

2012

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

JUN 19 2012

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 an \$8,500 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).

William Woody

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

Surname

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

6/14/12: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



JUN 19 2012

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USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
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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).

for Chuan Qian
William Woody

FF09L00000-2-0134
99000-4900

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
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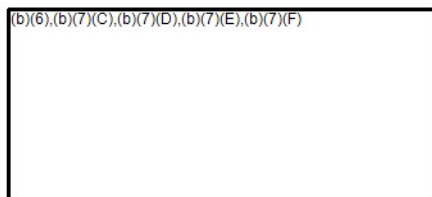
I have approved the issuance of an \$8,500 to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, Suite 380
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Your assistance is appreciated. Please refer any questions you may have to the Administrative Officer, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Ford (703-358-1949).

fw

William Woody



TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



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

MAY 31 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Southeast Region
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:

(b)(7)(D)

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title: INV 2008401925 2003403087; OPERATION PLANTANDO LAS
SEMILLAS

Amount of Reward: \$8,500

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: Endangered Species Act / LACEY Act

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

Justification:

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

Concurrence:

6-13-12

Date

Approved:

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

6/13/12

Date

Processed:

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

6/13/2012

Date

Budget Officer

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward
Case Number: INV: 2008401925
Case Title: OPERATION PLANTANDO LAS SEMILLAS
Region: Region 4

Summary:

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

The covert officers were able to further the investigation and eventually charge the two defendants in this case with the sale or offer for sale of fourteen (14) jaguars.

On March 5, 2012, each of the two defendants in this investigation were sentenced to a term of imprisonment of twelve (12) months and one (1) day, additionally both defendants at the completion of the term of imprisonment were further ordered to be surrendered to the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for removal proceedings consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Lacey Act Reward Account on an ESA and Lacey Act offence arrest and a conspiracy conviction. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

Concur:

Concur:

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

6/13/2012
Date

6/13/12
Date

6/13/12
Date

Attachments

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

None

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

AT-0078

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

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

OPERATION PLANTANDO LAS SEMILLAS was a joint undercover operation undercover investigation between United States Fish and Wildlife Service/Office Law Enforcement (USFWS/OLE) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Regions Four (4) and Two (2). Region Four (4) served as the lead and SA [redacted] served as the case agent for this operation. This investigation involved the illegal interstate sale of endangered wildlife species jaguar (*Panthera onca*), and smuggling of protected wildlife from Mexico into to the United States via the State of Texas border, in violation of federal Smuggling, conspiracy, the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act. Jaguars are highly endangered and known to exist along the U.S. and Mexico border. The last living jaguar in the U.S. (known as "MACHO B") perished a couple of years ago. The State of Texas wildlife restitution schedule places a monetary value of \$11,000 per jaguar. The total jaguars involved in this investigation were (14) fourteen, thus placing the restitution and sentencing value at \$154,000. The initial targets believed to have ties to organized crime organizations in Mexico and were suspected of having created fake identities to acquire U.S. citizenship and travel freely between both countries.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

Possible loss of revenue to (b)(7)(D) involvement:

(b)(7)(D)

Current status of

(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)

Significance of Subject's Involvement

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

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

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

On 3/5/12, U.S. District Court Judge Joan A. Lenard of the Southern District of Florida adjudicated

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

guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. 371; Conspiracy to Traffic in Protected Wildlife and sentenced (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to a term of imprisonment of twelve (12) months and one (1) day. In addition, upon release from federal custody, supervised release for a term of two (2) years was ordered. At the completion of the term of imprisonment, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was further ordered to be surrendered to the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for removal proceedings consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act. If removed, or (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) voluntarily leaves the United States, she shall not reenter the United States without the prior written permission of the Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security. Both subjects are under investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and charges are pending regarding false documents and citizenship applications.

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

The amount was derived from length, potential impact to income, the personal sacrifices made by the subject and current status of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

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

None



United States Department of the Interior

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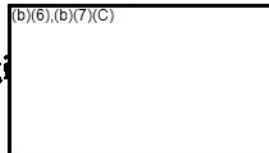


In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE/R4 SAC REWARD

MAY 31 2012

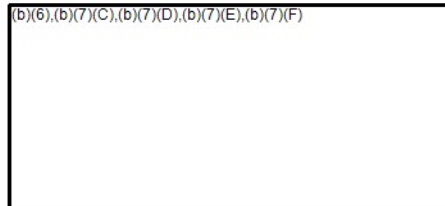
Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Southeast Region
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 PLANTANDO LAS
SEMILLAS

Amount of Reward: \$8,500

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: Endangered Species Act / LACEY Act

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

Justification:



Concurrence:



Approved:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

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

Processed:

Budget Officer

6-13-12

Date

6/13/12

Date

6/13/2012

Date

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward
Case Number: INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)
Case Title: OPERATION PLANTANDO LAS SEMILLAS
Region: Region 4

Summary: This reward request is for \$8,500. A reward payment in this amount would be fair compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above investigation. This case was initiated as a direct result of information provided by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr.

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

On March 5, 2012, each of the two defendants in this investigation were sentenced to a term of imprisonment of twelve (12) months and one (1) day, additionally both defendants at the completion of the term of imprisonment were further ordered to be surrendered to the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for removal proceedings consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Lacey Act Reward Account on an ESA and Lacey Act offence arrest and a conspiracy conviction. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

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

6/13/2012
Date

Concur:

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

6/13/12
Date

SAC/INV

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

Concur:

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

6/13/12
Date

Dep. Chief

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

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 PLANTANDO LAS SEMILLAS was a joint undercover operation undercover investigation between United States Fish and Wildlife Service/Office Law Enforcement (USFWS/OLE) Regions Four (4) and Two (2). Region Four (4) served as the lead and SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) served as the case agent for this operation. This investigation involved the illegal interstate sale of endangered wildlife species jaguar (*Panthera onca*), and smuggling of protected wildlife from Mexico into to the United States via the State of Texas border, in violation of federal Smuggling, conspiracy, the Lacey Act and the Endangered Species Act. Jaguars are highly endangered and known to exist along the U.S. and Mexico border. The last living jaguar in the U.S. (known as "MACHO B") perished a couple of years ago. The State of Texas wildlife restitution schedule places a monetary value of \$11,000 per jaguar. The total jaguars involved in this investigation were (14) fourteen, thus placing the restitution and sentencing value at \$154,000. The initial targets believed to have ties to organized crime organizations in Mexico and were suspected of having created fake identities to acquire U.S. citizenship and travel freely between both countries.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

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

**Possible loss of revenue to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),
(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F) involvement:**

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

(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(D)

Current status of

(b)(7)(D)

Significance of Subject's Involvement

Without the assistance of (b)(7)(D) it would have been unlikely we would have received the information about the illegal activity and never been able to identify the subjects involved in the activity. In the unlikely event that we were able to identify the subjects, it easily could have taken additional years to infiltrate the activity, befriend the subjects, make undercover purchases and apprehend the subjects involved.

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

On 3/5/12, U.S. District Court Judge Joan A. Lenard of the Southern District of Florida adjudicated (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) guilty to one count of 18 U.S.C. 371; Conspiracy to Traffic in Protected Wildlife and sentenced (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to a term of imprisonment of twelve (12) months and one (1) day. In addition, upon release from federal custody, supervised release for a term of two (2) years was ordered. At the completion of the term of imprisonment, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was further ordered to be surrendered to the custody of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for removal proceedings consistent with the Immigration and Nationality Act. If removed, or (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) voluntarily leaves the United States, she shall not reenter the United States without the prior written permission of the Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security. Both subjects are under investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and charges are pending regarding false documents and citizenship applications.

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

The amount was derived from length, potential impact to income, the personal sacrifices made by the subject and current status of (b)(7)(D)

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

None

Reply Refer To:
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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 is to be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-6
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

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

William C. Woody

(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)

7/19/2012

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



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
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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 is to be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-6
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

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)

 William C. Woody

(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
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV

July 10, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *Gov* Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

CPI Number:

INV Number and Title:

Amount of Reward:

\$3,500.00

Prior Compensation:

POI - \$500.00 on 10/30/07

Authority/Statute:

Lacey Act

Justification:

See Attached

Reward Account:

Law Enforcement Reward Account

Concurrence:

SAC Branch of Investigations

Approved:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

Budget Officer

7/12/12
Date

7/12/12
Date

7/12/2012
Date

Justification for Reward

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

became involved in the BIG RIVER HUNTING LODGE investigation in October 2007. He initially contacted a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer to report a series of egregious South Dakota state big game hunting violations he had personally witnessed, or came to know about through his taxidermy business. The violations were being committed by a number of individuals from the State of Minnesota. It was determined the subjects in question were already identified as part of an ongoing federal/state joint investigation and were alleged to be not only violating state laws, but also federal laws including the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

The subjects committed numerous big game hunting violations during fall hunting seasons in South Dakota and then unlawfully transported or attempted to transport illegal wildlife in interstate commerce. Mr. [REDACTED] stated he was sickened by the way the subjects were so brazen about illegally killing wildlife and the manner and means in which they went about killing the animals. Mr. [REDACTED] advised OLE he was willing to assist in holding the individuals in question accountable for their actions. Mr. [REDACTED] made it abundantly clear from the beginning, he was not assisting because he was motivated by financial gain. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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

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

As a result of Mr. [REDACTED] efforts, the Service case agent and State investigator were able to corroborate the unlawful take of wildlife in a timely fashion, due to the observations and the subsequent relaying of investigatory facts by Mr. [REDACTED]. In most instances, the investigators were able to respond to the kill site to obtain DNA evidence, photograph carcass remnants, and document GPS coordinates as well as gather other pertinent evidence. Most of the subjects utilized Mr. [REDACTED] which afforded the investigators the opportunity to match DNA from the kill site with the actual animal transported to his taxidermy shop. In one instance, a PIT tag was placed into the head of a pronghorn antelope, mount, which aided investigators in confirming the mount crossed state lines. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

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

A large number of local landowners in the area had issues with the South Dakota Game and Fish Department and chose not to report to local law enforcement the egregious hunting behavior of the subjects involved. (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)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

One of the main

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

against others. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

testify he was associated with all the defendants in this investigation through [REDACTED] and supplied investigators with information on all of them that helped gain convictions. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Due to Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) actions, the frequency of deer and antelope poaching in the area has declined as have the number of wildlife trespass complaints.

The results of the investigation and prosecution yielded the following, significant outcome:

- One defendant from South Dakota pleaded guilty to violating Migratory Bird Treaty Act by killing 6 hawks and was sentenced to a \$1,500.00 fine and \$1,510.00 restitution. He was sentenced to one year probation.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to shooting big game from a road and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,220.00 and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- Three defendants from Minnesota each pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. They paid fines and restitution of \$1,025.00 each.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining a resident big game license. He paid fines and restitution in the amount of \$1,584.00. He also received 30 days in jail which was suspended; he was placed on 12 months of probation and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$775.00. He was placed on probation for one year and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$2,050.00. He was placed on probation for eighteen months and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Wisconsin pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$1025.00.
- One defendant from Iowa pleaded guilty to transporting a mule deer buck without head and hide. He paid fines and restitution of \$85.00.
- One defendant from Idaho pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a mule deer buck and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,359.00 and was placed on probation for 360 days.

Total in Fines, Costs, Civil Damages and Restitution: \$25,208.00

Total Lost Hunting Privileges: 6.5 years

The case agent requests a reward amount of \$3,500 based on the following factors.

- The hours Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) devoted to making the investigation a success.
- The number of targets the investigation was able to identify, document, and proceed with charges against

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)
• The previously established credibility Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had with the identified defendants and the information he brought into or provided to the investigation about the subjects.

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

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward

Case Number: INV: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Case Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Region: Region 6

Summary: This reward request is for \$3,500. A reward payment in this amount would be fair compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above investigation.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) and through his business he became aware of the illegal hunting activities of the subjects of this investigation. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) came forward to report the violations and he was subsequently incorporated into an ongoing joint Federal/ State investigation as a Cooperating Private Individual (CPI). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Eleven (11) individuals were successfully prosecuted in both State and Federal courts in this investigation. The defendants paid a total of \$25,208.00 in fines, costs, civil damages, and restitution. The defendants also collectively lost hunting privileges for a total of 6.5 years.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Lacey Act Reward Account on Lacey Act convictions. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

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

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

7/12/2012
Date

Concur:

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

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

7/12/12
Date

Concur:

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

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

7/12/12
Date



United States Department of the Interior

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



JUL 20 2012

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

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Special Agent In Charge R-6
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

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


William C. Woody

FF09L00000-2-0137
FLE490000 (XXXF1611OD)



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV

July 10, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *Gov* Special Agent in Charge, [REDACTED]

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

CPI Number:

(b)(7)(D)

INV Number and Title: 2005602788 / BIG RIVER HUNTING LODGE

Amount of Reward: \$3,500.00

Prior Compensation: POI - \$500.00 on 10/30/07

Authority/Statute: Lacey Act

Justification: See Attached

Reward Account:

Concurrence:

Approved:

Processed:

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

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

7/12/12
Date

7/12/12
Date

7/12/2012
Date

Justification for Reward

(b)(7)(D)

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

It was determined the subjects in question were already identified as part of an ongoing federal/state joint investigation and were alleged to be not only violating state laws, but also federal laws including the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The subjects committed numerous big game hunting violations during fall hunting seasons in South Dakota and then unlawfully transported or attempted to transport illegal wildlife in interstate commerce. (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

the frequency of deer and antelope poaching in the area has declined as have the number of wildlife trespass complaints.

The results of the investigation and prosecution yielded the following, significant outcome:

- One defendant from South Dakota pleaded guilty to violating Migratory Bird Treaty Act by killing 6 hawks and was sentenced to a \$1,500.00 fine and \$1,510.00 restitution. He was sentenced to one year probation.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to shooting big game from a road and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,220.00 and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- Three defendants from Minnesota each pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. They paid fines and restitution of \$1,025.00 each.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining a resident big game license. He paid fines and restitution in the amount of \$1,584.00. He also received 30 days in jail which was suspended; he was placed on 12 months of probation and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$775.00. He was placed on probation for one year and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$2,050.00. He was placed on probation for eighteen months and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Wisconsin pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$1025.00.
- One defendant from Iowa pleaded guilty to transporting a mule deer buck without head and hide. He paid fines and restitution of \$85.00.
- One defendant from Idaho pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a mule deer buck and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,359.00 and was placed on probation for 360 days.

Total in Fines, Costs, Civil Damages and Restitution: \$25,208.00

Total Lost Hunting Privileges: 6.5 years

The case agent requests a reward amount of \$3,500 based on the following factors.

- (b)(7)(D)
-
-
-

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

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward
Case Number: INV: 2005602788
Case Title: BIG RIVER HUNTING LODGE
Region: Region 6

Summary: This reward request is for \$3,500. A reward payment in this amount would

(b)(7)(D)

Eleven (11) individuals were successfully prosecuted in both State and Federal courts in this investigation. The defendants paid a total of \$25,208.00 in fines, costs, civil damages, and restitution. The defendants also collectively lost hunting privileges for a total of 6.5 years.

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

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SA reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Lacey Act Reward Account on Lacey Act convictions. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

Concur:

Concur:

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

7/12/2012
Date

7/12/12
Date

7/12/12
Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV

July 10, 2012

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

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *SW* Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

CPI Number:

INV Number and Title: 2005602788 /

Amount of Reward: \$3,500.00

Prior Compensation:

Authority/Statute: Lacey Act

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

Justification: See Attached

Reward Account: Law Enforcement Reward Account

Concurrence:

[Signature]
SAC, Branch of Investigations

7/12/12
Date

Approved:

[Signature]
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

7/12/12
Date

Processed:

[Signature]
Budget Officer

7/12/2012
Date

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

Justification for Reward

██████████ became involved in the ██████████ investigation in October 2007. He initially contacted a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer to report a series of egregious South Dakota state big game hunting violations he had personally witnessed, or came to know about through his taxidermy business. The violations were being committed by a number of individuals from the State of Minnesota. It was determined the subjects in question were already identified as part of an ongoing federal/state joint investigation and were alleged to be not only violating state laws, but also federal laws including the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The subjects committed numerous big game hunting violations during fall hunting seasons in South Dakota and then unlawfully transported or attempted to transport illegal wildlife in interstate commerce. ██████████ stated he was sickened by the way the subjects were so brazen about illegally killing wildlife and the manner and means in which they went about killing the animals. ██████████ advised OLE he was willing to assist in holding the individuals in question accountable for their actions. ██████████ made it abundantly clear from the beginning, he was not assisting because he was motivated by financial gain.

██████████ was assigned ██████████. During the 2008-2010 South Dakota fall hunting seasons, ██████████ became a vital part of the investigation as he successfully witnessed and observed the unlawful take, possession, and transport of big game by the two main subjects. ██████████ also provided information on conversations and contacts with the subjects. As a result of ██████████ efforts, the Service case agent and State investigator were able to corroborate the unlawful take of wildlife in a timely fashion, due to the observations and the subsequent relaying of investigatory facts by ██████████. In most instances, the investigators were able to respond to the kill site to obtain DNA evidence, photograph carcass remnants, and document GPS coordinates as well as gather other pertinent evidence. Most of the subjects utilized ██████████ taxidermy services, which afforded the investigators the opportunity to match DNA from the kill site with the actual animal transported to his taxidermy shop. In one instance, a PIT tag was placed into the head of a pronghorn antelope, mount, which aided investigators in confirming the mount crossed state lines.

██████████ had already established credibility with the subjects as he had witnessed their actions in previous years. ██████████ had previously accepted illegally taken game animals into his taxidermy shop from the subjects. ██████████ because of his relationship with local residents, was able to glean additional information from people willing to provide information about the subjects. A large number of local landowners in the area had issues with the South Dakota Game and Fish Department and chose not to report to local law enforcement the egregious hunting behavior of the subjects involved. ██████████ was concerned about how local people would view him at the conclusion of the investigation should his cooperation be divulged, however, ██████████ understood the importance of his role and saw the investigation through to the end.

Investigators were able to document and charge 11 defendants in both state and federal court. ██████████ involvement in this investigation posed a significant safety risk to him and he also risked losing a substantial amount of business depending on people's reactions, if what he was doing was exposed. One of the main subjects has a hostile personality and ██████████ was always uncertain if the individual was making threats to impress and intimidate, or whether the individual was capable of following through with his threats against others. The same individual's son is alleged to be a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang and to this day, ██████████ has concerns about retaliation. ██████████ did lose business as a result of the convictions because these subjects brought him taxidermy business. Though ██████████ did not have to testify he was associated with all the defendants in this investigation through his taxidermy business, and supplied investigators with information on all of them that helped gain convictions.

Due to [REDACTED] actions, the frequency of deer and antelope poaching in the area has declined as have the number of wildlife trespass complaints.

The results of the investigation and prosecution yielded the following, significant outcome:

- One defendant from South Dakota pleaded guilty to violating Migratory Bird Treaty Act by killing 6 hawks and was sentenced to a \$1,500.00 fine and \$1,510.00 restitution. He was sentenced to one year probation.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to shooting big game from a road and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,220.00 and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- Three defendants from Minnesota each pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. They paid fines and restitution of \$1,025.00 each.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining a resident big game license. He paid fines and restitution in the amount of \$1,584.00. He also received 30 days in jail which was suspended; he was placed on 12 months of probation and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$775.00. He was placed on probation for one year and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$2,050.00. He was placed on probation for eighteen months and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Wisconsin pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$1025.00.
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- One defendant from Idaho pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a mule deer buck and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,359.00 and was placed on probation for 360 days.

Total in Fines, Costs, Civil Damages and Restitution: \$25,208.00

Total Lost Hunting Privileges: 6.5 years

The case agent requests a reward amount of \$3,500 based on the following factors.

- The hours [REDACTED] devoted to making the investigation a success.
- The number of targets the investigation was able to identify, document, and proceed with charges against.
- The personal risks [REDACTED] exposed himself and his business to in an effort to aid law enforcement in uncovering and prosecuting the unlawful activity.
- The previously established credibility [REDACTED] had with the identified defendants and the information he brought into or provided to the investigation about the subjects.

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



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV

July 10, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *Gov* Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

CPI Number:

INV Number and Title: 2005602788 /

Amount of Reward: \$3,500.00

Prior Compensation:

Authority/Statute: Lacey Act

Justification: See Attached

Reward Account: Law Enforcement Reward Account

Concurrence:

Approved:

Processed:

7/12/12
Date

7/12/12
Date

7/12/2012
Date

Justification for Reward

██████ became involved in the ██████ investigation in October 2007. He initially contacted a South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Conservation Officer to report a series of egregious South Dakota state big game hunting violations he had personally witnessed, or came to know about through his taxidermy business. The violations were being committed by a number of individuals from the State of Minnesota. It was determined the subjects in question were already identified as part of an ongoing federal/state joint investigation and were alleged to be not only violating state laws, but also federal laws including the Lacey Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The subjects committed numerous big game hunting violations during fall hunting seasons in South Dakota and then unlawfully transported or attempted to transport illegal wildlife in interstate commerce. ██████ stated he was sickened by the way the subjects were so brazen about illegally killing wildlife and the manner and means in which they went about killing the animals. ██████ advised OLE he was willing to assist in holding the individuals in question accountable for their actions. ██████ made it abundantly clear from the beginning, he was not assisting because he was motivated by financial gain.

██████ was assigned ██████. During the 2008-2010 South Dakota fall hunting seasons, ██████ became a vital part of the investigation as he successfully witnessed and observed the unlawful take, possession, and transport of big game by the two main subjects. ██████ also provided information on conversations and contacts with the subjects. As a result of ██████ efforts, the Service case agent and State investigator were able to corroborate the unlawful take of wildlife in a timely fashion, due to the observations and the subsequent relaying of investigatory facts by ██████. In most instances, the investigators were able to respond to the kill site to obtain DNA evidence, photograph carcass remnants, and document GPS coordinates as well as gather other pertinent evidence. Most of the subjects utilized ██████ taxidermy services, which afforded the investigators the opportunity to match DNA from the kill site with the actual animal transported to his taxidermy shop. In one instance, a PIT tag was placed into the head of a pronghorn antelope, mount, which aided investigators in confirming the mount crossed state lines.

██████ had already established credibility with the subjects as he had witnessed their actions in previous years. ██████ had previously accepted illegally taken game animals into his taxidermy shop from the subjects. ██████ because of his relationship with local residents, was able to glean additional information from people willing to provide information about the subjects. A large number of local landowners in the area had issues with the South Dakota Game and Fish Department and chose not to report to local law enforcement the egregious hunting behavior of the subjects involved. ██████ was concerned about how local people would view him at the conclusion of the investigation should his cooperation be divulged, however, ██████ understood the importance of his role and saw the investigation through to the end.

Investigators were able to document and charge 11 defendants in both state and federal court. ██████ involvement in this investigation posed a significant safety risk to him and he also risked losing a substantial amount of business depending on people's reactions, if what he was doing was exposed. One of the main subjects has a hostile personality and ██████ was always uncertain if the individual was making threats to impress and intimidate, or whether the individual was capable of following through with his threats against others. The same individual's ██████ is alleged to be a member of an ██████ and to this day, ██████ has concerns about retaliation. ██████ did lose business as a result of the convictions because these subjects brought him taxidermy business. Though ██████ did not have to testify he was associated with all the defendants in this investigation through his taxidermy business, and supplied investigators with information on all of them that helped gain convictions.

Due to [REDACTED] actions, the frequency of deer and antelope poaching in the area has declined as have the number of wildlife trespass complaints.

The results of the investigation and prosecution yielded the following, significant outcome:

- One defendant from South Dakota pleaded guilty to violating Migratory Bird Treaty Act by killing 6 hawks and was sentenced to a \$1,500.00 fine and \$1,510.00 restitution. He was sentenced to one year probation.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to shooting big game from a road and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,220.00 and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
- Three defendants from Minnesota each pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. They paid fines and restitution of \$1,025.00 each.
- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to fraudulently obtaining a resident big game license. He paid fines and restitution in the amount of \$1,584.00. He also received 30 days in jail which was suspended; he was placed on 12 months of probation and lost his hunting privileges for one year.
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- One defendant from Minnesota pleaded guilty to two counts of violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$2,050.00. He was placed on probation for eighteen months and assessed a \$5,000.00 civil penalty for five unlawfully taken deer.
- One defendant from Wisconsin pleaded guilty to violating the Lacey Act. He paid fines and restitution of \$1025.00.
- One defendant from Iowa pleaded guilty to transporting a mule deer buck without head and hide. He paid fines and restitution of \$85.00.
- One defendant from Idaho pleaded guilty to unlawful possession of a mule deer buck and violating the Lacey Act. He paid a fines and restitution of \$1,359.00 and was placed on probation for 360 days.

Total in Fines, Costs, Civil Damages and Restitution: \$25,208.00

Total Lost Hunting Privileges: 6.5 years

The case agent requests a reward amount of \$3,500 based on the following factors.

- The hours [REDACTED] devoted to making the investigation a success.
- The number of targets the investigation was able to identify, document, and proceed with charges against.
- The personal risks [REDACTED] exposed himself and his business to in an effort to aid law enforcement in uncovering and prosecuting the unlawful activity.
- The previously established credibility [REDACTED] had with the identified defendants and the information he brought into or provided to the investigation about the subjects.

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



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV 2008603763

August 3, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

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

Occupation:

Employer:

CPI Number:

INV Number and Title: INV (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER

Amount of Reward: \$3,500.00

Prior Compensation: None.

Authority/Statute: ~~Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act~~ *MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT AS PER 450 FW 1.3 A(3) + 450 FW 2.8 B*
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8/14/12

Justification: See Attached

Reward Account: WO (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Concurrence: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8-6-12

Approved: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8-6-12
Acting Chief, Office of Law Enforcement Date

Processed: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 8/17/2012
Budget Officer Date

Reward Justification

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

On November 2, 2010, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contacted the Montana Fish Wildlife & Park's tip line to report the unlawful killing and trafficking of eagles and their parts by tribal members from the Crow Tribe in Eastern Montana. Using the information provided by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a Service CPI was able to covertly infiltrate the group and purchase eagle and hawk parts from them. This was done as part of Operation Rolling Thunder (In (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) The following four subjects, identified by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were criminally prosecuted as a result.

On June 13, 2012, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to one (1) count of Conspiracy to violate the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sentence were as follows:

- Eighteen (18) months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.
- Three (3) years of Supervised Release.
- Payment of \$98,500.00 in Restitution (Joint and Several with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
- Payment of \$100.00 Special Assessment Fee.

On May 2, 2012, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced on five (5) counts of violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sentence were as follows:

- Time served in custody (Jan 9, 2012 through May 2, 2012)
- Three (3) years of Supervised Release
- Payment of \$98,500.00 in Restitution (Joint and Several with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
- Payment of \$500.00 Special Assessment Fee

On March 8, 2012, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced on one count of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sentence were as follows:

- One (1) year of Probation
- \$2,000.00 payment of Fine
- \$10.00 payment of Special Assessment Fee

On January 27, 2012, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced on one count of violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The terms of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sentence were as follows:

- Six (6) months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons
- One (1) year of Supervised Release
- \$25.00 payment of Special Assessment Fee

This investigation determined that this group was responsible for the unlawful killing of approximately eleven eagles and thirteen raptors, while they were engaged in business with the CPI.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward
Case Number: INV: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F),(b)(7)(E)
Case Title: OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER
Region: Region 6

Summary: This reward request is for \$3,500. A reward payment in this amount would be fair compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above investigation. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) became aware of the illegal take and commercialization of eagles and other raptors by members of the Crow Tribe in Eastern Montana. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) came forward and reported the violations and identified the violators. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts helped initiate the investigation of multiple defendants in this investigation and they were successfully criminally prosecuted for violations of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The four (4) individuals that were successfully prosecuted in Federal courts in this investigation as a direct result of information provided by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) paid a total of \$101,135.00 in fines, costs, civil damages, and restitution. The defendants also collectively were sentenced to twenty-four months incarceration, and eight (8) years of supervised release / probation.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the WO Special Funds Account on MBTA and BGEPA convictions. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

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

SA

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

8/3/2012

Date

Concur:

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

SAC/INV

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

8/6/12

Date

Concur:

Dep. Chief

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

Date



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain-Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement
134 Union Blvd., Suite 550
Lakewood, Colorado 80228-1807

FILE COPY

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV 2008603763

August 3, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

In accordance with 450 FW2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

Name of recipient: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

Occupation: [REDACTED]

Employer: [REDACTED]

CPI Number: [REDACTED]

INV Number and Title: [REDACTED]

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

Amount of Reward: \$3,500.00

Prior Compensation: None.

Authority/Statute:

~~MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT~~ AS PER 450 FW 1.3 A(1) + 450 FW 2.8 B
~~Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act~~

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

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

Justification: See Attached

Reward Account: WO Special Funds Account

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

Concurrence:

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

Approved:

Acting

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

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Date

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

Date

Reward Justification [REDACTED]

On November 2, 2010, [REDACTED] contacted the Montana Fish Wildlife & Park's tip line to report the unlawful killing and trafficking of eagles and their parts by tribal members from the Crow Tribe in Eastern Montana. Using the information provided by [REDACTED] a [REDACTED] was able to covertly infiltrate the group and purchase eagle and hawk parts from them. This was done as part of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Inv. [REDACTED]) The following four subjects, identified by [REDACTED] criminally prosecuted as a result.

On June 13, 2012, [REDACTED] was sentenced to one (1) count of Conspiracy to violate the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of [REDACTED] sentence were as follows:

- Eighteen (18) months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.
- Three (3) years of Supervised Release.
- Payment of \$98,500.00 in Restitution (Joint and Several with [REDACTED])
- Payment of \$100.00 Special Assessment Fee.

On May 2, 2012, [REDACTED] was sentenced on five (5) counts of violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of [REDACTED] sentence were as follows:

- Time served in custody (Jan 9, 2012 through May 2, 2012)
- Three (3) years of Supervised Release
- Payment of \$98,500.00 in Restitution (Joint and Several with [REDACTED])
- Payment of \$500.00 Special Assessment Fee

On March 8, 2012, [REDACTED] was sentenced on one count of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The terms of [REDACTED] sentence were as follows:

- One (1) year of Probation
- \$2,000.00 payment of Fine
- \$10.00 payment of Special Assessment Fee

On January 27, 2012, [REDACTED] was sentenced on one count of violating the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The terms of [REDACTED] sentence were as follows:

- Six (6) months in the custody of the Bureau of Prisons
- One (1) year of Supervised Release
- \$25.00 payment of Special Assessment Fee

This investigation determined that this group was responsible for the unlawful killing of approximately eleven eagles and thirteen raptors, while they were engaged in business with the [REDACTED]

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

OCT 10 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: ~~Acting~~ 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 \$20,000.00 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 is to be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-8
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
370 Amapola Ave, Suite 114
Torrance, CA 90501

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

William C. Woody

(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)

10/9/2012

(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



Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

OCT 10 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center
FROM: ^{Acting} Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

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

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.

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Special Agent In Charge R-8
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
370 Amapola Ave, Suite 114
Torrance, CA 90501

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

William C. Woody

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



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

370 Amapola Ave.
Suite 114
Torrance, CA 90501



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

October 3, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 8

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

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

10/3/12

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

1) **Name of recipient:**

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

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

- 2) The proposed recipient has had no personal relationship with any special agent, family member of a special agent, or with any other person or family members of a person involved in the investigation.

3) **Permanent CPI number:**

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

4) **INV Number and Title:**

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

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

et al INV

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

and

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

INV

5) **Amount of Reward:** \$20,000.00

6) **Prior Compensation:** \$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/23/2002 INV
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/31/2002 INV
\$249 Purchase of Information dated 4/21/2003 INV 2
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 5/18/2007 INV 2

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

7) **Authority for Issuing the Reward:** Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1540(e)(3))

Reward Account: Law Enforcement Reward Account

8) **Justification:**

(a) A summary of the investigations and description of the individual's involvement:

From September of 2002 through May 2007, an investigation involving the smuggling of protected wildlife into the United States from Singapore and Thailand was conducted in Los Angeles. The investigation, entitled (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) *et al, INV* (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) focused on the commercialization of rare and endangered tortoises. On 5/15/2007, the main defendant and organizer of the stateside operation, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and the foreign supplier (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) were named in a seventeen count felony indictment charging them with conspiracy, wildlife smuggling, importing goods by means of false statement and money laundering. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling approximately 51 Indian Star Tortoises into the United States from Singapore without declaring them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Indian Star Tortoise is listed as CITES Appendix II and is valued at up to \$500 per animal. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy against the United States in violation of Title 18 Section 371.

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

The investigation required that the informant remain in constant contact with SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and later, with SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) spoke with Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on the telephone and met in person several times a week. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) maintained constant contact with SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and upon SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) consistent contact with SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) at all times of the day to keep them abreast of developing information in the case. During the investigation, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided information for prosecution which included the names of individuals (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sold Indian Star Tortoises to and the selling price of the animals. Unknown to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) some of this information was corroborated with information garnered from the execution of a search warrant at (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) residence. This information, combined with shipping and bank records obtained from the warrant and subpoenas, documented the names of buyers, what they purchased and the prices paid for the animals.

Further, a critical part of the investigation involved [REDACTED] ability to set up transactions with [REDACTED] (later identified as [REDACTED]) the supplier in Singapore. [REDACTED] provided the USFWS with his name as well as the alias he was using, and most importantly, his bank wire information. The banking information was critical in filing the money laundering charges against [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He was tasked to meet with special agents involved in investigating [REDACTED] and other defendants at all times of the day and night. Because the majority of this investigation was documented via telephone calls [REDACTED] received calls from [REDACTED] and other suppliers in Malaysia, during the middle of the night. In an effort to obtain as much information as he could, he dutifully engaged in conversation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

When [REDACTED] was arrested,

[REDACTED]

During the time of the [REDACTED] investigation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In April of 2007, SA [REDACTED] was able to obtain a search warrant on the subject's residence and subsequently seized four (4) live Fiji Island banded iguanas. The defendant continued to correspond with the informant and the informant subsequently recorded those phone conversations. In early 2008, [REDACTED] was indicted by the Central District of California on smuggling charges, concealing the smuggled animals and the illegal possession of CITES Appendix I species. In April of 2008, [REDACTED] opted to take his case to trial and [REDACTED] was required to testify in person in front of the jury and, of course, the defendant. In order to prepare for trial testimony, Mr. [REDACTED] was required to meet with the prosecutor in person and by telephone on several occasions and for several hours at a time. Mr. [REDACTED] had to make long trips from his residence in [REDACTED] California to downtown Los Angeles, which also took time away from his business, in order to participate in these meetings. After the trial and because of the need to reveal his identity, it became a well-known fact in the reptile community that Mr. [REDACTED] was an informant for the government.

At the trial [REDACTED] was convicted of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. [REDACTED] filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which [REDACTED] agreed to take. At the original sentencing hearing after the jury trial, [REDACTED] was sentenced to 2500 hours of community service and three years of probation, but after he signed the plea agreement for the misdemeanor [REDACTED] was sentenced to time served—more than 700 hours of community service.

b) The number of subjects involved:

The [REDACTED] investigation involved the indictment of two (2) individuals and the [REDACTED] investigation involved the indictment of one (1) individual.

c) The criminal or civil charges filed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) A seventeen count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of: Conspiracy to violate the ESA (18 USC 371); Smuggling (18 USC 545); Importing Goods by Means of False Statement (18 USC 542); Money Laundering (18 USC 1956); and Causing an Act to Be Done (18 USC 2 (b)).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) A three count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of Smuggling (18 U.S.C. 545); Concealing Smuggled Goods (18 USC 545); and CITES (16 U.S.C. 1538(c)).

d) Results of Legal Proceedings:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) signed a plea agreement and in April of 2008, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 13 months of confinement (6 ½ imprisonment and 6 ½ months of home confinement) and three years of probation after his release. The second defendant, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) is a fugitive still at large and is believed to reside in Singapore. An INTERPOL Red Notice has been issued for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) In April of 2008, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) opted to take his case to trial and at trial, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted by jury of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agreed to take.

At the original sentencing hearing after the jury trial, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 2500 hours of community service and three years of probation, but after he signed the plea agreement for the misdemeanor (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to time served—more than 700 hours of community service.

(e) Safety Risk

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

(f) The impact of the illicit activities to the resource:

The (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation involved the illegal importation of hundreds of tortoises that were being shipped to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) including radiated tortoises and Indian star tortoises. However, in addition, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was responsible for shipping tortoises to individuals all over the United States. The subjects prosecuted in Southern California included (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and one shipment included the rarest species of tortoise, a ploughshare tortoise, that was shipped from Singapore by Tekani. It is possible that the international smuggling scheme to the U.S. was shut down due to the indictment and media coverage relating to the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation.

The (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation involved the rare and endangered, Appendix I species of Fiji Island banded iguanas. Two of the animals seized in the case have had hatchlings. In September of 2011, the animals in the case were forfeited to the government and the remaining live animals were donated to the San Diego Zoo. These animals have become an important part of the conservation efforts for the Fiji Island Banded Iguana, adding new bloodlines to the Zoo's existing populations.

(g) How the amount of the Reward was chosen:

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

This memorandum serves as a recommendation for payment of a special financial award to the informant for his outstanding participation and assistance in working towards the prosecution of defendants in the [redacted] and [redacted] cases. The informant went above and beyond the scope of providing assistance and support for law enforcement in this investigation. Because of the amount of time the informant spent assisting law enforcement on this case, it is recommended that a reward in the amount of \$20,000 be compensated to [redacted] for the efforts he performed in both investigations. This amount was derived by estimating the amount of hours [redacted] contributed to the investigations and multiplying it by the average hourly rate of \$20/hour (1000 hours x \$20 = \$20,000). It is difficult to calculate the exact number of hours [redacted] worked throughout the investigations, however considering that the cases spanned over a course of almost five years, it should be fair to say that he dedicated at least 6 months of his time to the government during that time period.

(h) Circumstances requiring the issuance of a special check:

None.

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| Concurrence | [redacted] SAC, Branch of Investigations | 10-4-12 Date |
| Approved: | [redacted] Chief, Office of Law Enforcement | 10/5/12 Date |
| Processed: | [redacted] Budget Officer | 10/9/2012 Date |



NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2002104570 and 2006102278
Case Title: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) et al and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Region: Region 2

Summary: This reward request is for \$20,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement in the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation was from start to finish meaning his involvement began in 2002 and continued until 2007. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was actively involved in the reptile trade through his own merits and agreed to assist the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the known risk of becoming a pariah and losing business contacts. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Singapore (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) spent an inordinate amount of time meeting with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and the agents, at all hours of the day and night, to acquire and transfer the information he was collecting. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Because of these actions, a seventeen (17) count indictment was filed against (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on charges including smuggling, false statements, money laundering, Endangered Species Act and other various laws. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) signed a plea agreement and was sentenced to 13 months of confinement and 3 years of probation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was indicted but is a fugitive at large believed to be in Singapore.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) During the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) became aware of a person smuggling, into the U.S., live Fiji Island banded iguanas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made confidence purchases with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the smuggler, and was able to obtain enough information about the smuggled iguanas for the search warrant affidavit. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was indicted by the Central District of California and requested a trial. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) Eventually, it became known in the reptile community that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was a government cooperator. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted of charges of felony smuggling and misdemeanor Endangered Species Act; CITES. The case was appealed to the Circuit Court and remanded back to the District Court. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) accepted the Government's plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge and was sentenced to time served which had been the completion of 700 hours of the original 2500 hours ordered.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The SSA reviewed the accompanying Request for Payment of Reward from the Law Enforcement Reward Account on an Endangered Species Act operation. Because of the above mentioned information, the reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under LE Memo 35.

Reviewer:

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

10-3-12

Date

Concur:

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

10-4-12

Date

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

370 Amapola Ave.
Suite 114
Torrance, CA 90501



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

October 3, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 8

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

J. Burdell 10/3/12

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

1) Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:



2) The proposed recipient has had no personal relationship with any special agent, family member of a special agent, or with any other person or family members of a person involved in the investigation.

3) Permanent CPI number

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

4) INV Number and Title: Bobby GIN, et al INV 2002104570 and Jerome JAMES INV 2006102278

(b)(6);(b)(7)(C)

5) Amount of Reward: \$20,000.00

6) Prior Compensation: \$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/23/2002 INV 2002104570
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/31/2002 INV 2002104570
\$249 Purchase of Information dated 4/21/2003 INV 2002104570
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 5/18/2007 INV 2006102278

7) Authority for Issuing the Reward: Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1540(e)(3))

Reward Account: Law Enforcement Reward Account

8) Justification:

(a) A summary of the investigations and description of the individual's involvement:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) From September of 2002 through May 2007, an investigation involving the smuggling of protected wildlife into the United States from Singapore and Thailand was conducted in Los Angeles. The investigation, entitled Bobby Gin et al, INV 2002104576, focused on the commercialization of rare and endangered tortoises. On 5/15/2007, the main defendant and organizer of the stateside operation, Wai Ho Gin aka Bobby Gin, and the foreign supplier, Umesh Kishore Tekani (aka Mexx) were named in a seventeen count felony indictment charging them with conspiracy, wildlife smuggling, importing goods by means of false statement and money laundering. Gin pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling approximately 51 Indian Star Tortoises into the United States from Singapore without declaring them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Indian Star Tortoise is listed as CITES Appendix II and is valued at up to \$500 per animal. Gin also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy against the United States in violation of Title 18 Section 371. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(E) From September 2002 through May 2007, [REDACTED] a confidential informant, provided invaluable information to the USFWS during the investigation and ultimate prosecution of this case. In approximately May of 2005, SA Dean was introduced to [REDACTED] and accompanied SA Palladini on meetings with him and helped coordinate the case and the evidence, which included a voluminous amount of tapes and discs of recorded telephone and in person conversations. This eventually led to the ability to meet with [REDACTED] as an informant without SA Palladini being present. [REDACTED] has no criminal history and has not been charged or suspected of any wrong-doing while involved in this investigation. [REDACTED] provided information to USFWS that only he had access to because of his position as a live reptile broker. In 2002, [REDACTED] was approached by Gin at a Turtle and Tortoise Show exhibit, where Gin was offering to sell recently smuggled quantities of Indian Star Tortoises. [REDACTED] ability to legitimately represent himself as someone in the business led to an ongoing relationship with Gin and ultimately with Gin's supplier in Malaysia, Mexx Tekani. [REDACTED] communicated with Gin and Tekani by telephone documenting their smuggling scheme. [REDACTED] was willing to surreptitiously record conversations that involved Gin's as well as Tekani's admissions of guilt. [REDACTED] recorded numerous lengthy conversations with Gin, Tekani, and other defendants in the case. [REDACTED] also made in person buys from Gin, further documenting Gin's wildlife commercialization enterprise. [REDACTED] followed instructions per the CPI agreement and was reliable in what he was instructed to do and how he was instructed to carry out arrangements for undercover buys, and handling of evidence and buy money. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(D) The investigation required that the informant remain in constant contact with SA Palladini, and later, with SA Dean. SA Palladini and SA Dean spoke with [REDACTED] on the telephone and met in person several times a week. During the investigation, [REDACTED] was responsible for running his own reptile and non-profit businesses, while at the same time attempting to make a profit to pay his bills. [REDACTED] maintained constant contact with SA Palladini and upon SA Palladini's retirement, consistent contact with SA Dean, at all times of the day to keep them abreast of developing information in the case. During the investigation, [REDACTED] was requested by USFWS Special Operations as an informant who would travel to Thailand to meet with Tekani in an attempt to finalize the case against Tekani. Although this plan never came to fruition, it is worth mentioning as an example of [REDACTED] commitment to assist OLE in stopping wildlife smuggling. It is also noteworthy that [REDACTED] agreed to participate in this seemingly dangerous part of the investigation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

[REDACTED] provided information for prosecution which included the names of individuals Gin sold Indian Star Tortoises to and the selling price of the animals. Unknown to [REDACTED] some of this information was corroborated with information garnered from the execution of a search warrant at Gin's residence. This information, combined with shipping and bank records obtained from the warrant and subpoenas, documented the names of buyers, what they purchased and the prices paid for the animals. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Further, a critical part of the investigation involved [redacted] ability to set up transactions with "Mexx" (later identified as Tekani) the supplier in Singapore. [redacted] provided the USFWS with his name as well as the alias he was using, and most importantly, his bank wire information. The banking information was critical in filing the money laundering charges against Gin and Tekani.

[redacted] involvement in this investigation continued for approximately four years and seriously impacted his life. He was tasked to meet with special agents involved in investigating Gin and other defendants at all times of the day and night. Because the majority of this investigation was documented via telephone calls, [redacted] received calls from Tekani and other suppliers in Malaysia, during the middle of the night. In an effort to obtain as much information as he could, he dutifully engaged in conversation and recorded the calls no matter what time of the night they were received. These phone calls and the demand to "be on" put stress on his personal life and his day to day ability to conduct his own reptile business and his non-profit wildlife ventures. It is also noteworthy that [redacted] compromised his own business as a reptile dealer by being a confidential informant for USFWS. When Gin was arrested, [redacted] involvement in the case became a topic of conversation with other reptile dealers, causing his own legitimate business to suffer.

During the time of the GIN investigation, [redacted] came into contact with an individual possessing Fiji Island banded iguanas who claimed that he had smuggled the iguanas into the United States from Fiji. Because of the rarity of the animals (endangered and CITES Appendix I), SA Dean opened an investigation on the subject. Over the course of the investigation, [redacted] met with the target on several occasions, took photographs of the animals in undercover meetings, recorded several phone conversations with the subject and was able to obtain a recorded confession of how the subject was able to smuggle the animals into the U.S. in his prosthetic leg. [redacted] met with the subject for the purposes of a confidence buy in order to gather fresh probable cause in order to obtain a search warrant once the GIN investigation was completed.

In April of 2007, SA Dean was able to obtain a search warrant on the subject's residence and subsequently seized four (4) live Fiji Island banded iguanas. The defendant continued to correspond with the informant and the informant subsequently recorded those phone conversations. In early 2008, Jerome JAMES was indicted by the Central District of California on smuggling charges, concealing the smuggled animals and the illegal possession of CITES Appendix I species. In April of 2008, JAMES opted to take his case to trial and [redacted] was required to testify in person in front of the jury and, of course, the defendant. In order to prepare for trial testimony, [redacted] was required to meet with the prosecutor in person and by telephone on several occasions and for several hours at a time. [redacted] had to make long trips from his residence in La Mirada, California to downtown Los Angeles, which also took time away from his business, in order to participate in these meetings. After the trial and because of the need to reveal his identity, it became a well-known fact in the reptile community that Mr. [redacted] was an informant for the government.

At the trial, James was convicted of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. James filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which James agreed to take. At the original sentencing hearing after the jury trial, James was sentenced to 2500 hours of community service and three years of probation, but after he signed the plea agreement for the misdemeanor, James was sentenced to time served—more than 700 hours of community service.

b) The number of subjects involved:

The Bobby Gin investigation involved the indictment of two (2) individuals and the James investigation involved the indictment of one (1) individual.

c) The criminal or civil charges filed:

Gin- A seventeen count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of: Conspiracy to violate the ESA (18 USC 371); Smuggling (18 USC 545); Importing Goods by Means of False Statement (18 USC 542); Money Laundering (18 USC 1956); and Causing an Act to Be Done (18 USC 2 (b)).

James- A three count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of Smuggling (18 U.S.C. 545); Concealing Smuggled Goods (18 USC 545); and CITES (16 U.S.C. 1538(c)).

d) Results of Legal Proceedings:

Gin- Bobby Gin signed a plea agreement and in April of 2008, **Gin** was sentenced to 13 months of confinement (6 ½ imprisonment and 6 ½ months of home confinement) and three years of probation after his release. The second defendant, **Umesh Kishore Tekani** (aka Mexx), is a fugitive still at large and is believed to reside in Singapore. An INTERPOL Red Notice has been issued for Tekani.

James- In April of 2008, **JAMES** opted to take his case to trial and at trial, **James** was convicted by jury of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. **James** filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which **James** agreed to take.

At the original sentencing hearing after the jury trial, **James** was sentenced to 2500 hours of community service and three years of probation, but after he signed the plea agreement for the misdemeanor, **James** was sentenced to time served—more than 700 hours of community service.

(e) Safety Risk

is a known informant for the government and is a commercial reptile broker that works out of his residence. There is somewhat of a safety risk involved due to the fact that the defendants know where he resides. However, there have been no threats made to him or his family at this point.

(f) The impact of the illicit activities to the resource:

The **Gin** investigation involved the illegal importation of hundreds of tortoises that were being shipped to **Gin** including radiated tortoises and Indian star tortoises. However, in addition, **Tekani** was responsible for shipping tortoises to individuals all over the United States. The subjects prosecuted in Southern California included **Barry Lambert**, **David Yeh** and **Ralph Hoekstra** and one shipment included the rarest species of tortoise, a ploughshare tortoise, that was shipped from Singapore by **Tekani**. It is possible that the international smuggling scheme to the U.S. was shut down due to the indictment and media coverage relating to the **Bobby Gin** investigation.

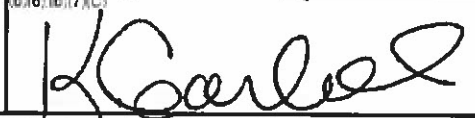
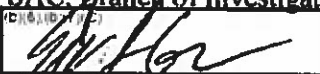
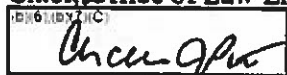
The **James** investigation involved the rare and endangered, Appendix I species of Fiji Island banded iguanas. Two of the animals seized in the case have had hatchlings. In September of 2011, the animals in the case were forfeited to the government and the remaining live animals were donated to the San Diego Zoo. These animals have become an important part of the conservation efforts for the Fiji Island Banded Iguana, adding new bloodlines to the Zoo's existing populations.

(g) How the amount of the Reward was chosen:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
This memorandum serves as a recommendation for payment of a special financial award to the informant for his outstanding participation and assistance in working towards the prosecution of defendants in the Gin and James cases. The informant went above and beyond the scope of providing assistance and support for law enforcement in this investigation. Because of the amount of time the informant spent assisting law enforcement on this case, it is recommended that a reward in the amount of \$20,000 be compensated to [REDACTED] for the efforts he performed in both investigations. This amount was derived by estimating the amount of hours [REDACTED] contributed to the investigations and multiplying it by the average hourly rate of \$20/hour (1000 hours x \$20 = \$20,000). It is difficult to calculate the exact number of hours [REDACTED] worked throughout the investigations, however considering that the cases spanned over a course of almost five years, it should be fair to say that he dedicated at least 6 months of his time to the government during that time period.

(h) Circumstances requiring the issuance of a special check:

None.

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|
| Concurrence: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) </div> | <u>10-4-12</u> Date |
| Approved: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) </div> Chief, Office of Law Enforcement | <u>10/5/12</u> Date |
| Processed: | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) </div> Budget Officer | <u>10/9/2012</u> Date |

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IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

370 Amapola Ave.
Suite 114
Torrance, CA 90501



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

October 3, 2012

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 8

Subject: Request for Payment of Reward



10/3/12

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

1) Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

Self-employed

- 2) The proposed recipient has had no personal relationship with any special agent, family member of a special agent, or with any other person or family members of a person involved in the investigation.

3) Permanent CPI number: PT-1077

4) INV Number and Title

2006102278

et al INV 2002104570 and

INV

5) Amount of Reward: \$20,000.00

- 6) Prior Compensation: \$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/23/2002 INV 2002104570
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 10/31/2002 INV 2002104570
\$249 Purchase of Information dated 4/21/2003 INV 2002104570
\$250 Purchase of Information dated 5/18/2007 INV 2006102278

7) Authority for Issuing the Reward: Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1540(e)(3))

Reward Account: Law Enforcement Reward Account

8) Justification:

(a) A summary of the investigations and description of the individual's involvement:

From September of 2002 through May 2007, an investigation involving the smuggling of protected wildlife into the United States from Singapore and Thailand was conducted in Los Angeles. The investigation, entitled [REDACTED] *et al*, INV 2002104576, focused on the commercialization of rare and endangered tortoises. On 5/15/2007, the main defendant and organizer of the stateside operation, [REDACTED] and the foreign supplier, Umesh Kishore Tekani (aka Mexx) were named in a seventeen count felony indictment charging them with conspiracy, wildlife smuggling, importing goods by means of false statement and money laundering. [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to one count of smuggling approximately 51 Indian Star Tortoises into the United States from Singapore without declaring them to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Indian Star Tortoise is listed as CITES Appendix II and is valued at up to \$500 per animal. [REDACTED] also pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy against the United States in violation of Title 18 Section 371.

From September 2002 through May 2007 [REDACTED] (PT-1077), a confidential informant, provided invaluable information to the USFWS during the investigation and ultimate prosecution of this case. In approximately May of 2005, SA [REDACTED] was introduced to Mr. [REDACTED] and accompanied SA [REDACTED] on meetings with him and helped coordinate the case and the evidence, which included a voluminous amount of tapes and discs of recorded telephone and in person conversations. This eventually led to the ability to meet with Mr. [REDACTED] as an informant without SA [REDACTED] being present. Mr. [REDACTED] has no criminal history and has not been charged or suspected of any wrong-doing while involved in this investigation. [REDACTED] provided information to USFWS that only he had access to because of his position as a live reptile broker. In 2002, [REDACTED] was approached by [REDACTED] at a Turtle and Tortoise Show exhibit, where [REDACTED] was offering to sell recently smuggled quantities of Indian Star Tortoises. [REDACTED] ability to legitimately represent himself as someone in the business led to an ongoing relationship with Gin and ultimately with [REDACTED] supplier in Malaysia, Mexx Tekani. [REDACTED] communicated with Gin and Tekani by telephone documenting their smuggling scheme. [REDACTED] was willing to surreptitiously record conversations that involved [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED] admissions of guilt. [REDACTED] recorded numerous lengthy conversations with [REDACTED] Tekani and other defendants in the case. [REDACTED] also made in person buys from [REDACTED] further documenting [REDACTED] wildlife commercialization enterprise. [REDACTED] followed instructions per the CPI agreement and was reliable in what he was instructed to do and now he was instructed to carry out arrangements for undercover buys, and handling of evidence and buy money.

The investigation required that the informant remain in constant contact with SA [REDACTED] and later, with SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] spoke with Mr. [REDACTED] on the telephone and met in person several times a week. During the investigation, [REDACTED] was responsible for running his own reptile and non-profit businesses, while at the same time attempting to make a profit to pay his bills. Mr. [REDACTED] maintained constant contact with SA [REDACTED] and upon SA [REDACTED] consistent contact with SA [REDACTED] at all times of the day to keep them abreast of developing information in the case. During the investigation, Mr. [REDACTED] was requested by USFWS Special Operations as an informant who would travel to Thailand to meet with [REDACTED] in an attempt to finalize the case against [REDACTED]. Although this plan never came to fruition, it is worth mentioning as an example of [REDACTED] commitment to assist OLE in stopping wildlife smuggling. It is also noteworthy that Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to participate in this seemingly dangerous part of the investigation.

[REDACTED] provided information for prosecution which included the names of individuals [REDACTED] sold Indian Star Tortoises to and the selling price of the animals. Unknown to [REDACTED] some of this information was corroborated with information garnered from the execution of a search warrant at [REDACTED] residence. This information, combined with shipping and bank records obtained from the warrant and subpoenas, documented the names of buyers, what they purchased and the prices paid for the animals.

Further, a critical part of the investigation involved [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) ability to set up transactions with "Mexx" (later identified as [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)), the supplier in Singapore. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided the USFWS with his name as well as the alias he was using, and most importantly, his bank wire information. The banking information was critical in filing the money laundering charges against [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C).

[redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement in this investigation continued for approximately four years and seriously impacted his life. He was tasked to meet with special agents involved in investigating [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and other defendants at all times of the day and night. Because the majority of this investigation was documented via telephone calls, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) received calls from [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and other suppliers in Malaysia, during the middle of the night. In an effort to obtain as much information as he could, he dutifully engaged in conversation and recorded the calls no matter what time of the night they were received. These phone calls and the demand to "be on" put stress on his personal life and his day to day ability to conduct his own reptile business and his non-profit wildlife ventures. It is also noteworthy that Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) compromised his own business as a reptile dealer by being a confidential informant for USFWS. When [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was arrested, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) involvement in the case became a topic of conversation with other reptile dealers, causing his own legitimate business to suffer.

During the time of the [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation, Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) came into contact with an individual possessing Fiji Island banded iguanas who claimed that he had smuggled the iguanas into the United States from Fiji. Because of the rarity of the animals (endangered and CITES Appendix I), SA [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) opened an investigation on the subject. Over the course of the investigation, Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) met with the target on several occasions, took photographs of the animals in undercover meetings, recorded several phone conversations with the subject and was able to obtain a recorded confession of how the subject was able to smuggle the animals into the U.S. in [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) met with the subject for the purposes of a confidence buy in order to gather fresh probable cause in order to obtain a search warrant once the [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation was completed.

In April of 2007, SA [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was able to obtain a search warrant on the subject's residence and subsequently seized four (4) live Fiji Island banded iguanas. The defendant continued to correspond with the informant and the informant subsequently recorded those phone conversations. In early 2008, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was indicted by the Central District of California on smuggling charges, concealing the smuggled animals and the illegal possession of CITES Appendix I species. In April of 2008, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) opted to take his case to trial and Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was required to testify in person in front of the jury and, of course, the defendant. In order to prepare for trial testimony, Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was required to meet with the prosecutor in person and by telephone on several occasions and for several hours at a time. Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had to make long trips from his residence in [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) California to downtown Los Angeles, which also took time away from his business, in order to participate in these meetings. After the trial and because of the need to reveal his identity, it became a well-known fact in the reptile community that Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was an informant for the government.

At the trial, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was convicted of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agreed to take. At the original sentencing hearing after the jury trial, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 2500 hours of community service and three years of probation, but after he signed the plea agreement for the misdemeanor, [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to time served—more than 700 hours of community service.

b) The number of subjects involved:

The [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation involved the indictment of two (2) individuals and the [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation involved the indictment of one (1) individual.

c) The criminal or civil charges filed:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] A seventeen count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of: Conspiracy to violate the ESA (18 USC 371); Smuggling (18 USC 545); Importing Goods by Means of False Statement (18 USC 542); Money Laundering (18 USC 1956); and Causing an Act to Be Done (18 USC 2 (b)).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] A three count indictment was filed involving charges consisting of Smuggling (18 U.S.C. 545); Concealing Smuggled Goods (18 USC 545); and CITES (16 U.S.C. 1538(c)).

d) Results of Legal Proceedings:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] signed a plea agreement and in April of 2008 [redacted] was sentenced to 13 months of confinement (6 ½ imprisonment and 6 ½ months of home confinement) and three years of probation after his release. The second defendant, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] is a fugitive still at large and is believed to reside in Singapore. An INTERPOL Red Notice has been issued for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted]

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] In April of 2008 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] opted to take his case to trial and at trial, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] was convicted by jury of the felony charge of concealing the smuggled iguanas and the misdemeanor charge of illegally possessing a CITES Appendix I animal. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] filed an appeal in part based on the judge's decision at trial to not allow the defense's expert witness to testify. The appellate court remanded the case back to the Central District to be retried based on this fact. The Assistant U.S. Attorney offered the defendant a plea agreement for the misdemeanor charge, which [redacted] agreed to take.

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(e) Safety Risk

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] is a known informant for the government and is a commercial reptile broker that works out of his residence. There is somewhat of a safety risk involved due to the fact that the defendants know where he resides. However, there have been no threats made to him or his family at this point.

(f) The impact of the illicit activities to the resource:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] The [redacted] investigation involved the illegal importation of hundreds of tortoises that were being shipped to [redacted] including radiated tortoises and Indian star tortoises. However, in addition, [redacted] was responsible for shipping tortoises to individuals all over the United States. The subjects prosecuted in Southern California included [redacted] and one shipment included the rarest species of tortoise, a ploughshare tortoise, that was shipped from Singapore by [redacted] It is possible that the international smuggling scheme to the U.S. was shut down due to the indictment and media coverage relating to the [redacted] investigation.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] The [redacted] investigation involved the rare and endangered, Appendix I species of Fiji Island banded iguanas. Two of the animals seized in the case have had hatchlings. In September of 2011, the animals in the case were forfeited to the government and the remaining live animals were donated to the San Diego Zoo. These animals have become an important part of the conservation efforts for the Fiji Island Banded Iguana, adding new bloodlines to the Zoo's existing populations.

(g) How the amount of the Reward was chosen:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) This memorandum serves as a recommendation for payment of a special financial award to the informant for his outstanding participation and assistance in working towards the prosecution of defendants in the [redacted] and [redacted] cases. The informant went above and beyond the scope of providing assistance and support for law enforcement in this investigation. Because of the amount of time the informant spent assisting law enforcement on this case, it is recommended that a reward in the amount of \$20,000 be compensated to [redacted] for the efforts he performed in both investigations. This amount was derived by estimating the amount of hours [redacted] contributed to the investigations and multiplying it by the average hourly rate of \$20/hour (1000 hours x \$20 = \$20,000). It is difficult to calculate the exact number of hours [redacted] worked throughout the investigations, however considering that the cases spanned over a course of almost five years, it should be fair to say that he dedicated at least 6 months of his time to the government during that time period.

(h) Circumstances requiring the issuance of a special check:

None.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Concurrency: [redacted]

SAC, Bureau of Investigations

10-4-12
Date

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

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

10/5/12
Date

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

Budget Officer

10/9/2012
Date





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (L.E.-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

OCT 31 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: ^{Acting} 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 him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

Resident Agent In Charge - (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
445 Etna Street, Suite 45
St. Paul, MN 55106

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

(for)
William C. Woody

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

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FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

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St. Paul, MN 55106

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

William C. Woody

cc: Surname

FWS/LE

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

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

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

: 10/25



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT - 5 2012

FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 3
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:

Occupation:

Employer:

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

INV Number
and Title:

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

SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS

Amount of Reward: \$5,000.00

Prior Compensation: \$0.00

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:

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.

No such relationships exist.

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

CPI number

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

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

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

SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS

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

A reward in the amount of \$5,000 is requested.

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.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) has received no previous compensation.

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

Endangered Species Act; 16 USC 1531 et seq.

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

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] was the Director for the Oklahoma Station of Safari Club International (SCI).

He also worked as an Oklahoma based booking agent for South African Game Ranch/Outfitter

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) [redacted], in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. In

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 2006, [redacted] coordinated a hunt for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] who lives in [redacted] Minnesota. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Mr. [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] hunted at [redacted] and killed a leopard there on April 25, 2006. For the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) following nine months, Mr. [redacted] was in communication with the game ranch owner/operator, a South African taxidermist, and a South African shipping agent about the status of the export of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) his leopard hide and skull. Mr. [redacted] received several excuses from the men as to why shipment of his trophies was delayed. It became apparent that Mr. [redacted] was getting "the run around." (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

After nearly a year of frustration, on February 1, 2007, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] unexpectedly received a DHL package from South Africa at his home. The package was labeled as containing "clothes." Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] opened the parcel and found an untagged raw leopard hide, without a skull, which Mr. [redacted] believed was from the leopard he killed in South Africa. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] knew the leopard hide was undeclared and was not accompanied by a CITES permit so he immediately called the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) at St. Paul, Minnesota.

From February 1, 2007, through April 2007, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] worked with Special Agent (SA) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] to determine which person or persons illegally sent the hide from South Africa. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] turned over to SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] the hide and the shipping carton from the DHL shipment. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] provided photographs, other documentary evidence, and a copy of all email (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) correspondence Mr. [redacted] had with [redacted] and the South Africans. At SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] request, Mr. [redacted] began making monitored communications with [redacted] and the South (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Africans via telephone and email.

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

In initial communications, the game ranch owner denied knowing the leopard hide was shipped to Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) without CITES tags and a CITES Export Permit. Both the game ranch owner and the South African taxidermist agreed to send Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a CITES tag and CITES permit so Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could get his trophy mounted in the U.S. but neither man followed through. The Game (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sent Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a provincial hunting permit for the take of a damage causing leopard apparently wanting Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to believe it was actually the requested South African CITES export permit. At SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) direction, Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) expressed frustration at the failure of the game ranch owner to supply a CITES permit, a CITES tag, and the skull from his leopard.

On May 8, 2007, the game ranch owner emailed Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with a potential solution. The game ranch owner said he would get a "spare skin" from his taxidermist along with Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) leopard skull. He said he would acquire a new CITES Export Permit from the South African management authority and ship everything to Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) in Minnesota. The game ranch owner said his booking agent, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would apply for the CITES export permit and U.S. CITES import permit as he had recently been to South Africa hunting leopards. In an email (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) sent the game ranch owner, which was acquired via search warrant, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) thanked him for the suggestion on how to get Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) his skull and CITES permits. Knowing he never killed a leopard in South Africa, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) wrote, "We must carefully coordinate my application for the importation of the leopard skin and skull, so that it matches the physical condition of the two items and so that it matches all of your records with regard to where and when hunted, etc. ... I assume that I will be the hunter...and one of the dates of my visit will be the date of shooting the leopard...."

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) telephoned Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) saying he had the ability to import a leopard and asked if that would solve Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) problems. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) said he also had a taxidermist in Oklahoma that would be willing to mount Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) leopard. Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) agreed to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) request to send the smuggled hide to Oklahoma so that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could have his taxidermist work on it. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) told Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to falsely label the package containing the smuggled skin as a rug in order to avoid suspicion, knowing the item was an untanned leopard hide. SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) posing as Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) marked the hide and sent it to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on June 4, 2007.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) lied on a CITES permit application fraudulently stating he killed a leopard in South Africa on May 1, 2007. After receiving the CITES permit (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) imported a leopard hide and skull on October 19, 2007, at JFK International Airport (Air Cargo).

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided his taxidermist with Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) leopard hide which he had received from SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) along with M (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) leopard skull and the CITES paperwork and tag for the second hide.

At the direction of Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) [REDACTED] who had taken over responsibility for the investigation, Mr. [REDACTED] continued correspondence with [REDACTED] and also began emailing and calling the taxidermist to document the taxidermist's knowledge of the illegal nature of the items he was working on. Mr. [REDACTED] did an outstanding job in his communication with both men and was very careful about following agents' instructions. Also, at RAC [REDACTED] suggestion, Mr. [REDACTED] offered to purchase the second smuggled hide (in interstate commerce) from [REDACTED]. After [REDACTED] made numerous recorded incriminating statements, this transaction was completed for \$1600.00 in February of 2009.

During a stressful two and one-half year investigation, Mr. [REDACTED] made dozens of monitored phone calls and emails to [REDACTED] and the South Africans. Mr. [REDACTED] provided valuable insight on the personalities of the subjects which helped agents make strategic decisions. Mr. [REDACTED] assisted SA [REDACTED] with obtaining probable cause for email search warrants for [REDACTED] and the South African Game Ranch operator. He assisted RAC [REDACTED] with obtaining probable cause for a warrant to search the Oklahoma taxidermist's business premises in the summer of 2009. After RAC [REDACTED] began working the case cooperatively with a Limpopo Provincial investigator, Mr. [REDACTED] also agreed to a lengthy debrief/interview by the South African investigator. This interview eventually took place in Polokwane, South Africa. Mr. [REDACTED] was prepared to testify in South Africa and Oklahoma.

Mr. [REDACTED] became involved in this investigation knowing the easiest thing to do would be to say nothing about the smuggled hide. Instead of simply providing the initial information to law enforcement, Mr. [REDACTED] agreed to undertake a lengthy and stressful covert process wherein he essentially betrayed [REDACTED] who believed their illegal activity was done to benefit [REDACTED]. When [REDACTED] was implicated in a second smuggling scheme, Mr. [REDACTED]

As a result of the investigation, Mr. [REDACTED] lost his trophies from a once-in-a-lifetime South African leopard hunt. Mr. [REDACTED] abandoned the smuggled items to the USFWS in September of 2012.

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

Approximately six subjects were involved in this case.

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

Ultimately, one subject, Oklahoma-based booking agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was charged with a felony Lacey Act violation. Federal charges in the U.S. against the South African game ranch owner and the South African taxidermist were considered. At the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resource Division's (DOJ/ENRD) request, information was turned over to a provincial South African investigator. This investigator began initial investigative work, but then left the employment of his agency. The investigation in South Africa, although reassigned, was never completed due to investigative priorities there. Due to the perceived difficulty in getting South African defendants to face trial in the U.S., prosecutors decided against charging the South Africans. Charges against the Oklahoma taxidermist were not pursued due to problems in meeting the burden of proof.

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.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to one felony Lacey Act violation. As such, this former SCI Chapter Director lost the ability to legally possess firearms. Due to the Oklahoma U.S. Attorney's Office's lack of communication with the DOJ/ENRD attorney handling the case (Jeremy Peterson), a response to the pre-sentence report was not made timely. This resulted in the unnecessary loss of sentencing guideline points. At the sentencing, the judge said he was moved by letters received from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) associates detailing hunting/shooting related charity work (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did with wounded veterans and underprivileged youth. The Judge commented that the felony conviction was what would affect an avid hunter like (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the most.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was ordered to pay a \$2,000.00 fine, serve one year of probation, and make a \$1600.00 disgorgement of funds to reimburse the Government for the funds used to purchase the second smuggled leopard hide.

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

The increased risk to Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) safety due to his cooperation was negligible. He may be at increased risk outside the United States of America, particularly in South Africa, now that his cooperation has been made known.

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

This case involved commercial exploitation of a threatened/CITES I species of wildlife. Two individual leopards were involved in this case.

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

The amount requested will compensate and reward Mr. [REDACTED] for his selfless support of wildlife law enforcement and endangered/threatened species, at some personal expense.

The amount was derived by considering the contribution Mr. [REDACTED] made to the [REDACTED] GAME RANCH LEOPARDS case, the importance of the investigation and at what personal cost Mr. [REDACTED] provided the assistance. The case would not have been possible had Mr. [REDACTED] not first made law enforcement aware of the crime and second, worked with law enforcement over a two and one-half year period to gather evidence necessary to charge and convict those involved in criminal activity. Mr. [REDACTED] provided a means to efficiently gather evidence against a friend and several acquaintances.

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

There are no such circumstances. RAC [REDACTED] requests that the check be mailed to his office, 445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106, for personal presentation.

| | | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------|
| Concurrence: | [REDACTED] | <u>10/22/12</u> Date |
| Approved: | [REDACTED] | <u>10/22/12</u> Date |
| | Acting Chief, Office of Law Enforcement | |
| Processed: | [REDACTED] | <u>10/24/2012</u> Date |
| | Budget Officer | |

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: SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS
Region: Region 3

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) **Summary:** This reward request is for \$5,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for Mr. [redacted] efforts and assistance in the above named investigation. As a direct result of information provided by [redacted] a subject in this investigation pled guilty to a felony violation of the Lacey Act, was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000, serve one year on probation, and reimburse the government \$1,600 for investigative expenses. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

In 2006, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] went on a leopard hunt in South Africa with SHELDROCK GAME RANCH (SGR). The hunt was booked through SGR's booking agent, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] who was also the Director for the Oklahoma Station for Safari Club International at the time. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] successfully harvested a leopard, and the hide and skull were to be shipped to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] in the U.S. with the required CITES documents. After a year of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] requesting SGR to send the leopard trophy, a box arrived containing a leopard hide with no CITES documents and a false Customs declaration form. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [redacted] immediately reported the wildlife violation to the FWS / OLE.

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

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

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2. Since this was a Lacey Act violation, the reward money should come from the Law Enforcement Reward Account as cited in USFWS OLE Service Manual 450 FW 2.

There are no circumstances that require a special check to be issued.

*** The memorandum requesting this payment of reward asked that the check be mailed directly to RAC [redacted] at his office: 445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106, for a formal presentation to Mr. [redacted]

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

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

Reviewer:

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

10/22/2012
Date

Concur:

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

10/22/12
Date

SAC/INV

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



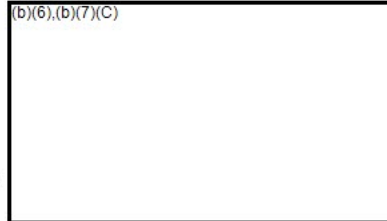
IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT - 5 2012

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:

INV Number
and Title:

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

Amount of Reward: \$5,000.00

Prior Compensation: \$0.00

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:

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



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.

No such relationships exist.

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

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

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

2007302035, [REDACTED]

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

A reward in the amount of \$5,000 is requested.

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.

[REDACTED] has received no previous compensation.

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

Endangered Species Act; 16 USC 1531 et seq.

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

Through [REDACTED] efforts as a CPI over two and one-half years, agents were able to work toward identifying those responsible for smuggling a sport hunted leopard hide from South Africa into the United States. In the course of [REDACTED] work, the scheme to smuggle a second hide and a leopard skull was hatched in order to supply Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) documents to cover the first smuggled leopard hide. A summary of the case and [REDACTED] cooperation follows:

[REDACTED] was the Director for the Oklahoma Station of Safari Club International (SCI). He also worked as an Oklahoma based booking agent for South African Game Ranch/Outfitter [REDACTED] in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. In 2006, [REDACTED] coordinated a hunt for his friend, [REDACTED] who lives in Perham, Minnesota.

[REDACTED] hunted at [REDACTED] and killed a leopard there on April 25, 2006. For the following nine months, [REDACTED] was in communication with the game ranch owner/operator, a South African taxidermist, and a South African shipping agent about the status of the export of his leopard hide and skull. [REDACTED] received several excuses from the men as to why shipment of his trophies was delayed. It became apparent that [REDACTED] was getting "the run around."

After nearly a year of frustration, on February 1, 2007, [REDACTED] unexpectedly received a DHL package from South Africa at his home. The package was labeled as containing "clothes." [REDACTED] opened the parcel and found an untagged raw leopard hide, without a skull, which [REDACTED] believed was from the leopard he killed in South Africa. [REDACTED] knew the leopard hide was undeclared and was not accompanied by a CITES permit so he immediately called the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) at St. Paul, Minnesota.

From February 1, 2007, through April 2007, [REDACTED] worked with Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to determine which person or persons illegally sent the hide from South Africa. Mr. [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) turned over to SA [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the hide and the shipping carton from the DHL shipment. Mr. [REDACTED] provided photographs, other documentary evidence, and a copy of all email correspondence [REDACTED] had with [REDACTED] and the South Africans. At SA [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) request, [REDACTED] began making monitored communications with [REDACTED] and the South Africans via telephone and email.

In initial communications, the game ranch owner denied knowing the leopard hide was shipped to [REDACTED] without CITES tags and a CITES Export Permit. Both the game ranch owner and the South African taxidermist agreed to send [REDACTED] a CITES tag and CITES permit so Mr. [REDACTED] could get his trophy mounted in the U.S. but neither man followed through. The Game Ranch owner sent [REDACTED] a provincial hunting permit for the take of a damage causing leopard apparently wanting [REDACTED] to believe it was actually the requested South African CITES export permit. At SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) direction, [REDACTED] expressed frustration at the failure of the game ranch owner to supply a CITES permit, a CITES tag, and the skull from his leopard.

On May 8, 2007, the game ranch owner emailed [REDACTED] with a potential solution. The game ranch owner said he would get a "spare skin" from his taxidermist along with [REDACTED] leopard skull. He said he would acquire a new CITES Export Permit from the South African management authority and ship everything to [REDACTED] in Minnesota. The game ranch owner said his booking agent, [REDACTED] would apply for the CITES export permit and U.S. CITES import permit as he had recently been to South Africa hunting leopards. In an email [REDACTED] sent the game ranch owner, which was acquired via search warrant, [REDACTED] thanked him for the suggestion on how to get [REDACTED] his skull and CITES permits. Knowing he never killed a leopard in South Africa, [REDACTED] wrote, "We must carefully coordinate my application for the importation of the leopard skin and skull, so that it matches the physical condition of the two items and so that it matches all of your records with regard to where and when hunted, etc. ... I assume that I will be the hunter...and one of the dates of my visit will be the date of shooting the leopard...."

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] telephoned [REDACTED] saying he had the ability to import a leopard and asked if that would solve [REDACTED] problems. [REDACTED] said he also had a taxidermist in Oklahoma that would be willing to mount [REDACTED] s leopard. [REDACTED] agreed to [REDACTED] request to send the smuggled hide to Oklahoma so that [REDACTED] could have his taxidermist work on it. [REDACTED] told [REDACTED] to falsely label the package containing the smuggled skin as a rug in order to avoid suspicion, knowing the item was an untanned leopard hide. SA [REDACTED] posing as [REDACTED] marked the hide and sent it to [REDACTED] on June 4, 2007.

[REDACTED] lied on a CITES permit application fraudulently stating he killed a leopard in South Africa on May 1, 2007. After receiving the CITES permit, [REDACTED] imported a leopard hide and skull on October 19, 2007, at JFK International Airport (Air Cargo).

[REDACTED] provided his taxidermist with [REDACTED] leopard hide which he had received from SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) along with [REDACTED] leopard skull and the CITES paperwork and tag for the second hide.

At the direction of Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who had taken over responsibility for the investigation, [REDACTED] continued correspondence with [REDACTED] and also began emailing and calling the taxidermist to document the taxidermist's knowledge of the illegal nature of the items he was working on. [REDACTED] did an outstanding job in his communication with both men and was very careful about following agents' instructions. Also, at RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) suggestion, [REDACTED] offered to purchase the second smuggled hide (in interstate commerce) from [REDACTED]. After [REDACTED] made numerous recorded incriminating statements, this transaction was completed for \$1600.00 in February of 2009.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) During a stressful two and one-half year investigation, [REDACTED] made dozens of monitored phone calls and emails to [REDACTED] and the South Africans. [REDACTED] provided valuable insight on the personalities of the subjects which helped agents make strategic decisions. Mr. [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) assisted SA [REDACTED] with obtaining probable cause for email search warrants for [REDACTED] and the South African Game Ranch operator. He assisted RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) with obtaining probable cause for a warrant to search the Oklahoma taxidermist's business premises in the summer of 2009. After RAC [REDACTED] began working the case cooperatively with a Limpopo Provincial investigator, [REDACTED] also agreed to a lengthy debrief/interview by the South African investigator. This interview eventually took place in Polokwane, South Africa. Mr. [REDACTED] was prepared to testify in South Africa and Oklahoma.

[REDACTED] became involved in this investigation knowing the easiest thing to do would be to say nothing about the smuggled hide. Instead of simply providing the initial information to law enforcement, [REDACTED] agreed to undertake a lengthy and stressful covert process wherein he essentially betrayed friends and acquaintances who believed their illegal activity was done to benefit [REDACTED]. When his friend, [REDACTED] was implicated in a second smuggling scheme, [REDACTED] never wavered in his resolve to do what was right. In concealing his relationship with the USFWS while making monitored contacts with these friends and associates, he destroyed his relationship with those people.

In addition to losing a friend and relationships with several acquaintances in South Africa, Mr. [REDACTED] sked being labeled as a "snitch" or "rat" in the close-knit big game hunting community of which he was an active member.

As a result of the investigation, [REDACTED] lost his trophies from a once-in-a-lifetime South African leopard hunt. [REDACTED] abandoned the smuggled items to the USFWS in September of 2012.

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

Approximately six subjects were involved in this case.

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

Ultimately, one subject, Oklahoma-based booking agent [REDACTED] was charged with a felony Lacey Act violation. Federal charges in the U.S. against the South African game ranch owner and the South African taxidermist were considered. At the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resource Division's (DOJ/ENRD) request, information was turned over to a provincial South African investigator. This investigator began initial investigative work, but then left the employment of his agency. The investigation in South Africa, although reassigned, was never completed due to investigative priorities there. Due to the perceived difficulty in getting South African defendants to face trial in the U.S., prosecutors decided against charging the South Africans. Charges against the Oklahoma taxidermist were not pursued due to problems in meeting the burden of proof.

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.

[REDACTED] pleaded guilty to one felony Lacey Act violation. As such, this former [REDACTED] lost the ability to legally possess firearms. Due to the Oklahoma U.S. Attorney's Office's lack of communication with the DOJ/ENRD attorney handling the case (Jeremy Peterson), a response to the pre-sentence report was not made timely. This resulted in the unnecessary loss of sentencing guideline points. At the sentencing, the judge said he was moved by letters received from [REDACTED] associates detailing hunting/shooting related charity work [REDACTED] did with wounded veterans and underprivileged youth. The Judge commented that the felony conviction was what would affect an avid hunter like [REDACTED] the most.

[REDACTED] was ordered to pay a \$2,000.00 fine, serve one year of probation, and make a \$1600.00 disgorgement of funds to reimburse the Government for the funds used to purchase the second smuggled leopard hide.

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

The increased risk to [REDACTED] safety due to his cooperation was negligible. He may be at increased risk outside the United States of America, particularly in South Africa, now that his cooperation has been made known.

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

This case involved commercial exploitation of a threatened/CITES I species of wildlife. Two individual leopards were involved in this case.

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

The amount requested will compensate and reward [REDACTED] for his selfless support of wildlife law enforcement and endangered/threatened species, at some personal expense.

The amount was derived by considering the contribution [REDACTED] made to the [REDACTED] case, the importance of the investigation and at what personal cost [REDACTED] provided the assistance. The case would not have been possible had [REDACTED] not first made law enforcement aware of the crime and second, worked with law enforcement over a two and one-half year period to gather evidence necessary to charge and convict those involved in criminal activity. [REDACTED] provided a means to efficiently gather evidence against a friend and several acquaintances.

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

There are no such circumstances. RAC [REDACTED] requests that the check be mailed to his office, 445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106, for personal presentation.

| | | |
|--------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Concurrence: | (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] SAC, Branch of Investigations | (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 10/22/12 Date |
| Approved: | (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] Acting Chief, Office of Law Enforcement | 10/22/12 Date |
| Processed: | (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] Budget Officer | 10/24/2012 Date |



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

OCT 31 2012

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: ^{Acting} 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)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

Resident Agent In Charge - (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-3
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
445 Etna Street, Suite 45
St. Paul, MN 55106

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


(for) William C. Woody

FF09L00000-3-0087
FLE490000 (XXXF1611OD)

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO:

OCT - 5 2012

FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 3
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:

(b)(7)(D)

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number
and Title:

2007302035, SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS

Amount of Reward: \$5,000.00

Prior Compensation: \$0.00

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:

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

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

450 FW 2.7B(2)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

No such relationships exist.

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

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

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

2007302035, SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS

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

A reward in the amount of \$5,000 is requested.

450 FW 2.7B(6)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

(b)(7)(D)

[Redacted]

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

Endangered Species Act; 16 USC 1531 et seq.

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

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

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

was the

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) He also worked as an

SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH (SHELDRAKE), in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. In

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 2006, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) coordinated a hunt for his friend,

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

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

After nearly a year of frustration, on February 1, 2007,

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

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

From February 1, 2007, through April 2007,

(b)(7)(D)

worked with Special Agent (SA)

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

(b)(7)(D) to

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(D)

CITES export permit. At SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) direction, (b)(7)(D) expressed frustration at the failure of the game ranch owner to supply a CITES permit, a CITES tag, and the skull from his leopard.

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D) would apply for the CITES export permit and U.S. CITES import permit as he had recently been to South Africa hunting leopards. In an email (b)(7)(D) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) thanked him for the suggestion on how to get (b)(7)(D) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) wrote, "We must carefully coordinate my application for the importation of the leopard skin and skull, so that it matches the physical condition of the two items and so that it matches all of your records with regard to where and when hunted, etc. ... I assume that I will be the hunter...and one of the dates of my visit will be the date of shooting the leopard...."

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

telephoned (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

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

said he also had a taxidermist in

Oklahoma that would be willing to mount (b)(7)(D)

agreed to

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

request to send the smuggled hide to Oklahoma so that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) could have his taxidermist work on it. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) told (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

knowing the item was an untanned leopard hide. SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) posing as (b)(7)(D) marked the hide and sent it to

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

on June 4, 2007.

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

lied on a CITES permit application fraudulent, the date he killed a leopard in South Africa on May 1, 2007. After receiving the CITES permit, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) imported a leopard hide and skull on October 19, 2007, at JFK International Airport (Air Cargo).

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

provided his taxidermist with (b)(7)(D)

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

along with (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

At the direction of Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) [REDACTED] who had taken over responsibility for the investigation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

at RAC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

suggestion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Also,

[REDACTED]

from [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

After [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

made numerous recorded incriminating statements, this transaction was completed for \$1600.00 in February of 2009.

During a stressful two and one-half year investigation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

for email search warrants for

He assisted RAC [REDACTED] with

[REDACTED]

obtaining probable cause for a warrant to search the Oklahoma taxidermist's business premises in the summer of 2009. After RAC [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

began working the case cooperatively with a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Provincial investigator [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

When his friend, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

was implicated in a second smuggling

scheme [REDACTED]

In concealing his relationship with the USFWS while making monitored contacts with these friends and associates, he destroyed his relationship with those people.

[REDACTED]

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

Approximately six subjects were involved in this case.

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

Ultimately, one subject, Oklahoma-based booking agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was charged with a felony Lacey Act violation. Federal charges in the U.S. against the South African game ranch owner and the South African taxidermist were considered. At the Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resource Division's (DOJ/ENRD) request, information was turned over to a provincial South African investigator. This investigator began initial investigative work, but then left the employment of his agency. The investigation in South Africa, although reassigned, was never completed due to investigative priorities there. Due to the perceived difficulty in getting South African defendants to face trial in the U.S., prosecutors decided against charging the South Africans. Charges against the Oklahoma taxidermist were not pursued due to problems in meeting the burden of proof.

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.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pleaded guilty to one felony Lacey Act violation. As such, this former (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) lost the ability to legally possess firearms. Due to the Oklahoma U.S. Attorney's Office's lack of communication with the DOJ/ENRD attorney handling the case (Jeremy Peterson), a response to the pre-sentence report was not made timely. This resulted in the unnecessary loss of sentencing guideline points. At the sentencing, the judge said he was moved by letters received from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) associates detailing hunting/shooting related charity work (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) did with wounded veterans and underprivileged youth. The Judge commented that the felony conviction was what would affect an avid hunter like (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the most.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was ordered to pay a \$2,000.00 fine, serve one year of probation, and make a \$1600.00 disgorgement of funds to reimburse the Government for the funds used to purchase the second smuggled leopard hide.

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

(b)(7)(D)

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

This case involved commercial exploitation of a threatened/CITES I species of wildlife. Two individual leopards were involved in this case.

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

The amount requested will compensate and reward (b)(7)(D) for his selfless support of wildlife law enforcement and endangered/threatened species, at some personal expense.

The amount was derived by considering the contribution (b)(7)(D) made to the SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS case, the importance of the investigation and at what personal cost (b)(7)(D) provided the assistance. The case would not have been possible had (b)(7)(D) not first made law enforcement aware of the crime and second, worked with law enforcement over a two and one-half year period to gather evidence necessary to charge and convict those involved in criminal activity. (b)(7)(D) provided a means to efficiently gather evidence against a friend and several acquaintances.

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

There are no such circumstances. RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) requests that the check be mailed to his office, 445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106, for personal presentation.

| | | |
|--------------|--|--------------------|
| Concurrence: | (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) | 10/22/12 Date |
| Approved: | SAC, Branch of Investigations (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) | 10/22/12 Date |
| Acting | Chief, Office of Law Enforcement (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) | 10/24/2012 Date |
| Processed: | Budget Officer | |

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2007302035
Case Title: SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH LEOPARDS
Region: Region 3

Summary: This reward request is for \$5,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(7)(D) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation. As a direct result of information provided by (b)(7)(D), a subject in this investigation pled guilty to a felony violation of the Lacey Act, was ordered to pay a fine of \$2,000, serve one year on probation, and reimburse the government \$1,600 for investigative expenses.

In 2006, (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D) During the course of the two and a half year investigation, (b)(7)(D) played a key role and exchanged numerous recorded phone calls and emails with SGR and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) about the missing CITES documents and leopard skull. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to import into the U.S. a second leopard hide with skull in order to obtain the missing CITES documents to give to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). To facilitate this conspiracy, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) submitted false statements on documents in order to receive a CITES import permit from the FWS. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) also instructed (b)(6) to ship the original illegal leopard hide in interstate commerce, and then sold (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2. Since this was a Lacey Act violation, the reward money should come from the Law Enforcement Reward Account as cited in USFWS OLE Service Manual 450 FW 2.

There are no circumstances that require a special check to be issued.

*** The memorandum requesting this payment of reward asked that the check be mailed directly to RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) at his office: 445 Etna Street, Suite 45, St. Paul, MN 55106, for a formal presentation to (b)(7)(D)

Reviewer:

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

10/22/2012
Date

Concur:

SAC/INV

10/22/12
Date

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

DEC - 6 2012

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 \$3,000 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-2 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
16639 W. Hardy
Houston, Texas 77060

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

William Woody

(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)

12/5/2012: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 - 6 2012

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 \$3,000 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-2 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
16639 W. Hardy
Houston, Texas 77060

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)

William Woody

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

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement

4401 N. Fairfax Drive (L.E.-3000)

Arlington, VA 22203



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2 or Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Special Operations

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:

INV# [REDACTED] Operation Trinity

Amount of Reward: \$3000.00

Prior Compensation: \$1000.00

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:

(ATTACHED)

* [REDACTED]

Concurrence

SAC, Branch of Investigations

11/28/12
Date

Approved:

[REDACTED]

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

11/28/12
Date

Processed:

[REDACTED]

Budget Officer

11/29/2012
Date

Attachments

06/29/09

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA

LAW ENFORCEMENT

0564

JUSTIFICATION FOR REWARD

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

Relationship with Service Officer 450 FW 2.7B(2)

None

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

Permanent CPI Number 450 FW 2.7B(3)

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

Justification Statement 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)

The proposed monetary award is justified by the sacrifice (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made to make this operation a success.

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

Summary of Investigation 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(a)

In September of 2010, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and an accomplice poached four alligator gar from the Trinity River in East Texas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) eventually smuggled those fish out of the United States and into Japan where he sold them for \$15,000. In the spring of 2011, Special Agents from the Houston Field Office foiled an attempt by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to poach 10,000 additional alligator gar from the Trinity River for the commercial pet trade in Japan and elsewhere. Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation resulted in a felony conviction of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on two counts of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) co-conspirators, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) each pled guilty to one count of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act.

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Individual Involvement: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) fishing guide. As such, he was witness to everything that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) said and did during his September 2010 fishing trip. At the end of every day that he fished with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) would make a report to Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was very cooperative with Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

- Significance of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Involvement: Without (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) assistance, the Service would not have known how many alligator gar (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) harvested on his fishing trip in 2010, or of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) plan to smuggle those fish out of the Port of Miami. In addition, the Service may never have learned of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) intent to purchase 10,000 alligator gar fry the following spring. It is very conceivable that had (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) not been prosecuted for violations of the Lacey Act, he may have carried through on his pledge to harvest 10,000 alligator gar fry from the Trinity River, thereby causing significant damage to the resource.

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(b), (c) and (d)

There were three defendants in this case (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). They were charged with three counts of conspiracy to violate the felony provisions of the Lacey Act.

- Result of Prosecution (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) each pled to one felony count. Due to their early and substantial cooperation, they were given probation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contested the charges and was found guilty on two of the three felony counts. On September 18, 2012, Federal District Judge Ron Clark sentenced (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(C) to nine months incarceration and one year of supervised release. Judge Clark stated during the sentencing that he was sending a message to other would be violators of State and Federal Game Laws.

- Total Monetary Penalties as Part of Convictions: No Monetary penalties were given. This was in large part due to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) inability to pay a monetary penalty.

- Total Jail Term: Nine months jail time

- Property Forfeited: None

- Prosecution Status: Completed

Safety Risk to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(e)

During the Operation (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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

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

at

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(f)

Alligator Gar numbers are declining in Texas. In 2010, due to concerns that the population may crash, Texas Parks and Wildlife reduced the daily creel limit for alligator gar to one fish per angler per day.

This investigation documented the unlawful take of approximately five mature alligator gar, and the attempt to take 10,000 more.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(g)

The amount was derived from consideration of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(D), (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F) daily rate as a fishing guide (\$500) compounded by the amount of time he spent working on this investigation (8 days) minus the amount of money he was paid in POI/POE funds (\$1,000).

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 Trinity
Region: Region 2

Summary: A reward in the amount of \$3,000 is requested for (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) a registered CPI, who knowingly granted a covert officer access to his commercial fishing boat so that poaching could be monitored, facilitated a buy-bust, and provided key testimony under threat from the defendant. The CPI's assistance led to felony convictions for conspiring to violate the Lacey Act.

The requested reward payment would be equitable compensation to the CPI for fishing guide services that were not charged to the undercover operative less the amount in POI/POE funds already received (\$1,000).

There were three defendants in this investigation.

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was found guilty of two counts of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.
- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.
- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to nine months incarceration and one year of supervised release. and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were sentenced to probation. No fines were levied.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

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

11/27/12
Date

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

11/27/12
Date

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

11/28/12
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 - 6 2012

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 \$3,000 reward to (b)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Special Agent In Charge R-2 -
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
16639 W. Hardy
Houston, Texas 77060

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


William Woody

FF09L00000-3-0099
99000-4900

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement

4401 N. Fairfax Drive (L.E.-3000)

Arlington, VA 22203

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2 or Special Agent in Charge, Branch of Special Operations

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:

(b)(7)(D)

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

Amount of Reward: \$3000.00

Prior Compensation: \$1000.00

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:

(ATTACHED)

* PLEASE SEND LTR TO SA

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

Concurrence:

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

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

Approved:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

11/28/12
Date

11/28/12
Date

11/29/2012
Date

Attachments

06/29/09

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA

LAW ENFORCEMENT

0569

JUSTIFICATION FOR REWARD

Byron Kirkland's Relationship with Service Officer 450 FW 2.7B(2)

None

Kirkland's Permanent CPI Number 450 FW 2.7B(3)

AQ-6815

Justification Statement 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)

The proposed monetary award is justified by the sacrifice (b)(7)(D) made to make this operation a success.

Summary of Investigation 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(a)

In September of 2010, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and an accomplice poached four alligator gar from the Trinity River in East Texas. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) eventually smuggled those fish out of the United States and into Japan where he sold them for \$15,000. In the spring of 2011, Special Agents from the Houston Field Office foiled an attempt by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to poach 10,000 additional alligator gar from the Trinity River for the commercial pet trade in Japan and elsewhere. Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) investigation resulted in a felony conviction of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on two counts of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) co-conspirators, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) each pled guilty to one count of conspiring to violate the Lacey Act.

• (b)(7)(D)

•

Subjects Involved and Number Charged and Nature of Charges 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(b), (c) and (d)

There were three defendants in this case, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) They were charged with three counts of conspiracy to violate the felony provisions of the Lacey Act.

- Result of Prosecution (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) each pled to one felony count. Due to their early and substantial cooperation, they were given probation. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) contested the charges and was found guilty on two of the three felony counts. On September 18, 2012, Federal District Judge Ron Clark sentenced (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to nine months incarceration and one year of supervised release. Judge Clark stated during the sentencing that he was sending a message to other would be violators of State and Federal Game Laws.
- Total Monetary Penalties as Part of Convictions: No Monetary penalties were given. This was in large part due to WILLIS' inability to pay a monetary penalty.
- Total Jail Term: Nine months jail time
- Property Forfeited: None
- Prosecution Status: Completed

(b)(7)(D)

After the trial, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made a veiled threat against everybody involved in the case when he stated that "he could not keep his family from seeking revenge". The judge admonished (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for this statement.

Impact of Illicit Activities to the Resource 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(f)

Alligator Gar numbers are declining in Texas. In 2010, due to concerns that the population may crash, Texas Parks and Wildlife reduced the daily creel limit for alligator gar to one fish per angler per day.

This investigation documented the unlawful take of approximately five mature alligator gar, and the attempt to take 10,000 more.

How Amount of Reward was Chosen 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(g)

(b)(7)(D)

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: 2010204592
Case Title: Operation Trinity
Region: Region 2

Summary: A reward in the amount of \$3,000 is requested for [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The requested reward payment would be equitable compensation to the CPI for fishing guide services that were not charged to the undercover operative less the amount in POI/POE funds already received (\$1,000).

There were three defendants in this investigation.

- [REDACTED] was found guilty of two counts of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.
- [REDACTED] pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.
- [REDACTED] pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to violate the Lacey Act.

[REDACTED] was sentenced to nine months incarceration and one year of supervised release.
[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sentenced to probation. No fines were levied.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:
Concur:

[REDACTED]

SSA

11/27/12
Date

Concur:

[REDACTED]

SAC/INV

11/27/12
Date

Concur:

[REDACTED]

11/28/12
Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC - 7 2012

FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *fa* Special Agent in Charge, Region 3

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:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number
and Title:

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

KNOX COUNTY WHOOPING CRANE

Amount of Reward: \$2,500.00

Prior Compensation: \$0.00

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:

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.

No such relationships exist.

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

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) was not assigned a CPI number.

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

2012300579, KNOX COUNTY WHOOPING CRANE

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

A reward in the amount of \$2,500 is requested.

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.

Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) has not received prior compensation.

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

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 703(a)

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

On January 21, 2012, an investigation into the unlawful take of a whooping crane was initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to information provided by a source to the investigation [REDACTED]

Neither State nor Federal Law Enforcement had been contacted regarding the whooping crane shooting prior to Mr. [REDACTED] providing information to investigators. Confirmation of the missing whooping crane was only received after FWS Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] acting upon the information received from Mr. [REDACTED] contacted a volunteer from the International Crane Foundation (ICF). On January 30, 2012, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] confessed to their involvement in the crane shooting which occurred on or about January 7, 2012.

Had Mr. [REDACTED] not come forward in a timely manner, many more days might have passed before discovery of the missing whooping crane. Such delay may have resulted in further loss of evidence valuable to the investigation.

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

Two subjects were involved in this case.

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

On April 20, 2012, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were charged by information in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Terre Haute, Indiana, with one count each of taking or killing of a migratory bird under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 703(a).

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 November 21, 2012, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sentenced in U.S. District Court in Terre Haute, Indiana. Magistrate Judge Craig M. McKee accepted the previously negotiated plea agreements wherein [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] each pleaded guilty to the one count information. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were each sentenced to: three years' probation; pay a donation of \$5,000 to the ICF; 120 hours of community service at the Indiana Department of Natural

Resources' Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area; no hunting during the term of probation; and no possession of firearms during the term of probation.

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

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

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

Whooping cranes are listed an endangered species. Whooping cranes occurring in Indiana are from an experimental population and are treated as a threatened species. The current population of whooping cranes is estimated at 500 throughout the historical range. This successful investigation has solved one of three illegal takes that have occurred in Indiana over the past couple of years. Given the critically low numbers of whooping cranes known to exist in the wild, each illegal take is a significant, negative impact to the crane population and the reintroduction program.

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

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

The amount requested was derived by considering Mr. [REDACTED] contribution to the KNOX COUNTY WHOOPING CRANE case, and the importance of the investigation as a whole. The case would not have been undertaken in a timely manner had Mr. [REDACTED] not first made law enforcement aware of the crime. His support for wildlife law enforcement and this endangered species/experimental population is commendable.

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

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

RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) requests that HQ/OLE issue a check from the HQ Special Funds Account to the Regional Special Funds Account, to facilitate Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) being paid in cash as allowed under 450 FW 2.9B(2).

Concurrence:

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

12/12/12

Date

Approved

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

12-11-12

Date

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

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

12/17/2012

Date

Budget Officer

(b)(5)

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: KNOX COUNTY WHOOPING CRANE
Region: Region 3

Summary: This reward request is for \$2,500. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation. As a direct result of information provided by Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) two subjects in this investigation pled guilty to violations of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and each were ordered to pay a donation of \$5,000 to the International Crane Foundation, serve three years on probation, and serve 120 hours of community service. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

On Jan. 21st 2012 an Indiana Depart of Natural Resources officer received a call from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) who advised that a whooping crane had been illegally taken, identified the violators, and provided details of the commission of the violation. Had Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) not come forward, it is unlikely that the fate of the whooping crane would have been determined and the violation would have gone undetected. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2. Since this was a Migratory Bird Treaty Act violation, the reward money should come from the Washington Office Special Funds Account as cited in USFWS OLE Service Manual 450 FW 2.

The Resident Agent in Charge requested that the special funds be transferred to the Region 3 Special Funds Account to facilitate Mr. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D) being paid in cash as allowed under 450 FW 2.9B(2). (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

Reviewer:

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

12/11/2012

Date

Concur:

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

12/12/12

Date

Concur:

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

Deputy Chief/OLE

12/12/12

Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO:

FILE COPY

DEC -7 2012

FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: *fa* Special Agent in Charge, Region 3

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:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number
and Title:

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

Amount of Reward: \$2,500.00

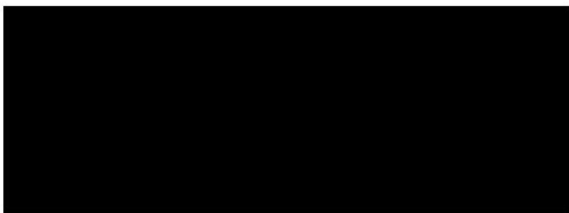
Prior Compensation: \$0.00

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:


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



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.

No such relationships exist.

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

 was not assigned a CPI number.

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

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



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

A reward in the amount of \$2,500 is requested.

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.

 has not received prior compensation.

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

Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 703(a)

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

On January 21, 2012, an investigation into the unlawful take of a whooping crane was initiated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) due to information provided by a source to the investigation. [REDACTED] provided information indicating that [REDACTED] shot a whooping crane while accompanied by two other subjects. Following investigation, [REDACTED] was ultimately determined as the individual who shot the whooping crane. [REDACTED] was assisted by [REDACTED] who held a spotlight. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were accompanied by two females who were deemed by investigators as witnesses to the shooting.

Neither State nor Federal Law Enforcement had been contacted regarding the whooping crane shooting prior to [REDACTED] providing information to investigators. Confirmation of the missing whooping crane was only received after FWS Special Agent (SA) [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) acting upon the information received from [REDACTED], contacted a volunteer from the International Crane Foundation (ICF). On January 30, 2012, [REDACTED] confessed to their involvement in the crane shooting which occurred on or about January 7, 2012.

Had [REDACTED] not come forward in a timely manner, many more days might have passed before discovery of the missing whooping crane. Such delay may have resulted in further loss of evidence valuable to the investigation.

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

Two subjects were involved in this case.

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

On April 20, 2012, [REDACTED] were charged by information in U.S. District Court, Southern District of Indiana, Terre Haute, Indiana, with one count each of taking or killing of a migratory bird under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 USC 703(a).

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 November 21, 2012, [REDACTED] were sentenced in U.S. District Court in Terre Haute, Indiana. Magistrate Judge Craig M. McKee accepted the previously negotiated plea agreements wherein [REDACTED] each pleaded guilty to the one count information. [REDACTED] were each sentenced to: three years' probation; pay a donation of \$5,000 to the ICF; 120 hours of community service at the Indiana Department of Natural

Resources' Goose Pond Fish and Wildlife Area; no hunting during the term of probation; and no possession of firearms during the term of probation.

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

██████████ safety risk while cooperating with the FWS was negligible. However, maintaining his confidentiality was both important and difficult given that he and ██████████ both reside in ██████████ a small community with a population of approximately 550 people. Likewise, ██████████ resides in ██████████ with a population of about 500 people, located just three miles from ██████████ ██████████ close proximity to both subjects was a complicating factor.

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

Whooping cranes are listed an endangered species. Whooping cranes occurring in Indiana are from an experimental population and are treated as a threatened species. The current population of whooping cranes is estimated at 500 throughout the historical range. This successful investigation has solved one of three illegal takes that have occurred in Indiana over the past couple of years. Given the critically low numbers of whooping cranes known to exist in the wild, each illegal take is a significant, negative impact to the crane population and the reintroduction program.

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

The amount requested was derived by considering ██████████ contribution to the ██████████ ██████████ case, and the importance of the investigation as a whole. The case would not have been undertaken in a timely manner had ██████████ not first made law enforcement aware of the crime. His support for wildlife law enforcement and this endangered species/experimental population is commendable.

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

RAC Beiriger requests that HQ/OLE issue a check from the HQ Special Funds Account to the Regional Special Funds Account, to facilitate [REDACTED] being paid in cash as allowed under 450 FW 2.9B(2)

Concurrence:

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

12/12/12

Date

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Approved:

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

12-11-12

Date

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

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

12/17/2012

Date

Budget Officer