



Department of Justice

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TWO MEN SENTENCED ON WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING CHARGES

Purchased Untested/Untagged Deer for Hunting Preserve

DAYTON – Earl A. Boyd, 46, and Charles Clinton Boyd, 27, both of Hillsboro, were ordered in United States District Court here to pay \$4,582.44 in restitution to the Ohio Division of Wildlife, and fined \$1,000, after pleading guilty to wildlife trafficking violations under the Lacey Act. The men were also sentenced to two years on federal probation.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, Greg Jackson, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Chief Dave Graham, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, announced the guilty pleas and sentences delivered yesterday by United States Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz.

Earl A. Boyd and Charles Clinton Boyd, father and son, were owners of Ohio Whitetail Legends (OWL), a wildlife hunting preserve in Highland County, Ohio. OWL propagated deer on-site and purchased deer from other propagators in Ohio and other states for the 200-acre hunting preserve.

As licensed owners of the preserve, both men knew they were required to keep written records of the total number of deer acquired by purchase. They also were aware that any deer entering the preserve from out of state were required to be tested for tuberculosis and accompanied by proper ear tags and a veterinarian's certificate. Deer entering Ohio from out of state must be certified to be tuberculosis free. Further, deer transporters are prohibited from moving deer across state lines if the deer are not from a herd certified as free from Chronic Wasting Disease, nor are purchasers permitted to receive uncertified deer shipments.

In October and November of 2005, Charles Clinton Boyd ordered and received two separate shipments of multiple white-tailed deer transported from Minnesota. Of the approximately 16 deer in the shipments, only one was properly tested and certified by a veterinarian as required by law. Further, Earl A. Boyd failed to record any of the untested deer in the OWL propagation records. Due to the defendant's actions, wildlife officials had to destroy the entire captive herd consisting of approximately 150 adult deer and fawns, because the deer had to be killed to test for Chronic Wasting Disease.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enforces the unlawful interstate trafficking of wildlife, commonly known as the Federal "Lacey Act." The Lacey Act is the oldest national wildlife law and was in response to illegal market hunting by hunters. This case was investigated cooperatively by the agents with the Ohio Division of Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Chronic Wasting Disease represents an unprecedented threat to the North American

deer and elk populations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delaware, Ohio field office can be reached at 740-368-0137.

Stewart commended the investigation by U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Ohio Division of Wildlife agents, as well as Assistant United States Attorney Laura Clemmens, who prosecuted case.

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