

Wildlife Inspectors

Mission

- Provide Nation's front-line defense against illegal international trade in wildlife and wildlife products – a trade that threatens animal and plant species worldwide
- Charged with keeping U.S. borders closed to injurious species
- Stationed at major international airports, ocean ports, and border crossings

Functions

- Inspect imports/exports to ensure compliance with U.S. laws, regulations, and treaties
- Identify and intercept smuggled wildlife (including injurious species and wildlife products)
- Review declarations, permits, and other paperwork and conduct physical inspections of shipments
- Work passenger terminals at airports and conduct inspections at international mail facilities
- Team with counterparts from Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Agriculture Department to maintain import/export controls

Staffing & Locations

- 123 wildlife inspectors as of April 1, 2010
- 18 “designated” port locations (which by regulation handle most U.S. wildlife trade)
- 19 staffed border, special, and other ports

FY 2009 Program Performance

- Processed over 170,000 wildlife shipments
- Top 5 ports of entry for wildlife trade in FY 2009:

New York	27,369 shipments
Los Angeles	21,620 shipments
Anchorage	13,122 shipments
Louisville	10,764 shipments
Miami	9,815 shipments

History

- Program launched in 1975 in response to passage of Endangered Species Act and signing of the CITES treaty
- Network of staffed port locations has expanded from 8 in 1976 to 37 today