

2014



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



APR 24 2014

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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

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

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

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

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone (503) 231-6125
FAX (503) 231-2193



In Reply Refer To: INV2009103851
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: *for* Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
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: INV2009103851/TSANG, TAK MING et al.

Amount of Reward: \$5,000

Prior Compensation: N/A

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

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

Justification: (b)(7)(D) provided crucial information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which led to the investigation of an international reptile smuggling ring, involving

(b)(7)(D)

2

subjects in the U.S. and Hong Kong. The information she provided to the Service resulted in the indictment of 6 defendants, of which 3 defendants in the U.S. pled guilty to conspiracy to smuggle wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

should be commended with this reward for her efforts and her eagerness and willingness to assist the Service in combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

Concurrence

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

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

4-10-14

Approved:

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

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Date

4-15-14

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

Date

4-15-2014



NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2009103851
Case Title: TSANG, TAK MING et al.
Region: Region 1

Summary:

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

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

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

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

Without [redacted] assistance, the Service might not have learned of several illegal shipments of live turtles. As a result of her cooperation, three (3) of the American subjects were found guilty: [redacted] - 6 months incarceration, 2 years supervised release and \$28,583 in restitution, 2 [redacted] - 366 days incarceration, 3 years supervised release and \$28,583 in restitution, 3 [redacted] - 5 months incarceration, \$28,583 in restitution.

There were no special requests made for payment.

Reviewers Comments and Recommendations: The request conforms with 450 FW 2 and the reward amount of \$5,000 is recommended.

Reviewer:

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

Concur:

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

Concur:

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

Dept [redacted] Chief/OLE

Concur:

Chief/OLE

4-10-14

Date

4-10-14

Date

4/15/14

Date

Date



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

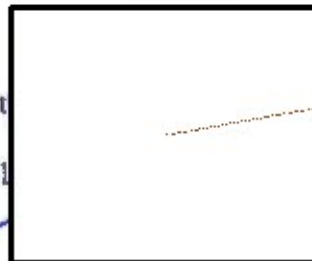
Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone (503) 231-6125
FAX (503) 231-2193



In Reply Refer To: INV2009103851
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: *for* Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward



(b)(5),(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: INV2009103851

Amount of Reward: \$5,000

Prior Compensation: N/A

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: [redacted] provided crucial information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which led to the investigation of an international reptile smuggling ring, involving

subjects in the U.S. and Hong Kong. The information she provided to the Service resulted in the indictment of 6 defendants, of which 3 defendants in the U.S. pled guilty to conspiracy to smuggle wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made invaluable observations in and around her (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). She was able to positively identify subjects at their residence and at local businesses, target subjects' packages containing wildlife (domestic and shipments bound for export) and provide additional information that was of great use during the investigation.

She consistently maintained communications with the case agent and alerted Service agents to numerous domestic shipments of reptiles addressed to multiple targets. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was able to thwart the export of multiple shipments consigned by the subject containing live turtles and snakes, valued at approximately \$24,000.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) should be commended with this reward for her efforts and her eagerness and willingness to assist the Service in combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

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

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

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

4-10-14

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

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

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

Date

4-15-14

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

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

Budget Officer

Date

4-15-2014





United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone (503) 231-6125
FAX (503) 231-2193



In Reply Refer To: INV2009103851
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: *for* Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

[Signature]
[Signature]

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

(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: INV2009103851

Amount of Reward: \$5,000

Prior Compensation: N/A

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: *[Redacted]* provided crucial information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which led to the investigation of an international reptile smuggling ring, involving

subjects in the U.S. and Hong Kong. The information she provided to the Service resulted in the indictment of 6 defendants, of which 3 defendants in the U.S. pled guilty to conspiracy to smuggle wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

As a FedEx courier [REDACTED] made invaluable observations in and around her delivery route. She was able to positively identify subjects at their residence and at local businesses, target subjects' packages containing wildlife (domestic and shipments bound for export) and provide additional information that was of great use during the investigation.

She consistently maintained communications with the case agent and alerted Service agents to numerous domestic shipments of reptiles addressed to multiple targets. [REDACTED] was able to thwart the export of multiple shipments consigned by the subject containing live turtles and snakes, valued at approximately \$24,000.

[REDACTED] should be commended with this reward for her efforts and her eagerness and willingness to assist the Service in combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

Concurrence:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[Signature]
SAC, Branch of Investigations

4-10-14

Date

Approved:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[Signature]
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

4-15-14

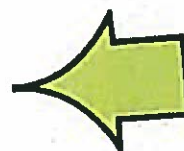
Date

Processed:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
[Signature]
Budget Officer

4-15-2014

Date



**SIGN
& DATE**



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



APR 24 2014

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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

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

Special Agent In Charge R-1
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232

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

W

William C. Woody

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232
Phone (503) 231-6125
FAX (503) 231-2193



In Reply Refer To: INV2009103851
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: *for* Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region
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)

et al.

Amount of Reward: \$5,000

Prior Compensation: N/A

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: Ms. Baltazor provided crucial information to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), which led to the investigation of an international reptile smuggling ring, involving

subjects in the U.S. and Hong Kong. The information she provided to the Service resulted in the indictment of 6 defendants, of which 3 defendants in the U.S. pled guilty to conspiracy to smuggle wildlife in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

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

Ms. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) should be commended with this reward for her efforts and her eagerness and willingness to assist the Service in combating the illegal trafficking of wildlife.

Concurrence:

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

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

4-10-14

Approved:

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

Chief/Office of Law Enforcement

Date

4-15-14

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

Date

4-15-2014



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: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F) et al.
Region: Region 1

Summary: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who assisted the Service with the investigation in several ways. During the investigation, Ms. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) discovered and alerted the Service of live turtles being smuggled from the United States through (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) made the discovery by looking at items listed on the shipping label (boots, clothes, belts) but hearing noises emanating from the box and subsequently learning of the live turtles. Ms. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was crucial in the identifying the individuals smuggling the items along her route. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

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

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

Without Ms. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) assistance, the Service might not have learned of several illegal shipments of live turtles. As a result of her cooperation, three (3) of the American subjects were found guilty: 1. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) – 6 months incarceration, 2 years supervised release and \$28,583 in restitution, 2. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) – 366 days incarceration, 3 years supervised release and \$28,583 in restitution, 3) KO – 5 months incarceration, \$28,583 in restitution.

There were no special requests made for payment.

Reviewers Comments and Recommendations: The request conforms with 450 FW 2 and the reward amount of \$5,000 is recommended.

Reviewer:

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

4-10-14

Date

Concur:

4-10-14

Date

Concur:

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

Deputy Chief/OLE

4/15/14

Date

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, CO 80225

Physical Address:
134 Union Blvd., Suite 640
Lakewood, CO 80228

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

DEC 31 2014

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6
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)(6),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E),(b)(7)(F)

Address:

Occupation:

Employer: N/A

INV Number and Title: INV #

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

Amount of Reward: \$500

Prior Compensation: None

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

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



Justification:

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

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

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

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

has no personal relationship with any person involved in this investigation.

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

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

does not have a CPI identification number.

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

INV#

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

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

\$500.00

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

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

has not received any form of compensation related to this investigation and hasn't received any form of compensation from the USFWS known by Resident Agent in Charge

(RAC)

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

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

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Title 16, Section 668(a).

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

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

This investigation was initiated solely from information received by [redacted] and [redacted]. Without this information and assistance the violations would have gone undetected. [redacted] and [redacted]

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

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

[redacted] were predator hunting within the exterior boundaries of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota on January 5, 2013, when they noticed a snared but alive golden eagle. The [redacted] photographed the eagle in the snare and [redacted] released the eagle before any further harm or death could occur to the eagle. [redacted] notifying the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game, Fish, and Wildlife Department (SRST G&F) of the unlawful snares being set. The SRST G&F responded and seized a number of snares from the specific site and surrounding areas. All seized snares had an affixed rectangular identification tag which identified [redacted]

[redacted] as the alleged owner of the snares.

On January 15, 2013, RAC Grosz, North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Warden (DW) [redacted] SRST G&F Tribal Rangers, and the [redacted] revisited the site which had snared the eagle along with two additional snaring sites. All snares documented and recovered from the three sites exhibited the same rectangular identification tags bearing [redacted] name. Numerous snared, dead non-target wildlife were found in the snares and other snared, dead non-target wildlife were found discarded in nearby vegetation to act as bait. Based on the snare placement and size and height of the snare placement, it was obvious the trapper was attempting to snare coyotes.

On January 16, 2013, RAC [redacted] and DW [redacted] interviewed [redacted] at his residence located in New Salem North Dakota. During the interview, [redacted] admitted to placing the snare which had caught the golden eagle and placing the other snares at the sites which the [redacted] had taken the Officers to on January 15, 2013. In the interview, [redacted] admitted to several North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation snaring violations.

(OFFICER NOTE: The SRST is a checkerboard Reservation and snare sites were located on fee title and tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the SRST.)

[redacted] and [redacted] came forth and provided information because neither condoned snaring in violation of Tribal law. More importantly, the [redacted] are registered Native Americans from the federally recognized Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and felt it was a violation of their religious beliefs for a person to snare any golden eagles.

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

One (1) subject, [redacted] was charged and convicted.

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

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

was charged by Information with one (1) count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and two (2) counts of the Lacey Act, predicated on State and Tribal law.

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)

Following evidence gathering at the crime scene and the interview of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) a three-count Information, alleging two violations of the Lacey Act, which stemmed from the unlawful take of coyotes and a mule deer and one count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which stemmed from the snaring of a sub-adult golden eagle was filed by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota.

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

On June 24, 2014, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced before District Court Judge Daniel Hovland for unlawfully snaring a golden eagle in violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Lacey Act counts were dismissed pursuant to a Plea Agreement. As ordered by Judge Hovland, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 12 months of un-supervised probation, a fine in the amount of \$500, and community restitution in the amount of \$5,500 which was further allocated to the following entities: \$2,500.00 to the National Fish and Wildlife Eagle Fund; \$1,500 to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department; and \$1,500 to the Standing Rock Game and Fish Department.

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

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

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

and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) initially requested their identities not be known during the investigation.

Shortly after the active stage of this investigation, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) changed their minds and authorized their identity be divulged if it aided the Officers in the apprehension and conviction of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) or the person using (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) snares. The Officers purposefully kept (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) name from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to reduce the possibility of retribution and increase their personal safety chances.

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

Within the SRST, large expanses of land seldom see people, further allowing for unlawful activity to take place without apprehension. Widespread snaring of furbearers without regard to State and Tribal wildlife laws kills large numbers of targeted animals (primarily coyotes and fox) as well as non-targeted animals such as bald and golden eagles, raptors, big game (mule deer) and other small game (porcupines and jackrabbits). Indiscriminate killing of trust resources often goes unreported with the animals being discarded or unlawfully sold. Significant non-target resources damage occurs whenever regulations are not abided by.

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

The reward amount of \$500 was chosen based upon the information gained from the steps (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided in assisting the Officers in the investigation and the level of physical harm or intimidation that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) faced by notifying the Officers of the unlawful trapping activity. Additionally, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) gave up his own time to personally show the Officers where the snaring sites were within the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation boundaries and was willing to come into the SRST G&F to be interviewed by RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, it mandates, "That one-half of any such fine, but not to exceed \$2,500, shall be paid to the person or persons giving information which leads to conviction." The fine in this investigation was purposefully set via Plea Agreement for \$500 with additional "fine" monies being purposefully set aside as community restitution which could be allocated to resources that further protect bald and golden eagles. The departure of the Act's self-imposed half of the fines is being requested with this explanation.

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

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

Concurrence

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

SAC, Branch of Investigations

1-6-15
Date

Approved:

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

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

1/7-15
Date

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, CO 80225

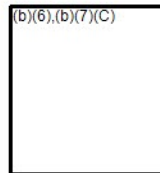
Physical Address:
134 Union Blvd., Suite 640
Lakewood, CO 80228

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

DEC 31 2014

Memorandum

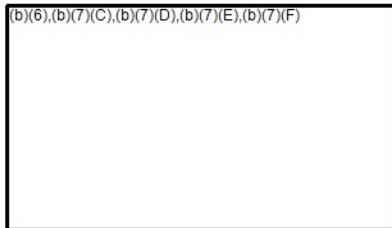
To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward



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

Name of recipient:

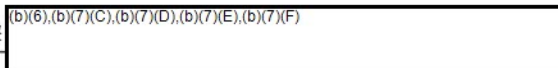
Address:



Occupation: Self Employed

Employer: N/A

INV Number and Title: INV #



Amount of Reward: \$500

Prior Compensation: None

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

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



Justification:

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

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

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

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

has no personal relationship with any person involved in this investigation.

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

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

does not have a CPI identification number.

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

INV#

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

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

\$500.00

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

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

has not received any form of compensation related to this investigation and hasn't received any form of compensation from the USFWS known by Resident Agent in Charge

(RAC)

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

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

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Title 16, Section 668(a).

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

This investigation was initiated solely from information received by (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C). Without this information and assistance the violations would have gone undetected. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) were predator hunting within the exterior boundaries of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota on January 5, 2013, when they noticed a snared but alive golden eagle. The (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) photographed the eagle in the snare and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) released the eagle before any further harm or death could occur to the eagle. (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) notifying the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game, Fish, and Wildlife Department (SRST G&F) of the unlawful snares being set. The SRST G&F responded and seized a number of snares from the specific site and surrounding areas. All seized snares had an affixed rectangular identification tag which identified (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) as the alleged owner of the snares.

On January 15, 2013, RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Warden (DW) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SRST G&F Tribal Rangers, and the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) revisited the site which had snared the eagle along with two additional snaring sites. All snares documented and recovered from the three sites exhibited the same rectangular identification tags bearing (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) name. Numerous snared, dead non-target wildlife were found in the snares and other snared, dead non-target wildlife were found discarded in nearby vegetation to act as bait. Based on the snare placement and size and height of the snare placement, it was obvious the trapper was attempting to snare coyotes.

On January 16, 2013, RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) interviewed (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) at his residence located in (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) North Dakota. During the interview (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) admitted to placing the snare which had caught the golden eagle and placing the other snares at the sites which the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) had taken the Officers to on January 15, 2013. In the interview, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) admitted to several North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation snaring violations.

(OFFICER NOTE: The SRST is a checkerboard Reservation and snare sites were located on fee title and tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the SRST.)

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) came forth and provided information because neither condoned snaring in violation of Tribal law. More importantly, the (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) are registered Native Americans from the federally recognized Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and felt it was a violation of their religious beliefs for a person to snare any golden eagles.

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

One (1) subject, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was charged and convicted.

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was charged by Information with one (1) count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and two (2) counts of the Lacey Act, predicated on State and Tribal law.

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.

Following evidence gathering at the crime scene and the interview of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C), a three-count Information, alleging two violations of the Lacey Act, which stemmed from the unlawful take of coyotes and a mule deer and one count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which stemmed from the snaring of a sub-adult golden eagle was filed by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota.

On June 24, 2014, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced before District Court Judge Daniel Hovland for unlawfully snaring a golden eagle in violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Lacey Act counts were dismissed pursuant to a Plea Agreement. As ordered by Judge Hovland, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) was sentenced to 12 months of un-supervised probation, a fine in the amount of \$500, and community restitution in the amount of \$5,500 which was further allocated to the following entities: \$2,500 to the National Fish and Wildlife Eagle Fund; \$1,500 to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department; and \$1,500 to the Standing Rock Game and Fish Department.

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) initially requested their identities not be known during the investigation. Shortly after the active stage of this investigation, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) changed their minds and authorized their identity be divulged if it aided the Officers in the apprehension and conviction of (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) or the person using (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) snares. The Officers purposefully kept (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) name from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) to reduce the possibility of retribution and increase their personal safety chances.

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

Within the SRST, large expanses of land seldom see people, further allowing for unlawful activity to take place without apprehension. Widespread snaring of furbearers without regard to State and Tribal wildlife laws kills large numbers of targeted animals (primarily coyotes and fox) as well as non-targeted animals such as bald and golden eagles, raptors, big game (mule deer) and other small game (porcupines and jackrabbits). Indiscriminate killing of trust resources often goes unreported with the animals being discarded or unlawfully sold. Significant non-target resources damage occurs whenever regulations are not abided by.

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

The reward amount of \$500 was chosen based upon the information gained from (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) the steps (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) provided in assisting the Officers in the investigation and the level of physical harm or intimidation that (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) faced by notifying the Officers of the unlawful trapping activity. Additionally (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) drove his own personal vehicle to remote areas on two separate occasions within the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation boundaries and was willing to come into the SRST G&F to be interviewed by RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, it mandates, "That one-half of any such fine, but not to exceed \$2,500, shall be paid to the person or persons giving information which leads to conviction." The fine in this investigation was purposefully set via Plea Agreement for \$500 with additional "fine" monies being purposefully set aside as community restitution which could be allocated to resources that further protect bald and golden eagles. The departure of the Act's self-imposed half of the fines is being requested with this explanation.

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

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

Concurrence

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Branch of Investigations

1-6-15
Date

Approved:

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of Law Enforcement

1-7-15
Date

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Mountain Prairie Region
Office of Law Enforcement



Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 25486, DFC
Denver, CO 80225

Physical Address:
134 Union Blvd., Suite 640
Lakewood, CO 80228

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE

DEC 31 2014

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 6
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: INV

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

Amount of Reward: \$500

Prior Compensation: None

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

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


TAKE PRIDE[®]
IN AMERICA

Justification:

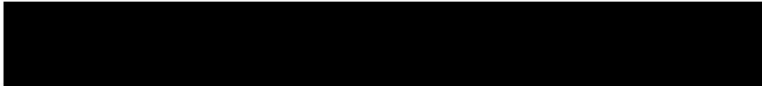
450 FW 2.7B(1) - Name, address, occupation and employer of proposed recipient.



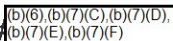
450 FW 2.7B(2) - Proposed recipient has had a personal relationship with a special agent, a family member of a special agent, or with any other person or family members of a person involved in the investigation.

 has no personal relationship with any person involved in this investigation.

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



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

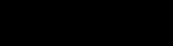
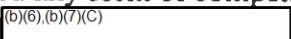
INV# 



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

\$500.00

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

 has not received any form of compensation related to this investigation and hasn't received any form of compensation from the USFWS known by Resident Agent in Charge (RAC) 

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

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Title 16, Section 668(a).

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

This investigation was initiated solely from information received by [REDACTED]. Without this information and assistance the violations would have gone undetected. [REDACTED] were predator hunting within the exterior boundaries of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota on January 5, 2013, when they noticed a snared but alive golden eagle. The [REDACTED] photographed the eagle in the snare and [REDACTED] released the eagle before any further harm or death could occur to the eagle. [REDACTED] notifying the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game, Fish, and Wildlife Department (SRST G&F) of the unlawful snares being set. The SRST G&F responded and seized a number of snares from the specific site and surrounding areas. All seized snares had an affixed rectangular identification tag which identified [REDACTED] as the alleged owner of the snares.

On January 15, 2013, RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) North Dakota Game and Fish Department District Warden (DW) [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) SRST G&F Tribal Rangers, and [REDACTED] revisited the site which had snared the eagle along with two additional snaring sites. All snares documented and recovered from the three sites exhibited the same rectangular identification tags bearing [REDACTED] name. Numerous snared, dead non-target wildlife were found in the snares and other snared, dead non-target wildlife were found discarded in nearby vegetation to act as bait. Based on the snare placement and size and height of the snare placement, it was obvious the trapper was attempting to snare coyotes.

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

On January 16, 2013, RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and DW [REDACTED] interviewed [REDACTED] at his residence located in [REDACTED]. During the interview [REDACTED] admitted to placing the snare which had caught the golden eagle and placing the other snares at the sites which the [REDACTED] had taken the Officers to on January 15, 2013. In the interview, [REDACTED] admitted to several North Dakota Game and Fish Department and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation snaring violations.

(OFFICER NOTE: The SRST is a checkerboard Reservation and snare sites were located on fee title and tribal lands within the exterior boundaries of the SRST.)

[REDACTED] came forth and provided information because neither condoned snaring in violation of Tribal law. More importantly, the [REDACTED] are registered Native Americans from the federally recognized Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and felt it was a violation of their religious beliefs for a person to snare any golden eagles.

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

One (1) subject, [REDACTED] was charged and convicted.

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

██████████ was charged by Information with one (1) count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and two (2) counts of the Lacey Act, predicated on State and Tribal law.

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.

Following evidence gathering at the crime scene and the interview of ██████████ a three-count Information, alleging two violations of the Lacey Act, which stemmed from the unlawful take of coyotes and a mule deer and one count of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which stemmed from the snaring of a sub-adult golden eagle was filed by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota.

On June 24, 2014, ██████████ was sentenced before District Court Judge Daniel Hovland for unlawfully snaring a golden eagle in violation of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The Lacey Act counts were dismissed pursuant to a Plea Agreement. As ordered by Judge Hovland, ██████████ was sentenced to 12 months of un-supervised probation, a fine in the amount of \$500, and community restitution in the amount of \$5,500 which was further allocated to the following entities: \$2,500 to the National Fish and Wildlife Eagle Fund; \$1,500 to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department; and \$1,500 to the Standing Rock Game and Fish Department.

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

██████████ initially requested their identities not be known during the investigation. Shortly after the active stage of this investigation, ██████████ changed their minds and authorized their identity be divulged if it aided the Officers in the apprehension and conviction of ██████████ or the person using ██████████'s snares. The Officers purposefully kept ██████████ name from ██████████ to reduce the possibility of retribution and increase their personal safety chances.

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

Within the SRST, large expanses of land seldom see people, further allowing for unlawful activity to take place without apprehension. Widespread snaring of furbearers without regard to State and Tribal wildlife laws kills large numbers of targeted animals (primarily coyotes and fox) as well as non-targeted animals such as bald and golden eagles, raptors, big game (mule deer) and other small game (porcupines and jackrabbits). Indiscriminate killing of trust resources often goes unreported with the animals being discarded or unlawfully sold. Significant non-target resources damage occurs whenever regulations are not abided by.

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

The reward amount of \$500 was chosen based upon the information gained from [REDACTED] the steps [REDACTED] provided in assisting the Officers in the investigation and the level of physical harm or intimidation that [REDACTED] faced by notifying the Officers of the unlawful trapping activity. Additionally, [REDACTED] drove his own personal vehicle to remote areas on two separate occasions within the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Reservation boundaries and was willing to come into the SRST G&F to be interviewed by RAC [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, it mandates, "That one-half of any such fine, but not to exceed \$2,500, shall be paid to the person or persons giving information which leads to conviction." The fine in this investigation was purposefully set via Plea Agreement for \$500 with additional "fine" monies being purposefully set aside as community restitution which could be allocated to resources that further protect bald and golden eagles. The departure of the Act's self-imposed half of the fines is being requested with this explanation.

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

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

Concurrence

[REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SAC, Region of Investigations

1-6-15
Date

Approved:

[REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

1-7-15
Date

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date