



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wildlife Forever Announces New Sportsmen's Challenge Grant Fund

BROOKLYN CENTER, MN: Wildlife Forever, a national nonprofit conservation organization, announced today the availability of a new pool of conservation funding for local communities. The "Sportsmen's Challenge" fund will provide \$50,000 in matching funds to assist in leveraging local conservation donations. All grants must be matched on a minimum of 1 to 1 resulting in \$100,000 for wildlife populations across the country.

"Wildlife Forever recognizes that many outdoor enthusiasts are involved with local conservation organizations or sportsmen's clubs. We want to assist these grassroots efforts by matching conservation dollars and leveraging local donations." said Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO, of the Minnesota based nonprofit organization.

Sportsmen's Challenge grants will be made available up to \$2,500 each to local groups of sportsmen's clubs, conservation clubs or friends groups associated with the National Wildlife Refuge System. The funds must be matched from a third-party donor and sent to Wildlife Forever for validation of the match. Groups that promote wildlife habitat and quality are eligible to apply for the funds. Programs that enhance fish and wildlife populations through management and research can also compete for the challenge grants.

Examples of past similar projects supported by Wildlife Forever include:

- Creating a 2-acre wetland for waterfowl plus 9 acres of grassland with the Carroll County Chapter, PF in Iowa. Grant amount: \$1,000.
- Prescribed burn of 2,000 acres in Canal Canyon to improve elk & mule deer habitat. Grant amount: \$2,000.
- Constructing concrete guzzlers for upland game birds by the Santa Clarita Valley Chapter, QU in California. Grant amount: \$1,600.
- Removed the Fiock Dam in Shasta Valley to restore the salmon & steelhead runs in the Shasta River in California. Grant amount: \$1,250.
- Purchasing an aerator for a fish nursery by the Western Clinton Sportsmen's Association in Pennsylvania. Grant amount: \$1,250.

- Placed 16 artificial fish habitat structures in Lake Shelbyville, Illinois.
Grant amount: \$1,200.

According to Grann, "This new mini-grant program gets Wildlife Forever back to the grass roots where we were doing the most tangible good. I'm confident that local outdoors related clubs will be just as excited about this opportunity for support of their local conservation projects as I am. I would encourage all those with local projects to visit the Wildlife Forever web site and get an application."

Grant applications will be reviewed by a Sportsmen' s Challenge review committee and challenge grants awarded throughout the year 2003. Wildlife Forever reserves the right to determine, in its sole discretion, the eligibility of a project for support. Requirements include a completed application form (see www.wildlifeforever.org). A letter of project review and approval from the appropriate state or federal agency is also required. Matching funds must be sent to Wildlife Forever on a minimum of a one-one basis. For more information please call Wildlife Forever at 763-253-0222 or write to Wildlife Forever, Sportsmen' s Challenge, 2700 Freeway Blvd, Suite 1000, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430.

Wildlife Forever is a national nonprofit conservation organization headquartered in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The mission of Wildlife Forever is "to conserve America' s wildlife heritage through conservation education, preservation of habitat, and management of fish and wildlife." As the nonprofit conservation arm of the North American Hunting Club and North American Fishing Club, Wildlife Forever represents the wildlife conservation interests of nearly one million outdoor enthusiasts.

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