



### **Background about The Lacey Act:**

The Lacey Act of 1900, or simply the Lacey Act, is a conservation law in the United States that prohibits trade in wildlife, fish, and plants that have been illegally taken, possessed, transported, or sold. Introduced into Congress by Representative John F. Lacey, an Iowa Republican, the Act was signed into law by President William McKinley on May 25, 1900. It was originally intended to protect both plants and wildlife by creating civil and criminal penalties for those who violate the rules and regulations.

The law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to aid in restoring game and birds in parts of the U.S. where they have become extinct or rare. It also regulates introduction of birds and other animals to places where they have never existed previously. Congress broadened the law to prohibit the import, export, transport, purchase, or sale of species when that action would violate state, federal, tribal, or foreign law. A 2008 amendment added coverage for timber and timber products.

Various provisions of the Act are enforced by the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**, the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**, **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**, the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** and the **U.S. Forest Service**.