



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

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 an \$8,500 to (b)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check should be forwarded to:

Special Agent In Charge R-4
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
1875 Century Boulevard, 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).

for Chuan Qian
William Woody

FF09L00000-2-0134
99000-4900

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

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 [redacted] involvement:

(b)(7)(D)

(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

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



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



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

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

I have approved the issuance of a \$3,500.00 reward to (b)(7)(D) 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

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



Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

JUL 18 2013

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 payment of an \$7,000.00 reward for an individual who provided crucial information resulting in saving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service thousands of dollars and investigator hours. Without the individual's cooperation, knowledge, and commitment, the investigation would not have been successful. To minimize the risk of the community learning the individual's name and due to the sensitivity of the case, I am authorizing that a check be issued in the name of the case agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) for the amount specified. Upon receipt, Agent (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) will hand-deliver the reward payment to the informant. The check is to be forwarded to:

SA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-1
UFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
14852 NE 95th
Redmond, WA 98052

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

for [Signature]
William C. Woody

FF09L00000-3-0140
FLE490000 (XXXF1611OD)

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2011101286 and 2007106327
Case Title: Asian Elephant Tusk and QT Aquarium
Region: Region 1

Summary: This reward request is for \$7,000. The proposed recipient of the reward, (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D) required minimal management and was extremely professional during all phases of the investigation. (b)(7)(D) was not promised any compensation for his work and assisted OLE as a matter of ethics and the want to protect the resource. (b)(7)(D) agreed to stay in the U.S. to assist with the investigation and received a "deferred action" from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to remain in the U.S.

Three defendants pled guilty in the case.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C): 6 months home confinement, 100 hours community service, \$5,000 to Lacey Act reward account.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 3 months home confinement, forfeiture of over \$150,000 in assets, forfeited a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and equipment used in handling the Asian arowanas.

The region has requested the reward be issued out of the Law Enforcement Reward Account to the Regional Special Funds Account as outlined in 450 FW 2.9 B (2). This will facilitate the payment being made in cash to the recipient. *

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The request conforms with 450 FW 2 and the reward amount of \$7,000 is recommended.

Reviewer:

Concur:

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

SAC/INV

6-13-13
Date

6/14/13
Date

*Note: Please make check payable to:

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

0021



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement

911 NE 11th Ave, 5th Floor West

Portland, OR 97232

Phone (503)231-6945



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE INV 2011101286

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 1

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

(b)(7)(D)

Occupation

(b)(7)(D)

Employer

(b)(7)(D)

INV Number and Title

2011101286 – Asian Elephant Tusk

2007106327 – QT Aquarium

Amount of Reward

\$7,000

6/29/2009

LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the period of investigation, the recipient was provided an administrative “deferred action” by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, as a temporary remedy to remain in the U.S. This remedy was in place in order to continue providing assistance to the USFWS OLE and final case disposition.

Concurrence:

SAC, Branch of Investigations

Date

Approved:

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

Enforcement

Date

6/17/13

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

Date

6/19/2013

6/29/2009

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Prior Compensation

None

Statute

The Lacey Act Amendments of 1981(16 U.S.C. 3375(b))

Reward Account

Law Enforcement Reward Account

Justification

The recipient was instrumental in obtaining three successful felony convictions of Quyen T. TO, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of Lacey Act trafficking in Endangered Species; 16 U.S.C. §§ 3372(a)(1) and 3373(d)(1)(B).

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) TO pled guilty and was convicted in U.S. District Court in the Western District of Washington on February 8, 2013 and sentenced to 6 months home confinement, 100 hours of community service during a 2 year supervised probation period and a \$5,000 restitution payment to the Lacey Act Reward account.
- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) pled guilty and were convicted in U.S. District Court in the Western District of Washington on May 31, 2013 and sentenced to: 3 months monitored home confinement, 1 year supervised probation and forfeiture of assets valued at over \$150,000.
- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) forfeited a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) valued at \$35,000, two aquarium tanks with filtration, four Asian arowana (*Scleropages formosus*), 300 live marijuana plants and finished product, miscellaneous marijuana grow equipment seized at residence and all arborist garden supply inventory located at business capable of manufacturing, compounding, processing, delivering, importing, or exporting a controlled substance valued at over \$112,000.

(b)(7)(D)

Throughout the investigations the recipient was managed with little effort, conducted himself in a professional manner and made time at the discretion of the USFWS OLE for public and resource benefit. The recipient met with USFWS Special Agent's on numerous occasions and was always on time or early. The recipient performed in this manner without compensation or any promise of benefit.

6/29/2009

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Concur:

Deputy Chief/OLE

Date

~~Concur:~~

~~Chief/OLE~~

~~Date~~



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



MAY 15 2013

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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

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

ASAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-2
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Ave. SW Room 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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

FF09L00000-3-0129
FLE490000 (XXXF1611OD)

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Avenue, Suite 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87103

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
4-22-13

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

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

(b)(7)(D)

Amount of Reward: \$1,000.00

Prior Compensation: None

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

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

Justification: Attached

Concurrence

See

Approved:

Processed:

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

Budget Officer

Date

Date

Date

5/8/13

5/10/13

5/10/13

Justification:

- (a) This investigation involved the illegal transportation of white-tailed deer into the state of Texas from various breeders throughout the United States. Numerous breeder bucks and does were illegally imported for the purpose of supplementing an established captive deer breeding operation. These imports were done without veterinary inspections as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as without authorization from the state of Texas.

(b)(7)(D)

- (b) Six (6) subjects were involved with the investigation.

- (c) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Four (4) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law and two (2) counts for violation of 18 USC § 1001 False Statements

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

Three (3) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law; and

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

One (1) count for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Acquisition of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law.

- (d) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 3 years probation to include 180 days home confinement, \$1,000,000.00 total fine and \$500,00.00 total restitution and forfeiture of over 1,300 straws of frozen white-tailed deer semen valued at approximately \$961,500.00.; and

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

Sentenced to 2 years probation, \$243,000.00 total fine and \$157,000.00 total restitution; and

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

Sentenced to 3 years probation, \$6,000.00 total fine and \$24,000.00 total restitution.

(e) No significant safety risk was posed to

(b)(7)(D)

(f) The potential impact to the resource in this investigation was related to chronic wasting disease (CWD) and its potential to be introduced into the native population of Texas white-tailed deer.

(g) ~~The amount~~ of this reward was chosen based on the time expended and assistance provided by (b)(7)(D) during this investigation.

(h) No special circumstance requires the issuance of a special check.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2009205371
Case Title: Operation Silver Boy
Region: Region 2

Summary: This reward request is for \$1,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(7)(D) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation.

The investigation involves the unlawful interstate transport of whitetail deer into Texas without the required Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife permits.

(b)(7)(D)

The fine amounts associated with the prosecution of the case subjects were tremendous and exceeded \$1,000,000.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward amount of \$1,000 is recommended.

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

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

Concur: _____
Deputy Chief/OLE

Concur: _____
Chief/OLE

Date

5/8/13

Date

Date

Date



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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



MAY 15 2013

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

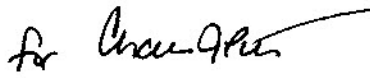
SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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 \$2,500.00 reward to (b)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

ASAC - (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-2
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Ave. SW Room 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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

FF09L00000-3-0130
FLE490000 (XXXF1611OD)

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Avenue, Suite 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87103

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

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

4-22-13

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

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

Amount of Reward: \$2,500.00

Prior Compensation: None

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

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

Justification: Attached

(b)(7)(D)

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

Concurrence

per

Approved:

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date

Date

Date

5/6/13

5/10/13

5/10/13

Justification:

- (a) This investigation involved the illegal transportation of white-tailed deer into the state of Texas from various breeders throughout the United States. Numerous breeder bucks and does were illegally imported for the purpose of supplementing an established captive deer breeding operation. These imports were done without veterinary inspections as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as without authorization from the state of Texas.

As a result of [REDACTED] (b)(7)(D) having the initiative to approach an investigator at a public assembly to convey some concerns about apparent illegal activity involving the deer breeding industry in Texas, multiple violations of the Lacey Act were identified. Furthermore, this information helped progress with an ongoing investigation of illegal wildlife trafficking which occurred over approximately a three year period.

[REDACTED] (b)(7)(D)

- (b) Six (6) subjects were involved with the investigation.

- (c) [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Four (4) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law and two (2) counts for violation of 18 USC § 1001 False Statements

[REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Three (3) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law; and

[REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) One (1) count for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Acquisition of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law.

- (d) [REDACTED] (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 3 years probation to include 180 days home confinement, \$1,000,000.00 total fine and \$500,00.00 total restitution and forfeiture of over 1,300 straws of frozen white-tailed deer semen valued at approximately \$961,500.00.; and

\$1,000,000.00 total fine and \$500,000 total restitution and forfeiture of over 1,300 straws of frozen white-tailed deer semen valued at approximately \$961,500.00.; and

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 2 years probation, \$243,000.00 total fine and \$157,000.00 total restitution; and

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 3 years probation, \$6,000.00 total fine and \$24,000.00 total restitution.

- (e) No significant safety risk was posed to (b)(7)(D)
- (f) The potential impact to the resource in this investigation was related to chronic wasting disease (CWD) and its potential to be introduced into the native population of Texas white-tailed deer.
- (g) The amount of this reward was chosen based on the time expended and assistance provided by Beck during this investigation.
- (h) No special circumstance requires the issuance of a special check.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2009205371
Case Title: Operation Silver Boy
Region: Region 2

Summary: This reward request is for \$2,500. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(7)(D) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation.

The investigation involves the unlawful interstate transport of whitetail deer into Texas without the required Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife permits.

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

The fine amounts associated with the prosecution of the case subjects were tremendous and exceeded \$1,000,000.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward amount of \$2,500 is recommended.

Reviewer:

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

Concur:

Concur:

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

5/8/13

Date

5/10/13

Date

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

0037

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
4401 N. Fairfax Drive (LE-3000)
Arlington, VA 22203



MAY 15 2013

Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE FIS 4-05

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

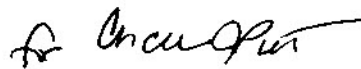
SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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

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

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
ASAC - (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) R-2
USFWS - Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Ave. SW Room 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87102

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

FF09L00000-3-0131
FLE490000 (XXXF16110D)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
500 Gold Avenue, Suite 9021
Albuquerque, NM 87103

IN REPLY REFER TO:
FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

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

4-22-13

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

Name of recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

INV Number and Title:

(b)(7)(D)

Amount of Reward: \$1,000.00

Prior Compensation: None

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

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

Justification: Attached

Concurrence

Acting

SAC Branch of Investigations

Approved:

C

ement

Processed:

Budget Officer

Date

Date

Date

5/8/13

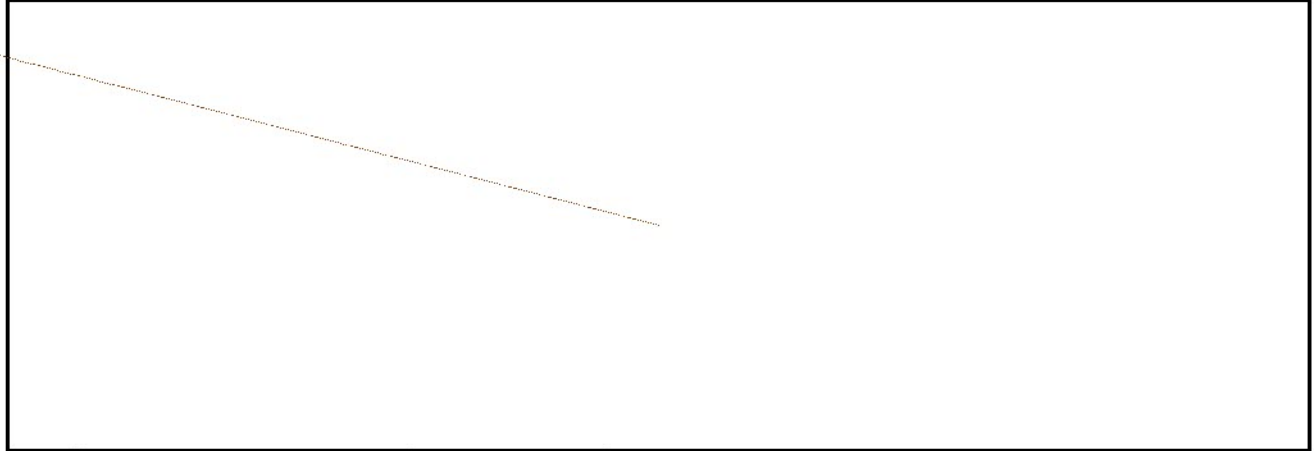
5/10/13

5/10/13

Justification:

- (a) This investigation involved the illegal transportation of white-tailed deer into the state of Texas from various breeders throughout the United States. Numerous breeder bucks and does were illegally imported for the purpose of supplementing an established captive deer breeding operation. These imports were done without veterinary inspections as required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as well as without authorization from the state of Texas.

(b)(7)(D)



- (b) Six (6) subjects were involved with the investigation.

- (c) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Four (4) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law and two (2) counts for violation of 18 USC § 1001 False Statements

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Three (3) counts for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Transportation of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law; and

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) One (1) count for violation of 16 USC § 3372(a)(2)(A) Acquisition of Wildlife in Interstate Commerce in Violation of State Law.

- (d) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 3 years probation to include 180 days home confinement, \$1,000,000.00 total fine and \$500,00.00 total restitution and forfeiture of over 1,300 straws of frozen white-tailed deer semen valued at approximately \$961,500.00.; and

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 2 years probation, \$243,000.00 total fine and \$157,000.00 total restitution; and

- (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Sentenced to 3 years probation, \$6,000.00 total fine and \$24,000.00 total restitution.

- (e) No significant safety risk was posed to

(b)(7)(D)

- (f) The potential impact to the resource in this investigation was related to chronic wasting disease

(CWD) and its potential to be introduced into the native population of Texas white-tailed deer.

(g) The amount of this reward was chosen based on the time expended and assistance provided by during this investigation.

(h) No special circumstances require the issuance of a special check.

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of a Reward
Case Number: INV: 2009205371
Case Title: Operation Silver Boy
Region: Region 2

Summary: This reward request is for \$1,000. A reward payment in this amount would be equitable compensation for (b)(7)(D) efforts and assistance in the above named investigation.

The investigation involves the unlawful interstate transport of whitetail deer into Texas without the required Department of Agriculture and Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife permits.

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D) The fine amounts associated with the prosecution of the case subjects, two of which were in contact with (b)(7)(D) were tremendous and exceeded \$1,000,000.

Reviewer's Comments and Recommendations: The reward amount of \$1,000 is recommended.

Reviewer:

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

Concur:

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

Concur:

Concur:

Chief/OLE

Date

5/8/13
Date

5/10/13
Date

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]

[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 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
SHELDRAKE GAME RANCH (SHELDRAKE), in the Limpopo Province of South Africa. In
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) (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)(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 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) 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) (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) who had taken over responsibility for the investigation, (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

at RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

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

Also,

(b)(7)(D)

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

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

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, (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

for email search warrants for

He assisted RAC (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 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) began working the case cooperatively with a (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

Provincial investigator (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

When his friend, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

scheme (b)(7)(D) was implicated in a second smuggling

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

(b)(7)(D)

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)	
Processed:	Budget Officer	10/24/2012 Date

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) 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



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

SEP -6 2013

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Chief, Finance Center

FROM: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

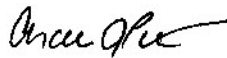
SUBJECT: Payment of Reward from the LE Reward Account

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 \$12,000 reward to (b)(7)(D) Please issue a check payable to him in the amount specified. The check is to be forwarded to:

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

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

for 
William C. Woody

FF09L00000-3-0145
FLE4900(XXXF1611OD)

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA 



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard

Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/OLE/INV 2010405137

MEMORANDUM

To: Assistant Director, 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 approval of payment of a reward.

Name of Recipient:

Address:

Occupation:

Employer:

(b)(7)(D)

INV Number and Title: INV 2010405137; OPERATION ROCK BOTTOM

Amount of Reward: \$12,000

Prior Compensation: None

Statute: Endangered Species Act/Lacey Act

Reward Account: Lacey

Justification: See Attached

Concurrence:

Approved:

For Assistant Director, Office of Law Enforcement

Processed:

Budget Officer

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

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

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

Date

Date

AUG 19 2013

Date

NOTES TO REVIEWER

Action: Request for Payment of Reward
Case Number: INV: 2010405137
Case Title: OPERATION ROCK BOTTOM
Region: Region 4

Summary: This reward request is for \$12,000.

(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

On April 18, 2013, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of Aquatic Trading Company) were sentenced to 90 days home confinement and one year's probation. On June 14, 2013, Aquatic Trading Company was sentenced to 3 years' probation, to pay a fine of \$3000, and surrender all licenses, permits and endorsements issued to the company.

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 ESA and Lacey Act offences convictions. The reward is justified and conforms to the requirements under 450 FW 2.

Reviewer:

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

SSA

8-13-13
Date

Concur:

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

SAC/INV

8-13-13
Date

Concur:

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

Dep. Asst. Director

8/14/13
Date

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

None

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

(b)(7)(D)

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

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

OPERATION ROCKBOTTOM, involves the illegal harvest and sales of various marine life species from multiple Department of Interior and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) federally administered and protected areas in the Florida Keys. Information gained during the investigation thus far has lead to the execution of eleven (11) search warrants and confirmed that targets of the investigation knowingly harvested prohibited CITES species of marine life invertebrates, corals and sharks species from the Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and smuggled and/or exported the same using false documents, as well as unlawfully selling protected marine life species in interstate commerce in violation of federal (Lacey Act) and international law.

Subject's Individual Involvement:

(b)(7)(D)

Possible Loss of Revenue to (b)(7)(D) **Involvement:**

(b)(7)(D)

Current Status of (b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(D)

Significance of Subject's Involvement:

(b)(7)(D)

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

On June 14, 2013, ATC was sentenced in the Southern District of Florida by Senior U.S. District Court Judge James Lawrence King to a term of Court-supervised probation for three years, ordered to pay a criminal fine of \$3,000, and ordered to surrender to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service all licenses, permits, and endorsements issued to or held by the company. On June 20, 2013, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) of ATC surrendered all of ATC's state and federal permits to the FWS. On April 18, 2013, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) both entered guilty pleas to the same charges before Judge King and each have been sentenced to a period of 90 days home confinement, followed by a one year term of probation.

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



Payment of Reward - Operation Rock Bottom - \$12k

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov Thu, Sep 5, 2013 at 6:25 PM
 To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) fws.gov (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov

I have received your reward request for processing and have a question. Finance is concerned that when they process requests for rewards, we are invoking public safety as the rationale for not requiring electronic fund transfer to the individual's account. This, then led Finance to question if a threat exists simply by having their names in the FBMS system associated with a reward payment. FYI - we do not forward copies of the backup document prepared by the Regions.

Finance has suggested that we have all rewards made payable to one of our agents who, in turn, would cash the check and provide cash to the individual (and request their signature on a receipt acknowledging the funds, etc.).

I've gone back to Finance to argue that we may not always have an issue with the individual's name being in the FBMS system (i.e., perhaps they have testified in open court and their name is, therefore, "known").

Just wanted to give you some history on this. So, I need to know on this specific individual if you have a problem with his name appearing in FBMS associated with a reward payment. If you do, I'll need to send you forms to have an agent complete to request a new vendor code (so the reward will not be mixed in with other expenses associated with the agent) and an EFT waiver form (so the agent will receive a paper check). The agent can then cash the check and provide a cash payment to the individual. If you don't have an issue with the individual's name appearing in FBMS, we'll go ahead and request the reward payment. A check will be issued in the individual's name and the check will be forwarded to your office.

Please let me know your preference so we can process this reward. Thanks.

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
 Chief, Branch of Planning and Analysis
 Office of Law Enforcement
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Office: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) Fax: 703-358-2346

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov Fri, Sep 6, 2013 at 8:39 AM
 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov
 (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
 See RAC (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) reply. If this works for you fine by me too.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov
 Date: September 6, 2013, 8:34:57 AM EDT
 To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov, ASA (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) @fws.gov

Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov
Subject: RE: Payment of Reward - Operation Rock Bottom - \$12k

After understanding the issue and consultation with the case agent we feel that having the CPI's name in FBMS would not be an issue. We would prefer that a check be issued in the individual's name and the check will be forwarded to the Miami office attention case agent SA Tim Davis who will hand deliver the check and obtain a receipt documenting the delivery to the CPI. Thanks for your assistance with this matter.

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

Resident Agent in Charge

Southeast FL, Puerto Rico & Caribbean

10426 NW 31 Terrace

Miami, FL 33172

Office: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Mobile: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov]
Sent: Thursday, September 05, 2013 10:55 PM
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: Payment of Reward - Operation Rock Bottom - \$12k

(b)(6),(b)(7)(C) please check with (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) and get back to (b)(6),(b)(7)(C) on this. My guess is that electronic payment would be more secure. His name is already known, right?

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov
Date: September 5, 2013, 6:25:18 PM EDT
To: (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov, (b)(6),(b)(7)(C)
(b)(6),(b)(7)(C)@fws.gov
Subject: Payment of Reward - Operation Rock Bottom - \$12k



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)

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.

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

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

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

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



U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Office of Law Enforcement
16639 West Hardy Road
Houston, Texas
Office: (281) 876-1520 Fax: (281) 876-9319



In Reply Refer To: FWS/LE

Memorandum

To: Chief, Office of Law Enforcement
From: Special Agent in Charge, Region 2
Subject: Request for Payment of Reward

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

4-8-13

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

Name of Recipient
Address
Occupation
Employer
INV Number and Title
Amount of Reward
Prior Compensation



Statute: (circle one) AFCA / AHA / ARPA / BG EPA / ESA / LAC / MMPA / MBL / RTCA / WBCA

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

Justification: This proposed monetary award is justified by the courage and sacrifice  made to make this trial a success

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

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

Concurrence

Acting

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

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

4/8/2013
Date

Approved:

Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

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

4/8/13
Date

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

Processed:

Budget Officer

4/9/2013
Date

Attachments

06/29/09

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Exhibit 1

JUSTIFICATION FOR REWARD

Relationship with Service Officer 450 FW 2.7B(2)

None

450 FW 2.7B(3)

None

Justification Statement 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)

The proposed monetary award is justified by the courage and sacrifice [REDACTED] made to make this trial a success.

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

Individual Involvement:

[REDACTED] was indicted in May of this year for one misdemeanor count of violating The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The case went to trial and the jury returned its verdict after hearing two days of testimony and an hour of deliberations.

During trial, the government called [REDACTED] an [REDACTED], whose testimony was that she overheard a conversation in which [REDACTED] intended to catch a juvenile bald eagle for the purpose of training it in falconry. [REDACTED] further testified that there was an active bald eagle nest located on [REDACTED] property and he had already researched how to capture it. [REDACTED] was able to remember the exact date of this conversation and was able to convince the jury that it occurred approximately two days before [REDACTED] captured the eaglet. [REDACTED] stated she remembered the date without question because her mom, [REDACTED] became distraught and cried numerous times over that afternoon and evening. Thanks to [REDACTED] eventually called the authorities the next morning.

[REDACTED] testified in his defense and claimed the bird was out of its nest and on a tree limb and had instructed two ranch hands to remove it. However, testimony indicated the bird was actually still in its nest when they were about to capture it. The eagle apparently got scared and fell out of the tree at that time and [REDACTED] and one of the ranch hands caught it. The MBTA does allow the possession of nongame birds, but only if they are injured, sick or orphaned and if they are immediately transported to be rehabilitated.

[REDACTED] was subject to severe cross examination by the defense but stood the test and ultimately provided the key evidence in the successful prosecution of [REDACTED]. Not only did [REDACTED] testify in Federal Court but she was a witness of a potential violent outburst of [REDACTED] toward her mom after the authorities seized the bird. The outburst was so severe that for the families' safety they were forced to move from their residence and relocate over a hundred miles away removing her from her school and friends.

- Significance of [REDACTED] Involvement: Without [REDACTED] assistance, the authorities would never have known about the missing eaglet nor had a successful prosecution. The jury had to decide who to believe [REDACTED]. But thanks to [REDACTED] the jury was able to see thru the false defense of an individual attempting to help an injured eagle to the real story of an individual capturing our national symbol for the purpose of raising it as a pet.

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

- Result of Prosecution: Guilty. Three years supervised probation, including Anger Management course at the defendant's expense.
- Total Monetary Penalties as Part of Convictions: \$15,000 fine.
- Total Jail Term: None.
- Property Forfeited: None
- Prosecution Status: Completed

Safety Risk to [REDACTED] 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(e)

[REDACTED] were forced to move from her home in [REDACTED] due to violent outbursts by [REDACTED]

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

The impact was the loss of a bald eagle raised in the wild that would have been a key to the continued future recovery of the species.

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

The amount of the Reward chosen is indicative of similar past investigations.

Circumstances Requiring the Issuance of a Special Check 450 FW 2.7(B)(8)(h)

None



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Office of Law Enforcement
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)

(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

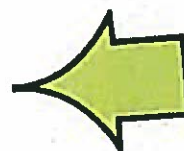
Date

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
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: *For* 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.
- 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

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

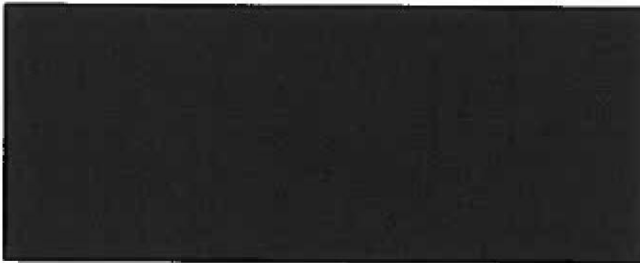
In accordance with 450 FW 2, section 2.7B, I request approval for payment of a reward.

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:

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.

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.

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.

[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.

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.

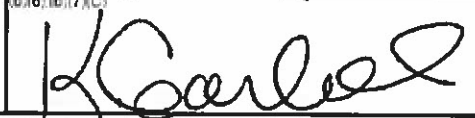
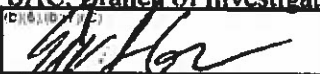
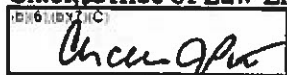
The **James** investigation involved the rare and endangered, Appendix I species of Fiji Island banded iguanas. Two of the animals seized in the case have had hatchlings. In September of 2011, the animals in the case were forfeited to the government and the remaining live animals were donated to the 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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