



## PRESS RELEASE

December 6, 2005

For further information contact:  
Andrew Bowman 212-974-7102  
David Williamson 301-270-5292  
Email: [dwilliamson@bernuthconsulting.com](mailto:dwilliamson@bernuthconsulting.com)

DORIS DUKE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Environment Program

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Grant to National Wildlife Federation Will Support Implementation of Wildlife Action Plans in Five States

New York, NY – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced today a \$904,248 grant to the National Wildlife Federation to promote the implementation of wildlife action plans in Georgia, Massachusetts, Montana, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

“The National Wildlife Federation is a natural partner for the foundation in this work,” said Dr. Joan Spero, president of DDCF. “Its strong network of state-based affiliates, combined with a long track record of mobilizing the public to support conservation, uniquely positions the federation to help promote and speed the implementation of state wildlife action plans, which the foundation believes are an important new tool that can accelerate and streamline the protection of essential wildlife habitat across the country.”

The wildlife action plans, recently completed by all 50 states, provide a comprehensive, state-by-state blueprint for conserving species and habitats. Developed with broad public input, the plans offer state and local governments a way to ensure that their conservation investments are directed to the highest priority places.

“This grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation enables us to play a vital role in conserving free-ranging, native wildlife populations and healthy habitats across the nation,” said Larry Schweiger, president of NWF. “We are dedicated to helping make these state wildlife action plans come alive, thereby assuring a wildlife legacy for our children in the future.”

With this three-year grant, NWF will help build grassroots support for each state’s wildlife action plan. The federation will coordinate activities across the five states and will work closely with its state-based affiliates to educate and organize broad coalitions to promote implementation of the action plans, and will share successful strategies for doing so with other states. The affiliates partnering with NWF under this grant are the Georgia Wildlife Federation, Montana Wildlife Federation, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Environmental League of Massachusetts and Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

“There is no higher priority for conservationists than ensuring the survival of America’s wildlife heritage,” said Jerry McCollum, project manager and president of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. “This grant will foster a new leadership role in wildlife conservation for the states and allow us to be more proactive in our work.”

NWF selected the five states based on a combination of factors, including the strengths and resources of NWF’s affiliate in each state, the quality of each state’s wildlife action plan, and the desire to have a broad geographical representation.

According to Dr. Mark Shaffer, DDCF’s Program Director for the Environment, NWF also will partner with other DDCF grantees to complement their efforts to promote state wildlife action plans, including the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, The Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land.

“The wildlife action plans serve as a great focusing mechanism for conservation activities across the country,” said Dr. Shaffer. “They provide a common agenda for wildlife conservation around which all kinds of individuals and organizations can coalesce.”

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation ([www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org)) is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke’s properties.

The mission of the National Wildlife Federation is to inspire Americans to preserve wildlife for future generations. For more information, see [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org).