



## PRESS RELEASE

February 3, 2005

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DORIS DUKE  
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Environment Program

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Grants Strengthen State Wildlife Protection Efforts

**New York, NY**--The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) announced today two sets of grants totaling \$4.5 million to advance its goal of conserving the nation's wildlife by protecting critical lands and waters.

Dr. Joan Spero, president of DDCF, said the grants will support an integrated program of conservation activities by six nonprofit organizations. These organizations will use the funds to support the creation and implementation of state comprehensive wildlife conservation strategies, which are federally mandated plans under development by all 50 states.

"The foundation believes that cultivating public/private partnerships and engaging state governments is the best hope for preserving the habitat that is vital to the survival of America's wildlife heritage," said Dr. Spero. "Through these grant awards, the foundation hopes to nurture an emerging and important coalition of conservation, environmental and recreational interests."

According to Dr. Mark Shaffer, DDCF Program Director for the Environment, the first set of grants is designed to help states identify the most important areas for protection, develop tools to assist in the implementation of state wildlife conservation strategies, and build support for the strategies among critical audiences. Totalling \$3.1 million, these grants were awarded to the following organizations:

- The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**, which will administer the biggest single component of these grants - \$1.5 million over three years – to provide funds directly to states to coordinate their strategies with conservation actions that cross jurisdictional boundaries;
- **America's Wildlife Association for Resources Education**, the educational affiliate of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, which will work in partnership with The Nature Conservancy to build support for state strategies at multiple levels by reaching out to state officials, environmental groups, and other key constituencies;

- The **Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership**, an umbrella group of fishing and hunting organizations that collectively represent 9 million members, which will lead efforts to engage sportsmen in support of the state wildlife conservation strategies; and
- **Defenders of Wildlife** and **NatureServe**, which will focus on more technical aspects of the state strategies, with an emphasis on ensuring that states address non-game issues and species as they develop their plans.

“These grantees were chosen because of their effective work to date in support of the state wildlife conservation strategies and because they bring important stakeholders to the table that are necessary for success,” said Shaffer.

The foundation also awarded a second set of grants totaling \$1.35 million (over three years) to the **Environmental Law Institute**, **Defenders of Wildlife** and **NatureServe** to improve the utilization of wildlife information in existing land-use planning programs. Under these grants, the three organizations will analyze opportunities for integrating the state wildlife conservation strategies into various existing policies and programs, particularly in the areas of transportation and waste-water management. They will also identify and develop practical tools and incentives for strengthening the implementation of state strategies.

Shaffer noted that both sets of grants reflect the program’s revised strategic direction.

“The foundation recently completed a comprehensive review of our grants for the environment and determined that the greatest leverage for our investments would come from supporting wildlife protection efforts that are proactive, state-based and incentive-driven,” Shaffer said. “These grants represent those principles in action. If these initial efforts bear fruit, we hope it will stimulate other funders to support this approach.”

The mission of the foundation’s Environment Program is to preserve wildlife in the US by supporting efforts to complete the nation’s wildlife conservation system. In May 2004, the foundation adopted a five-year strategic plan for its Environment Program. That plan seeks to support key opportunities – such as the development and implementation of state wildlife conservation strategies – that will bring greater focus, clarity and resources to efforts underway across the nation to conserve America’s native plants and animals.

Visit [www.ddcf.org](http://www.ddcf.org) for more information on the foundation and its Environment Program.

For information on individual grantees, see also: [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)  
[www.iafwa.org](http://www.iafwa.org)  
[www.trcp.org](http://www.trcp.org)  
[www.defenders.org](http://www.defenders.org)  
[www.natureserve.org](http://www.natureserve.org)  
[www.eli.org](http://www.eli.org)