



# Department of Justice

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02/03/09

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## **GEORGIA FATHER & SON SENTENCED FOR VIOLATING THE LACEY ACT**

### *Law Helps To Protect Wildlife Obtained & Transported Illegally*

Atlanta, GA - FRED HAND, III, 54, and FRED HAND IV, 24, of Atlanta, Georgia, were both sentenced today by United States Magistrate Judge Linda T. Walker on their guilty pleas to misdemeanor charges of illegally transporting a whitetail deer from Colorado to Georgia, a violation of the Lacey Act, a federal law.

United States Attorney David E. Nahmias said, "We are committed to the protection of wildlife resources. We expect hunters to comply with state and federal wildlife statutes and regulations. There is a market for many game animals and that are highly sought after, particularly in Western states, and we want to make sure that the law is not violated."

"We take very seriously our mission to support our state counterpart wildlife enforcement agencies," said James Gale, Special Agent in Charge, Southeast Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement. "We will continue to investigate those who choose to violate state and federal laws. They undermine the proud tradition of fair chase for all hunters."

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: In November 2007, FRED HAND, III and his son, FRED HAND, IV, used a rifle to shoot and kill a whitetail deer during Colorado's archery-only season, a violation of state law. The HANDs then transported the antlers of the seven-point buck to Georgia in interstate commerce, a violation of a federal law called the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act, enacted in 1900, is the first national wildlife law, and was passed to assist states in enforcing wildlife laws. It provides additional protection to fish, wildlife, and plants that were taken, possessed, transported or sold in violation of state, tribal, foreign, or U.S. law. The Act prohibits the import, export, transport, sale, receipt, acquisition, transportation, sale, receipt, or purchase of fish, wildlife, or plants in interstate or foreign commerce that were taken, possessed, transported, or sold in violation of state, tribal, foreign, or U.S. laws. The HANDs violated the Lacey Act when they brought the antlers back to Georgia.

The HANDs each were sentenced to pay a fine of \$10,000 to the Lacey Act Reward Account, and restitution in the amount of \$5,000, payable to the State of Colorado's Division of Wildlife. The HANDs were also placed on probation for two years, and forfeited their right to hunt in 22 Western states..

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement. Assistance in this case was provided by the State of Colorado Division of Wildlife.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mary C. Roemer.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan).