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Contact: Mékell Mikell, 703.438.6273, mikell@nwf.org

National Wildlife Federation Praises Show Me Energy Cooperative

New biofuels program is a win win for farmers and the environment

Washington, D.C. (May 2, 2011) – The National Wildlife Federation applauds the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) support of the Show Me Energy Cooperative, an initiative approved as part of the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). The Cooperative is owned and operated by over 600 farmers who plant crops for bioenergy production, and the USDA assists farmers with the cost of growing the biomass crops.

Julie Sibbing, director of Agriculture Programs at the National Wildlife Federation, was a major force in designing BCAP and having the program included in the 2008 Farm Bill. She praised the selection of Show Me Energy Cooperative as the first BCAP project area to receive USDA support. “Show Me is an outstanding example of how to do biomass right, where the local community, the local environment, and our global climate all win,” said Sibbing. “We hope that projects like Show Me can become models that farmers and forest owners in other parts of the country can look to as we develop a sustainable energy future.”

BCAP provides the path forward for our nation’s growing energy needs by further incorporating biofuels and bioenergy into our national energy portfolio. The program is a significant milestone for the USDA. “The National Wildlife Federation is especially pleased to see the BCAP program back on track after some earlier implementation issues,” noted Julie Sibbing. “BCAP is necessary if we are ever to solve the “chicken and the egg” issue of ensuring sufficient supply of biomass for the developing bioenergy industry.” BCAP’s biofuel initiatives will help bring a new source of revenue for communities and uses conservation practices that also benefit the environment.

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