



Illegally trafficked leopard and tiger heads stored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement fill the shelves of a warehouse inside the National Wildlife Property Repository in Commerce City, Colo.

Warehouse exposes cost of poaching trade

Story and photos by **BRENNAN LINSLEY**
Associated Press

COMMERCE CITY, Colo. — Elephant tusks, leopard heads, crocodile skin purses and tiger skins — more than 1.5 million items in all — fill the shelves of a warehouse on a wildlife refuge near Denver.

The National Wildlife Property Repository is the only place in the United States that stores such a large collection of seized wildlife items. It provides a macabre look at the cost of the global trafficking of endangered and threatened animals.

The contents of the Colorado center operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement include an array of animal parts, large and small, and the items made from them — skins, carved ivory, boots, even medicines.

The confiscated items come from law enforcement agencies around the country.

"You can think of us as

customs for wildlife," said Coleen Schaefer, who supervises the repository.

A multibillion-dollar industry, the black market in wildlife is the fourth-most-profitable in the world, after illegal trafficking in weapons, drugs and humans, Schaefer said.

The repository has a loan program for schools, museums and nonprofits that have a conservation message. It also sends items to research institutions.

"Our main purpose is to provide conservation education about the legal and illegal wildlife trade," Schaefer said.

Nearby is the National Eagle Repository, also a one-of-a-kind facility in the U.S. that stores dead bald and golden eagles and their parts and feathers. Alaska Natives and Native Americans in federally recognized tribes may use the feathers for religious purposes.

Use of the center's feathers reduces pressure to take eagles from the wild, the Fish and Wildlife Service says.



A seized ivory carving is tagged inside the warehouse. More than 20,000 elephants are being killed annually despite some progress in anti-poaching efforts and the increasing awareness of governments, according to Lamine Sebogo, a representative from the World Wildlife Fund in March 2013.



A seized stuffed tiger embryo sits in the warehouse. There are an estimated 3,200 tigers left in the wild.

Bush slashing spending, shifting staff amid campaign woes

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush is drastically slashing campaign spending, including an across-the-board pay cut for staff, and focusing on early states, as the one-time front-runner seeks to salvage his bid for the GOP nomination.

The moves will reduce the campaign's payroll by 40 percent, while also cutting travel costs by 20 percent and eliminating extraneous overhead spending.

The changes mark a significant setback for a campaign that spent months building a large operation, but there are no signs Bush is on the verge of withdrawing from the race.

BRIEFLY

During an event Friday at Regent University in Virginia, Bush said the moves will allow his campaign to operate "lean and mean" going forward. Asked whether the changes signaled trouble for his White House hopes, he said, "It means I have the ability to adapt."

The former Florida governor — a son and brother of former presidents — has been under pressure from supporters to revamp his campaign as the early voting contests draw closer. The first-to-vote Iowa caucuses take place 100 days from Friday.

Despite financial and organizational advantages, Bush has struggled to break out of a crowded Republican field so far dominated by unorthodox candidates, including billionaire Donald Trump and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

Feds confiscate lethal-injection drugs imported by 2 states

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Compounding the nation's severe shortage of execution drugs, federal authorities have confiscated shipments of a lethal-injection chemical that Arizona and Texas tried to bring in from abroad, saying such imports are illegal.

The Food and Drug Administration said Friday that it impounded orders of sodium thiopental, an anesthetic that has been used in past executions in combination with drugs that paralyze the muscles and stop the heart. The anesthetic currently has no legal uses in the U.S. Arizona paid nearly \$27,000 for the sodium thiopental, which federal agents intercepted.

Phew: U.S. stocks return to black after summer swoon

NEW YORK (AP) — Maybe you shouldn't have put your money under a mattress after all.

The stock market is back in the black for the year after a bruising late-August tumble that had investors worrying about their money in a way they hadn't in four years.

A three-week surge in stocks has now lifted the Standard & Poor's 500 index above where it was at the beginning of 2015 for the first time since summer.

The S&P 500 fell 12 percent from its mid-July high to its depths in late August, as investors worried that slowing growth in China, along with continued economic weakness in Europe and Japan, would crush any hopes of stronger global growth.

It was the first correction in four years, and it looked like investors in the U.S. stock market could be on track for their first annual losses, including dividends, since 2008.

Then central bankers and stronger corporate profits helped turn things around. The world's three biggest economies, the U.S., China and Europe, moved to push interest rates down or postpone expected rate increases. That gave investors more money to buy stocks and other assets, which pushed up prices.

And what was thought to be a bleak U.S. corporate earnings season started to look a lot brighter in recent days, especially when tech giants Amazon and Google parent company Alphabet posted surprisingly strong profits this week.

While investors could have hoped for fatter returns by this point in 2015, they are now better off than if they had done nothing with their money. Here's a look at how \$10,000 invested back in January in the stock market and in other common investments would have fared.

STOCKS

Investments in the S&P 500 through an index mutual fund or exchange-traded

fund are up 2.4 percent for the year, including dividends that companies pay throughout the year. If you had put \$10,000 into the SPDR S&P 500 ETF, your investment would be worth \$10,244 today.

BONDS

Like the stock market, bonds have seesawed throughout the year and are almost unchanged from the end of 2014. An investor who put money into a broad portfolio of bonds measured either by the Barclays Aggregate Bond Index or a bond market fund like the Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund would have earned 1.4 percent this year, including interest. Their \$10,000 would have turned into \$10,142.

THE BIG APPLE

Investors have made Apple the world's most valuable company, and they've done pretty nicely in Apple stock in 2015. The company reported blockbuster sales and profits over the last year, thanks to the popularity of its new, larger-screen iPhones.

But investors have fretted over Apple's ability to maintain its prodigious growth, especially amid economic uncertainty in China. Apple shares slumped in August and again in late September, but they spent less time down in the dumps than the S&P 500. If you invested \$10,000 in Apple at the start of this year, you would have \$10,925 now.

FOOL'S GOLD?

Gold is often touted as one of the safest of all investments, because it rises along with inflation and allows investors to retain buying power. So far this year, gold has been nothing but dull. A \$10,000 investment in the largest exchange-traded gold fund would be worth \$9,817 now.

CASH MONEY

Banks are paying almost nothing on savings accounts, CDs or money market funds because the Federal Reserve has kept its own rates so low.

EAST OREGONIAN **Hermiston Herald**

Veterans Day Tribute

They've served our country with courage and honor. They've left behind loved ones to risk their lives in protecting their country. They've defended our freedoms and ideals. They make us proud to be Americans.

Join us for Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11, 2015 in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald, as we honor the men and women of the U.S. Military. Their courage, hard work and sacrifice are the backbone of our nation, protecting freedom, liberty, justice and all we hold dear.

Bring in or call 1-800-522-0255 with a photo and message to your hero to give them a special thanks.

DEADLINE
Wednesday, November 5th

For more information call Paula at 541-278-2678 or 1-800-522-0255 or Hermiston Herald at 541-564-4530.

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DON'T MISS OUT!

Celebrate Your Loved Ones in Our Veterans Day SALUTE

Honoring those who have served and those that are currently serving our country!

Bring us a picture of your servicemen or servicewomen or veteran by **November 5th** along with the form below and we will include them in our "Veterans Day Salute" on November 11th in the East Oregonian and Hermiston Herald at no charge.

For more information, call Paula at 1-800-522-0255 or Hermiston Herald at 541-564-4530.

Service Person's Name _____

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