

Phil Huff, Special Agent with U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations



- Phil Huff is a Special Agent with U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement and Investigations assigned to the Portland, Oregon area. He has over thirty years of experience in the field of conservation law enforcement including serving as an instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and a U.S. Park Ranger with the National Park Service. Phil has provided technical assistance with illegal logging and forest crimes investigation programs in Eastern Europe, Africa and South America. In 2022, he served as an Embassy Science Fellow for Illegal Logging in Skopje, North Macedonia. He holds a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University and a Master of Criminal Justice degree from the University of Colorado.



Lauren Ransom- Law Enforcement Officer, U.S. Forest Service



- Lauren's career in Law Enforcement started in Ohio with the Army National Guard. Lauren served as a criminal intelligence analyst at the Ohio High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) for 5 years. She deployed to Iraq for a year as an aviation operations sergeant in a Blackhawk helicopter battalion. Lauren was also an instructor for National Guard Bureau in Washington, DC, where she traveled around the United States teaching criminal intelligence analysis courses to soldiers and airmen.
- Lauren's career with the U.S. Forest Service started in September of 2012. Since then, she has been a certified Wildland Fire investigator in Granby, Colorado. She also serves on the Region 2 Wildland Fire Investigation Team. Lauren patrols over 500,000 acres of the Arapaho National Forest in a very high tourism area. Lauren won an award from Region 2 LE&I in 2018 for her work on a successful prosecution of a case involving illegal trail grooming in the Idlewild trails area. Lauren has also participated in multiple details around the country with the U.S. Forest Service, to include a detail to the U.S. Virgin Islands/Puerto Rico for Hurricane Irma/Maria for security assistance to FEMA, and as an instructor for the USFS International Program this past February in Amman, Jordan.





Lauren D. Steele, Trial Attorney, US Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section

- Lauren D. Steele is a Trial Attorney with the Environmental Crimes Section. Since joining the Department of Justice in 2014, she has investigated and prosecuted cases arising from illegal fishing, international smuggling of marine mammal parts, oyster trafficking, and illegal discharges of oil into U.S. waters in violation of the Clean Water Act, as well as fraud against the Renewable Fuel Standard Program. She has trained members of federal, state, and local law enforcement at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and the National Conservation Training Center. Lauren has also served as faculty for the Wildlife Crime Mock Trial Competition in Nairobi, Kenya, and the ILEA Budapest "Illegal Logging and Forest Crimes" course.



Ryan Christopher Connors, Senior trial attorney, US Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section



- Ryan Connors is a senior trial attorney at the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section. Prior to joining DOJ in 2014, he served as a New York City prosecutor handling street crime cases and corruption investigations of public officials. Ryan currently focuses on wildlife trafficking and illegal logging prosecutions typically involving international connections. He is a frequent instructor for environmental crime workshops in Africa, Europe, and South America, and has worked closely with INTERPOL, United Nations, and non-governmental organizations. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and New York University School of Law.

