



PRESS RELEASE

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New Year Starts Off With More Public Land

Brooklyn Center, MN: Wildlife Forever has added 865 acres of new public land to the Edward “Ted” and Pat Jones-Confluence Point State Park in St. Charles County, Missouri. Wildlife Forever funded the acquisition with a \$1 million grant provided through the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The additional acres were the result of a unique partnership that brought together local, state and federal agencies in order to better preserve and protect lands that are significant both historically and geographically.

It was in 1804 when Lewis and Clark set out on their historic journey starting at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Now the site of a Missouri state park, the additional land will be used for wetland development and interpretation of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

“In times of tight public budgets, partnerships like this one are absolutely critical,” said Douglas H. Grann, president and CEO of Wildlife Forever of Brooklyn Center, MN.

“This is an outstanding example of what can be accomplished through partnerships and

cooperative agreements. It's a win for wetland dependent wildlife, public recreation and the tourism appeal of the Lewis and Clark celebration next year which will have long term economic returns.”

Trails and interpretive exhibits are expected to be in place and open to the public in 2004, in time for the 200th anniversary of the famous expedition.

In addition to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Forever worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Missouri Department of Conservation, the Danforth Foundation, River Network, confluence Greenway, Home Builders of Greater St. Louis, John Bardgett and Associates, Environmental Systems Products, Friends of the Big Muddy, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Wildlife Forever is a national nonprofit conservation organization that supports wildlife conservation in all 50 states. As the nonprofit affiliate of the North American Hunting Club and North American fishing Club, Wildlife Forever represents the conservation interests of more than 1.5 million outdoor enthusiasts.

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