

Appendix V: Comments from the Department of the Interior



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 27 2018

Ms. Anne-Marie Fennell
Director, Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Fennell:

Thank you for providing the U.S. Department of the Interior (Department) the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Government Accountability Office (GAO) report entitled, *Combating Wildlife Trafficking: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Use of Financial Rewards* (GAO-18-279). The Department concurs with the four recommendations directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office of Law Enforcement (OLE).

We appreciate GAO's review of the challenges faced by OLE in combating wildlife trafficking and identifying areas where FWS and its partner agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, can improve on the use of financial rewards as a tool for combating wildlife trafficking.

Enclosed are some technical comments for your consideration when finalizing the report. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Kevin Garlick with the FWS OLE, at (703) 358-1949.

Sincerely,

Jason Larrabee
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks
Exercising the Authority of the
Assistant Secretary
for Fish and Wildlife and Parks

Enclosure