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**WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL AND U.S. EPA PERFORMANCE TRACK
RECOGNIZE BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE'S WARREN COUNTY, TENN., FACILITY**

Recognizing Excellence in Environmental Performance and Wildlife Habitat Restoration

BALTIMORE, Md.—The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Environmental Performance Track presented on Tuesday, November 15, 2005, a special honor of recognition to Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC (BFNT). This acknowledgement honors the Warren County facility in Morrison, Tenn., for a commitment to outstanding environmental performance and wildlife habitat enhancement and restoration as members of both Performance Track and WHC. An additional honoree was the BFNT Oklahoma City plant. BFNT's Warren County and Oklahoma City plants are charter members of the EPA Performance Track program, which recognizes companies with a proven track record of improving environmental performance.

Sean Fisher, Senior Environmental Engineer, BFNT Warren County, accepted the honor during WHC's 17th Annual Symposium, *Shades of Green*, in Baltimore, Md. The facility has been certified by WHC since 2004 for establishing a wildlife habitat program and became a Charter Member of the Performance Track in 2000.

"We are part of the community so it's a natural fit for us to reduce waste and energy along with improving our immediate environment through wildlife habitat improvements," said Fisher.

"The unification of conservation and industry, already well established at the Wildlife Habitat Council, serves as a model for protecting natural resources while emphasizing collaboration and community involvement. This multidisciplinary view draws on knowledge and skills from a range of disciplines working together for a better environment. Congratulations to BFNT for its commendable efforts towards the restoration and enhancement of wildlife habitat. Together, we are committed to being good stewards of the earth," said Bill Howard, WHC President.

Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC's Warren County facility, a manufacturer of steel-belted radial tires for truck and bus applications, is located in central Tennessee. Proposed habitat enhancement areas include approximately 660 acres. The site's wildlife management plan is designed to increase biodiversity on the property by implementing projects and linking habitats to provide a stable, more diverse ecosystem, and by involving the plant employees and local community volunteers in completing projects and learning about wildlife conservation.

The team members at the plant plan to promote native wildlife and discourage aggressive non-native wildlife. To provide habitat for native species, team members installed bluebird and wood duck nest boxes. They removed nonnative overgrown nursery stock in a portion of the wildlife area and prepared the site for growing American chestnut. As part of their efforts in environmental education outreach, employees created a nature trail through the southern portion of the wildlife area. They also hosted wildlife events with Kids of the Community and local Boy Scouts to teach them about wildlife.

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**WHC & EPA PRESENT HONOR TO BRIDGESTONE FIRESTONE'S WARREN COUNTY PLANT
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Future enhancement plans include establishing butterfly and wildflower gardens and planting a nut orchard for American chestnut trees. They also plan to eradicate Fescue/Bermuda grass with prescribed burns and plant and promote native grasses.

BFNT's Warren County facility has received numerous awards for its environmental stewardship efforts. They were the first tire plant in the U.S. to achieve ISO 9000 certification in 1994 and the second tire plant to achieve ISO 14000 certification in 1999. In 1995, the site received the Governor's Award for Excellence for Hazardous Waste Management. The Warren County plant most recently became a partner with the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership.

"Working in partnership, the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) and EPA's National Environmental Performance Track program are creating opportunities for public and private facilities to reduce their impact on the environment, protect human health and safety, and preserve wildlife habitat. After reviewing the notable accomplishments of our respective members in these critical areas, EPA and WHC are pleased to commend two exemplary Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC facilities for their outstanding achievements in environmental management and wildlife habitat restoration," said Daniel J. Fiorino, Director, EPA's National Environmental Performance Track.

"We believe these two facilities deserve special recognition for both setting and achieving challenging environmental goals as Performance Track members," said Fiorino. "In addition, their ambitious habitat restoration and land improvement projects can serve as models for current and future organizations that work closely with Performance Track and WHC to achieve exemplary environmental results and enhance wildlife habitat in their communities."

Nashville-based Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, LLC is a subsidiary of Bridgestone Americas Holding, Inc., whose parent company, Bridgestone Corporation, is the world's largest tire and rubber company. BFNT develops, manufactures, and markets Bridgestone, Firestone, and associate and private brand tires. The company is focused on wholesale and original equipment markets, supplying passenger, light truck, commercial vehicle, off-road, motorcycle, agricultural and other tires to its customers in North America.

www.BridgestoneAmericas.com

The Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. WHC devotes its resources to building partnerships with corporations and conservation groups to create solutions that balance the demands of economic growth with the requirements of a healthy, bio-diverse and sustainable environment. More than 2 million acres in 48 states, Puerto Rico and 16 other countries are managed for wildlife through WHC-assisted projects.

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