



11-056

United States Department of the Interior



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

Ben

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/LE ADM 4-08-2010-00886

OCT 22 2010

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
Garfield Daly – Act. FOIA Officer
4700 River Road, Unit 50
Riverdale, Maryland 20737

Dear FOIA/PA Coordinator:

While processing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from Mr. Craig Pittman, we located six pages of documents that originated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. These documents are being referred to your office for a release determination (see enclosed). We have advised Mr. Pittman that he will receive a direct response from your office.

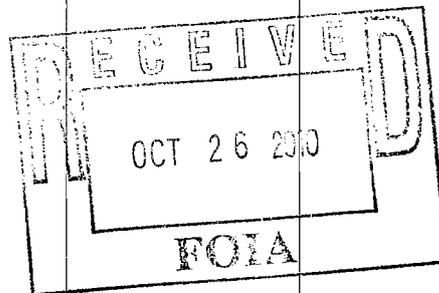
If you have any questions relating to this response, please contact Ms. Marion Dean of my staff at (703) 358-1949.

Sincerely,

Benito A. Perez

Benito A. Perez
Chief, Office of Law Enforcement

Enclosures



NOV 24 2010

received
6-1-2010 WPurdy

CRAIG PITTMAN

June 1, 2010

Wandy Purdy, FOIA Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Atlanta GA

FOIA REQUEST #: FWS-2010-00877
DATE RECEIVED: 6-1-2010
DUE DATE: 6-29-2010
ASSIGNED TO: OLE-Atlanta, GA
EXTENSION DATE: _____

Dear Ms. Purdy:

I am an author currently working on a book about orchid smuggling in Florida, under a contract with the University Press of Florida for publication next year. Please consider this my request under the Freedom of Information Act for any and all records, whether on paper or electronic, from the following cases, all of which pertain to this subject:

U.S. v. James Michael Kovach:

Middle District of Florida Case No. 8:03-cr-00457-SDM-TGW-1

U.S. v. Selby Gardens & Wesley Higgins:

Middle District of Florida Case No. 8:03-cr-00494-SCB

U.S. v. Manual Arias Silva & George Norris:

Southern District of Florida Case No. 1:04-cr-20144-PAS-2

My understanding is that all of these cases are now closed, I am hopeful that most if not all of the information in your files is now open to the public. I am particularly interested in seeing any investigative reports -- such as the one pertaining to Kovach in FWS Case No. 2002503514R007 by Agent Mary Holt -- or other officers in these cases, as well as obtaining copies of any photos that were obtained in the course of these cases.

Because this information, when presented in my book, will ultimately assist the general public in understanding your agency's mission in enforcing the Endangered Species Act and the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, I am requesting you waive the normal fees.

I would request that the information be provided in electronic format on a computer disk. Since this information is of timely value, I would appreciate your communicating with me by telephone or e-mail, rather than by mail, should you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

Craig Pittman