



PRESS RELEASE

January 24, 2005

For further information contact:
Dr. Mark Shaffer 212-974-7103
David Williamson 301-270-5292
Email: dwilliamson@bernuthconsulting.com

DORIS DUKE
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Environment Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Habitat for Imperiled Wildlife Targeted for Protection

Millions Approved for Conservation by Doris Duke Charitable Foundation

New York, NY—Grants totaling \$6 million to three environmental organizations have been announced by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Awarded to The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and the Open Space Conservancy, these funds will be used to buy land, to purchase conservation easements and for complementary land conservation activities in four regions of the US.

Dr. Joan Spero, President of DDCF, said the grants support habitat conservation efforts in four critically important landscapes—the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (Montana, Idaho and Wyoming); the Northern Forest (New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine); the East Gulf Coastal Plain (Florida and Georgia); and the Southern Appalachians (Alabama, North Carolina and Tennessee).

“The forests, grasslands, wetlands, rivers, streams and meadows in these areas are home to many imperiled plants and animals that represent America’s extraordinary wildlife heritage,” said Dr. Mark Shaffer, DDCF Program Director for the Environment. “They are also places where people are living, working, hunting, fishing and enjoying the outdoors. In each case, the environmental projects we help fund focus on the most critical habitat. It’s no secret that the greatest threat to wildlife today is the loss of habitat.”

Shaffer said The Nature Conservancy of Montana will receive \$1.5 million for conservation in key watersheds of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. The Open Space Conservancy will receive \$1.5 million for preservation activity in the Northern Forest. The Conservation Fund and TNC will each receive \$750,000 for projects in the East Gulf Coastal Plain, and The Conservation Fund will receive \$1.5 million for projects in the Southern Appalachian region.

The most recent grant awards bring the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's total investment in habitat protection in these regions to more than \$40 million. Protection goals include conserving 60,000 acres of land in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Education and technical assistance will also be provided to local communities seeking to improve local land use planning practices.

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation 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. More information on the Foundation is available at www.ddcf.org.

More information on The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund and the Open Space Conservancy can be found on their respective Web sites: www.nature.org, www.conservationfund.org and www.osiny.org.