

Commentary

**Statutory Provision:** 18 U.S.C. § 1864.

**Background:** The statute covered by this guideline proscribes a wide variety of conduct, ranging from placing nails in trees to interfere with harvesting equipment to placing anti-personnel devices capable of causing death or serious bodily injury to protect the unlawful production of a controlled substance. Subsections (a)(1)–(a)(3) cover the more serious forms of this offense. Subsection (a)(4) provides a minimum offense level of 6 where the intent was to obstruct the harvesting of timber and little or no property damage resulted.

<i>Historical Note</i>	Effective November 1, 1989 (amendment 208). Amended effective November 1, 1990 (amendment 313); November 1, 2001 (amendment 617); November 1, 2002 (amendment 646); November 1, 2010 (amendment 746).
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## 2. CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE

### §2Q2.1. Offenses Involving Fish, Wildlife, and Plants

- (a) Base Offense Level: **6**
- (b) Specific Offense Characteristics
  - (1) If the offense (A) was committed for pecuniary gain or otherwise involved a commercial purpose; or (B) involved a pattern of similar violations, increase by **2** levels.
  - (2) If the offense (A) involved fish, wildlife, or plants that were not quarantined as required by law; or (B) otherwise created a significant risk of infestation or disease transmission potentially harmful to humans, fish, wildlife, or plants, increase by **2** levels.
  - (3) (If more than one applies, use the greater):
    - (A) If the market value of the fish, wildlife, or plants (i) exceeded \$2,500 but did not exceed \$6,500, increase by **1** level; or (ii) exceeded \$6,500, increase by the number of levels from the table in §2B1.1 (Theft, Property Destruction, and Fraud) corresponding to that amount; or
    - (B) If the offense involved (i) marine mammals that are listed as depleted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (as set forth in 50 C.F.R. § 216.15); (ii) fish, wildlife, or plants that are listed as endangered or threatened by the Endangered Species Act (as set forth in 50 C.F.R. Part 17); or (iii) fish, wildlife, or plants that are