the option of paying the fine in installments of \$1250.00 per month to begin upon his release. A portion of the fine (\$10,000.00) shall be paid to the Bear Education and Restoration Group (BEAR). EUBANKS was also ordered to pay a special assessment fee of \$25.00 per count.

(v) All prosecutions completed.

(vi) Proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service Officer, with any family member of any Service Officer, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person.

(vii) Proposed reward recipient has received no compensation for assistance in investigation, and to my knowledge has never been paid for assistance in any investigation.

(viii) Name of person receiving reward [REDACTED]

(ix) No special circumstances requiring special check issuance.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



APR 23 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) - Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$3,500.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

99000-4900

99000-9-0098
99000-4900

Unit No.	99000-9-0098
Final Pmt.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partial Pmt.
Pay to	(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Sign	(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Title	Special Agent In Charge
Off/Sec/Field	
Log/Inv Rec'd	
Invoice to	4/23/09



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

IN REPLY REFER TO:

FWS/OLE/INV 2008401305

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: *Acting* Special Agent-In-Charge, Southeast Region
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV Number: 2008401305

Title of Investigation: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) et al

Case Officer: Special Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), USFWS/OLE

Reward Recommended for: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D)

Statutory Authority for Reward: ESA

Amount Requested: \$3,500.00

Concurrence: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Approved: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

4/16/09
Date

4/17/2009
Date

4/24/09
Date

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to Gerald B. Ford

Case Number: INV: 2008401305

Case Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) et al

Region: 4

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$3,500.00. This amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had an extremely close tie with the subject and assisted the Service by providing the crucial information needed in the furtherance of the investigation. Additionally, the protection of the Louisiana Black Bear, a Threatened Species, is a Service investigative priority.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

These violations occurred in a rural area of Mississippi adding to the difficulty of the investigation. As stated above, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was extremely knowledgeable in regards to the subject, his involvement and actions as they pertain to the investigation. Additional information received from Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) led to interviews with witnesses who provided crucial statements leading to the eventual arrest and conviction of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). The defendant in the investigation would not have been apprehended and successfully prosecuted for violation of the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act without the assistance provided by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, one year supervised release and 50 hours community service work at a Zoo or wildlife Refuge and fined \$15,000 for violations of the Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and LE Memo 35. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

4/16/09
Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

4/16/09
Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

4.16.09
Date

/ Division Chief/LE Ops

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Deputy Chief/OLE

4.16.09
Date

→ Payout of
LE Reward Account

I, Special Agent

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

am requesting a reward in the amount of \$3,500.00 be paid to
or information he provided which led to the arrest and conviction of

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On 12/22/08, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) appeared in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Mississippi
(Hattiesburg) before U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pled guilty to the following
charges:

1. (Misdemeanor) violation Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1538 (a)(1)(B) and
1540(b)(1)

2. (Misdemeanor) violation of Lacey Act, 16 USC 3372(A)(1)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

was sentenced as follows: 30 days imprisonment as to Counts 1 & 2 ordered to
surrender to U.S. Marshals on 1/6/09. Upon release from imprisonment (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) shall be on
supervised release for a term of one year, during which time (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is not to hunt or possess
a firearm, ammunition, destructive device or any other dangerous weapon. In addition,
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was ordered to complete 50 hours of community service work at the Hattiesburg Zoo
or a similar wildlife Refuge within the first six months of supervision. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was fined a
total of \$15,000 due immediately (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was given the option of paying the fine of \$125.00
per month to begin upon his release. A portion of the fine (\$10,000) shall be paid to the bear
Education and Restoration Group (BEAR). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was also ordered to pay a special
assessment fee of \$25.00 per count.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Attachment to narrative for reward request for

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

as per LE 35 dated June 19, 2003:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

2. No CPI identification number obtained.
3. INV#: 2008401305
4. Amount of Reward Requested: \$3,500.00. This amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from the requested reward recipient. Without the information provided by the individual above, the investigation would not have come to a successful conclusion. The individual above had an extremely close tie with the subject and assisted us by providing the crucial information needed to further the completion of the investigation. Additionally, the protection of the Louisiana Black Bear is of significant importance in our investigation prioritization.
5. Statutory Authority for Reward: ESA
6. Justification Statement:

(i) Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks (MDWFP) received information from two deer hunters stating that the remains of what appeared to be a bear had been found by the hunters. The hunters informed that the bear remains were found along Florida Gas Road in Perry County, Ms. This information was provided to USFWS/OLE and the investigation was initiated. The Louisiana Black Bear is a Threatened Species (Listed – January 7, 1992).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Additional information received from reward request recipient that led to interviews with witnesses who provided crucial statements leading to the eventual arrest and conviction of [REDACTED]. As stated above, the informant was extremely knowledgeable in regards to the subject, his involvement and actions as they pertain to the investigation. These violations occurred in a rural area of Mississippi, equating to the possibility of investigating agents obtaining information without lead being minimal. Without the information provided by the informant, the defendant in the investigation would not have been apprehended for violation of Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act. As stated above, The Louisiana Black Bear is a Threatened Species (Listed – January 7, 1992).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (ii) Only one subject, [REDACTED] involved in the investigation.

(iii) Charges:

1. (Misdemeanor) violation of Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1538 (a)(1)(B) and 1540 (b)(1).
2. (Misdemeanor) violation of Lacey Act, 16 USC 3372 (A)(1)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(iv) Defendant [REDACTED] pled guilty to above charges and was sentenced as follows:

30 days imprisonment as to Counts 1 & 2, ordered to surrender to U.S. Marshals on 1/6/2009. Upon release from imprisonment [REDACTED] shall be on supervised release for a term of one year, during which time [REDACTED] is not to hunt or possess a firearm, ammunition, destructive device or any other dangerous weapon. In addition, [REDACTED] was ordered to complete 50 hours of community service work at the Hattiesburg Zoo or a similar wildlife Refuge within the first six months of supervision [REDACTED] was fined a total of \$15,000.00 due immediately [REDACTED] was given the option of paying the fine in installments of \$1250.00 per month to begin upon his release. A portion of the fine (\$10,000.00) shall be paid to the Bear Education and Restoration Group (BEAR). [REDACTED] was also ordered to pay a special assessment fee of \$25.00 per count.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(v) All prosecutions completed.

(vi) Proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service Officer, with any family member of any Service Officer, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person.

(vii) Proposed reward recipient has received no compensation for assistance in investigation, and to my knowledge has never been paid for assistance in any investigation.

(viii) Name of person receiving reward [REDACTED]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(ix) No special circumstances requiring special check issuance.

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MAY 11 2009

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$3,500.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Surname
FWS/LE

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

05/11/2009:Inv

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

(IN REPLY REFER TO)

FWS/LE/INV2007404555

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent [Redacted]
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV Number: 2007404555

Title of Investigation: [Redacted]

Case Officer: Special Agent [Redacted]

Statutory Authority for Reward: LAC

Amount Requested: \$ 3,500.00

Concurrence: [Redacted]

Approved: [Redacted]

Processed: [Redacted]

Budget Officer

5-6-09
Date

5/8/2009
Date

5/8/09
Date

Attachments

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. INV#: 2007404555

4. Amount of Reward Requested: \$3,500.00. This amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from the requested reward recipient. Without the information provided by the individual above, the investigation would not have come to the successful conclusion that it did. The individual above had an extremely close tie with the several of the subjects and assisted us by providing the crucial information needed to further the completion of the investigation. Additionally, investigation had many facets including National Wildlife Refuge Act violations, Lacey Act violations, Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations, Felony Firearms violations, Controlled Substance Act violations, as well as other Felony Firearm violations.

Operation Stone Duck has been and continues to be a great success. Information received by [REDACTED] was essential in this investigation as well the prosecution of the subjects involved. In addition to [REDACTED] providing essential information throughout the entire investigation, he was additionally helpful in providing crucial testimony in the trial and subsequent conviction of the conservation officer and his brother. [REDACTED] had actual threats made against him and his family during investigation for possibility of his assistance with law enforcement. [REDACTED] continues to provide information to undercover operations for Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

5. Statutory Authority for Reward: LAC

6. Justification Statement:

(i) Beginning in September 2006 and continuing through present, agents from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms began an investigation into allegations of numerous federal, state, and local laws including federal wildlife violations, narcotics violations, and firearms violations. Primary focus of the investigation involves numerous individuals from the Southern District of Mississippi.

(ii), (iii)

In Operation Stone Duck investigation, a total of approximately 30 individuals have been implicated and or charged with federal and state violations. The investigation has led to several felony and misdemeanor convictions. The main subjects of the investigation were charged and sentenced as follows:

(iv)

[REDACTED] pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

2 misdemeanor counts Lacey Act, 2 counts National Wildlife Refuge Act, 2 felony counts Controlled Substance Act

Sentence:

121 months Federal Prison, 4 years probation, \$2500.00 fines

[REDACTED] pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 misdemeanor count Lacey Act, 1 count National Wildlife Refuge Act, 1 felony count Controlled Substance Act

Sentence:

46 months Federal Prison, 4 years probation, \$2500.00 fines

[REDACTED] pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 felony count Possession of Unregistered Firearm

Sentence:

15 months Federal Prison, 3 years probation, \$5000.00 fines

[REDACTED]: pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 misdemeanor count Lacey Act, 1 count National Wildlife Refuge Act, 3 misdemeanor counts Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 1 felony count Firearms Possession on Stennis Space Center

Sentence:

6 months Federal Prison, 1 year's probation, \$3500.00 fines

During this investigation the agents learned that a former [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was involved with the subjects implicated in the investigation. As part of Operation Stone Duck, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were subsequently found guilty in federal court for numerous violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act including Hunting over Bait, Taking Over the Limit of MGB, Taking Ducks Closed Season, Exceeding Possession Limit, and Exceeding Field Possession Limit. The [REDACTED] was sentenced to 30 days in federal prison, \$3000.00 fine and 2 years probation. His brother was sentenced to \$3000.00 fine, and 2 years probation.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

- (v) All prosecutions completed with the exception of taxidermist ([REDACTED]) involved in mounting wildlife killed during investigation. Notices of Violation issued to [REDACTED]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(vi) Proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service Officer, with any family member of any Service Officer, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person.

- (vii) Proposed reward recipient has received no compensation for assistance in investigation, and to my knowledge has never been paid for assistance in any investigation.

- (viii) Name of person receiving reward: [REDACTED]

- (ix) No special circumstances requiring special check issuance.

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MAY 11 2009

FILE COPY

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

5/11/09

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$3,500.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

99000-9-0101
99000-4900

Surname

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

FWS/LE:MFord: 05/11/2009:Inv#2007404555



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

(IN REPLY REFER TO)

FWS/LE/INV2007404555

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

From: Special Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with LE Memorandum 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Complete justification is attached.

INV Number: 2007404555

Title of Investigation: Operation Stone Duck

Case Officer: Special Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reward Recommended for: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Statutory Authority for Reward: LAC

Amount Requested: \$ 3,500.00

Concurrence: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

Approved: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Date

Processed: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

Date

Attachments

1. Reward requested for

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

2. No CPI identification number obtained.

3. INV#: 2007404555

4. Amount of Reward Requested: \$3,500.00. This amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from the requested reward recipient. Without the information provided by the individual above, the investigation would not have come to the successful conclusion that it did. The individual above had an extremely close tie with the several of the subjects and assisted us by providing the crucial information needed to further the completion of the investigation. Additionally, investigation had many facets including National Wildlife Refuge Act violations, Lacey Act violations, Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations, Felony Firearms violations, Controlled Substance Act violations, as well as other Felony Firearm violations.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Operation Stone Duck has been and continues to be a great success. Information received by [redacted] was essential in this investigation as well the prosecution of the subjects involved. In addition to [redacted] providing essential information throughout the entire investigation, he was additionally helpful in providing crucial testimony in the trial and subsequent conviction of the conservation officer and [redacted]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

5. Statutory Authority for Reward: LAC

6. Justification Statement:

(i) Beginning in September 2006 and continuing through present, agents from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms began an investigation into allegations of numerous federal, state, and local laws including federal wildlife violations, narcotics violations, and firearms violations. Primary focus of the investigation involves numerous individuals from the Southern District of Mississippi.

1

(ii), (iii)

In Operation Stone Duck investigation, a total of approximately 30 individuals have been implicated and or charged with federal and state violations. The investigation has led to several felony and misdemeanor convictions. The main subjects of the investigation were charged and sentenced as follows:

(iv)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

: pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

2 misdemeanor counts Lacey Act, 2 counts National Wildlife Refuge Act, 2 felony counts Controlled Substance Act

Sentence:

121 months Federal Prison, 4 years probation, \$2500.00 fines

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 misdemeanor count Lacey Act, 1 count National Wildlife Refuge Act, 1 felony count Controlled Substance Act

Sentence:

46 months Federal Prison, 4 years probation, \$2500.00 fines

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 felony count Possession of Unregistered Firearm

Sentence:

15 months Federal Prison, 3 years probation, \$5000.00 fines

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

pled guilty and was sentenced as follows:

1 misdemeanor count Lacey Act, 1 count National Wildlife Refuge Act, 3 misdemeanor counts Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 1 felony count Firearms Possession on Stennis Space Center

Sentence:

6 months Federal Prison, 1 year's probation, \$3500.00 fines

During this investigation the agents learned that a former MDWFP Conservation Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was involved with the subjects implicated in the investigation. As part of Operation Stone Duck, the conservation officer and his brother (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were subsequently found guilty in federal court for numerous violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act including Hunting over Bait, Taking Over the Limit of MGB, Taking Ducks Closed Season, Exceeding Possession Limit, and Exceeding Field Possession Limit. The Conservation officer was sentenced to 30 days in federal prison, \$3000.00 fine and 2 years probation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to \$3000.00 fine, and 2 years probation.

- (v) All prosecutions completed with the exception of taxidermist (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involved in mounting wildlife killed during investigation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Notices of Violation issued to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(vi) Proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service Officer, with any family member of any Service Officer, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person.

- (vii) Proposed reward recipient has received no compensation for assistance in investigation, and to my knowledge has never been paid for assistance in any investigation.

- (viii) Name of person receiving reward: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

- (ix) No special circumstances requiring special check issuance.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to
Case Number: INV:2007404555
Case Title: OPERATION STONE DUCK
Region: 4

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$3,500.00. The amount was derived by gauging the importance of the information received from Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

Lacey Act violations, Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations, Felony Firearms violations, Controlled Substance Act violations, and other Felony Firearm violations.

Information received by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) was essential in this investigation as well the prosecution of the subjects involved. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) provided essential information throughout the

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(F)

The proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service employee, with any family member of any Service employee, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person. He has not received any compensation for assistance in this investigation, and there are no special circumstances requiring a special check issuance.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and LE Memo 35. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Review

SSA

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

SAC/INV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

May 6, 2009
Date

5/6/09
Date

Concur: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

5.6.09
Date

~~Division Chief/OLE~~

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

5.6.09
Date

~~Deputy Chief/OLE~~

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Beginning in September 2006 and continuing through present, agents from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms began an investigation into allegations of numerous federal, state, and local laws including federal wildlife violations, narcotics violations, and firearms violations. Primary focus of the investigation involves numerous individuals from the Southern District of Mississippi.

Operation Stone Duck investigation has led to several felony convictions including 2 subjects convicted of selling methamphetamines. One of these subjects is currently serving a 10 year prison sentence; the other is serving a 3 year sentence. 2 other subjects involved in Operation Stone Duck were convicted of federal felony weapons charges, and both were sentenced to federal prison. All of the subjects involved in the investigation have been convicted of federal wildlife violations including Migratory Bird Treaty Act violations, National Wildlife Refuge Act Violations, and Lacey Act violations.

During this investigation the agents learned that a former MDWFP Conservation Officer was involved with the subjects implicated in the investigation. As part of Operation Stone Duck, the conservation officer and his brother were subsequently found guilty in federal court for numerous violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act including Hunting over Bait, Taking Over the Limit of MGB, Taking Ducks Closed Season, Exceeding Possession Limit, and Exceeding Field Possession Limit. The Conservation officer was sentenced to 30 days in federal prison, \$3000.00 fine and 2 years probation. [REDACTED] was sentenced to \$3000.00 fine, and 2 years probation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)
Operation Stone Duck has been and continues to be a great success. Information received by [REDACTED] was essential in this investigation as well the prosecution of the subjects involved. In addition to [REDACTED] providing essential information throughout the entire investigation, he was additionally helpful in providing crucial testimony in the trial and subsequent conviction of the conservation officer and his brother. [REDACTED] continues to provide information to undercover operations for Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement

500 Gold Avenue, Room 9021

Albuquerque, NM 87102



Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

Pursuant to Law Enforcement Memorandum, LE 35, I request approval of payment of a reward to the following individual. Justification is attached.

INV Number: 2002202883

Title of Investigation: T or C Raptors

Case Officer: SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reward Recommended for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Statutory Authority for Reward: Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act

Amount Requested: \$2,500.00
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SAC, Branch of Investigations

Approved: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Budget Officer

5-28-09
Date

5-28-09
Date

6-12-09
Date

Attachments:

1. **The name, address, occupation, and employer (when appropriate) of the individual for whom the reward is requested.**

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

Unemployed

2. **The INV number and the title of the case.**

INV 2002202883 – T or C Raptors

3. **The amount of reward requested, including an explanation of how the amount was derived:**

The requested amount for the reward is \$2,500.00. The amount is the statutory maximum and would be equitable compensation for [redacted] efforts and assistance. The reward amount would help cover Walker's travel expenses during this investigation.

4. **The authority for issuing the reward.**

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Fish and Wildlife Revenue Enhancement Act – WO Special Funds Account

5. **Justification statement:**

(i) As a result of Mr. [redacted] initial complaint, one undercover purchase, and the introduction of an undercover agent, the two suspects have been convicted and sentenced to felony and misdemeanor charges involving the sale of bald eagle, golden eagle, and numerous other migratory bird parts. In the course of this investigation, Mr. [redacted] made one undercover purchase and introduced the undercover officer to the suspects. The undercover officer subsequently made three more undercover purchases, including the purchase of a bald eagle carcass that one of the defendants received from the National Eagle Repository. One suspect pleaded guilty to one felony count of violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He was sentenced to three years of supervised probation and six months of home confinement. The other suspect pled guilty to one misdemeanor count of violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. She was sentenced to two years of supervised probation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. [redacted] was the original complainant. Throughout the investigation, Mr. [redacted] willingly met with investigators and provided them information critical to the investigation. If [redacted] had not come forward, the investigation would not have been initiated and the evidence, along with the information, would have possibly been destroyed or covered up. Even though, Mr. [redacted] realized (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) his cooperation may become public, he still came forward and cooperated with the

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigators "because it is the right thing to do" and he was willing to testify on behalf of the government. Without Mr. [REDACTED] assistance, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would not have known about this illegal activity and the exploitation of this species would have continued creating an even larger market in the New Mexico district, possibly the Southwest. Mr. [REDACTED] displayed much concern and genuine interest in conserving this species for future generations to come. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) In order to complete the mission and purpose of the USFWS, Office of Law Enforcement, it is extremely important and critical to provide a monetary reward to the individuals who come forward and provide information to investigators. Especially those individuals like Mr. [REDACTED] that have a much closer relationship to our natural resources and have a much larger stake in the fight for conservation.

(ii) *The number of subjects involved.*

Two subjects were involved

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

and

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(iii) *The number of subjects charged, the nature of those charges, and the results of any prosecutions*

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] pleaded guilty to one felony count of violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703 and 707(b)).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] pleaded guilty to one misdemeanor count of violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668(a)).

(iv) *The total fines, jail terms, civil penalties, and forfeitures of property obtained in the case.*

On October 01, 2003, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was placed on three years of supervised probation and six months of home confinement.

On July 16, 2008, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was placed on two years of supervised probation.

Due to the indigent nature of both suspects, neither of them received any fines.

(v) *If all prosecutions have not been completed, a statement justifying payment of the reward before completion of pending prosecutions.*

All prosecutions in this investigation have been completed.

(vi) *If the proposed reward recipient has at present or has had any relationship with any Service officer, with any family member of any Service officer, or with any other person involved in the investigation or any family of such person, the details of that relationship must be provided.*

There is no known relationship to Service officers, employees, family members of any Service employee or any other person involved in the investigation.

(vii) *The total amount of compensation the individual has already received for assistance in this case, and the total amount of compensation that individual has been paid within the last fiscal year for any case.*

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

has received no monetary compensation for his assistance.

(viii) *The name of the person who will receive the reward.*

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(ix) *Circumstances, if any, requiring special check issuance procedures.*

None.

6. How to issue the checks.

Make check payable to

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

7. Where checks will be mailed.

Please mail the check to Special Agent

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

in Edmond, OK. Special Agent

will deliver the check to

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

in person, and insure procedures set forth in

are followed regarding the payment of this reward.

AUG 31 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$5,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname

FWS/LE

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

08/28/2009: INV#

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



AUG 31 2003

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

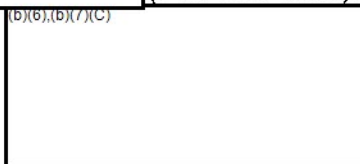
SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$5,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).



99000-9-0126
99000-4900



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, Oregon 97140-0009
Telephone 503-521-5300



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

AUG 21 2009

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Sherwood, Oregon

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:
Address:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Occupation:

Employer:

N/A

INV Number and Title:

2004102515, CAT LAKE NEST DESTRUCTION

Amount of Reward:

\$5,000.00

Prior Compensation:

None

Statute: (circle one) AECA/AHA/ARPA/BGEPA/ESA/LAC/MMPA/MBTA/RTCA/WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: See Next Page

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence:

SA [redacted]

8-27-09
Date

Approved:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8/27/2009
Date

Processed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8/27/09
Date

Budget Officer

Attachments

PR 8/21/09

JUSTIFICATION:

- a) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had been watching a pair of bald eagles (listed as threatened at the time) build a nest on private timber lands in Washington State. The nest site was located behind locked gates. During one of his hikes in the area, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) noticed the eagle nest tree had been cut down and the stump was covered with tree boughs. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did a thorough job of reporting the violation and made the report to both the state and federal governments. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agreed to meet SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and led him into the site on foot. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) showed SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the felled tree and bough covered stump. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) assisted SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in searching the nest debris pile for eggs, chicks, feathers and prey remnants. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had the foresight to retrieve a file folder he found on the ground that had been dropped during the logging operation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) turned this folder over to SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) during the site visit. This file folder contained the defendant's name and business information along with other subjects linked to the investigation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) never divulged the existence of a federal investigation to anyone. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) stated from the start of the investigation he would testify in court if needed, even though he knew the investigation would involve an independent logging company on the Olympic Peninsula and may subject him to ridicule and harassment.
- b) This investigation involved three subjects (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Forestry Consultant) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Landowner).
- c) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) paid the full collateral of \$1,500.00 on a Federal Violation Notice for taking an endangered species and agreed to covertly audio record his contacts with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to a violation of the BGEPA for taking a nest. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was never charged.
- d) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 60 days in Federal prison.
- e) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) defense attorney requested the reporting parties' information before they would enter a guilty plea. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) original complaint was turned over to the defense. Co-defendant (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was frightened by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) stating he had a bad temper and owned lots of firearms. There is always a chance of retribution, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was aware of this but was always willing to testify if needed.
- f) Any time you prevent a listed species from reproducing it has an impact on that species recovery. Bald eagles did not attempt to build a nest on Cat Lake for at least two years after the original nest tree was cut down. There is currently an active bald eagle nest on Cat Lake.
- g) The amount of the reward is a fraction of what the landowner would have made on the sale of lots along the lakeshore if the violation had not been reported. Defendant (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reported that the lots along the lakeshore would be sold for \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 each and an active eagle nest could complicate the sale of one or two of these lakeshore lots.
- h) No special circumstances requiring the issuance of a special check.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Case Number: INV:2004102515
Case Title: CAT LAKE NEST DESTRUCTION
Region: 1

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$5000.00. The amount was derived by gauging the significance of the information received from Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and his exposure to potential physical harm during the course of this investigation.

Information received by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was essential in this investigation as well the prosecution of the subjects involved. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had been watching a pair of bald eagles (listed as threatened at the time) build a nest on private timber lands in Washington State. The nest site was located behind locked gates. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) latter noticed the eagle nest tree had been cut down and the stump was covered with tree boughs. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) retrieved a file folder he found on the ground that had been dropped during the logging operation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) turned this folder over to SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) during the site visit. This file folder contained the defendant's name and business information along with other subjects linked to the investigation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) stated from the start of the investigation he would testify in court if needed, even though he knew the investigation would involve an independent logging company on the Olympic Peninsula and may subject him to ridicule and harassment and the chance of retribution.

This investigation involved three subjects (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Forestry Consultant) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (Landowner). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) paid the full collateral of \$1,500.00 on a Federal Violation Notice for taking an endangered species and agreed to covertly audio record his contacts with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to a violation of the BGEPA for taking a nest and was sentenced to 60 days in Federal prison. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was never charged.

The amount of the reward is a fraction of what the landowner would have made on the sale of lots along the lakeshore if the violation had not been reported. Defendant (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reported that the lots along the lakeshore would be sold for \$200,000.00 to \$250,000.00 each and an active eagle nest could complicate the sale of one or two of these lakeshore lots.

The proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service employee, with any family member of any Service employee, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person. He has not received any compensation for assistance in this investigation, and there are no special circumstances requiring a special check issuance.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 450 FWS 2. SSA Clint Fraley has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Aug 26, 2009
SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Date
Concur: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8-26-09
SAC/INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Date

Concur: Division Chief/LE Ops Date
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur: Deputy Chief/OLE Date
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur: Chief/OLE Date
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

AUG 31 2009

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$1,000.00 reward to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname
FWS/LE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 08/28/2009: INV

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

AUG 31 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$1,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname

FWS/LE: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 08/28/2009: INV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



AUG 31 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$1,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

99000-9-0125
99000-4900



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, Oregon 97140-0009
Telephone 503-521-5300



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

AUG 21 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:
Address:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Occupation:
Employer:

INV Number and Title: 2007102637, HARVARD WOLF, LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO

Amount of Reward: \$1,000.00

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: (circle one) AECA/AHA/ARPA/BGEPA/ESA/LAC/MMPA/MBTA/RTCA/WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: S (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence:

8-27-09

Date

Approved:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8/27/09

Date

Processed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8/27/09

Date

Attachments

pn 8/26/09

JUSTIFICATION:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

On May 10, 2007, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) voluntarily provided information to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) regarding the unlawful take of a gray wolf by a resident of Harvard, Idaho, identified as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). The IDFG subsequently provided the same information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement for investigation of a violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reported that he was traveling with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) after visiting (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) when they spotted a wolf near the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) residence. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) courteously contacted (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and told him about the wolf since (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had sheep in the area near his residence. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) subsequently exited his residence, drove a vehicle to the reported location of the wolf, and shot the wolf after the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) showed (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) where it was. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) shot the wolf from Idaho State Highway 6 from approximately 45 yards away.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) initially wanted to remain anonymous, but ultimately agreed to testify against (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had the case gone to trial. He provided a written statement for the investigating agent and Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) revisited the crime scene with two IDFG officers to describe the events that took place which lead to the death of the wolf.

As a result of the information provided by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a one (1) count ESA target letter was sent to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Boise, Idaho, on June 2, 2008, alleging the illegal take of an ESA listed species.

On January 22, 2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to the one (1) count of violating the ESA for the illegal take of one gray wolf.

On January 22, 2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the United States District Court, Moscow, Idaho, to 12 months supervised probation; ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Enforcement Trust Fund; ordered to pay \$25.00 special assessment to the court; and ordered to one year hunting license revocation..

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) played an instrumental role in this investigation by reporting a violation related to a highly controversial issue in the State of Idaho. Information gathered during the first contact with Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) confirmed that a wolf had been shot and killed by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and that Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) witnessed the violation first hand. The wolf did not have a collar and was completely out of sight from passerbys, therefore if Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had not reported the unlawful take to law enforcement authorities, its death would more than likely have remained undetected.

It is requested that a reward in the amount of \$1,000.00 be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) from the Law Enforcement Reward Account. By reporting this violation, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) placed himself and his

family at risk and in a position for potential personal and property retaliation given the fact that the livestock industry in Idaho is greatly opposed to the protection of wolves. There is no question that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted of violating the Endangered Species Act based on the information reported by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

The wolf taken in this case is representative of most wolf cases here in Idaho, one or multiple gunshots equal one wolf kill. There is usually very little evidence left behind except for a hole in a carcass. Most of these unlawful acts go unreported and the impact to the resource is not known. The impact of this wolf on the rest of the pack/population is not known because this wolf's pecking order was not determined in this area. The impact may have been serious for the survival of this pack for that year because the wolf was taken during the critical period when pup survivability needs are increasing. These needs are then taken on by the whole pack, not just the alpha male and female. At this time it is not known what particular role this wolf played in the pack.

The reward amount was determined in this case for \$1,000.00 for each individual by the following analysis. In a previous case (INV 2004101062), three individuals supported investigative work for the illegal take of a wolf by helping FWS-OLE make covert calls, provide insight into the shooter's day to day activities and help us recover additional evidence as the case evolved. The main witness in this case was given \$2,500.00 from the FWS and \$2,500 from Defenders of Wildlife. The other two witnesses received less. SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) realizes the involvement by the individuals in this current case were simply a witness reporting the facts surrounding their location at a particular time. They reported the incident, filled out statements and looked at photo lineups. They had no further involvement, so therefore their reward does not meet the previous witness involvement standard. This witness will not receive additional funds from any NGO that SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is aware of.

Please consider this request, and if approved, please forward a check made out to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to the SAC, Region 1 where coordination for delivery to the recipient will be made.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) & (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Case Number: INV:2007102637
Case Title: HARVARD WOLF, LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO
Region: 1

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$1000.00 apiece. The reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above named ESA investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by them.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) played an instrumental role in this investigation by reporting a violation related to a highly controversial issue in the State of Idaho. Information gathered during the first contact with the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) confirmed that a Grey Wolf had been shot and killed by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) witnessed the violation first hand. The wolf did not have a collar and was completely out of sight, if the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had not reported the unlawful take to law enforcement authorities, its death would more than likely have remained undetected.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

On January 22, 2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to the one (1) count of violating the ESA for the illegal take of one gray wolf. On January 22, 2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the United States District Court, Moscow, Idaho, to 12 months supervised probation; ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Enforcement Trust Fund; ordered to pay \$25.00 special assessment to the court; and ordered to one year hunting license revocation.

By reporting this violation, the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) placed themselves and their family at risk and in a position for potential personal and property retaliation given the fact that the livestock industry in Idaho is greatly opposed to the protection of wolves. There is no question that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted of violating the Endangered Species Act based on the information reported by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

The proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service employee, with any family member of any Service employee, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person. He has not received any compensation for assistance in this investigation, and there are no special circumstances requiring a special check issuance.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 450 FWS 2. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward for the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Aug 26, 2009
Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8-26-09
Date

Concur:

Division Chief/LE Ops

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



AUG 31 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief. Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

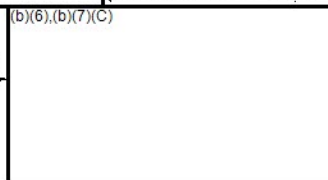
This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$1,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to her in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Office (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

for



99000-9-0124
99000-4900



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, Oregon 97140-0009
Telephone 503-521-5300



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

AUG 21 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:
Address:

Occupation:
Employer:

INV Number and Title: 2007102637, HARVARD WOLF, LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO
Amount of Reward: \$1,000.00
Prior Compensation: None

Statute: (circle one) AECA/AHA/ARPA/BGEPA/ESA/LAC/MMPA/MBTA/RTCA/WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: See Next Page

Concurrence:

Approved:

Processed:

Attachments

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

8-27-09

Date

8/27/09

Date

8/27/09

Date

per 8/27/09

JUSTIFICATION:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On May 10, 2007, Ms. [REDACTED] voluntarily provided information to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) regarding the unlawful take of a gray wolf by a resident of Harvard, Idaho, identified as [REDACTED]. The IDFG subsequently provided the same information to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, for investigation of a violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Ms. [REDACTED] reported that she was traveling with her husband after visiting her [REDACTED] when they spotted a wolf near the [REDACTED] residence. Ms. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] courteously contacted [REDACTED] and told him about the wolf since [REDACTED] had sheep in the area near his residence. [REDACTED] subsequently exited his residence, drove a vehicle to the reported location of the wolf, and shot the wolf after the Ellisons showed [REDACTED] where it was. [REDACTED] shot the wolf from Idaho State Highway 6 from approximately 45 yards away.

Ms. [REDACTED] initially wanted to remain anonymous, but ultimately agreed to testify against [REDACTED] had the case gone to trial. She provided a written statement for the investigating agent that clearly described the events that took place which lead to the death of the wolf.

As a result of the information provided by Ms. [REDACTED] a one (1) count ESA target letter was sent to [REDACTED] by the U.S. Attorney's Office, Boise, Idaho, on June 2, 2008, alleging the illegal take of an ESA listed species.

On January 22, 2009, [REDACTED] entered into a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to the one (1) count of violating the ESA for the illegal take of one gray wolf.

On January 22, 2009, [REDACTED] was sentenced in the United States District Court, Moscow, Idaho, to 12 months supervised probation; ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Enforcement Trust Fund; ordered to pay \$25.00 special assessment to the court; and ordered to one year hunting license revocation..

Ms. [REDACTED] played an instrumental role in this investigation by reporting a violation related to a highly controversial issue in the State of Idaho. Information gathered during the first contact with Ms. [REDACTED] confirmed that a wolf had been shot and killed by [REDACTED], and that Ms. [REDACTED] witnessed the violation first hand. The wolf did not have a collar and was completely out of sight from passerbys, therefore if Ms. [REDACTED] had not reported the unlawful take to law enforcement authorities, its death would more than likely have remained undetected.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

The wolf taken in this case is representative of most wolf cases here in Idaho, one or multiple gunshots equal one wolf kill. There is usually very little evidence left behind except for a hole in a carcass. Most of these unlawful acts go unreported and the impact to the resource is not known. The impact of this wolf on the rest of the pack/population is not known because this wolf's pecking order was not determined in this area. The impact may have been serious for the survival of this pack for that year because the wolf was taken during the critical period when pup survivability needs are increasing. These needs are then taken on by the whole pack, not just the alpha male and female. At this time, it is not known what particular role this wolf played in the pack.

The reward amount was determined in this case for \$1,000.00 for each individual by the following analysis. In a previous case (INV 2004101062), three individuals supported investigative work for the illegal take of a wolf by helping FWS-OLE make covert calls, provide insight into the shooter's day to day activities and help us recover additional evidence as the case evolved. The main witness in this case was given \$2,500.00 from the FWS and \$2,500 from Defenders of Wildlife. The other two witnesses received less. SA [redacted] realizes the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement by the individuals in this current case were simply a witness reporting the facts surrounding their location at a particular time. They reported the incident, filled out statements and looked at photo lineups. They had no further involvement, so therefore their reward does not meet the previous witness involvement standard. This witness will not receive additional funds from any NGO that SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] is aware of.

Please consider this request, and if approved, please forward a check made out to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] to the SAC, Region 1 where coordination for delivery to the recipient will be made.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) & (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Case Number: INV:2007102637
Case Title: HARVARD WOLF, LATAH COUNTY, IDAHO
Region: 1

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$1000.00 apiece. The reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above named ESA investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by them.

Mr. and Mrs. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) played an instrumental role in this investigation by reporting a violation related to a highly controversial issue in the State of Idaho. Information gathered during the first contact with the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) confirmed that a Grey Wolf had been shot and killed by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) witnessed the violation first hand. The wolf did not have a collar and was completely out of sight, if the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had not reported the unlawful take to law enforcement authorities, its death would more than likely have remained undetected.

The (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) initially wanted to remain anonymous, but ultimately agreed to testify against (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had the case gone to trial. They provided written statements for the investigating agent.

On January 22, 2009 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to the one (1) count of violating the ESA for the illegal take of one gray wolf. On January 22, 2009 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced in the United States District Court, Moscow, Idaho, to 12 months supervised probation; ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$2,000.00 to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Clearwater Enforcement Trust Fund; ordered to pay \$25.00 special assessment to the court; and ordered to one year hunting license revocation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)
On given the fact that the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is guilty to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted of violating the Endangered Species Act based on the information reported by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

The proposed reward recipient has no relationship with any Service employee, with any family member of any Service employee, or with any person involved in the investigation or family member of such person. He has not received any compensation for assistance in this investigation, and there are no special circumstances requiring a special check issuance.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 450 FWS 2. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward for the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Aug 26, 2009
Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SAC/INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

8-26-09
Date

Concur:

Division Chief/LE Ops

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

SEP 14 2009

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$40,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Office, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname
FWS/LE (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

9/11/2009:INV#

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, Oregon 97140-0009
Telephone 503-521-5300



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

AUG 27 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

Amount of Reward:

Prior Compensation:

Statute: (circle one) AECA/AHA/ARPA/BGEPA/ESA/LAC/MMPA/MBTA/RTCA/WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Justification: See

Concurrence:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SAC
Acting

Approved:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Processed:

Budget Officer

9-1-09

Date

9-4-09

Date

9-10-09

Date

Attachments

PR 8/21/09

JUSTIFICATION:

██████████ contacted the Office of Law Enforcement during 2006. He wished to inform OLE of egregious violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act. The violations included the slaughter of Bald and Golden Eagles and other protected migratory birds for use in the Native American Pow Wow Circuit.

[REDACTED] stated that the lucrative prizes being paid for dance contests by Native American Casinos was causing the slaughter of hundreds of eagles and migratory birds. [REDACTED] stated he wanted to assist the Service to put a stop to this needless slaughter of wildlife.

Over the entire three year investigation [REDACTED] became a vital part of a major covert investigative team attempting to identify, document and prosecute those responsible.

During the covert phase of the investigation, [REDACTED] attended 13 major pow wow events to assist agents in identifying, documenting and purchasing raw feathers as well as Native American regalia made from eagles and migratory birds. [REDACTED] was required to travel hundreds of miles away from his home and family. Every event included being away from home a minimum of 4 days and on weekends. The workday at an event averaged 14 hours per day.

██████████ contribution to this investigation cannot be given its true value in a few short paragraphs. What ██████████ brought to the team was a working knowledge of the culture and instant credibility with Native Americans and the criminal element among them. ██████████ further provided invaluable insight as to each target's method of operation, as well as their individual vulnerabilities that could be exploited by covert agents.

In two and one half years, covert agents were able to make significant, complex cases against 29 individuals. Agents expect to add an additional six to eight individuals to the defendant list based on search warrants executed as part of the investigation.

In the opinion of the covert team members, undertaking an investigation of this magnitude without the cooperation of ██████ would have taken in excess of five years. It is doubtful that covert agents would have been able to gain the confidence and trust of a very secretive and somewhat closed culture without the involvement of ██████. The end result would have been far fewer numbers of defendants and a significantly longer investigation resulting in a substantial increase in the expenditure of funds.

██████ involvement saved the covert team thousands of dollars. The savings can be attributed to his daily contact with potential targets. Agents were able to focus their time and efforts on specific individuals, saving significant covert funds by not having to engage in making unnecessary confidence purchases. Agents did not have to spend additional funds for travel, lodging and per diem by having to travel all over the country attempting to identify, meet and gain the confidence of targets of the investigation. Because of ██████ involvement, covert agents knew exactly who to target, where they would be, what their inventory was and how to best make that most important first covert contact work in favor of the investigation.

Currently charges have been filed on five individuals in Washington and Oregon, charges are pending on another 24 individuals. An additional six to eight individuals will also be charged as a result of evidence uncovered from the execution of search warrants. Charges were documented and will be filed in the states of Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Kansas, Montana, Virginia, Wisconsin and Idaho. Due to the number of defendants and the various jurisdictions involved, charges will be filed on a state by state basis. As defendants' investigations are adjudicated, additional defendants will be charged.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) RAC [REDACTED] who is the case agent is requesting the reward before hand due to the length of time it will take to adjudicate the cases. It may very well take two to four years to adjudicate all subjects. The investigation was also structured so the [REDACTED] did not purchase any of the items of evidence and was not a witness to any transaction that will result in charges. Obtaining a confirming statement from a prosecuting attorney is not possible as there will undoubtedly be as many as seven or eight prosecuting attorneys involved and, as of this time, it is unknown who they may be. RAC [REDACTED] will also retire in November of 2009 and he wishes to have the reward submitted and approved if possible prior to his retirement.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] involvement in this investigation posed a significant safety risk to him and his family. There is an extremely violent element to a segment of the Native Americans whom attend and are involved in the unlawful activity. One individual who is a defendant is currently charged with murder by Oregon authorities, other individuals have been in prison for dealing narcotics. It was not unusual for targets of the investigation or their friends to be involved in fights and altercations at after hour pow wow parties. The risk factor for [REDACTED] his family, and the covert team was very high.

The impact of the illicit activities on Bald and Golden Eagles and other migratory birds was immediate and far reaching. Washington for example had experienced a 50 percent drop in nesting Golden Eagle numbers. Of the occupied nests remaining, half were not producing young. The investigation documented that four of the defendants from Washington were each responsible for killing eighty to one hundred eagles per year. They had been involved in this activity for as many as four years. This group was also responsible for stealing young eaglets from nests only to kill them for their plumage when the plumage was at it most valuable stage.

Not only was this group having a significantly detrimental effect on populations of eagles and migratory birds, they were also killing hundreds of wild horses and wildlife such as deer, elk and bighorn sheep to use as bait to attract eagles which they would then shoot on a daily basis.

The investigation uncovered all aspects of the unlawful activity; the shooters, manufacturers and dealers of unlawful Native American regalia. Because of [REDACTED] involvement, the investigation was able to build significant cases against nine of the largest eagle dealers in the country. It was not unusual for these individuals to have in their inventory between fifty to seventy eagles as well as hundreds of migratory birds available for sale. The execution of search warrants on just seven of these targets resulted in the seizure of 300 eagles and over 300 migratory birds.

[REDACTED] is responsible for an unprecedented investigation as it relates to the numbers of eagles and hawks being killed and commercialized and the tremendous negative impact it would continue to have without his willingness to become involved.

The covert agents came up with a reward amount of \$40,000 based on the following factors.

- The hundreds of hours [REDACTED] devoted and the initiative he took to making the investigation a success which included significant travel away from his family and home.
- The number of major targets the investigation was able to identify, target and document significant charges against.
- The thousands of dollars of savings to the Service in travel, lodging, per diem, and covert funds by agents knowing exactly where to be and how to contact targets vs. chasing targets all over the country trying to identify, target and attempt to gain the trust of the targets.
- The extremely high risk factor [REDACTED] exposed himself and his family to in an effort to stop the unlawful activity.
- The intelligence, insight and instant credibility the agents were provided by [REDACTED] allowed the agents to be better prepared for high risk contacts over a period of two and one half years required to document the unlawful activity.

Please consider this request, and if approved, please forward a check made out to [REDACTED] to the SAC, Region 1 where coordination for delivery to the recipient will be made.

There are no special considerations for issuing a check to the reward recipient.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



SEP 14 2004

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$40,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, OR 97140-0009

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

Ar

99000-9-0132
99000-4900



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
P.O. Box 9
Sherwood, Oregon 97140-0009
Telephone 503-521-5300



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

AUG 27 2009

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
Washington, D.C.

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Sherwood, Oregon

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

Amount of Reward:

Prior Compensation:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

2006104784, OPERATION HANGING ROCK

\$40,000.00

\$10,455.00: Compensation for attending 13 major Pow Wow events throughout the Western & Central U.S. Each event required a minimum of 4 days of work and/or travel; and majority of work was on weekends and included works in excess of 14 hours per day. Mr. [redacted] has not received any other compensation within the last fiscal year for any other investigation.

Statute: (circle one) AECA/AHA/ARPA/BGEPA/ESA/LAC/MMPA/MBTA/RTCA/WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: See (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence:

SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Acting

Date

Approved:

Chief (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Date

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date

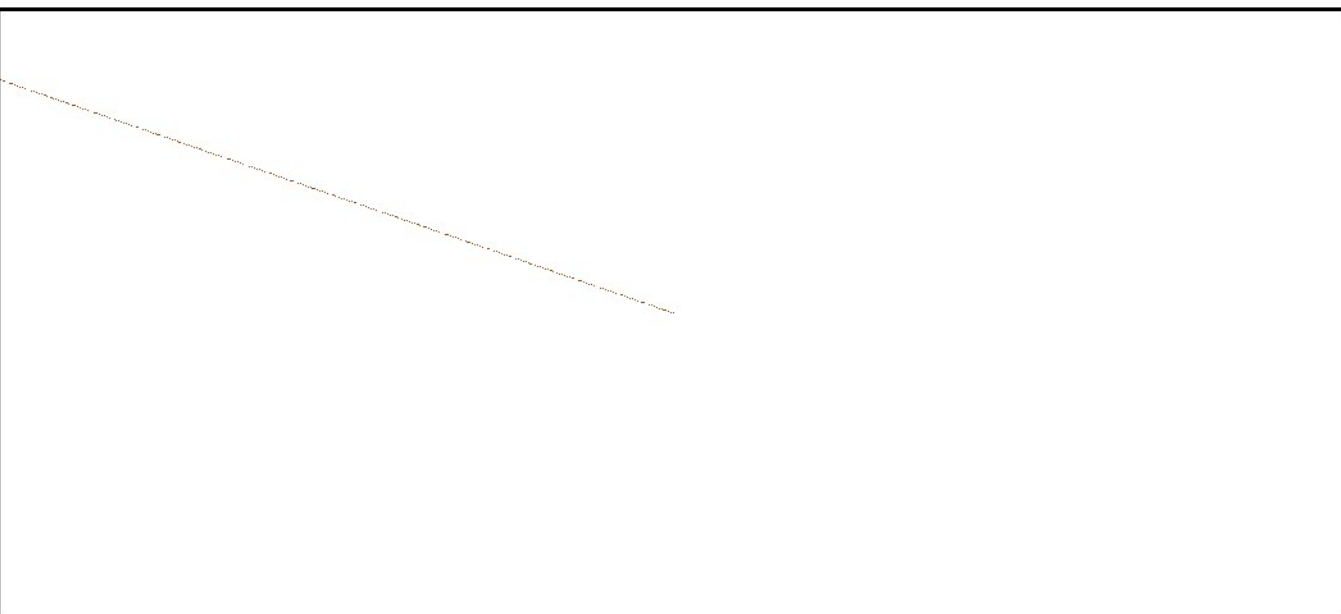
Attachments

PR 8/21/09

JUSTIFICATION:

Mr. [redacted] contacted the Office of Law Enforcement during 2006. He wished to inform OLE of egregious violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act. The violations included the slaughter of Bald and Golden Eagles and other protected migratory birds for use in the Native American Pow Wow Circuit.

Mr. [redacted] is a Native American and is a member of the Navajo Tribe. Mr. [redacted] stated that the lucrative prizes being paid for dance contests by Native American Casinos was causing the slaughter of hundreds of eagles and migratory birds. Mr. [redacted] stated he wanted to assist the Service to put a stop to this needless slaughter of wildlife.



In two and one half years, covert agents were able to make significant, complex cases against 29 individuals. Agents expect to add an additional six to eight individuals to the defendant list based on search warrants executed as part of the investigation.

In the opinion of the covert team members, undertaking an investigation of this magnitude without the cooperation of Mr. [redacted] would have taken in excess of five years. It is doubtful that covert agents would have been able to gain the confidence and trust of a very secretive and somewhat closed culture without the involvement of Mr. [redacted]. The end result would have been far fewer numbers of defendants and a significantly longer investigation resulting in a substantial increase in the expenditure of funds.

Mr. [redacted] involvement saved the covert team thousands of dollars. The savings can be attributed to his daily contact with potential targets. Agents were able to focus their time and efforts on specific individuals, saving significant covert funds by not having to engage in making unnecessary confidence purchases. Agents did not have to spend additional funds for travel, lodging and per diem by having to travel all over the country attempting to identify, meet and gain the confidence of targets of the investigation. Because of Mr. [redacted] involvement, covert agents knew exactly who to target, where they would be, what their inventory was and how to best make that most important first covert contact work in favor of the investigation.

Currently charges have been filed on five individuals in Washington and Oregon, charges are pending on another 24 individuals. An additional six to eight individuals will also be charged as a result of evidence uncovered from the execution of search warrants. Charges were documented and will be filed in the states of Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Kansas, Montana, Virginia, Wisconsin and Idaho. Due to the number of defendants and the various jurisdictions involved, charges will be filed on a state by state basis. As defendants' investigations are adjudicated, additional defendants will be charged.

RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who is the case agent is requesting the reward before hand due to the length of time it will take to adjudicate the cases. It may very well take two to four years to adjudicate all subjects. The investigation was also structured so the Mr. [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not purchase any of the items of evidence and was not a witness to any transaction that will result in charges. Obtaining a confirming statement from a prosecuting attorney is not possible as there will undoubtedly be as many as seven or eight prosecuting attorneys involved and, as of this time, it is unknown who they may be. RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) will also retire in November of 2009 and he wishes to have the reward submitted and approved if possible prior to his retirement.

[REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

The impact of the illicit activities on Bald and Golden Eagles and other migratory birds was immediate and far reaching. Washington for example had experienced a 50 percent drop in nesting Golden Eagle numbers. Of the occupied nests remaining, half were not producing young. The investigation documented that four of the defendants from Washington were each responsible for killing eighty to one hundred eagles per year. They had been involved in this activity for as many as four years. This group was also responsible for stealing young eaglets from nests only to kill them for their plumage when the plumage was at it most valuable stage.

Not only was this group having a significantly detrimental effect on populations of eagles and migratory birds, they were also killing hundreds of wild horses and wildlife such as deer, elk and bighorn sheep to use as bait to attract eagles which they would then shoot on a daily basis.

The investigation uncovered all aspects of the unlawful activity: the shooters, manufacturers and dealers of unlawful Native American regalia. Because of Mr. [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement, the investigation was able to build significant cases against nine of the largest eagle dealers in the country. It was not unusual for these individuals to have in their inventory between fifty to seventy eagles as well as hundreds of migratory birds available for sale. The execution of search warrants on just seven of these targets resulted in the seizure of 300 eagles and over 300 migratory birds.

Mr. [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is responsible for an unprecedented investigation as it relates to the numbers of eagles and hawks being killed and commercialized and the tremendous negative impact it would continue to have without his willingness to become involved.

The covert agents came up with a reward amount of \$40,000 based on the following factors.

- The hundreds of hours Mr. [redacted] devoted and the initiative he took to making the investigation a success which included significant travel away from his family and home.
- The number of major targets the investigation was able to identify, target and document significant charges against.
- The thousands of dollars of savings to the Service in travel, lodging, per diem, and covert funds by agents knowing exactly where to be and how to contact targets vs. chasing targets all over the country trying to identify, target and attempt to gain the trust of the targets.
- The extremely high risk factor Mr. [redacted] exposed himself and his family to in an effort to stop the unlawful activity.
- The intelligence, insight and instant credibility the agents were provided by Mr. [redacted] allowed the agents to be better prepared for high risk contacts over a period of two and one half years required to document the unlawful activity.

Please consider this request, and if approved, please forward a check made out to [redacted] to the SAC, Region 1 where coordination for delivery to the recipient will be made.

There are no special considerations for issuing a check to the reward recipient.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to
Case Number/ Title: 2006104784, OPERATION HANGING ROCK
Region: 1

SUMMARY: This reward request is for \$40,000 to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was assigned a Cooperating Private Individual number of PT 1095. Over the entire three year investigation, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has been a vital part of a major covert investigative team. He spent hundred of hours and numerous days away from his family while attempting to identify, document and build a prosecutable case against those responsible for killing selling at least at least 400 to 620 Bald and Golden Eagles. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is responsible for an unprecedented investigation as it relates to the numbers of eagles and hawks being killed and commercialized and the tremendous negative impact it would continue to have without his willingness to become involved. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) prior compensation for this investigation is limited to \$10,455,00. Past compensation is for attending 13 major Pow Wow events throughout the Western & Central U.S. Each event required a minimum of 4 days of work and/or travel; and majority of work was on weekends and included work in excess of 14 hours per day. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has not received any other compensation within the last fiscal year for any other investigation.

The impact of the illicit activities on Bald and Golden Eagles and other migratory birds within the geographic area of the investigation was tremendous. Washington, for example, had experienced a 50 percent drop in nesting Golden Eagle numbers. Of the occupied nests remaining, half were not producing young. The defendants in this investigation are alleged to have killed hundreds of Bald and Golden Eagles in one year and have been involved in this activity for as many as four years. This group was also responsible for stealing young eaglets from nests only to kill them for their plumage when the plumage was at it most valuable stage.

The amount of the reward requested was derived by The hundreds of hours Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) devoted and the initiative he took in making the investigation a success, which included significant time away from his family and home. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and contribution in this investigation dramatically increased the number of major targets the investigation was able to identify, target and document significant charges against. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Currently charges have been filed on five individuals in Washington and Oregon, charges are pending on another 24 individuals. An additional six to eight individuals will also be charged as a result of evidence uncovered from the execution of search warrants. Charges were documented and will be filed in the states of Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Kansas, Montana, Virginia, Wisconsin and Idaho. Due to the number of defendants and the various jurisdictions involved, charges will be filed on a state by state basis. As defendants' investigations are adjudicated, additional defendants will be charged.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement in this investigation posed a significant safety risk to him and his family. There is an extremely violent element to a segment of the Native Americans whom attend and are involved in the unlawful activity. One defendant is currently charged with murder by Oregon authorities, other individuals have been in prison for dealing narcotics. The risk factor for Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) his family, and the covert team was very high.

RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who is the case agent, is requesting the reward prior to adjudication of the targets due to the scope of the prosecution and the time involved. The investigation was structured so Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not purchase any of the items of evidence and was not a witness to any transaction that will result in charges. RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) will also retire in November of 2009 and he wishes to have the reward submitted and approved if possible prior to his retirement.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and 450 FW2. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward to and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Date

Aug 31, 2009

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SAC/INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Division Chief/LE Ops

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

meets

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Chief/OLE

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(5)

DEC 9 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,500 reward for an individual who provided crucial information resulting in saving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service thousands of dollars and investigative hours. Without the individual's cooperation, knowledge, and commitment the investigation would not have been successful. To minimize the risk of the community learning the individual's name and due to the sensitivity of the case, I am authorizing that a check be issued in the name of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for the amount specified. Upon receipt, RAC, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) will hand-deliver the reward payment to the informant. The check is to be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
One Federal Drive, P.O. Box 45
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-0045

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

/s/ (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),
(b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname

FWS/LE (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

12/08/2009:INV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

AUG 31 2009

**Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05**

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,500 reward to [REDACTED] Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

**Special Agent In Charge - R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
One Federal Drive, P.O. Box 45
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-0045**

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, [REDACTED] (703-358-1949).

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**cc: Surname
FWS/LE:M [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10/27/2009:INV

[REDACTED]



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



DEC 9 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,500 reward for an individual who provided crucial information resulting in saving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service thousands of dollars and investigative hours. Without the individual's cooperation, knowledge, and commitment the investigation would not have been successful. To minimize the risk of the community learning the individual's name and due to the sensitivity of the case, I am authorizing that a check be issued in the name of [REDACTED] for the amount specified. Upon receipt, RAC, [REDACTED] will hand-deliver the reward payment to the informant. The check is to be forwarded to:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Special Agent In Charge R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
One Federal Drive, P.O. Box 45
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-0045

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, [REDACTED] (703-358-1949).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),
(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)
Case Title: CHASE THE ADVENTURE
Region: Region 3

Summary: This reward request is for \$4,500. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) regarding numerous violations of the Lacey Act. To date, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has not received any compensation for his part in this investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made the initial complaint to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the illegal activities of the guide/outfitting business known as Chase the Adventure. In addition, he participated in the investigation by booking covert officers on an illegal deer hunt in Iowa. Without this booking, it would have been difficult and time consuming to gain the trust of the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of Chase the Adventure. Throughout the investigation, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) prepared over ninety (90) detailed written reports documenting wildlife violations. In addition, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has traveled on personal hunting expeditions at significant cost and discovered violations of wildlife laws. At this writing, six cases are being prosecuted in state and Canadian courts due to information provided by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

On May 4, 2006, one subject was sentenced in Alaska state court to 30 days in jail, \$3,000 fine, and two (2) years probation for the illegal possession of a grizzly bear.

On September 18, 2008, the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of Chase the Adventure was sentenced to one felony violation of the Lacey Act, resulting in one (1) year imprisonment, \$10,000 fine, \$23,000 restitution, and three (3) years supervised release. In addition, he forfeited all property seized during the investigation, including two (2) all-terrain vehicles (ATV's).

Felony Lacey Act charges have been filed against six (6) additional defendants associated with the Chase the Adventure investigation.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward pertaining to a Lacey Act conviction. The reward is justified and correct under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

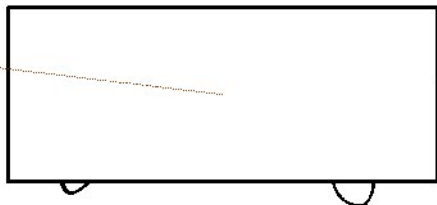
Acting SAC/INV

10/20/09
Date

10/20/09
Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:



10-21-09

Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Deputy Chief/OLE



Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

10/22/09

Date

Justification:

450 FW 2.7B(1) - Name, address, occupation and employer of proposed recipient.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

450 FW 2.7B(2) - Proposed recipient has had a personal relationship with a special agent, a family member of a special agent, or with any other person or family members of a person involved in the investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. has had no personal relationship with any person involved in this investigation.

450 FW 2.7B(3) - Permanent Cooperating Private Individual (CPI) identification number.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),
(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

was issued by the Special Agent in Charge, Region 3.

450 FW 2.7B(4) - Investigation number and title.

INV# , CHASE THE ADVENTURE

450 FW 2.7B(5) - Amount of reward requested.

\$4,500.00

450 FW 2.7B(6) - Total amount of compensation the individual has already received for assistance in the investigation, and the total amount of compensation paid to the individual within the last fiscal year for any investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. has never asked for or ever received compensation of any kind in this case or any other investigation.

450 FW 2.7B(7) - Authority for issuing the reward.

Lacey Act, Title 16, Section 3371 *et seq.*

450 FW 2.7B(8)(a) - Summary of the investigation and a description of the individual's involvement.

The CHASE THE ADVENTURE investigation, which took place in Regions 3 and 7, focused on the illegal take, transportation and sale of big game animals in violation of state law, which were then transported and sold in interstate commerce in violation of the Lacey Act. CHASE THE ADVENTURE is a guide/outfitter business and hunt club located near Decorah, Iowa.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) In August of 2004, [redacted] came forward with information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Special Agent (SA) [redacted] about CHASE THE ADVENTURE owner [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted], providing illegal trophy white-tailed deer hunts in Iowa to out-of-state clients at (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) \$2,500.00 per hunt. Mr. [redacted] and was trying to start a business as a booking (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agent for guided hunts throughout the United States and Canada. At about the same time, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] provided information on several other violations occurring in the United States and abroad. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. [redacted] said [redacted] instructed non-resident hunters to hunt in Iowa without the proper (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) licenses, adding that when hunters were successful in harvesting trophy deer, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided resident licenses to these hunters to mask their deer as legal game.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) M [redacted] of [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) by booking covert officers on an (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) illegal deer hunt in Iowa with CHASE THE ADVENTURE. Mr. [redacted] to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) facilitate the booking of the covert officers with HOGENSON, who at that time used "word of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) mouth" to gain new clients. Mr. [redacted] meticulously prepared written reports containing very (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) accurate and detailed information about his dealings with [redacted] Without Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) cooperation, it would have been difficult and time consuming to gain HOGENSON's trust.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) During covert Iowa hunts in 2004, Service agents documented the illegal sale, take and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) transportation of trophy white-tailed deer in violation of the Lacey Act. During the hunts, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] offered to guide the agents on bear hunts in Alaska. [redacted] was not a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) licensed hunting guide in Alaska as required by Alaska State law. However, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) frequently guided out-of-state clients on black bear, brown bear, and moose hunts in Alaska. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) During a covert Alaska brown bear hunt in 2005, [redacted] instructed the two (2) Service (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agents to refrain from buying the required bear license prior to hunting. He told the agents to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) wait with purchase of a license until a brown bear was killed. After a covert agent killed a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) brown bear, [redacted] conspired with a local Alaska resident to have the Alaska resident tag (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the bear, store the bear, and later ship the bear to Nebraska. [redacted] charged clients (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) approximately \$2,000.00 for illegal bear hunts in Alaska.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) For over five (5) years, Mr. [redacted] has continued to provide unsolicited information to the Service (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) about CHASE THE ADVENTURE and other illegal guides. Mr. [redacted] has prepared over ninety (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) (90) written report packages with very detailed information. Mr. [redacted] has traveled on personal (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) hunting expeditions at significant cost and discovered violations of wildlife laws. Mr. [redacted] has (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contacted SA [redacted] and immediately reported his findings. On at least four (4) occasions, SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] has asked Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to only document information and refrain from harvesting game. To (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) maintain the integrity of Mr. [redacted] identity, SA [redacted] has never directed Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to illegally (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) harvest animals in violation of the Lacey Act for collection of evidence of a crime.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) From August 2004 through 2009, Mr. [redacted] has continued to provide information and reports to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the Service. At last count, Mr. [redacted] provided SA [redacted] with information on at least nineteen (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (19) other individuals or groups involved in violations of wildlife laws in the United States and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Canada. From this information, six (6) of the cases are in the prosecution phase or have been (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) prosecuted in state court or local Canadian courts. The wildlife involved in the investigations (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) includes wolves, bears, migratory birds, elk, moose, and tigers. Mr. [redacted] has provided (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) information to the Service because he does not agree with violating wildlife laws. He has never

requested compensation of any kind for the information provided. Mr. [REDACTED] has not been rewarded for his generous assistance to wildlife law enforcement.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(b) - Number of subjects involved.

Eight (8) subjects are involved in the CHASE THE ADVENTURE investigation, all of which committed felony Lacey Act violations.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(c) - Criminal or civil charges filed.

[REDACTED] was charged by indictment with two (2) criminal felony violations of the Lacey Act.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(d) - Results of all legal proceedings. If legal proceedings are not completed prior to the request, the special agent must provide a reason why he/she is requesting the reward beforehand and include a statement confirming that the prosecuting attorney concurs with payment.

On May 4, 2006, [REDACTED] Alaska co-conspirator, [REDACTED], was found guilty and sentenced in Alaska State court for the illegal possession of a grizzly bear. [REDACTED] was sentenced to 30 days in jail, a \$3,000.00 fine, and two (2) years probation.

On March 23, 2008, [REDACTED] pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court to one (1) felony violation of the Lacey Act. In a plea agreement, [REDACTED] admitted guiding six (6) other hunters on illegal hunts. On September 18, 2008, [REDACTED] was sentenced to one (1) year imprisonment, a \$10,000.00 fine, \$23,550.00 in restitution, a \$100.00 special assessment, and three (3) years supervised release. In addition, [REDACTED] forfeited all property seized during the investigation, including two (2) all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

Felony charges against six (6) additional defendants associated with the CHASE THE ADVENTURE investigation are currently in the prosecution phase.

Rewarding Mr. [REDACTED] prior to the completion of all prosecutions in the case is requested for two specific reasons. First, Mr. [REDACTED] is not expected to testify against other defendants as those cases were built based on search warrants and interviews; Mr. [REDACTED] has no direct knowledge of their crimes. Second, other defendants' prosecutions may take more than a year, creating an unnecessary delay in rewarding Mr. [REDACTED] for his hard work. Prosecuting Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) Peter Deegan, Northern District of Iowa, concurs with paying the reward before all prosecutions are completed.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(e) - Safety risk, if any, to the individual.

Mr. [REDACTED] personal safety was at risk during the investigation. Mr. [REDACTED] received a lot of information on [REDACTED] from local friends and neighbors whom Mr. [REDACTED] was fearful could learn of his cooperation and cause him harm.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. [redacted] provided information on several Michigan locals who posed a very significant risk to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Mr. [redacted]. In one example, Mr. [redacted] provided information to SA [redacted] about a neighbor who (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) indicated to Mr. [redacted] Mr. [redacted] feared for his life but still called SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] to report the information. SA [redacted] immediately directed Mr. [redacted] to the FBI with the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) information. Mr. [redacted] provided the information to the FBI and on June 22, 2006, the man was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) arrested and later convicted of killing [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

450 FW 2.7B(8)(f) - Impact of the illicit activities to the resource.

The quality and quantity of trophy game animals illegally taken by [redacted] and his clients (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in Iowa and Alaska has had a significant detriment to the resource. Sportsmen, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts have lost countless opportunities to enjoy this wildlife.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Lawful hunters and sportsmen wait years for opportunities to hunt trophy deer in Iowa. They, too, were impacted by [redacted] illegal activities.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(g) - How the amount of the reward was chosen.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) The reward amount of \$4,500.00 was chosen based partly on the quantity and quality of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) information provided by Mr. [redacted] and the amount of time and effort he saved the Government (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with his cooperation. Mr. [redacted] learned about [redacted] from a neighbor who had hunted (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with him. Mr. [redacted] utilized this relationship to begin reaching out to [redacted] to gain trust. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) In just a couple of months, Mr. [redacted] was able to not only book an illegal hunt for the covert (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agents, but also build trust between the covert agents and [redacted]. This trust building with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] saved the Government countless hours of telephone, email, and face-to-face (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) interaction with [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Under State law, the minimum value of unlawfully taken wildlife in this investigation stands at more than \$55,000.00. The reward request of \$4,500.00 is less than ten percent of this value and is reasonable given the factors noted above.

450 FW 2.7B(8)(h) – Circumstances, if any, requiring the issuance of a special check.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) There are no special circumstances which exist. The reward check may be issued in the recipient's name and forwarded to the Region 3 Special Agent in Charge, who will coordinate with SA [redacted] on its delivery to Mr. [redacted]



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



OCT 27 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

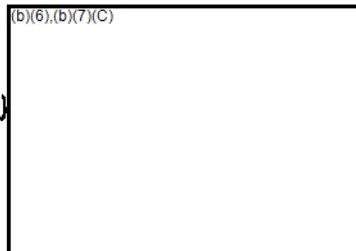
SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,500 reward to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge - R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
One Federal Drive, P.O. Box 45
Fort Snelling, MN 55111-0045

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Office (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 703-358-1949).



99000-0-0040
99000-4900



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT


1 Federal Drive
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111

OCT 15 2009

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From:  Special Agent in Charge, Region 3

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer: N/A

INV Number and Title: INV# 2004303800 - CHASE THE ADVENTURE

Amount of Reward: \$4,500.00

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Concurrence:

Acting

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Approved:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

10/20/09
Date

10/22/09
Date

10/22/09
Date

DEC 3 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$30,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Surname

FWS/LE

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/30/09

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

DEC 3 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$30,000.00 reward to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D),
(b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F)

Surname
FWS/LE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 11/30/09:INV

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E),
(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



DEC 3 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$30,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, GA 30345



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE/R4 SAC REWARD

OCT 29 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

From: Special Agent in Charge, S (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request payment of a reward

Name of Recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title: INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Operation Board

Amount of Reward: \$30,000

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Approved: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Processed: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

11/20/09

Date

11-24-09

Date

11-24-09

Date

Attachments

Relationship with Service Officer [450FW2.7(B)(2)]

None

Permanent CPI Number [450FW2.7(B)(3)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Justification Statement [450FW2.7(B)(8)]:

Summary of Investigation [450FW2.7(B)(8)(a)]

Operation Board was an extremely complex undercover investigation involving felony violations of the Lacey Act. The initial targets of this investigation were a highly organized group of subjects involved in illegal activities (federal and state law). This organized syndicate was involved in the illegal international (Japan and China) export from ports in California and Georgia of fresh water mussel shells for the cultured pearl industry. The value of the illegal products was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The focus of this investigation was the illegal harvest of undersized fresh water mussel shells from Tennessee and other states and the purchase and subsequent export of those illegal shells.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SA [redacted] was contacted in June 2003 by the Sheriff in Benton County Tennessee. The Sheriff (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) advised that a subject wanted to meet with SA [redacted] in private without the knowledge of State (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Wildlife Officers. SA [redacted] met with [redacted] who provided information regarding a conspiracy involving felony violations of the Lacey Act that involved the illegal fresh water mussel shell industry.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Over a six (6) year period, [redacted] provided the following assistance that included a wealth of information regarding the freshwater mussel shell industry both illegal and legal as described below:

1. Introduction to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) [redacted]
2. Training to Special Agents on how to operate a business as a mussel shell buyer.
3. Provided equipment and expertise to Special Agents when they built a mussel buying business in North Alabama. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] provided at his own personal cost, transportation of equipment and the operation of this equipment during the construction of the business. This involved the round trip hauling of a "Bobcat" loader and other equipment on multiple occasions more than 250 miles.
4. Provided invaluable ongoing current intelligence gathered from mussel buyers, divers, and exporters involved in the legal and illegal mussel shell business for the duration of this investigation and through the prosecution phase.
5. Provided more than 6,500 lbs of legal product (loan) valued at more than \$15,000 that was used as "show" while dealing with a Japanese national who had come to the covert mussel shell buying business in North Alabama. The 6,500 lbs of shells were transported by [redacted] at his own expense from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Tennessee to the Alabama location and back to Tennessee, following the contact.
6. Provided assistance and expertise with the grading of shells on multiple occasions. Some of this activity was conducted in North Alabama and once again required [redacted] traveled to and from that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) location at his own expense.
7. Made available (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) [redacted] as (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) experiment" conducted by Special Agents. This involved the use of employees managed by [redacted] as

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) well as [redacted] assistance over a two month period.
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8. [redacted] provided consultation and information throughout the investigation during several conference calls with the AUSA and Special Agents.

Significance of Subject's Involvement

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Without the assistance of [redacted] it could have easily taken an additional two years to infiltrate the illegal industry, if we were able to do it at all. A conservative estimate of the cost that would have been incurred without the assistance of [redacted] would be in excess of \$90,000. This estimate does not include the extra manpower that would have been needed to operate a mussel buying business for the duration of the investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) During jury trial, a key part of SA [redacted] testimony (government's position) was that if a mussel buyer exported a 650 piece count Lake Washboard mussel shells, that was an undersized illegal product. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] willingness to assist the government with SA [redacted] piece count study allowed the related testimony in trial that was instrumental in the conviction and sentencing of all subjects involved.

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges [450FW2.7(B)(8)(b) and (c)]

The subjects of this investigation included a Japanese national living in the United States and approximately 23 US citizens who were thought to be involved in the highly organized illegal activity.

There were sixteen (16) total defendants.

1. Eleven defendants were indicted on felony charges to violate the Lacey Act
2. Five of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges and agreed to cooperate with the government.
3. Five defendants not indicted cooperated with the government and were either charged or will be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act.
4. One of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges without cooperation.
5. Two of those indicted were found guilty during an extended jury trial.

Results of Prosecutions; Fines, Prison, Forfeitures and Civil Penalties [450FW2.7(B)(8)(d)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted]	24 months federal prison, \$15,000 restitution	(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted]
	20 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution	
	12 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution (jointly paid with	
	6 months house arrest, \$15,000 restitution	
	18 months house arrest, \$50,000 restitution	
	12 months house arrest, \$2,000 restitution	
	3 years probation, \$2,000.00 restitution	
	Died prior to sentencing	

Total monetary penalties as part of plea agreements and convictions:

Lacey Act Reward Account: \$40,000
Restitution to Tennessee and Alabama: \$93,000

Total Jail Terms: 56 months federal prison, 36 months house arrest, 216 months probation

Property Forfeited: 26,000 pounds of mussel shells valued at approximately \$40,000 were forfeited to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Prosecution Status: Completed with the possible exception of three individuals who may be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act via violation notices.

Safety Risk to Subject [450FW2.7(B)(8)(e)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was aware of the great personal risk he was incurring when he contacted SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) informed (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) that every effort would be made to conceal his involvement; however, the likelihood was that ultimately the musseling community would know he assisted the government.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Beginning in October 2004, following search warrants that were executed as a result of this investigation (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) began receiving threats, harassment and property damage. Each of these threats was discussed in depth with the AUSA and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) although none were prosecuted. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) regularly received obscene gestures within his community as well as third party delivery of veiled threats and on two occasions damage to property from someone shooting out lights at the entrance to his residence. Following the second shooting incident (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) incurred the cost of a video surveillance system for the entrance to his property. As late as September 2009, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) received third party information that one of the defendants blamed him for the entire investigation and indicated that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) "could pay".

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource [450FW2.7(B)(8)(f)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a malacologist and the statewide mussel program coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been monitoring fresh water mussel populations in Tennessee since 1992. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided the following information:

Recent history of the commercial shell industry's buying practices indicates that market demand for a particular category of mussel shell can trump any regulation against harvesting. Minimum size limits are based on age and growth rates which allow female mussels to spawn before reaching the size limit. Because of their longevity and relatively slow growth, the fishery for mussel populations subjected to illegal harvesting can become vulnerable to overexploitation and collapse. My data indicated a decline in legal sized washboard mussels beginning in 2000 and I was convinced that illegal harvesting of the undersized age class of washboard mussels was responsible for this decline because other commercial mussel populations were increasing due to a decline in the overall mussel harvest during 2000 - 2004. During this same period some commercial shellers were voicing their concern for the washboard population and pointed to possible illegal harvesting and buying practices of the defendants. Following the executions of the search warrants in 2004, those involved discontinued their illegal activity as far as we can tell. Since 2005, my data shows the washboard mussel population has begun to recover. I am of

the opinion; if the illegal activity had continued it would have all but eliminated the washboard mussel shell fishery in Tennessee. This investigation played a significant role in restoring the resource.

As a result of our investigation we are able to prove that approximately 75,000 pounds of illegal/undersized washboard mussel shells valued at approximately \$236,000 were exported out of the United States. Further results of our investigation substantiate the total of just the illegal washboard mussel shells exported during the period of the indictment is approximately 140,000 pounds valued at approximately \$440,000. Other species of mussels were being illegally harvested and sold during the course of this investigation; those shells are not reflected in the above numbers.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen [450FW2.7(B)(8)(g)]

The amount was derived from length, difficulty, and danger involved in the investigation, as well as the personal sacrifices made by the subject.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check [450FW2.7(B)(8)(h)]

None

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Case Number:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Case Title:

Operation Board

Region:

4

Summary:

This request proposes that a \$30,000 reward be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for his assistance in Operation Board. Operation Board was an undercover investigation involving felony violations of the Lacey Act. The initial targets of this investigation were a highly organized group of subjects involved in illegal activities (federal and state law). Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) acted as a Cooperating

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Specifically, Mr.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) actions aided in documenting unlawful activity and his contributions dramatically increased the number of major targets the Service was able to identify, investigate and document charges against. Service agents estimate that Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) supported an unprecedented investigation that has had a significant impact on the wild population of washboard mussels in Tennessee. According to one expert malacologist in the field, "If the illegal activity had continued it would have all but eliminated the washboard mussel shell fishery in Tennessee".

Operation Board documented trafficking in over \$200,000 worth of illegal washboard mussel shells, resulting in Federal charges against 16 defendants. Two of those indicted were found guilty during an extended jury trial. The total jail terms were 56 months federal prison, 36 months house arrest and 216 months probation. Monetary penalties as part of plea agreements and convictions totaled \$133,000. In addition, 26,000 pounds of mussel shells valued at approximately \$40,000 were forfeited to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

The amount of the reward requested reflects the length of time Mr. [REDACTED] committed to helping the Government, the complexity and impact of the investigation, his expert contribution, the danger involved in the investigation, and the expenses he incurred to repair damage to his property from acts of suspected retribution. Mr. [REDACTED] made numerous personal sacrifices through out this investigation and has received no prior compensation.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations:

This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and 450 FW2. SSA [REDACTED] has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward to [REDACTED] and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewer:

SSA [REDACTED]

Date

Concur:

SAC/INV [REDACTED]

Date

Concur:

Division Chief/LE Ops [REDACTED]

Date

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE [REDACTED]

Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



DEC 3 1999

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$30,000.00 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Office (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

for

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, GA 30345



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE/R4 SAC REWARD

OCT 29 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

From: Special Agent in Charge, So (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request payment of a reward

Name of Recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Operation Board

Amount of Reward: \$30,000

Prior Compensation: See Attached

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence:

SAC/ Branch of Investigations

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Approved: *Acting*

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Processed:

Budget Officer

11/20/09
Date

11-24-09
Date

11-24-09
Date

Attachments

Relationship with Service Officer [450FW2.7B(2)]

None

Permanent CPI Number [450FW2.7B(3)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Amount of Compensation Already Received [450FW2.7(B)(6)]

To gain product for use in this investigation (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was asked to acquire mussel shells for the government. To accomplish this task (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) personally harvested mussels from the river bottom in the mornings and purchased mussel shells from others in the afternoons. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was paid/reimbursed approximately \$1.00 per pound for "wet shells" (those containing mussels) regardless if personally harvested or purchased from other harvesters. One dollar per pound was the going rate for wet shells at the time of this operation. In addition, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was paid a fee in the form of reimbursement for expenses associated with processing the wet shells. This fee approximated 10% of wet shell weight. This processing fee was derived from costs incurred by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for the operation of buying, handling, shaking and cooking mussel shells (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) specifically to assist with the extra burden of processing the government's shells. The total amount reimbursed to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for processing approximately 60,000 pounds of shells was \$5,782.72. It is SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) opinion that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did not profit from this operation. In fact, it is his opinion that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) probably lost a substantial amount of actual and potential income as a result of providing this assistance to the government.

Justification Statement [450FW2.7(B)(8)]:

Summary of Investigation [450FW2.7(B)(8)(a)]

Operation Board was an extremely complex undercover investigation involving felony violations of the Lacey Act. The initial targets of this investigation were a highly organized group of subjects involved in illegal activities (federal and state law). This organized syndicate was involved in the illegal international (Japan and China) export from ports in California and Georgia of fresh water mussel shells for the cultured pearl industry. The value of the illegal products was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The focus of this investigation was the illegal harvest of undersized fresh water mussel shells from Tennessee and other states and the purchase and subsequent export of those illegal shells.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was introduced to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in July 2003. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a mussel shell buyer located in North Alabama who bought directly from mussel divers. SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) explained to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a probable strategy for infiltrating a group of persons who were involved in the illegal fresh water mussel trade. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) expressed his concern about the caliber of persons involved in the illegal trade and the ramifications of his potential involvement. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agreed to assist in the investigation citing the reasons to be his concern for the resource.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided the following assistance over a six year period as described below:

1. Allowed Special Agents to set up an undercover illegal mussel shell buying operation at his business/residence.

2. Acted as a buyer of illegal mussel shells for the government.
3. Provided expertise and assistance to Special Agents when they built a mussel buying business in North Alabama.
4. Purchased from divers and personally harvested undersized washboard mussel shells taken from the Tennessee River in Alabama in order to supply inventory for the undercover operation.
5. Under the guidance of special agents, managed government funds (thousands of dollars) during the operation. These funds were used for legal and illegal mussel shell purchases.
6. Managed and operated as part of the covert business a mussel cooking station. This had not been part of

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

would "cook out" the illegal product. This involved a large gas fired vat and the steaming of the shells (thousands of pounds) and machines that remove the meat then the cleaning, grading, drying and bagging for sale.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

the buyers.

8. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) used his personal vehicles, boats and equipment while assisting the government.
9. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) sold, as part of this investigation, legal and illegal product to the targeted buyers in Tennessee.
10. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

12. As a result of pending trial (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was subpoenaed as a witness. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) traveled to West Tennessee from Alabama on multiple occasions for trial preparation and testimony.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

13. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a key witness during a 10 day jury trial in West Tennessee.

Significance of Subject's Involvement

Without the assistance of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) it could have easily taken an additional two years to infiltrate the illegal industry, if we were able to do it at all. A conservative estimate of the cost that would have been incurred without the assistance of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would be in excess of \$90,000. This estimate does not include the extra manpower that would have been needed to operate a mussel buying business for the duration of the investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a key witness during a jury trial in West Tennessee and was instrumental in not only the convictions obtained during that trial but also his competency as a CPI and willingness as a witness aided in the ability of the government to obtain guilty pleas from the other defendants.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges

The subjects of this investigation included a Japanese national living in United States and approximately 23 US citizens who were thought to be involved in the highly organized illegal activity.

There were sixteen (16) total defendants.

1. Eleven defendants were indicted on felony charges to violate the Lacey Act

2. Five of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges and agreed to cooperate with the government.
3. Five defendants not indicted cooperated with the government and were either charged or will be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act.
4. One of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges without cooperation.
5. Two of those indicted were found guilty during an extended jury trial.

Results of Prosecutions; Fines, Prison, Forfeitures and Civil Penalties [450FW2.7(B)(8)(d)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

24 months federal prison, \$15,000 restitution
20 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution
12 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution (jointly paid with
6 months house arrest, \$15,000 restitution
18 months house arrest, \$50,000 restitution
12 months house arrest, \$2,000 restitution
3 years probation, \$2,000.00 restitution
Died prior to sentencing

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Total monetary penalties as part of plea agreements and convictions:

Lacey Act Reward Account: \$40,000
Restitution to Tennessee and Alabama: \$93,000

Total Jail Terms: 56 months federal prison, 36 months house arrest, 216 months probation

Property Forfeited: 26,000 pounds of mussel shells valued at approximately \$40,000 were forfeited to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Prosecution Status: Completed with the possible exception of three individuals who may be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act via violation notices.

Safety Risk to Subject [450FW2.7(B)(8)(e)]

The illegal mussel shell industry has a long history of violence and prior to the beginning of this investigation two buyers had been murdered by mussel divers. During a previous successful federal investigation of the illegal mussel shell business 2 witnesses died in suspicious accidents. Whether real or just perceived the musseling community believes that the potential for great physical harm exists for someone who would assist the government in an investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Beginning in October 2004, following search warrants that were executed as a result of this investigation (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) began to receive retribution from the "bad guys." (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has endured this from October 2004 to present. Each of these threats was discussed in depth with the AUSA and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) although none were prosecuted. On one occasion while diving in the Alabama River a "brailer" (mussel harvester who uses twelve foot drags pulled by a boat) maneuvered over the top of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) while he was diving. When (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) confronted the subject he told (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) "we know who you are, you are the one that helped the feds get (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) In fear of his life (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) left the area and discontinued diving in what was a productive section of the Alabama River.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Ultimately (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a witness for the government during a 10 day jury trial in West Tennessee. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) faced the defendants and their large entourage each day he was present for the trial.

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource [450FW2.7(B)(8)(f)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a malacologist and the statewide mussel program coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been monitoring fresh water mussel populations in Tennessee since 1992. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided the following information:

Recent history of the commercial shell industry's buying practices indicates that market demand for a particular category of mussel shell can trump any regulation against harvesting. Minimum size limits are based on age and growth rates which allow female mussels to spawn before reaching the size limit. Because of their longevity and relatively slow growth, the fishery for mussel populations subjected to illegal harvesting can become vulnerable to overexploitation and collapse. My data indicated a decline in legal sized washboard mussels beginning in 2000 and I was convinced that illegal harvesting of the undersized age class of washboard mussels was responsible for this decline because other commercial mussel populations were increasing due to a decline in the overall mussel harvest during 2000 - 2004. During this same period some commercial shellers were voicing their concern for the washboard population and pointed to possible illegal harvesting and buying practices of the defendants. Following the executions of the search warrants in 2004, those involved discontinued their illegal activity as far as we can tell. Since 2005, my data shows the washboard mussel population has begun to recover. I am of the opinion; if the illegal activity had continued it would have all but eliminated the washboard mussel shell fishery in Tennessee. This investigation played a significant role in restoring the resource.

As a result of our investigation we are able to prove that approximately 75,000 pounds of illegal/undersized washboard mussel shells valued at approximately \$236,000 were exported out of the United States. Further results of our investigation substantiate the total of just the illegal washboard mussel shells exported during the period of the indictment is approximately 140,000 pounds valued at approximately \$440,000. Other species of mussels were being illegally harvested and sold during the course of this investigation; those shells are not reflected in the above numbers.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen [450FW2.7(B)(8)(g)]

The amount was derived from length, difficulty, and danger involved in the investigation, as well as the personal sacrifices made by the subject.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check [450FW2.7(B)(8)(h)]

None

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for reward to be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Case Number: INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)
Case Title: Operation Board
Region: 4

Summary:

This request proposes that a \$30,000 reward be paid to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for his assistance in Operation Board. Operation Board was an undercover investigation involving felony violations of the Lacey Act. The initial targets of this investigation were a highly organized group of subjects involved in illegal activities (federal and state law). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) acted as a Cooperating Private Individual (CPI) for the Service for the entire six year investigation. Under the careful direction of the handling Agent, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) successfully helped the Service build a prosecutable case against those responsible for the illegal harvest, transport and sale of mussels.

Specifically (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) allowed special agents to set up an undercover illegal mussel shell buying operation at his business/residence; acted as a buyer of illegal mussel shells for the government; provided expertise and assistance to special agents while they built a mussel buying business in North Alabama; and purchased from divers and personally harvested undersized washboard mussel shells taken from the Tennessee River in Alabama in order to supply inventory for the undercover operation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) used his personal vehicles, boats and equipment while assisting the government. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) actions aided in documenting unlawful activity and his contributions dramatically increased the number of major targets the Service was able to identify, investigate and document charges against.

Service agents estimate that Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) involvement saved the Service at least two years of investigative time. In fact, the investigation may not have been possible without his willingness to become involved and to do so at significant risk to his own safety.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) supported an unprecedented investigation that has had a significant impact on the wild population of washboard mussels in Tennessee. According to one expert malacologist in the field, "If the illegal activity had continued it would have all but eliminated the washboard mussel shell fishery in Tennessee".

Operation Board documented trafficking in over \$200,000 worth of illegal washboard mussel shells resulting in Federal charges of sixteen total defendants. Two of those indicted were found guilty during an extended jury trial. The total jail terms were 56 months federal prison, 36 months house arrest and 216 months probation. Monetary penalties as part of plea agreements and convictions totaled \$133,000. In addition, 26,000 pounds of mussel shells valued at approximately \$40,000 were forfeited to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations:

This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and 450 FW2 SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward.

Reviewed

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/20/2009

Date

SSA

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

SAC/INV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/20/07

Date

Concur:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Division Chief/LE Ops

11.24.09

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
Atlanta, GA 30345



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE/R4 SAC REWARD

OCT 29 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, [Redacted]
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request payment of a reward

Name of Recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title: INV2003403087; [Redacted]

Amount of Reward: \$30,000

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Justification: [Redacted]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Concurrence: [Redacted]

SAC, Branch of Investigations

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Approved: [Redacted]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Processed: [Redacted]

Budget Officer

11/20/09
Date

11-24-09
Date

11-24-09
Date

Attachments

Relationship with Service Officer [450FW2.7(B)(2)]

None

Permanent CPI Number [450FW2.7(B)(3)]

Justification Statement [450FW2.7(B)(8)]:

Summary of Investigation [450FW2.7(B)(8)(a)]

Operation Board was an extremely complex undercover investigation involving felony violations of the Lacey Act. The initial targets of this investigation were a highly organized group of subjects involved in illegal activities (federal and state law). This organized syndicate was involved in the illegal international (Japan and China) export from ports in California and Georgia of fresh water mussel shells for the cultured pearl industry. The value of the illegal products was in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The focus of this investigation was the illegal harvest of undersized fresh water mussel shells from Tennessee and other states and the purchase and subsequent export of those illegal shells.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SA [redacted] was contacted in June 2003, by the Sheriff in Benton County Tennessee. The Sheriff (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) advised that a subject wanted to meet with SA [redacted] in private without the knowledge of State (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Wildlife Officers. SA [redacted] met with [redacted] who provided information regarding a conspiracy involving felony violations of the Lacey Act that involved the illegal fresh water mussel shell industry.

Over a six (6) year period [redacted] provided the following assistance that included a wealth of information regarding the freshwater mussel shell industry both illegal and legal as described below:

1. Introduction to [redacted]
2. Training to Special Agents on how to operate a business as a mussel shell buyer.
3. Provided equipment and expertise to Special Agents when they built a mussel buying business in North Alabama. [redacted] provided at his own personal cost, transportation of equipment and the operation of this equipment during the construction of the business. This involved the round trip hauling of a "Bobcat" loader and other equipment on multiple occasions more than 250 miles.
4. Provided invaluable ongoing current intelligence gathered from mussel buyers, divers, and exporters involved in the legal and illegal mussel shell business for the duration of this investigation and through the prosecution phase.
5. Provided more than 6,500 lbs of legal product (loan) valued at more than \$15,000 that was used as "show" while dealing with a Japanese national who had come to the covert mussel shell buying business in North Alabama. The 6,500 lbs of shells were transported by [redacted] at his own expense from Tennessee to the Alabama location and back to Tennessee, following the contact.
6. Provided assistance and expertise with the grading of shells on multiple occasions. Some of this activity was conducted in North Alabama and once again required [redacted] traveled to and from that location at his own expense.
7. Made available his facility located in [redacted] and mussel shells for a "piece count experiment" conducted by Special Agents. This involved the use of employees managed by [redacted] as

well as [REDACTED] assistance over a two month period.

8. [REDACTED] provided consultation and information throughout the investigation during several conference calls with the AUSA and Special Agents.

Significance of Subject's Involvement

Without the assistance of [REDACTED] it could have easily taken an additional two years to infiltrate the illegal industry, if we were able to do it at all. A conservative estimate of the cost that would have been incurred without the assistance of [REDACTED] would be in excess of \$90,000. This estimate does not include the extra manpower that would have been needed to operate a mussel buying business for the duration of the investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

During jury trial, a key part of SA [REDACTED] testimony (government's position) was that if a mussel buyer exported a 650 piece count Lake Washboard mussel shells, that was an undersized illegal product. [REDACTED] willingness to assist the government with SA [REDACTED] piece-count study allowed the related testimony in trial that was instrumental in the conviction and sentencing of all subjects involved. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges [450FW2.7(B)(8)(b) and (c)]

The subjects of this investigation included a Japanese national living in the United States and approximately 23 US citizens who were thought to be involved in the highly organized illegal activity.

There were sixteen (16) total defendants.

1. Eleven defendants were indicted on felony charges to violate the Lacey Act
2. Five of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges and agreed to cooperate with the government.
3. Five defendants not indicted cooperated with the government and were either charged or will be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act.
4. One of those indicted pleaded guilty to felony charges without cooperation.
5. Two of those indicted were found guilty during an extended jury trial.

Results of Prosecutions; Fines, Prison, Forfeitures and Civil Penalties [450FW2.7(B)(8)(d)]

[REDACTED] 24 months federal prison, \$15,000 restitution
[REDACTED] 20 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution
[REDACTED] 12 months federal prison, \$50,000 restitution (jointly paid with [REDACTED])
[REDACTED] 6 months house arrest, \$15,000 restitution
[REDACTED] 18 months house arrest, \$50,000 restitution
[REDACTED] 12 months house arrest, \$2,000 restitution
[REDACTED] 3 years probation, \$2,000.00 restitution
[REDACTED] Died prior to sentencing

Total monetary penalties as part of plea agreements and convictions:

Lacey Act Reward Account: \$40,000
Restitution to Tennessee and Alabama: \$93,000

Total Jail Terms: 56 months federal prison, 36 months house arrest, 216 months probation

Property Forfeited: 26,000 pounds of mussel shells valued at approximately \$40,000 were forfeited to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Prosecution Status: Completed with the possible exception of three individuals who may be charged for misdemeanor violations of the Lacey Act via violation notices.

Safety Risk to Subject [450FW2.7(B)(8)(e)]

The illegal mussel shell industry has a long history of violence and prior to the beginning of this investigation two buyers had been murdered by mussel divers. During a previous successful federal investigation of the illegal mussel shell business 2 witnesses died in suspicious accidents. Whether real or just perceived the musseling community believes that the potential for great physical harm exists for someone who would assist the government in an investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] was aware of the great personal risk he was incurring when he contacted SA [redacted] SA [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] informed [redacted] that every effort would be made to conceal his involvement; however, the likelihood was that ultimately the musseling community would know he assisted the government. [redacted] agreed to continue as a CPI and explained to SA [redacted] that the resource was being "raped" (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and if someone did not do something about it the legal mussel fishery would cease to exist.

Beginning in October 2004, following search warrants that were executed as a result of this investigation [redacted] began receiving threats, harassment and property damage. Each of these threats was discussed in depth with the AUSA and [redacted] although none were prosecuted. [redacted] regularly received obscene gestures within his community as well as third party delivery of veiled threats and on two occasions damage to property from someone shooting out lights at the entrance to his residence. Following the second shooting incident [redacted] incurred the cost of a video surveillance system for the entrance to his property. As late as September 2009, [redacted] received third party information that one of the defendants blamed him for the entire investigation and indicated that [redacted] "would pay".

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource [450FW2.7(B)(8)(f)]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] a malacologist and the statewide mussel program coordinator for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has been monitoring fresh water mussel populations in Tennessee since 1992. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] provided the following information:

Recent history of the commercial shell industry's buying practices indicates that market demand for a particular category of mussel shell can trump any regulation against harvesting. Minimum size limits are based on age and growth rates which allow female mussels to spawn before reaching the size limit. Because of their longevity and relatively slow growth, the fishery for mussel populations subjected to illegal harvesting can become vulnerable to overexploitation and collapse. My data indicated a decline in legal sized washboard mussels beginning in 2000 and I was convinced that illegal harvesting of the undersized age class of washboard mussels was responsible for this decline because other commercial mussel populations were increasing due to a decline in the overall mussel harvest during 2000 - 2004. During this same period some commercial shellers were voicing their concern for the washboard population and pointed to possible illegal harvesting and buying practices of the defendants. Following the executions of the search warrants in 2004, those involved discontinued their illegal activity as far as we can tell. Since 2005, my data shows the washboard mussel population has begun to recover. I am of

the opinion; if the illegal activity had continued it would have all but eliminated the washboard mussel shell fishery in Tennessee. This investigation played a significant role in restoring the resource.

As a result of our investigation we are able to prove that approximately 75,000 pounds of illegal/undersized washboard mussel shells valued at approximately \$236,000 were exported out of the United States. Further results of our investigation substantiate the total of just the illegal washboard mussel shells exported during the period of the indictment is approximately 140,000 pounds valued at approximately \$440,000. Other species of mussels were being illegally harvested and sold during the course of this investigation; those shells are not reflected in the above numbers.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen [450FW2.7(B)(8)(g)]

The amount was derived from length, difficulty, and danger involved in the investigation, as well as the personal sacrifices made by the subject.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check [450FW2.7(B)(8)(h)]

None

DEC 3 2009

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,000 reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)
Please issue a check payable to them in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-6
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 25486 - DFC
Denver, CO 80225

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

cc: Surname

FWS/LE (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 1/30/2009:INV

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/OLE/99610

November 12, 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title: 2004605880

Amount of Reward: \$4,000

Prior Compensation: 0

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: See Attached

Concurrence:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SAC Branch of Investigations

Approved:

Active

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Processed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/19/09
Date

11-24-09
Date

11-24-09
Date

Attachments

Relationship with Service Officer 450 FW 2.7B(2)

None

Permanent CPI Number 450 FW 2.7B(3)



Justification Statement 450 FW 2.7(B)(8):

Summary of Investigation 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(a):

██████████ uncovered an international smuggling operation of endangered species out of South Africa. The initial targets of this investigation were involved in the illegal international exportation from South Africa and Zimbabwe into the United States. The focus of this investigation was the illegal take and subsequent smuggling of leopards out of South Africa.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

██████████ made the initial complaint to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after realizing his client was aware of the illegality and was still attempting to import the trophy. ██████████ advised the San Francisco special agent of a shipment of leopard trophies coming into Denver with fraudulent documents from Zimbabwe. The ██████████ own and operate a brokerage house which facilitates the importation of wildlife trophies into the United States. Coming forward with the tip and then testifying against a client may negatively impact their business. However, they came forward "because it is the right thing to do." In addition, they testified in the prosecution of the last defendant. This involved leaving their business and spending a week in Denver, Colorado, for trial, only to have it end in a mistrial due to juror misconduct. Several months later, they flew to Aberdeen, South Dakota, for a week to testify in the second trial. During both trials, the cross examination was very upsetting for ██████████

Significance of Subjects' Involvement:

Their testimony was a crucial part of the case against the final defendant. Without their assistance, the Service would not have known of the statements made by the final defendant regarding his knowledge and continued participation in the illegal activity.

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(b), (c) and (d):

There were eight defendants in this case.

Prosecutions and sentences secured from Operation Spotted Cat.

1. On April 10, 2007, ██████████ pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to 18 months probation plus a \$10,000 fine.

2. On April 13, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to time served followed by a three year term of unsupervised release. In addition, a \$5,000 fine was imposed.
3. On August 6, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Smuggling and was sentenced to 18 months custody of the Bureau of Prisons followed by a three year term of supervised release.
4. On October 3, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to two years probation with a \$5,000 fine.
5. On March 21, 2008, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to three years probation with a \$10,000 fine, plus a \$5,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
6. On October 17, 2008, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to four years probation with a \$10,000 fine, plus a \$10,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
7. On November 13, 2008, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to 18 months probation with a \$5,000 fine, plus a \$5,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.
8. On October 30, 2009, [REDACTED] was found guilty of smuggling and two felony Lacey Act violations. Sentencing is scheduled for February 1, 2010.

Total Monetary Penalties as Part of Plea Agreements and Convictions:

Criminal Fines: \$45,000

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: \$20,000

Total Jail Terms: 19 months federal prison, 12 years probation, 6 years unsupervised release.

Property Forfeited: 5 leopard hides, 3 leopard skulls.

Prosecution Status: Completed except for the sentencing of [REDACTED] which is scheduled for February 1, 2010.

Safety Risk to Subjects 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(e):

There were no threats of violence made against the [REDACTED]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(f):

As a result of this investigation, we were able to prove all five of the leopards in this shipment were hunted illegally, smuggled, exported and imported illegally. This case will serve as a

warning to unscrupulous outfitters in Africa and their American clients that both will be held accountable for illegal hunting of endangered species, i.e., leopards.

The prosecution was assisted tremendously by a South African game official who testified at both trials. Working in concert with their law enforcement officials dramatically increases the successful enforcement of the regulations that protect these endangered species.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(g):

The amount was derived considering they lost two weeks worth of work at their business, which they own and operate. In addition, to their personal sacrifices, there may well be repercussions of a professional nature due to their testifying against a customer.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(h):

None



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

This authorizes your payment of a reward from the LE Reward Account (14x1611) – Payment of Rewards in accordance with legislative authority as provided by the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981.

I have approved the issuance of a \$4,000 reward to

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Please issue a check payable to them in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-6
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
P.O. Box 25486 - DFC
Denver, CO 80225

Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (703-358-1949).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

for

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region



MAILING ADDRESS:
Post Office Box 25486
Denver Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225-0486

STREET LOCATION:
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/OLE/99610

November 12, 2009

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),
(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Operation Spotted Cat

Amount of Reward: \$4,000

Prior Compensation: 0

Statute: (circle one) AECA / AHA / ARPA / BGEPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBTA / RTCA / WBCA

Reward Account: (circle one) Law Enforcement Reward Account or WO Special Funds Account

Justification: See Attached

Concurrence

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Approved:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Budget Officer

11/19/09
Date

11-24-09
Date

11-24-09
Date

Attachments

Relationship with Service Officer 450 FW 2.7B(2)

None

Permanent CPI Number 450 FW 2.7B(3)

None

Justification Statement 450 FW 2.7(B)(8):

Summary of Investigation 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(a):

Operation Spotted Cat uncovered an international smuggling operation of endangered species out of South Africa. The initial targets of this investigation were involved in the illegal international exportation from South Africa and Zimbabwe into the United States. The focus of this investigation was the illegal take and subsequent smuggling of leopards out of South Africa.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] made the initial complaint to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after realizing his client was aware of the illegality and was still attempting to import the trophy. [redacted] advised the San Francisco special agent of a shipment of leopard trophies coming into Denver with fraudulent documents from Zimbabwe. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) [redacted]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) [redacted] In addition, they testified in the prosecution of the last defendant. This involved leaving their business and spending a week in Denver, Colorado, for trial, only to have it end in a mistrial due to juror misconduct. Several months later, they flew to Aberdeen, South Dakota, for a week to testify in the second trial. During both trials, the cross examination was very upsetting for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted]

Significance of Subjects' Involvement:

Their testimony was a crucial part of the case against the final defendant. Without their assistance, the Service would not have known of the statements made by the final defendant regarding his knowledge and continued participation in the illegal activity.

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(b), (c) and (d):

There were eight defendants in this case.

Prosecutions and sentences secured from Operation Spotted Cat.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] 1. On April 10, 2007 [redacted] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to 18 months probation plus a \$10,000 fine.

2. On April 13, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to time served followed by a three year term of unsupervised release. In addition, a \$5,000 fine was imposed.

3. On August 6, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Smuggling and was sentenced to 18 months custody of the Bureau of Prisons followed by a three year term of supervised release.

4. On October 3, 2007, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to two years probation with a \$5,000 fine.

5. On March 21, 2008, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a felony Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to three years probation with a \$10,000 fine, plus a \$5,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

6. On October 17, 2008, [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to four years probation with a \$10,000 fine, plus a \$10,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

7. On November 13, 2008 [REDACTED] pled guilty to a misdemeanor Lacey Act violation and was sentenced to 18 months probation with a \$5,000 fine, plus a \$5,000 payment to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

8. On October 30, 2009, [REDACTED] was found guilty of smuggling and two felony Lacey Act violations. Sentencing is scheduled for February 1, 2010.

Total Monetary Penalties as Part of Plea Agreements and Convictions:

Criminal Fines: \$45,000

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: \$20,000

Total Jail Terms: 19 months federal prison, 12 years probation, 6 years unsupervised release.

Property Forfeited: 5 leopard hides, 3 leopard skulls.

Prosecution Status: Completed except for the sentencing of [REDACTED] which is scheduled for February 1, 2010.

Safety Risk to Subjects 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(e):

There were no threats of violence made against the [REDACTED]

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(f):

As a result of this investigation, we were able to prove all five of the leopards in this shipment were hunted illegally, smuggled, exported and imported illegally. This case will serve as a

warning to unscrupulous outfitters in Africa and their American clients that both will be held accountable for illegal hunting of endangered species, i.e., leopards.

The prosecution was assisted tremendously by a South African game official who testified at both trials. Working in concert with their law enforcement officials dramatically increases the successful enforcement of the regulations that protect these endangered species.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(g):

The amount was derived considering they lost two weeks worth of work at their business, which they own and operate. In addition, to their personal sacrifices, there may well be repercussions of a professional nature due to their testifying against a customer.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(h):

None

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),
(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)
Case Title: OPERATION SPOTTED CAT
Region: Region 6

Summary: This reward request is for \$4,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) efforts and assistance in the above

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) named investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) regarding the smuggling of five leopard hides.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) The (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) which facilitates the importation of wildlife trophies into the United States. The defendant was a client of the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) which they surmised was involved in attempting to illegally import leopard trophies. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contacted the San Francisco special agent to report a shipment of leopard trophies coming in to Denver with suspected fraudulent documents from Zimbabwe. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: This request meets the criteria set forth in 16 U.S.C. 1540 (d) and 450 FW2. SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) has reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and concurs with the payment of the requested reward. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Reviewer: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/19/2009
Date

Concur: SSA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11/19/09
Date

Concur: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

11-24-09
Date

Division Chief/LE Ops
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concur: Deputy Chief/OLE
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Date